

Cross-Port Inner View

2020 B BEECHMONT AVE. BOX 150
CINCINNATI OHIO 45230

Vol. 2 No. 10 For The Cross-Dresser October 1986

NEXT MEETING October 16 AT 7:30

Wife/Girlfriend Support

October 23 at 8:00

Cross-Port Basics

September is not only back to school month back, it must also be back to dressing month. 19 girls were on hand for the September meeting including Robin and Christy, our new faces for the month. I was a little under the weather that night and the medicine I was taking made me a little spacie. I apologize to any one I didn't get to talk to. "Can We Talk?" the next time.

The first Wife/Girlfriend support meeting was held on September 25th. A report appears later in this issue.

We have two new books in the library. The first, Men In Frocks written by Kris Kirk & Ed Heath is from England and is mostly about the development of cross dressing from the female impersonator side. There is a section about TV's and TS's and a short letter from "Boy George" in it. It was donated by Lily. The second, A Transsexual Speaks Out, was sent to me by the author, Sharon Davis, and is an autobiography of her struggle as a transsexual. She underwent her sex-change operation in 1980.

Last month I reported that Marilyn was still around for any one interested in make-overs. Well, she was at the time, but has now moved to the south so her PO Box is no longer any good. I did receive information from Ann Cole who is still interested in working with us, but is not able to at this time. She will be back in touch.

I did receive a call from one of the girls in East Port, Georgia who is a TS and does complete make-overs. Her charge is \$35/hour and she is willing to come up for a meeting if there are enough people interested in her services. This is a situation where if you say you would like her to come, you would have to pay something in advance to be sure she gets her money even if you don't make it to a meeting. It's an 8 hour drive up here and she doesn't want to do it for nothing. I leave it up to you.

Our ad in the Cincinnati "Downtowner" has brought two letters so far. Could it be, we are all the cross-dressers in Cincinnati? Karen, is planning to place an ad in the "Cincinnati Magazine", maybe that will wake up this town.

Don't miss the list of places and times of Halloween Parties later in this issue. Speaking of parties, I myself am not planning a Cross-Port Christmas Party this year, if anyone wants to, please feel free to do so or we all could go to the Paradise Clubs Party on December 6.

The meeting ended early at about 10:00 pm but some of us hung around until around 12:30. Everyone had a great time.

IT'S MORE THAN DRESSING

by Heather Pearson

It's been an especially tough day. You just missed making that sale, getting that promotion, or hitting a deadline. Maybe you've spent the day in a meeting trying to convince someone that your way was best or that at least theirs was not as good. You get home and seem to be on needles and pins. Only one thing will help calm you down, relax you, and allow you to feel like all your problems have disappeared.

Within the next two hours a new person emerges from the bedroom, and isn't she beautiful. Suddenly, everything feels better. The clothes you've put on have transformed you, and the long day you've had doesn't look so bad.

According to an article in the April issue of "Psychology Today" it's no coincidence that dressing up relieves tension and brings you out of a depression. In the article Dressing For Effect the author Michael Solomon says, "People are social animals, and clothing is very much a social invention. It's laden with symbolism that provides information about social and occupational standing, sex-role identification, political orientation, ethnicity and esthetic priorities."

He further states that, "Clothing is a potent- and highly visible- medium of communication that carries a flood of information about who a person is, who a person is not and who a person would like to be." If this is true for people who are not cross-dressers, how much more can it be said about we that are cross-dressers. The clothing we wear truly expresses not only what we feel about ourselves but what we would like others to see us as. Could it be that cross-dressers are simply more aware of what clothing means in a social setting and have learned to use it for their own peace of mind?

In his article the author notes that "Many people can relate instances in which the clothing they wore changed the way they felt about themselves or the way they behaved." Indeed some therapist recommend the purchase of new clothing to certain depressed client because clothing can be used to alter moods.

It seems the use of clothing to relax us, to make us feel better about ourselves or to change the mood we are in is not unique to cross-dressers. What is unique is that we choose to use clothing of the opposite sex, and because of that fact, cross-dressing is considered by many to be a sexual experience. It's looked down on and by many considered immoral. Yet in the above example, if we came home and changed into a baseball uniform and walked around pretending to be a baseball player we might be viewed as "normal".

The real question for the cross-dresser is "Why Women's Clothing?" I am sure that there are almost as many reasons as there are cross-dressers, but a few that I find most often expressed are one, women's fashions are better. They have brighter colors, more styles and have a different "feel". This reason, all by its self makes a lot of sense. If you are down, depressed or up tight what better way to make you feel better than to put on some brightly colored clothes. The change in styles and the "feel" of the clothing also helps to make you "feel different", thereby helping to "change" one mood for another.

The second, and a deeper reason, is that it is a way of building a relationship with "Another Person" and sharing our mood and depressions with that "Other Person". Many of us find it difficult to share our "Bad Side" with others. Maybe we have no one to share it with, maybe we just can't let others see it. So we become "the one person we can most trust and who can really understand." The best way for us to become someone else is to change sexes. To totally place our male selves on "hold" and become lost in the other person. Actors and actresses say that to really play a part well they must lose their own identity for a time and become the person they are playing. They study the character, and try to imagine how that person thinks, walks, talks, and even what they would eat. Roger

Moore once said that the hardest part he ever played was James Bond, because he found himself trying even to say, "Hi, My name is Bond, James Bond" as Sean Connery said it, instead of how he felt it should be said. Changing who we are is not easy, people in theater study years to learn how to do it well. For many of us, our female clothing is the fastest and easiest way to change who we are.

The reverse of the above is also true. Many of us have spent years studying to be what everyone thinks we should be. We play our part so well that everyone believes that is who we are. Sean Connery said almost those very words when he first quit playing James Bond. He had played the part so long, that everyone expected him to be James Bond and at times, even he found himself acting as James Bond might act in a real life situation. The only way for him to break the chain was to leave the role for a time. To play other roles and in essence become himself. After he had done so for a while, he was able to return to the James Bond role without fear of losing himself. For many people the side of ourselves or the role we show to the world is an act for their sake. It's a person who only exist because it is what others expect. The only way we can get back in touch with who we really are is to leave that role for a while. Depending on what role it is we are acting we change roles in different ways. For a person who feels the job they do all day is an act they may change roles by having a second totally different job at night or may become absorbed in an unrelated hobby. For a person that feels the identity they display is an act cross-dressing becomes the way for them to leave the role for awhile and get in touch with who they really are. Related to this is an item, in the article, which struck me "People . . . are most reliant upon the symbolism of clothing during the process of transition from a familiar role to an unfamiliar one." This, to me, explains even further why for the cross-dresser, clothing takes on its most important symbolism when changing from the familiar role they usually play to the unfamiliar role. Again, in acting, the character does not become real until the clothing is in place. It would be difficult to imagine some one as George Washington if they played the role in a suite and tie, but it would be even more difficult for the actor playing the role because he wouldn't "Feel" like George Washington. So clothing becomes most important to us when we feel least secure in the role we are playing.

For many transsexuals, clothing carries less of a direct meaning. Cross-dressing, for them, in and of it's self is not that important. It is only a means of showing the rest of the world who they are, a way of fitting into the role that they know they were meant to play. They already know who they are but the rest of the world doesn't, so they must take on the appearance for the sake of everyone else.

Another important aspect of clothing is that one of the most used arguments, cross-dressers express in defense of their dressing, is the fact that woman can wear pants, short hair and t-shirts and no one thinks any thing about it. In the business world, however, it is the women who are at a disadvantage when it comes to dressing, because they do not have the "well-defined precedents and role models" that men have as to what is appropriate attire. The studies show that women in business, who displayed a more masculine appearance with shorter hair, light cosmetics and plainly tailored clothing, were preferred as job applicants over more traditional feminine styles.

The funny part is that "men are more consistently biased against feminine grooming when evaluating executives." So the truth is, that while women seem to be able to wear what they want, they are more likely to get a better job if they dress more like a man.

The business women are beginning to feel the pressures of dressing, or playing an expected role, the way others want them to dress, as many men have for years, as opposed to dressing the way that one can best express themselves.

If, as the author of Dressing For Effect suggest, clothing is so much an expression of who one is, and who one is not, I see cross-dressing as a natural extension of the entire clothing issue for people that need to express themselves and that need to exchange roles in order to feel better about themselves.

I believe one of the most important issues raised by Michael Solomon is "If people rely upon clothing to convince an "audience" of their social roles, at what point do they come to believe in their own part?" Cross-dressers, I feel, have found that every coin has two sides, and that if we only look at one side we may miss the beauty of the other side. Social roles are only one side of the coin, and by turning the coin over, many have not only found beauty but have come to believe in their own parts as well.



G I R L T A L K

Since there wasn't time to get a formal report on the Wife/Girlfriend Support meeting I thought I would relay what Kathy told me.

The reaction to the first meeting was very positive. There were five women present plus doctors Carolyn Kowatchsch and Paul Bishop. It was decided that they will meet once a month. The first meeting was a kind of get acquainted meeting with plenty of questions for the doctors. The business at the next meeting will be to decide what direction the group should take. Everyone involved in Cross-Port and Cross-Port W/G thank Carolyn and Paul for their time.

Halloween, as you know, is on Friday night this year and therefore most places will be having their parties on Friday night. This is true of 1470 West and The Dock. The Hangout is having their's on Saturday night. Hurray for them. There is no official place to go but, the feeling is that most will be at 1470 on Friday, and the Hangout on Saturday. This is no longer true, see NEWS below.

A reminder that October 6, is the deadline for the 20% discount on the Convention Registration Fee. You can still get 10% off if you register by January 5, 1987. See the enclosed flyer for more details.

In the past two months I have received at least 8 news-letters back as un-deliverable. It would be real considerate of any one planning to move or if you do not wish to receive the newsletter any more if you would let me know ahead of time. It does cost money to print and postage to send news-letters. Since we don't charge for the "Innerview" it would be nice if you would at least help us to save some money.

I knew that there must be some good reason that this news-letter was running so late. I have two BIG NEWS ITEMS that are of major importance.

First, Yvonne, who was at our September meeting, and her significant other, and I believe Rosie and Sue will be appearing on the Sally Jessy Raphael show on October 15, 1986 at 10:00 a. m. The show will be broadcast LIVE FROM CINCINNATI and will be taped for the network to be shown at a later date. Some of us from Cross-Port have been invited to be in the audience. I hope everyone will have a chance to see the show. Terrie Murphy, (I hope I spelled it right) the shows producer told me a little about the show and it promises to be good.

The second is not good news and it pains me to tell you about it. In the past year myself, and several others have had many good times at 1470 WEST. We went to the Halloween Party, the New Years Eve Party, the Anniversary Party plus many Sunday night shows and a lot of Friday and Saturday nights. It seems now, however, that because of the actions of a few cross-dressers, (not Cross-Port members) that TV's and TS's who do not have ID's to show they are woman, are not welcome to go there any night but Sunday, when they have their shows.

Their reasons seem sound. They've had complaints from some of the lesbians that cross-dressers tried to pick them up and some young people have cross-dressed and used fake ID to get in. According to Mary, one of the managers, "75% of the gay community does not approve of cross-dressing and have stopped coming there" because of us.

George, of the Greater Cincinnati Gay/Lesbian Coalition told me that while many gays do not like cross-dressing, that the general feeling in the coalition is that if "they can not accept people within their own community, how can THEY expect to be accepted in the main community." We must be open and sensitive to all people even when we don't understand them, if we want to be accepted ourselves.

In most bars, if some one is causing trouble they are asked to leave and never return. In this case, the people that caused the trouble are able to come back as long as they don't dress. What happens if five or six gay people cause some trouble, will they bar all gay people from the bar?

The worst part is that they still want us to feel welcome on Sunday night (most bar's slow night) when they have their "Drag Shows". If 75% of the gay community do not like "drag", who are they having the shows for?

Cross-Port has consistantly stressed the fact that when you go out into the gay/lesbian bars you should not try to "hit" on the women or use the women's restrooms. We must respect the fact, that they do have a right to their privacy. It would, however, be nice if places that do invite our business would consider our feelings and set aside a restroom for cross-dressers.

Not all of us understand being a gay or lesbian but we respect their right to live as they do, we only asked for the same kind of respect. In view of all this, I call upon ALL our sisters and those in the gay and lesbian community, who understand how it feels to be barred from someplace because of your lifestyle, not to go 1470 WEST. I will not be going there for Halloween, or any other night, just to boost their business, if I am not welcomed any other time. I hope we can count on all our friends who share our feelings.

Speaking, of George, I received an invitation from the Gay/Lesbian Coalition for all of us to attend the 4th Annual Awards Dinner at the Carrousel Inn on Reading Road on November 8, 1986 at 7:00 p. m. The cost is \$16.00 for regular tickets and \$25.00 for Dress Circle (That's front row). For tickets send money to GC6/LC, PO Box 19158, Cinti., OH 45219 before October 21, 1986. This is the chance we've all been looking for. Now we'll see how many want it and how many just want to talk about it.

Heather

Bulletin Board

CROSS-PORT'S Meeting schedule for 1986 is Oct 16, Nov 20, Dec 18
 NSA - For information write Cross-Port.

The Paradise Club's Schedule - For 1986 - Oct 18 (Meeting & Drag Show), Dec 13 (Christmas Dinner)
 Write Paradise Club, PO Box 29564, Parma, OH 44129, Attn: Susan for Prices and Places

Transpitt's Meeting Schedule is the third Saturday of the month.
 Write Transpitt, PO Box 59406, Pittsburg, PA 15211, Attn: Johnnie

Windy City Chapter's Meeting Schedule. They meet the Third Tuesday of each month at 8:30.
 Write Windy City Chapter, PO BOX 2312, Chicago, IL 60690, Attn: Sharon [REDACTED]

TRI-ESS information Write Carol Beecroft, P. O. Box 194, Tulare, CA, 93275

Crossroads, Meetings April 5, May 3.
 Write Crossroads, P. O. Box 1298, Flint, MI 48501

Genesis- meets the second Saturday of the month.

Write Genesis, P. O. Box 0954, Elyria, OH, 44036-0954

Tiffany Club, Tapestry, and International Foundation for Gender Education.

Wife Support Group Weekend at P-Town, Oct 3-5

1st International Convention March 4-9, at Chicago IL.

Write to Merissa Sherrill Lynn, Box 19, Wayland, MA 01778

North West Gender Alliance, PO Box 4928, Portland Oregon, 97208 (503) 641-6736

Connecticut Gender Alliance, PO Box 744, Branford, CT 06405, 1/2 Wendy [REDACTED]

Boulton & Park Cultural Society, PO Box 169652, San Antonio, TX 78280

ETVC, Box 6486, San Francisco, CA 94101, ATTN: Suzanne

12th Annual Fantasia Fair October 17-26 at Provincetown, Write to Fantasia Fair Ltd., Kenmore Station, Box 368, Boston, MA 02215

Joyce Dewhurst's Poconos Weekend Sept 9-12, Write Joyce Dewhurst, 37-50 76th St., Jackson Heights, NY 11372 or call (718) 335-3048

PUBLICATION NOTICE

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A complete set of back issues of "InnerView" is available for \$10.

(C L A S S I F I E D S)

Offered Free to those places that support us. Please support them.

Places to Go

The Hangout, 13 Old St. [Monroe OH], 539-9381, Cross-Dressers are welcome.

Jacob's Downstairs Bar, 36 West Fifth, Dressing is OK, Drag shows Saturday night at 11: 00 and 12: 30.

Metro Lounge, Ruth Lyons Pl. & Gano Alley, [Off Vine near the square], Dressing is OK, Drag shows on Fri.

1470 West [in Dayton], Please stay away from here, We are no longer welcome.

The Subway - at 609 Walnut. No cover. Cross-dressers are welcome anytime.

Golden Lion - at 340 Ludlow, 281-4179. Cross-dressers are welcome anytime.

The Dock - at 603 Pete Rose Way [241-5623]. Open every night during summer. Cross-dressers are welcome.

Side Door Lounge - at 614 Walnut [721-9551] Cross-dressers are welcome.

Simon Says - at 428 Walnut [381-8195] Cross-dressers are welcome.

Spurs - at 318 E. Eighth St. [721-9007] Says No one is refused.

2601 Club - at 2601 Vine St. [221-3910]

Shoes

Paula Lee Shoes, 7332 Kenwood Rd., Has large sizes but is not open to men trying them on in the store.

Payless Shoe Source - Near 7th and Race, Large size shoes to size 13.

Hair

Recent Fashion Wigs, 118 W. 7th St., Very open and willing to help fit you.

Hairworks, Hamilton Ave, 681-8222, Call for appointment.]

Worship

Dignity Catholic Services, Call Jerry 621-4026 or Bev 541-7026 for times and places.

All Saints Chapel - Worship Service Sunday at 6: 00 p. m., 1222 Ida St. in Mt. Adams. We are welcome to come dressed. For more information call Associate Pastor Don Hicks at 381-2328

Make-Up

None at this time.

Clothes

One Stop Bra & Swim Shop - 9217 Reading Road, Call 764-6020 for appointment.

Counselling

Behavioral Science Center, Inc. - Doctors : William Wester II, Richard Baum, Paul Bishop, Carolyn Kowatsch, & Joseph Wicker - 2522 Highland Ave., 513-221-8545

Indianapolis

21 Club- 2101 W. Talbott, 317-927-9000: Cross-Dressers are welcome but must show proper I. D. Shows on Tues, Thurs, Fri & Sat nights starting around 10: 00 pm

The International Foundation for Gender Education
cordially invites you to its first international convention:



"COMING TOGETHER - WORKING TOGETHER"

MARCH 4 - MARCH 9, 1987

at the elegant Ramada O'Hare Hotel Chicago, Illinois

The Convention is sponsored by the International Foundation for Gender Education on behalf of the entire Transvestite/Transsexual Community. The Convention is planned and coordinated by representatives from Androgyny Unlimited, the Butterfly Group, Chi Chapter, Chi Delta Mu, the City of Lakes Crossdressers Club, Cross Port, Crossroads Chapter, Delta Chi, the Educational TV Channel, the Emerald City Club, Eon, the Federation of American and Canadian Transsexuals, the Gender Identity Clinic, J2CP Information Services, Metamorphosis Medical Research Foundation, the Northwest Gender Alliance, the Paradise Club, the Outreach Institute, People Systems Potential, Phi Chapter, Shangri-La, the Society for the Second Self, the Tiffany Club, TransCend Counseling, TransPitt, Windy City Gender Alliance.

PURPOSE:

To have a Convention that is of actual and effective service to the Transvestite/Transsexual Community, and those affected by that Community. It is also intended to provide an educational resource to those persons who may be interested in issues related to Gender Expression and Identity.

OBJECTIVES:

To promote self-validation and self-respect, to develop a sense of togetherness and working together to benefit all, and provide an in-depth educational opportunity for all.

We will achieve our purposes and our objectives by providing a comprehensive program of workshops, seminars, moderated special topic raps, social activities, etc. There will be programs for **crossdressers, transsexually inclined persons, wives & significant others, helping professionals (therapists, educators, etc.)**, and those members of the general public who wish to learn.

"We have had our private social outings and our independently sponsored 'growth experiences' which have been beneficial to individuals and individual organizations, but — have failed to pull us together as a Community. We have coat-tailed on other conventions (AASECT/SSSS, HBGDA, etc.) which may have had some benefit to someone, but — not to us. It is time we, as a Community, had our own convention.

We need the tools to get our collective act together. Our own convention is such a tool. We need a chance to feel dignity and self-respect, and a chance to say 'We are who and what we are, and that's OK!' Our own convention will give us that opportunity. We need to know how to help each other, and most of all know how to help those who need us. No one is going to teach us how to do that. No one knows how. Our own Convention will give us the opportunity to learn how.

If the members of our Community and those people important to us are to learn and receive the help they need then WE must provide that help. If we don't, no one else is going to do it for us. We need a good convention, a real convention, a convention by us - for us. Now we will have it.

If you are interested in helping or learning, I look forward to seeing you in Chicago."

Merissa Sherill Lynn, Director

'COMING TOGETHER', c/o I.F.G.E., P.O. BOX 19, WAYLAND, MA 01778 (617) 358-2305