

The next meeting is December 19 at 8:00pm

A New View By Cathy

Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah, and Happy New Year to everyone! **1** 'Tis the season to be buying things that you can wear and say it's for your wife. **1**

Yes, it's the easiest time of the year to shop for those dainty things. No one looks twice at a man in the lingerie department during the Cristmas season, even if he is buying a size 3X.

I went into Victoria's Secret's last week and for the first time ever, I noticed that there were more men in there shopping than women. How many were shopping for themselves? We may never know. Just remember that when a clerk asks if they can help you, try to avoid saying "I'd like to buy something for my wife who is the same size as me, but I don't know what size I am."

Good luck, people, we expect to see some gorgeous outfits at the December meeting.

* * *

We had a good turnout for the November meeting — thirty-nine ladies and their friends turned out at <u>Christopher's Lounge</u>.

Bonnie, who brought her daughter in October, brought her son this time. Jerome and Todd also came with her to see what *Cross-Port* is all about. Sandra also showed up for her first meeting. Welcome to you all.



Bob, from the <u>Thing Shop</u> in Newport came up and made presentations to Belinda, Elaine, Joyce, Linda and Nora for accompanying him to the Toronto Coronation. They went up as members of the Newport Undieworld Court, and modeled some of his marvelous fashions.

About eleven o'clock, these two fine looking women came in and caused many heads to turn. It turned out to be Trish, back for her first visit in two years from the wilds of Los Angeles, and her girlfriend Bev. LA sure has classed up Trish's act a bit. In case you don't remember Trish at first, she has the honor of being the first person to bring their parents to a *Cross-Port* meeting. It was nice to have her back if only for one night.

I've been trying to announce cross-dressing anniversaries as I run across them, so I can tell you that November was Elaine's first anniversary of coming out. A lot sure happens in a year, doesn't it girl?

Don't forget to bring your appetite to the December meeting, we'll have food there for everyone.

* * *

Creative Design Services out of King of Prussia, PA sent us a copy of the first issue of their new magazine, *International Transcript*. They plan to publish six times a year, with the per issue price being \$8.00 and an annual subscription being \$40.00.

The scope of this magazine really seems to be international in flavor, as they have associate editors in Australia, Canada, England, France, Germany, South Africa and the USSR. Articles in the first issue include an article on the realities of living full time, one on cross-dressing in Germany, a "how to" on doing your eye shadow by Jim Bridges, the beginnings_of_TransEssex_in England, and several more.

If you are interested in this publication, contact Creative Design Services, PO Box 61263, King of Prussia, PA 19406-1263.

The 1992 edition of Dr. Sheila Kirk's book <u>Hormones</u> is now available from IFGE Publications. This is the "essential" primer for both F2M and M2F individuals. The cost is \$8.00 plus \$1.50 for shipping and handling.

Write IFGE, PO Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778.

In case you missed them in November, we do have *Tapestry* #59 in our possession, and for sale at the December meeting.

Boos an hisses this month goes to Timex for their "Face that could stop a Clock" ad. In case you haven't seen it yet, they have an <u>obviously</u> cross-dressed actor who is supposed to be a woman so ugly that her face could stop a clock. This person goes around town breaking mirrors and windows just by looking at them. When they get to the watch counter, they shatter all the watch faces except for the Timex watches. Grow up, you guys.

My Experience in the "Land Of Oz" By Nora

Well it all started around 6 am on Friday, November 15. We loaded our luggage, shoes and dresses, and more dresses into Bob's van. We were heading for Toronto, Canada for the Coronation of the Emperor and Empress-91.

This will be my first adventure into the social lifestyle of crossdressing. I am comfortable and have been accepted by the girls on a one-to-one relationship, BUT... a whole weekend with four crossdressers in one motel room??!! Five girls and one bathroom spell—TOTAL CHAOS!

The weekend was a blast. Everyone was running around "putting on their faces", trying on dresses and wondering which heels, the 3" or 5", to wear, while I am patiently learning to survive in 2" pumps! Some things in life are not fair. I personally enjoyed fixing the other girls "hair". Poor Bob kept asking "are you girls ready yet?". Throughout this totally exhilarating episode we were wondering what to expect next.

The people there were open to

us, very friendly and fun. The coronation itself was spectacular, The the gowns were gorgeous. performances were like nothing I've seen. I felt like a minority being one of the few genetic girls there. But I did not have time to dwell on this matter because the entrances to the court kept my attention on the stage. Drag queens definitely know how to put on a show and party at the same time. I kept asking "How do they do that?" and Elaine replied with "Don't think were in Kansas anymore, Toto!". I enjoyed the country theme, with the square dancers, cowboy hats and western attire. Of course, I was very impressed with our entrance. King Robert, Duchess Linda, Princess Joyce, Lady Elaine and Baroness Belinda made their appearance to the tune of "Kentucky". They looked very royal and scared to death since there were approximately 700-800 in attendance.

As if this was not enough, we found an extra supply of energy to visit Niagara Falls. The sight of the falls was breathtaking! Being an inexperienced traveler, this was totally awesome to me.

By the end of the weekend, Bob, Joyce, Belinda, Linda, Elaine and myself were completely exhausted, high on our adventures and closer as friends. The bonding I experienced with the girls and Bob by the sharing of ourselves filled my whole being with a good calm knowing that I had developed a new friendship with each of them.

Let me take this time to explain something about myself to you. I had never heard of the terms transvestite or transsexual until August. I had been dating a guy for approximately three weeks when he informed me he was a TV. My reply was "A what?". Even though I am not in that relationship any longer, I have continued to educate myself on this transformation called crossdressing. I do not choose my friends from what I see on the outside. believe in sharing and enjoying from the heart. God did not put us on this earth to be miserable. We each have our own destiny to be the best that we can be. Whether we are in male or female attire. short or long hair, you and I are the same from the heart. Thank you Melanie for introducing to this world of transformations

I'm sure this will not be my last experience in the "Land of Oz". Thank you girls for sharing with me.

Chicago Debut

By Barbara Bertrand

I was very excited about going to the World Science Fiction Convention (Thursday Aug. 29 -Monday Sept.2, 1991) in Chicago after the good time I had had at the one in Louisville that I wrote about in November's newsletter. I left for Chicago on Saturday after lunch rather than on Friday after dinner. I didn't go out to the Chicago Gender Society social on Saturday night in favor of getting my upper lip area harvested. Even though I was late I still got my planned 18 hours of electrolysis done on Saturday, Monday and Tuesday and was very pleased with how

This time I took Tylenol #3 (with codeine) before the sessions and I was able to increase the intensity setting and duration from 3 to 4. Even on the upper lip I was able to tolerate the 4/4 setting except when next to the nostrils where I dropped to 3/4. The tranquilizing effect lessened the reaction of the erector pylae muscles around the hairs and reduced the tenderness and swelling immensely from the last time (when I was swollen for two weeks): this time I was hardly swollen and after two days the effects were TOTALLY unnoticed.

I went to the Tuesday evening C.G.S. social but was disappointed as it was not well attended due to everyone's summer obligations and the temperature.

On Wednesday I went to the local M.D. who seems to be the preferred source of hormones in Chicago because he seems to be a little lenient about his prescriptions. He gets a such a kick out of giving hormone shots to TS's that he prefills them in batches for his numerous patients, whom he charges \$20 + \$10 for the 3cc of estradiol valerate. He gets such a good income from us that he only has hours of 3-7PM Tuesday through Saturday. I also got a prescription for Estraderm patches which I will discuss in another message.

The pharmacy on the premises could not fill the Rx so I went to an Osco Drug and then a Walgreens. The hassle of all this was probably worth it as Walgreen's computerized system will make it easy to get refills and I saved a little money too. Even with the recent electrolysis though. I was a little nervous as I still had some visible shadow and the 90+ temperature was not being kind to my make-up. I have had a limited experience somewhat dealing with the general public so far, much less close up in the daytime, but no-one seemed to notice anything out of the ordinary about me or at least were polite.

I did not get back to the apartment until after 7 PM so I decided to start to use my prescription and take it easy as none of the people I had contact with had expressed any wish to go out and I really had to decide what to go to the next day at the convention.

Besides the lectures, exhibits, films, art show and dealers room at the World Science Fiction Convention, I went as Barbara Friday night for the dance and Saturday night for the masquerade in my "Nurse From Pern" outfit. Sunday I went to the Hugo awards ceremony in a more conventional outfit.

On Thursday the only hitch was that they had not updated my badge to use only my first initial; they did quickly fix it but it wasn't as nice as the pre-printed badges.

That evening I slipped away from the convention to the weekly C.G.S. gathering at the apartment of one of the members to renew some acquaintances. The turnout was low but I did get to talk with some of the people I most wanted to see.

Friday evening at the dance I talked to a few people that I had met in the costuming lectures over the last two days (including one gal in the corsetry workshop to whom I commented "Now you know why I was so interested...") and a few people took my picture. Alas, as I knew few people. I mostly people/costume watched for the longest time until Jennifer Long (en drab) from Compuserve's GenderLine forum came up to me and we talked for a while. The dance got boring after the hall costume contest winners were announced so I went upstairs intending to room party hop. Somehow in my haste however I forgot to go to the Compuserve Science Fiction forum party to see what reception I would receive and went to the Gay/Les party "straight" away.

A few minutes after I arrived I met Phil G.(from Nashville, TN) who, as I have mentioned last newsletter, got started doing F.I. through costuming at science fiction conventions. Phil was wearing a wonderfully bespangled all black costume which consisted of a black wig and double peaked headdress, black bodysuit with bespangled gloves, black stockings bespangled with sleeve-like coverings for much of the leg which were held up by garters, and 4"+ high spike heels.

If any of you ever see pictures or a show of Phil wearing a black wig you will be struck by the uncanny resemblance to Betty Page, the pin-up of the 50's who did naughty lingerie and bondage photos and was the inspiration of the girlfriend in the Rocketeer comic book the last few years. With Phil was his partner Fiona, who is the designs much of his Sci-Fi and F.I. costumes. She is a sweet and lovely blonde gal and like Phil is about 25 years old. We went around together to a few of the parties for a while and then headed back down to the dance.

Soon after our arrival I saw Jennifer and told her about Phil's remarkable look that night. Eventually we found Phil and Fiona and they made another big impression. I felt a little neglected that night by all the attention they were getting but I understood how others were mesmerized; Phil was perhaps the most alluring woman there. Later when the dance was closing down at 3 AM we three sampled the helium from the balloons and I was amazed that Phil's voice actually seemed to squeekily drop a little and mine only slightly rose and didn't become squeeky at all.

Saturday night before the masquerade contest I attended a panel discussion on "Outlaw Sexuality" where a little while after I arrived the subject turned from homosexuality, bestiality and other topics (which I had arrived too late to hear discussed) to transsexuality. I'm not entirely sure if the timing was coincidental with my arrival en femme or not, but the fetal biological/hormonal and social aspects were briefly discussed by several of the audience members and one of the panelists. Because I might have come off as selfserving and felt that I may have gotten into a dispute I remained quiet but I made a point to thank some of them afterward for broaching the subject.

Although I did a good job with my make-up, etc. I was nevertheless surprised that everyone I had not told seemed to accept me as genetic female (I know I don't look THAT good yet) or if they suspected otherwise made a point to ignore me.

Right after that the masquerade came off fairly well and Phil and Fiona won the Most Beautiful award for their Iris and Morpheus presentation. Fiona's Iris had wonderfully painted gossamer butterfly wings and Phil had a neutral/masculine costume with a torso of multicolored cloth squares attached like dangling handkerchiefs. After waiting to view some of the costumes close up (including Phil and Fiona's) in a special area in the hall it was late so I then made the trek to the cutpublic garage I used rate throughout the convention (three blocks away) and drove back to the apartment to get a little sleep (I arrived at 3:30 rather than 4 AM like I has the previous night).

Sunday I decided that as I had presented myself as Barbara the previous two days I wasn't going to hide or suffer from the temperature; so I went to the convention with a no make-up look and wore my everyday women's pants and tennis shoes but with a short sleeved t-shirt and crystal pendant rather than the man-styled long sleeve shirts that I have worn in public situations for the last few years. Among other things that I bought in the dealer room that day were several matching pieces of silver interlocking chain jewelry with blue glass jewel beads (necklace, bracelet, ankle bracelet, and earrings). I made no secret of the somewhat obvious fact of my transitioning and got excellent service getting them fitted by the young saleswoman.

Later Sunday night I put on my white and black dressy pantsuit and low heeled pumps (and the necklace and earrings) to the Hugo Awards ceremony (the awards for literature and media voted on by the Science Fiction fans attending or supporting the convention). Again I was a little lonely during the ceremony because I had failed to locate someone to accompany me. Afterwards I headed up to the costumer's party suite and had an enjoyable time talking about where to get what and looked at photograph books of previous costume winners with Phil, Fiona and others. I also met up with the Louisville science fiction costumer mavin who liked how I looked. Again it was somewhat late and after looking in vain for very late party I drove back to the apartment.

Monday I again wore a t-shirt and the crystal pendant and nothing much happened to remark on until after the convention was officially over later that afternoon. From the start of the convention I had been very busy going to the various meeting rooms in the labyrinthine bowels of the hotel and assumed that by leaving a few messages and being visible everyone whom I had told of my attendance would meet me eventually. That afternoon I realized that I had somehow failed to meet up with Kayla Allen (a TV from California, one time Genderline frequenter and well placed science fiction fan) because I had not attended the Compuserve Sci-Fi forum party or tried to find

her room.

Before leaving the hotel that afternoon and while packing to leave for home I kept calling her room and finally got hold of her just after dinnertime. So on my way south through downtown Chicago I stopped off at the hotel and visited for a while. After a little conversation downstairs we went up to her room to talk further. Later when going to the elevator to go down to the lobby we were passing the open door of a "dead dog party" and I coincidentally spotted Jennifer inside. They had not yet met and we talked a little more before I finally left the hotel for the long drive home.

GCGLC Report

By Susan Lovelace

Dear Cross-Port-ettes, as representative for your organization for the *Greater Cincinnati Gay and Lesbian Coalition*, I would like to deliver my first report from the Coalition and to voice my opinion on what course *Cross-Port* should take in this Decade of the Gay '90s.

Starting in 1992, which I feel is going to be our year for coming out, I feel that we should take a more active stance on Gay/Lesbian rights along with raising some demonstrations to uphold and change some of our own rights. We are not getting younger, and Cross-Port's not getting anv smaller. Now is the time for us to come out of the closet and quit relying on the Gay Community to fight for our rights for us, especially when they have their own rights to fight for. Now is the time for *Cross-Port* to pave the way for other support groups like ours. To lobby for Freedom, Justice and Equal Rights for all and let it begin with *Cross-Port*.

Dan Newman who works for AVOC — Aids Volunteers of Cincinnati informed me that on Wednesday, February 19 from 7:30pm to 9:30pm, a new support group will get under way at the AVOC offices on Central Parkway in Cincinnati. This group will call itself Keeping in Touch. It will have a panel of at least 4 to 6 people, or more if possible. It will consist of people of all kinds of Alternative Lifestyles such as men of all colors, lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, people who wear leather and chains and also crossdressers if we can have a couple of volunteers. Our little group is so closeted, we need to come out more and start letting the public know we are here so that we may live our lives freely the way we see Subjects covered will be fit. oppression, discrimination, and the sharing of information for a better understanding of each other.

Anyone needing more information may feel free to call Dan Newman at the AVOC offices at 421-2437.

If anyone happened to hear John Cunnigham's show on WLW the other day, you probably heard him announce that because of such long lines at concerts and sporting events, the city of Santa Monica, California passed a law stating that if there are more than four people in front of you at the restrooms, then you may use the one designated for the opposite sex. So let's go for it girls, after all when you gotta go, you gotta go — and you can't fool Mother Nature.

From Our Readers

Dear Cathy and all the girls at Cross-Port —

Thank you for your support this year. It has been a real blessing and I still look forward to the newsletter each month. I'm so glad the letter will continue.

I'm sorry I haven't been up to see you all for a long time but I think of you all the time. I know I'm one of the creeps that said I would love to have a meeting on a weekend then never attended. I really did want come, I hope you can forgive me.

I won't go into all the stress my circumstances bring me to, but I can't realistically see my desire of gender reassignment as a goal that I can obtain this late in life (age 40) even though I know of others who have done it much later. Of course I still love to dress up and and I feel good about that, but with three young children around it isn't as easy as it was ten years ago.

I'm happy for Heather and that she has indeed achieved her goal. I'd trade her places in a heart beat. Tell her I said hello, I hope she remembers me. Please continue the newsletter and I hope to see you again.

Love Always — Cynthia

Sorry, we really missed you at the meetings too. It is never to late

to achive any goal you really want, you just need to set your priorities. Children do grow up. We will all be at Christopher's on the third Thursday of every month, please come when you can.

- Eds.

Cosmetic Care

by Sandy G.

Reprinted from CD News, December 1991

Once a product has been opened, the preservatives begin to deteriorate. The natural bacteria that flourish on your skin and in the air find their way into the cosmetic and begin to grow.

GENERAL TIPS.

Wash your hands before applying cosmetics — when you apply cosmetics with your fingers you introduce bacteria into product.

Don't add water or anything else to a product — this introduces bacteria, changes the formula balance and may dilute the preservatives.

Keep the lid on — fragrance and alcohol evaporate quickly.

Store in a cool, dry place unopened cream or lotion products are best stored in the refrigerator until ready for use.

Opt for products in containers with small openings — they are more resistant to contamination from outside sources.

KNOW WHEN TO SAY GOODBYE.

A change in odor — this is a signal that the cosmetic is decomposing or it can indicate mold or bacteria growth. A change in consistency — a cosmetic that becomes watery or dry is past it's use.

A change in color — if the color has faded or becomes uneven, toss it.



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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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All the problems and pleasures of transvestism discussed in detail - especially as they affect the marital relationship. (A classic.)

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This publication represents the views, observations, and outlook of Doctor Virginia Prince and is

intended to provide a path toward understanding.

HOW TO BE A WOMAN THOUGH MALE, by Virginia Prince (#23) \$12.00 plus \$1.00 S&H ; total \$13.00

A guide dealing with the basics of male-tofemale crossdressing. (A classic.)

THE AMERICAN CROSS-DRESSER, Carol Beecroft, Editor (#44)\$10.00 plus \$1.50 S&H; total \$11.50

(Current issue) A journal in the tradition of Chevalier Publication's `Transvestia.'

TRANSVESTITES AND TRANS-SEXUALS: Toward a Theory of Cross-Gender Behavior, by Dr. Richard F. Docter (#428784) \$35.00 plus \$2.50 S&H; total \$37.50

A "must" for anyone who owns a personal library on crossdressing. The book represents 10 years of original research. Dr. Richard Doctor has become a true friend of our community, and has produced one of the finest scholarty works on the subjects of transvestism and transsexualism ever written. Every community member should read this book.

ART AND ILLUSION: A Guide to Crossdressing (2nd edition) (#26) \$10.00 plus \$1.00 S&H; total \$11.00

A concise illustrated guide by JoAnne Roberts for the first-time male-to-female crossdresser. Covers makeup, figure creation, outerwear and accessories, styles, colors, "do's and don t's".ect.

ART AND ILLUSION COMPANION (#40) \$8.00 plus \$1.00 S&H : total \$9.00

Compliments 'Art and Illusion'. Includes a step-by-step makeup guide with a dozen photo pages, and new information on how to create cleavage, cosmetic surgery, clothing styles, makeup for ethnic skin and much more.

SPEAKING AS A WOMAN, by Alison Laing (#29) \$8.00 plus \$1.00 S&H ; total \$9.00

A voice training guide for those who desire to communicate in a more feminine manner.

THE SPIRIT AND THE FLESH. by Walter L Williams (#30) \$12.00 plus \$2.50 S&H; total \$14.50

This landmark study of the American Indian Berdache documents how tribal cultures venerated these special people. It is a valuable sourcebook, bringing together a wealth of information on the status of gender-variant men in a wise variety of Native American societies. MY HUSBAND WEARS MY CLOTHES, by Peggy J. Rudd, Ed.D (#31) \$10.00 plus \$1.50 S&H; total \$11.50

The expression "Clothes don't make the man," has never had greater meaning. Dr. Rudd is the wife of a crossdresser. The emotion of the book comes from her heart, and the credibility from a strong educational background.

CROSSDRESSING WITH DIGNITY: The Case Fore Transcending Gender Lines, by Peggy J. Rudd, Ed.D (#42) \$12.95 plus \$1.50 S&H; total \$14.45

"Is society ready for men who openty express femininity?" "Can a man transcend gender lines and maintain his own sense of serf-worth and dignity?" These are two of the questions that were asked to over 800 crossdressers in the survey used as the basis for this book. This provocative book addresses conflicts and provides solutions.

TRANSFORMATIONS: CROSS-DRESSERS AND THOSE WHO LOVE THEM (#32) \$24.95 plus \$2.50 S&H; total \$27.45

The long-awaited photographic journal by Mariette Pathy Allen.. (Limited supply available)

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Gender Blending is a major contribution to the understanding of gender. Working with a small group of females who were frequently mistaken for men, Holly examines the social construction of gender and its implications for the lives of gender blending females and for society in general.

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Easy to read, easy to understand guide for any TV, CD,TS, SO, helping professional. Terms, wardrobe, makeup, body language, voice, hormones, cuing, significant others, living full time, the operation, growth, and more. Everything you've ever wanted to know about the "T" phenomenon.

FANTASTIC WOMEN: Sex, Gender and Transvestism, by Annie Woodhouse (#38) ... \$14.00 plus \$1.50 S&H; total \$15.50

What distinguishes 'Fantastic Women' is its feminist perspective. It is the first book to explore transvestism from the standpoint of the politics of gender.

FROM FEMALE TO MALE: The Life of Jack Bee Garland, by Louis Sullivan (#39) ... \$8.95 plus \$1.50 S&H; total \$10.45

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\$10.00 plus \$1.50 S&H; total \$11.50 Addresses the unique issues and needs of the

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THE TRANSSEXUAL'S SURVIVAL GUIDE, by JoAnne Altman Stringer (#41) \$20.00 plue \$1.00 S&H ; total \$21.00

JoAnne, a married post-op TS woman, covers everything the therapist didn't tell you and then some. Counseling, economics, employment, dealing with friends, family, etc., and much more. General enough for both M-t-F and F-t-M. (Available September 1990)

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__VESTED INTERESTS;

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