

Cross-Port Inner View

2020 B BEECHMONT AVE. BOX 150
CINCINNATI OHIO 45230

Vol. 3 No. 2 An NGA Chapter February 1987

NEXT MEETING February 19th AT 7: 30
Wife/Girlfriend Support Meeting
March 2nd At 8: 00

Cross-Port Basics

Get out the furs and boots, there isn't any snow but there's plenty of cold, and that seems to be one of our best friends. Wigs are so much cooler in the winter.

17 people braved the freezing cold for the January meeting. Two new faces Eileen and Karen joined us for evening of talk and make-up.

A big thanks to Kevin, Kenny and Ertha who also joined us as Kevin showed us proper ways to do make-up. I know I learned a thing or two. The make up session got off to a late start because the car Kevin came in broke down on the way there, but we used the time to get the business meeting out of the way.

Up for discussion was the topic of dues and a meeting fee. There was plenty of discussion. Dee moved and Valerie seconded that we adopt the \$18.00 dues and \$3.00 meeting fee as proposed. After much debate the motion failed to carry.

Joann moved and Sharon seconded a revised proposal of \$18.00 per year dues and no meeting fee, but a collection will be taken at the meeting as has been done in the past. Each person will be ask to give what the want, with a \$3.00 minimum in mind. After more discussion, the motion carried.

The proposed budget was also passed, which included the installation of a phone for Cross-port use in Heather's home. The phone will be installed at a later date, after we see the response to the dues.

There was a suggestion by Sherry, to have a second meeting either each month or every other month on a Saturday night. Heather agreed that it might be a good idea for the out of town people but she did not wish to plan it, or organize it. Sherry agreed to look into the matter and report back at the next meeting.

With the business over, the make-overs began and continued until about 11:00. The last people left around 1:00 am. As always, many thanks to all who came and gave their support.



C A N W E A T A L K ?

Hello everyone, from up here at the north pole, well it feels like it anyway. There are a number of changes taking place in Cross-Port so I'll fill everyone in.

First, as reported earlier, those present at the meeting did vote to begin charging an annual dues of \$18.00 per year to cover the cost of the news letter mailings and the right to attend support meetings. The dues is due in January of each year. Persons who contact us after January, will be assessed at the rate of \$1.50 for each month remaining in the year. Persons who are current members and do not pay by January 31, will not receive further news letters until their \$18.00 is paid. Professionals, bars, and shopping places are exempt. Other TV/TS groups are also exempt so long as there is a news letter exchange between groups. Persons who are members of other organizations will be welcomed as guest at Cross-Port meetings.

The second part of that story is that we will not make anyone pay meeting fees. It was decided to continue to pass the hat and let people give what ever they wanted to give. It's our hope they will use \$3.00 as a minimum but, it is not required. We really don't want being a TV or TS to be any more expensive than it already is, and we realize that many people belong to more than one group or get more than one news-letter.

Another big change will be the news - letter itself. If this issue seems a little strange, it's because enclosed with it is a copy of the New "Introduction Copy" of "InnerView". I hope everyone will look it over and give me your reaction. I have spent a considerable amount of time putting it together.

This special copy will be sent to persons inquiring about the group along with pamphlets about Transvestites and Transsexuals, and a questionnaire.

The hope is that the news-letter can be used for more news and articles. That part will be up to each of you. You don't have to write long involved articles, just send letters about things you want to share with others. I will not be going out of my way to find articles or beg people to write, but I will promise that you will receive a news-letter every month and that you will be kept informed on the progress of the group. Keep your Introduction Copy for reference. Where ever I get information about new places I'll put it in the current issue.

A reminder that the 1st TV/TS National Convention is only a month away. I know that for many the prospect of going to a convention in Chicago as a woman for 4 days is not very attractive. You would much rather spend 2 of those days working and 2 sitting around the house wishing you were dressed. If you search deep inside yourself, you may find the strength to overcome your feelings and go to the convention even though it you know it will be the worst time of your life. You may just even have alot of fun, I know I'm going to! For information write to IF6E, Box 19, Wayland, MA 01778.

I want to apologize to those who have written and I haven't responded. Time and I just don't seem to get along these days. I do wish to say a special hello to Loretta and a prayer for you, Joey, and Connie, that one day soon you'll be back and feeling better.

February 14, there will be another of those wonderful male/female strip shows at the Hangout. The last one broke all attendance records and everyone seemed to have a great time. A group from Cross-Port is planning on attending, and this time there is no reserved seating, so we will hopefully be there early.

I thought I would mention for the sake of some of the groups we are trying to support, like LGAU and GCG/LC, that if at times, we seem to be a little invisible please remember, I am doing most of the representing for Cross-Port. I wish to do this as Heather, as much as is possible, but it is not as easily to go out and go places as Heather. There may be meetings and get-togethers that I would love to attend, but because of where they are, the time of day or others who will be there, I may simply, not feel right going. This does not mean we are not being supportive, just cautious. If you would like for me, or one of our group to talk at one of your meetings about cross-dressing, we will be happy to do so, but we may need to go along with you or someone from your group for support.

Summary of Expenses for Month 1 Year 1987 01/31/87

Code	Description	This Month	Thru Last Month	Year to Date
1	Book/Magazines	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
2	Wife Support	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
3	Advertising	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
4	Beer/Pop	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
5	Print Newsletter	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
6	Print BusinessCards	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
7	NSA Dues	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
8	Councilors	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
9	Postage	\$24.20	\$0.00	\$24.20
10	Paper	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
11	Envelopes	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
12	US Telephone	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
13	Local Telephone	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
14	Copier Supplies	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
15	Copier Repair	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
16	Meeting Snacks	\$10.00	\$0.00	\$10.00
17	Rent	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
18	Tax	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
19	Misc. 1	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
20	Misc. 2	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
21	Special Expense	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Totals		\$35.00	\$0.00	\$35.00
Total income		\$368.99	\$0.00	\$368.99
Less expenses		\$35.00	\$0.00	\$35.00
Net Profit		\$333.99	\$0.00	\$333.99

Note- Income includes \$258.00 Carryover from last year.

The subject of the talk at the February 9th meeting of LGAU is "Gay Life in Russia, Turkey and Cincinnati: Can they be compared?". They meet in room 806 at Swift Hall, UC.

Finally, Eileen sent me information about a business in Columbus called "Have It Your Way". The Phone is (614) 299-7052, Ask for Jan. She is a seamstress and is very willing to make clothes to order. According to Eileen, her rates are very reasonable, and she also does alterations.

Until next month,

Heather

Cross-Port Registration

Yes, I'd like to receive Cross-Port's "InnerView". Enclosed is my \$18.00 to help cover the cost of the news letter mailing.

No, I do not wish to receive the news letter "InnerView" but I am interested in coming to the meetings.

Please remove my name from your mailing list. I am no longer interested in Cross-Port.

Enclosed \$ _____

Your Mailing Name _____

Cross-Port InnerView

2020 B BEECHMONT AVE. BOX 150
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Introduction Copy

Cross-Port Basics

History

CROSS-PORT (CROSS-dressers SupPORT) is a support group which was formed in the Cincinnati area, in June of 1985. Beginning with just six people, we have grown to a current mailing list of over 100 people, about 60 of which are other cross-dressers. Current meeting attendance is between 15 the 25 people.

We are a chapter of the national organization National Gender Alliance (NGA) which was recently formed after Gateway Gender Alliance dissolved on July 1, 1986. We also try to work closely with other cross-dressing support groups around the country including Tri-Ess, Paradise Club, Transpitt, Tiffany Club, The Windy City Chapter, and Cross-Roads.

Purpose

Our support as been aimed at the heterosexual men involved in cross-dressing, their wives/girlfriends and Transsexuals. Others including female impersonators and people involved in professional services for the cross-dresser are also welcomed.

Our goal is to provide a forum for discussion and a chance to gather in the company of others, where we can be accepted for what we are and would like to be. We also act as a sort of clearing house for information about other groups like ours across the country.

Security

We understand the need for security, therefore, none of the information you may provide us with will be given to any other person in the group except by you. We do not act as a contact service, forwarding mail or passing on names. On the enclosed questionnaire please answer only those questions you feel comfortable answering. We do need a proper address where we can send our news letter. A phone where you may be contacted is nice but not necessary. You must return the questionnaire to me in order to be added to our mailing list. If you are using a P. O. Box you must use the name (or initials) of the person the box is listed under. Many of our mailings are returned because the names do not match. Should we receive, returned mail to you, more than once we will not attempt to contact you further.

Meetings

We are currently meeting on the third Thursday of the month. The meeting starts at 7:30 pm and runs until about 11:00. Because of our concern for your security and ours, it will necessary for us to have either myself or one of our members talk with you before you

can attend a meeting. You will need to phone me to make arrangements to attend a meeting at (513)-631-7752 ask for Steve. Persons are not permitted to attend a meeting by walking in off the street.

Dress Code

If this is the first contact that you have made like this, we understand that it is difficult. We want to make it easier for you. We do not have any dress codes. You may come in male or female attire and there is a limited dressing area if you want to dress at the meeting but do not wish to come dressed. We ask only that however you dress, it is proper for dressing in public. Most dressers find it best to come the first time as their male selves but this is totally up to you.

Cost

We are not a club, but we do have bills. For a subscription to our monthly news letter "InnerView" and the right to attend support meetings the cost is \$1.50 per month or \$18.00 per year, payable in January of each year. Your cost for the remainder of this year would be \$. In addition to the yearly cost, a collection is taken at each meeting. There is no set meeting fee, but we do ask that you consider \$3.00 as a minimum.

Other Support

In addition to our regular monthly meeting, we also have a Wife/Girlfriend Support Group which meets once a month for the ladies only. This group is currently run by a team of professionals, who are prepared to help the women deal with questions and problems they may have. The cost is \$3.00 per meeting per person to help cover the travel cost.

Also, though we do not have other planned activities at this time, often a number of us will get together on a week-end night, to go out.

We hope that if this is the kind of group you are looking for you will join us.

Sincerely yours,

Heather Peerson
President

IT'S MORE THAN DRESSING

By Heather Peerson

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 clients 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", there by 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 some one else is to change sexes. To totally place our male selves on "hold" and become lost in the other person. Actors and actresses say, 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 the hardest part he ever played was James Bond, because he found himself trying 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, 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, everyone expected him to be James Bond and at times, he even 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 upon what role we are playing, 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 that women 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 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 "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.



Places to GO

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

Jacober's Downstairs Bar, 36 West Fifth, Dressing is OK.

Metro Lounge, Ruth Lyons Pl. & Gano Alley, (Off Vine near the square), Dressing is OK, mixed crowd, Drag shows on Fri. and Saturday nights.

1470 West at 1470 W. Dorothy (in Dayton), Drag shows on Sunday nights. Dressing permitted at all times for Cross-Port members.

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 619 Walnut (721-9551) Cross-dressers are Welcome.

Simon Says - at 428 Walnut (381-8196) 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

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

Extremes 435 Elm St. - 241-4646, Large Size Women's Shoes.

Hair

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

Hairworks, 4020 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

See Hairworks above.

Clothes

One Stop Bra & Swim Shop - 9217 Reading Road, Call 769-6020 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

Radio

Alternating Currents - Mondays at 5: 00 pm - WAIF 88. 3 FM , 2525 Victory Parkway, Cincinnati, OH 45206

Columbus OH

Lee's Hiq City - 3976 E. Broad St. (614) 236-5584 ask for Elba

Herby's Tavern - 349 Marconi Blvd. (614) 464-2270

Trends/The Garage - 40 E. Long St. (614) 461-0076, shows every Wednesday night.

Indianapolis

21 Club- 2101 N. 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

OTHER CLUBS

The Paradise Club - Meets every other month on Saturdays

Write Paradise Club, PO Box 29564, Parma, OH 44129, Attn: Susan for Prices and Places

Transpitt - Meets the third Saturday of the month.

Write Transpitt, PO Box 59406, Pittsburg, PA 15211, Attn: Johnnie

Windy City Chapter - Meets meet the Third Tuesday of each month at 8: 30.

For Information about Nation Gender Alliance also: Write Windy City Chapter, PO BOX 2312, Chicago, IL 60690, Attn: Sharon Hart

TRI-ESS - Meetings in a number of cities - Write Carol Beecroft, P. O. Box 194, Tulare, CA, 93275

Crossroads - 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.

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 Gwynne

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

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

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



For Transvestites

<u>Understanding Cross Dressing</u>	\$8. 50
<u>How To Be A Woman Though Male</u>	\$10. 00
<u>The Transvestite And His Wife</u>	\$7. 00
<u>Man, Woman; Boy, Girl</u>	\$7. 95

Above Books available from Chevalier Publications, Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275

<u>Men in Frocks</u> By Kris Kirk & Ed Heath	\$9. 95
<u>Sexual Variations</u> By Chris Gosselin & Glen Wilson	\$12. 95

For the Transsexual

A Finer Specimen of Womanhood (A Transsexual Speaks Out)
By Sharon Davis \$7. 95 from Vantage Press, 516 West 34th St.
NY, NY 10001

The Uninvited Dilemma By Kim Stuart, Metamorphus Press,
PO Box 1712 Lake Oswego, OR, 97034

Transsexual Phenomenon By Harry Benjamin, NY Warner Books

Magazines

TV/TS Tapestry - Box 19, Wayland, MA 01778 - \$30/yr.
(Tell them to send \$10. 00 to Cross-Port)

Transsexual Voice - Phoebe Smith, 764 North Ave. ,
Hapeville, GA 30354 - \$12/yr

The Transvestian - Tania Volen, Inc. , 200 Main St. ,
Tennent, NJ 07763 - \$18/yr

COMMON TERMS

Transsexual - A person who feels that they were born into the wrong body. A person whose feelings and emotions are that of one gender and whose body is of the opposite gender.

Transvestite - A male, most often heterosexual, who enjoys wearing women's clothing and likes to feel like a woman.

Drag Queen - A male, most often Gay, who dresses in women's clothes quite often for entertainment. Usually does not wear female undergarments such as panties and bras and does not take the dressing that seriously.

Female Impersonator - A person who dresses in woman's clothes only to perform in shows for the entertainment of others.

Cross-Dresser - A person who dresses in the clothing of the opposite sex. Includes all of the above.

Gender Identity - The nature of one's gender as identified by the mind. The gender one most closely relates to as a person.

Sexual Preference - The gender one is most attracted to, for sexual relations. This is usually confused with gender identity.

66 - A genetic woman.

PUBLICATION NOTICE

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