

Cross-Port InnerView

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CINCINNATI, OHIO 45230

Vol. 3 No. 7 For The Crossdresser July 1987

Next Meeting July 16th At 7:30
Mate Support Meeting
July 13th At 8:00

CROSS-PORT BASICS

The June Cross-Port Party brought 13 people out of doors for a small but nice picnic. Our thanks to Judy for the uses of her house and yard, and to all who came and brought food. There was plenty to eat.

There was no business discussed at the picnic so there is little to report. I must apologize for the lateness of the "InnerView" this month. There was news I had to wait for.

Again this month there is good news and bad news. The bad news is that Ed has sold the Hangout. He called to tell me, about a week ago and I have been trying to find another meeting place. The good news is that I may have found one. It's called "Mikes", and the directions are the same as going to the Hangout. In fact, it is the old Hangout.

I was finally able to reach the new owner, Mike. He also owns a gay bar in Dayton and plans to build this into a large business. Mike seems very supportive and willing to give it a try. They are in the process of remodeling and there is some question as to how private the back room will be. The curtains are gone, but he has agreed to block off the room. The location has proved to be good for most of the people who come to the meetings and we have yet to find any place better. I feel we should try it and see how it works out for both parties involved.

Dee has agreed to try to run a rap group at the meeting this month. She will be getting started about 8:00 so if you wish to participate, try to get there early. If this works out, it may become a regular part of the meetings.

We wish Ed, the best in whatever he plans to do, and thank him for the many good times we have had at The Hangout. If not for people like Ed and Mike, many of us would have nowhere to do our thing.

The first Lesbian/Gay Pride Day Family Festival was a success for the gay community,

if not for Cross-Port. Alice, Goldie, Lee and Heather worked the booth from 2:30 until 10:30. Our booth took in \$49 and cost \$71 so we did not make any money as a booth. However, GCB/LC did make money over the entire week and is offering to share the pot equally among the participants. We would receive about \$100. We will discuss this at the meeting. We did have a good time and the exposure in the community did us good.

The ad in the Downtowner, with the phone number, has brought a lot of response. Many are first time callers and not ready to come out to meetings, but they now know we are here and have someone to talk to. Most of us can still remember our first time.

Alice has officially taken charge of the finances. Our balance as of July 1st was \$474.50. She is currently seeking a safe place to keep it. The last time I talked to her, she was in Georgia, heading south.

For those keeping track, September is just two months away. Cooler weather, longer night, and time to start dressing again. We are looking forward to seeing some of you again, in the Fall.

BE ALL WEEKEND REPORT

By Linda R

Last month, a few members of Cross-Port went to Cleveland for the "Be All You Want To Be Weekend". This makes the fifth time that the clubs of Chi Chapter (TRI-ESS Chicago), Crossroads (Detroit), Paradise Club (Cleveland), and Transpitt (Pittsburg) have gotten together to sponsor this event. It usually draws between 150-200 crossdressers from the midwest. It last five days with many educational and social activities at which one can really enjoy their femme self. This is unlike the I.F.G.E. convention, who's primary goal is to unify the crossdressers and to teach our para-culture to others.

"Be All" is primarily a TV orientated affair where you can expect about 50 to 60 wives and significant others who strongly support their loved ones. Its almost like a fantasy world, where many of the couples become good friends and share in their adventures, trials, and inner feelings.

Connie (my wife) and I went, this year, and had one of the best times of our lives. We can't wait until next year when it will be held in Detroit. Connie has really gotten to love Linda, and Linda couldn't be happier. This was the first time that Connie actually got to live with Linda 24 hours a day; day after day. She has grown to know her as a sister and a friend. We are closer now then ever. We strongly suggest all couples try to attend next year.

Don't worry if you come by yourself however, most people do. Everyone always has a great time and leaves with many new friends. It is an understanding and sharing you will find no where else, except at a Cross-Port meeting.

THE INDY REPORT

By Betty

We had another successful meeting June 4, with about 12 sisters in attendance. Business was discussed and the following were accepted as officers: Laura - Chairperson, Shannon - Vice President and Betty - Corresponding Secretary. The offices will be held for one year starting in July.

It was also passed that the meetings will be held on the first Thursday of each month unless there is an extreme conflict. Laura introduced our introductory letter which was accepted and a copy is attached.

It was noted that the Constitution for our group is being worked on and should be ready for review and voting in one or two meeting.

Laura received special recognition for wearing a dress.

Questionnaires were passed out on where to shop, eat, and go for entertainment. These are to be returned so we can put together a guide. We also need to know places Not To Go.

Since there is no charge for our meeting place, at this time, we will not have any dues, however, we will pass the hat at the meeting for mailing cost, P.O. Box, etc.

We have talked again to Dale Masher in regard to skin care and make-up and it was agreed to wait until fall to do this at one of our meetings and it will be done professionally.

Kay Gould contacted us and will try to make our December 3 meeting and Discuss the National scene, coming events, etc.

We are also working on someone for hair care. This may be a special meeting at a salon.

Please remember this is your support group and we need your input and ideas so we can not only support ourselves but others in the future.

HEATHER DOES D.C.

By Heather Peerson

Two years ago I didn't even know another crossdresser, and going out was just a dream. One year ago I had attended my first Spring Fling and was hitting the "OPEN" bars on a regular basis. I guess it appropriate that during the month of Cross-Port's second anniversary, I would spread my wings and fly.

I had to go to Washington D.C. on business. The cost of the Friday flight would be less than half if I stayed until Sunday night. I asked Kathy if she wanted to go along and spend the weekend. Her yes, was no surprise.

Our flight up meant rising at 5:00 a.m. to catch a 7:00 a.m. departure. It also meant a coat and tie, since Friday was the business day. Upon arrival we picked up the rental car and headed for the Hotel. They didn't have rooms ready so we checked our bags and car and walked to the convention center. Business was up about 2:30 p.m. so we headed back to the hotel. They still said they had no rooms ready, but after a little fuss we were assigned a suite on the top floor. I shed my outer skin and prepared to go out.

Now, I must say first that this hotel was the kind of place were in 90 degree temperatures the doorman still wears white gloves. In packing I took the male clothes I was wearing and the rest were female, casual, but feminine. Having long hair I don't wear a wig or change my hair much as Heather. It suddenly struck me. I was in a predicament. No matter how well I looked, the management of the hotel would know who I was.

I began to get scared. I wanted to go out, but how. I began to dress and decided to just see what happened. When we both were ready, we left the room and took the elevator to the lobby. As the doors opened I know my knees were knocking together. We headed for the door and I handed the doorman my ticket for the car. There were three of them, and not one of them batted an eye. The car was brought around and as we got in one of the doormen said, "Have a good evening ladies." Round one seemed over.

We headed for the Washington Monument and just as we got there it started to pour down rain. Heather hates the rain. It's bad for the makeup and worse for the hair. We decided to try the Lincoln Memorial. We found our way there but all the near by parking was closed. Now, I became depressed. Maybe it was because I felt like an atheist corpse, all dressed up with no place to go. Maybe I felt disappointed, having gone through the hotel exit for nothing, but it hit me hard.

We decided to stop and get something to eat, so we went to a Roy Rogers. Everything went fine, but I was really getting worse. I wanted to get back to the hotel. We did. Tomorrow would be another day.

We rose about 10 a.m. and started getting ready to go sightseeing. The sun was bright and the turmoil began. Heather, hasn't been out much during the day so I had to decide if I was going to just wear the clothes, I had brought, without makeup or let Heather see the sun. As I dressed, it just seemed natural to put on the makeup, so I did. Just as we began to leave, the phone rang. I answered as Heather. "Sir, when would you like your room cleaned?" Great, that made me feel real good. We took the elevator to the lobby and headed for the door. Immediately the doorman ask if he could get our car. We had decided to walk so we declined. He said, "Have a good day ladies." We headed for the White House, two blocks away.

As we approached, I began to feel uneasy. There was a crowd out in front of the White House. If we wanted pictures we had to walk through the masses. I clutched my purse and followed Kathy across the front of the building. I became seriously aware that absolutely no one paid me any attention. The more people I passed, the more relaxed I became. We got all the pictures we wanted and walked to the sightseeing tram. As I boarded the tram, I did not receive even one stare. I realized that this was going to be a piece of cake.

Needless to say, that the rest of the weekend went exactly the same way. We saw all the sights and rode the busses and trams until we could hardly walk. Only a couple of times did I see anyone look twice, even then, it was just a look, no laughs, no giggles and no smart comments. This was a real "Be All Weekend" that had taken years to prepare for. It felt great to be seeing the HOME of liberty and really feel free. At Arlington Cemetery I realized how many people have died so that I might have the freedom to be dressed as I was.

There were plenty of moments of anxiety and even some depression. Kathy was very supportive, understanding and encouraging and helped me overcome these feeling.

After Heather's first commercial flight back and the drive home were over, I realized it was, without a doubt, the best weekend of my life.

CATEGORIZING CROSSDRESSERS

By Linda B

Ever since we started school, years ago, almost everything we learned has been put into categories. It seems both teaching and learning are made easier when everything has a place and a reason for being there. Now it's time to categorize the crossdresser.

I recently came back from the "Be All" weekend in Cleveland, where I attended a talk by Dr. Richard Doctor. For those of you unfamiliar with his work, he is thought by many to be the leading authority on transvestism and the lives transvestites lead. After years of following us around, tapping our intellects, and watching our every move, his first book on the subject will be out in 1988. His appearance at the "Be All" was his first ever at a national para-culture event.

His main topic was to tell us, his subject, just what he had discovered. He started by

dividing us into groups, TV, TS, Drag Queen, and Female Impersonators. So far, no argument. Then he had sub-categories for each group. In particular, the transvestite. He divided the group into such things as homosexual, heterosexual, and trans-gendered, to name a few. He then gave a characteristic behavior pattern each follows. Now, he's in trouble.

The audience consisted of approximately 80 crossdressers from all parts of the United States. Included were people like Elaine Wiley, from Crossroads, Ariadne Kane, from the Outreach Institute and Fantasia Fair, Merissa Sherrill Lynn, from Tiffany Club and I.F.G.E. and the ever outspoken Virginia Prince, founder of Tri-Ess (FPE) and the grandmother of crossdressing.

The good Dr. didn't have a chance. From this point on, everything he said was challenged and changed. Apparently no one felt they fit any one category, but little parts of each. Although the discussion to follow was very stimulating, I think we found out, what we already knew. You can't put us into one small group. Almost all of us are so complex in our own everchanging ways, that it is impossible to say who goes where. We had as many personalities as we did people in the room.

For educational purposes, I am sure, Dr. Doctor has to create some categories to teach others about the strange lives we live. But, now I'm sure when he speaks to us again, he will use more ambiguous term like: a few will everyone will fit into whatever group they want to, and we will let him finish his talk next time.

CAN WE TALK!

By Heather Peerson

In a conversation I recently had with someone, when I asked them what was wrong with crossdressing, their reply was that "it isn't normal". That is a true statement. Crossdressing is not "normal", but does abnormal behavior make a person abnormal?

We are all, too familiar with the question, "What is normal?" The best answer that can be given is, doing things that most people do. But as Linda pointed out we are all so different that no two of us do everything the same, therefore, the next best answer, to what is "normal", would be that most of the things each of us does, is done by a large number of other people. For example, most people work for a living. Many people eat three meals a day. Hopefully, most people pay their bills on time. And, far too many people sit around watching television. So a person who does all those things could be called "normal". But, do a significant number of people, go bowling once a week, to call that "normal"? Do a large enough number of people jog everyday to call that a "normal" activity. How many people does it take before it becomes "normal"? Could you say one million, three million, five million?

Next, question, if someone does nine "normal" things each day and one "abnormal" thing are they "normal" or "abnormal"? For example, if a person does all of the above normal things, yet likes to play one round of golf everyday, is that person "normal". Certainly, there are few people who play golf everyday. So that could be called "abnormal behavior". But is the person "abnormal" just because they like to do one thing that most people don't do? I believe, if that were the case, no one is "normal".

Most crossdressers live "normal" lives. They do most of the things most people do. Usually the only "abnormal" thing they do is crossdress, and even that category is questionable. There are an estimated five million crossdressers in the United States alone. This is probably close to, if not more than, the number of people who play golf once a week, or bowl twice a week, yet crossdressing is still considered "abnormal behavior" and the other activities are "normal". So we are once again faced with the question "What is Normal?" and "At what point does something become 'normal'?"

The real answer seems to be, one, when there is seemingly no immoral conduct involved, and two, when those persons who do something are willing to stand up and say "I do this, and it is not 'abnormal or immoral". For example, women wearing shorts or short skirts was once considered abnormal and immoral. Enough women did it however, that it has become accepted as normal.

If crossdressing is ever going to lose the branding as "abnormal" enough men are going to have to openly do it to show the world that it is neither "abnormal" or immoral. Women felt they had nothing to lose by standing up for their rights. Men, however, feel they are in great risk of loosing everything, because they feel they have everything.

I foresee crossdressing as continuing to be considered "abnormal" for a long time, or at least until men realize they don't have all the freedoms they think they have and are willing to risk something to gain them.

In other areas, there is a rumor that a new Gay/Lesbian Club is opening in Cincinnati, on July 8th. It is supposed to be called, "The Paradise Club" and is to be located downtown on Second St. I hope I'll know more by the meeting.

I am hoping to make arrangements to speak to the local chapter of NOW sometime in the next couple of months about crossdressing, and I am offering to speak to other organizations involved in GCG/LC.

On the other side, I have been asked if we would like a person from AVOC (AIDS Volunteers of Cincinnati) to speak to us about AIDS. I hope you all will consider this. I feel it is an important subject to everyone, regardless of sexual preference.

Heather

Publication Notice

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InnerView is a monthly publication of Cross-Port for its members and friends. Subscription dues are \$18.00 per year payable in January of each year. It is our goal to support the TV, TS and Gay communities and in return we need your support.

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Contributions of articles are welcomed but may be altered, with the author's intent retained, or may be rejected, whether solicited or not. Absolutely no sexually explicit material will be accepted or printed.

Cross-Port is a not-for-profit support group which meets solely for the support of crossdressers, transsexuals and their family and friends.



INDIANA CROSSDRESSER SOCIETY



IXΣ

P.O. BOX 20710

INDIANAPOLIS, IN. 46220

IXE (Iota Chi Sigma) is a gender group interested in helping gender conflicted persons in the context of a social meeting, and is not a dating service. By showing you, through our existence as a group, that there are many people like yourself who have an attraction to womens clothes, you will find that you are not alone in having and fulling your desires.

Trans means across or to crossover. Gender is the male or female identity in us all. The suffix ists makes the plural of transgender. A transgenderist can be anybody from the transvestite who just wants to wear womans panties to the transexual person who believes themselves to be of the opposite sex (other than as the physical body dictates). Such a definition obviously includes a very broad range of people.

We, as a group, welcome all gender conflicted people, we exclude no one who is truly gender conflicted. We do exclude alcoholics or drug addicts. We feel they have not yet accepted themselves. Until they deal with their gender conflict without the influence of excessive drugs or alcohol, we are unable to help them.

You have contacted us so you must feel you fit in that range, or you are curious or you are an interested professional. Let's answer a few of the most commonly asked questions:

Q. I have hidden for years my yearning to wear clothes of the opposite sex, what should I do?
A. Seek out others like yourself and/or professional help (we know doctors who have knowledge in these areas). You will get assistance in your quest for knowledge and will meet others like yourself.

Q. My wife just found out that I crossdress what should I do?
A. There are a lot ways that people try to handle this problem, but the best way is to tell the truth and let your wife or significant other handle things at their own pace. Don't force them into seeing you dressed or force the issue upon them. Try to get them involved in IXE's Mate Support Group.

Q. Since I was little I have dreamed that I would wake up a female, or that I would be a female someday. Am I a transexual?
A. A lot of transgendered males and females have this dream, and will not or cannot say they are transexuals, nor do they think they are. This is a common occurence among transgenderists. Your best bet is to seek a gender counselor or others like yourself to see where you fit.

Q. If I become a practicing transgenderist, will I progress to transexualism?
A. Not necessarily, you may stay a gender person all your life, but no more than you are right now.

Q. I love to crossdress and go out. I have read about others like me (books from adult book stores) and they all appear to be gay. Am I gay?
A. In the gender world there are some bisexual people, some gays, but the majority of the gender people are heterosexual and prefer a mate of the opposite sex. You can, with counseling, find an honest and satisfactory answer to this question.

Other questions will be answered on request. For now this will reassure you that others have asked the same questions you are concerned about.

For help or answers to your questions (we are not counselors) or to find out more about our group, write to:

IXE
P.O. Box 20710
Indianapolis, IN. 46220

Addresses are confidential. Replies are discreet.