Cross-Port InnerView

P.O. Box 1692, Cincinnati, OH 45201

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Vol. 11. No. 9 SEPTEMBER, 1995

The next meeting is September 21, 8:00 PM at Golden Lions

Potpourri

Bobbi L.

Ladies, at last the weather sorcerer's evil spell has been broken. The Queen City shines under cool, clear skies. Her subjects have joyously gathered by the banks of her majestic river to celebrate the end of the oppressive reign of heat and humidity. (O.K., maybe it was the usual half million high-explosives aficionados who clogged the flood walls, each trying to come up with the most ingenious method of bootlegging a six-pack into the alcohol-free zones, but it was the first time in over fifteen years that **I** attended, so I wanted to make it a little more meaningful. IS THAT ALL RIGHT WITH YOU **? ! ?**

Cross-Port's August meeting turned out to be another reason for celebration of sorts. We had 24 in attendance (at the dreaded Golden Lions) with several new guests. We welcome Jamie and S.O., Renee, Michelle D., Katherine H., and Jim E.. We hope to see more of you in the future. An amazing result of this meeting was that, even with an attendance figure so limited, Cross-Port enjoyed a rather sizable income (See the statistics on the back pages). Thank you, Ladies, for your generosity.

Now, for a little soap boxing: For quite awhile we've been agonizing over the "place problem." There has been no shortage of Lions-bashing within our group. Complaints are numerous, and often justified. Those which deal with attendance may not be. If we examine past copies of *InnerView* noting attendance figures for similar months, our eyes might be opened enough to realize that Cross-Port is as viable an organization as we have ever been.

August meetings are notoriously sparse when compared to those in the darker nights of Fall and Winter. In 1989, attendance for the Dog Days meeting was 31; 1990...34; In '91, 32 girls attended while 1992 and 1993 brought in 30 and 34 respectively. Attendance "plummeted" to 24 last year. It should be noted that our meetings at Golden Lions began regularly in June, 1993.

We should also recognize that in that time many of our "regular" girls and their S.O.'s have either moved (Tami & Maureen to Berlin; Belinda to gawd-knows-where) or are busy raising families (Cathy and Lori) or have stopped attending because of other pressures (Diane B. and Stephanie). Let's not use Golden Lions' location as a scapegoat for other, more significant issues. Two of those other issues include the aversion to meeting in a "gay bar," and fear of public exposure. I'll not attempt to enlighten anyone to the insignificance of whether or not I care to watch two men dancing or holding hands or, horror-of-horrors, kissing, but I will suggest that prejudice is a learned quality and, therefore, it **can** be unlearned.

But, if the issue is one of meeting in a **bar** at all, well, now we're getting somewhere. We need our membership to get out and help us find a "neutral" location where those who wish to avoid the smoke and noise of a drinking establishment can do so, while those who seek a place with

entertainment options are also accommodated. Help us find a place where those who need support can find it and those who offer support can share it. But keep in mind we need a place which also offers those things which being transgendered should bring:" **fun** and **magic**.

That, of course, brings us to that other issue: public exposure. Cross-Port has always taken pride in our unwritten but always honored code of security. I can't think of any instance in the years I've been involved, where one of our number has threatened the privacy of another. Any chances we take, we take on our own. And, for the most part, I think we've been treated well by the public with whom we've come in contact. The problem with Golden Lions is that there is **so** much opportunity for contact while walking between our cars and the front door. Still, we risk it. And, again, for the most part we are successful in our journey.

Let's not fool ourselves. No matter where we meet, no matter how secluded that location might be, there will be risks of public derision and scorn. What we should be aiming at is **not** a large, welcoming closet which we can call our meeting place, **but** a world which is more tolerant; one which encounters transgendered persons so often and so positively, that it ceases to "see" us. Not that we should become invisible...rather, that we should become a colorful part of the landscape.

It seems to me that the larger issue isn't the one or the other. The real issue is that, given society's current taste for the transgendered, Cross-Port hasn't **grown** into a large, highly visible group. Why is it, that with a plethora of media exposure (most of it positive) those in our area haven't flocked to our door. I can't provide that answer. I can suggest some reasons. For one thing, the social mood I mentioned may in fact work against us. Perhaps, with all of the coverage, many of us are emboldened to travel the road on our own.

Perhaps there are more than we have previously thought who, having read, heard or seen one of the many pieces presented about our lifestyle, have come out and found acceptance and love. Perhaps more than ever, wives and girlfriends are embracing their CD/TV partners, and are content to shop together, dine together, play together. If we can't offer them an evening of fun and magic, well, we shall never see them.

Or, if those same couples are seeking soul-mates why aren't we offering them a chance to meet kindred spirits? Is it because we aren't **making** ourselves known to them? I think the issue which needs to be addressed most by Cross-Port is one of marketing.

So sue me if I'm wrong!

Note:
Cross-Port has a new P.O. box:
Cross-Port, P.O. Box 1692, Cinti, OH 45201
AND
a new phone # (c. 10/95)
(606) 581-3711

Jennifer called me the other day and informed me that the film *Just Like a Woman* has been released on video. No word yet on which outlets carry it, but I'm betting that *Blockbuster* should have it in their "Hot Singles" or "Manager's Favorites" sections. Let me know where it can be found.

And speaking of films that are a drag, it's on it's way: *To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything, Julie Newmar* will be appearing at a theater near (and dear) to you beginning the first week in September.

By the time you read this, Jennifer M. and Gina A. will have returned from Chicago for a taping of *The Danny Show*. Danny Bonaducchi's (sp?) new talk show. Stay tuned for telecast details.

Finally, I want to share with you another one of those "Precious Moments" (no, not those insipid bisque grotesques sold at the Hallmark shoppes). A few Sundays ago Beverly and I attended the christening of Benjamin Arnold Gorby. It was an honor and a privilege to be there. Although "Bobbi" couldn't make it, Robert took notes for *Potpourri*. One of the most interesting was about the sermon that morning. Pastor Lee spoke of the Walter Mitty in all of us...the secret desires we might have as individuals to drive race cars, to fly fighter jets, or to dance as a ballerina. Of course, what I found most interesting was that, as a crossdresser, I have wished to do **all** three.

Stay Healthy. Stay Beautiful. Avoid Runners.

My Turn to Expound Upon:

CROSS-DRESSING AND THE BIBLE

Diane Torrance

The following quotes are from the King James Version. [My comments are in brackets].

There are two Biblical verses which are frequently quoted as justification for persecution of the gender community. The first: Deuteronomy 22:5

> The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the LORD thy God.

In dealing with the Deuteronomy verse, we must understand that it refers to the religious practices of a then contemporary culture which worshipped an idol. The verse is more correctly interpreted as an admonition against IDOLATRY rather than against the act of cross-dressing. This view is consistent with Old Testament Law, ie. idolatry is the sin.

Additionally, if we jump forward to the New Testament and Paul's letter to the Galatians, God tells us in Chapter 2, verse 16:

> ...a man [or woman for that matter] is not justified by the works of the [Old Testament] law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, [pay close attention here] that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

God could not have made it much plainer than that... After Christ, "by the works of the law [the one Moses gave to the children of Israel] shall [absolutely] no flesh [that's you and me, folks] be justified [made righteous before God]. God makes no exceptions here.

Martin Luther in his Lectures on Galatians (1535) says of this verse:

> Therefore this is a universal principle: 'By works of the Law shall no one be justified.' Enlarge on this by running through all the stations of life as follows: 'Therefore a monk shall not be justified by his order, a nun by her chastity, a citizen by his uprightness, a prince by his generosity, etc.' The Law of God is greater than the entire world, since it includes all men; and the works of the Law are far more excellent than the works chosen by self-righteous people. And Paul says that neither the Law nor the works of the Law justify. Therefore faith alone justifies.

And in Chapter 3: 23

> But before faith came [before Christ], we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. [after what? after Christ]

Chapter 3:24

> Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster ["schoolmaster" is the Law of Moses] *to bring us* [these last three words are in italics in the KJV which means someone added them for what he thought was clarity. Leave them out and the verse makes more sense] unto [until fits better, and is consistent] Christ that we might be justified by faith.

Verse 24 would then read:

> Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster until Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

Verse 25: But after that faith is come we are no longer under a schoolmaster. [When God says we are no longer under the Law of Moses, He means we are no longer under the Law of Moses].

Cross-dressing and other variations ...are not an abomination against God.
IDOLATRY and OBSESSION are!

In these verses and throughout the Pauline Epistles, God tells us that the Law of Moses, which includes Deuteronomy (as well as Exodus, Leviticus and Numbers), was given to the Children of Israel UNTIL Jesus Christ came.

After Christ, our salvation is through our believing that Jesus is Lord (See: John 3:16, Romans 10:9 and about one hundred thirty other verses in the New Testament). If our salvation had remained a function of our adherence to the Law, then God was incredibly foolish to send His Son to be tortured, hung on a cross and killed. Moses would be our savior, our Messiah.

The other verse frequently used to persecute the gender community is: I Corinthians 6:9

> Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither

fornicators, nor idolators, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind.

The word "effeminate" in I Corinthians is how the King James translators used the Greek word "MALAKOS", in this verse only!! In the other three uses of "malakos", it is translated "soft raiment" and "soft clothing" in Matthew 11:8 and "soft raiment" in Luke 7:25. Again, these are the only four uses of the word "malakos" and this is the only usage of the word "effeminate" anywhere in the Bible.

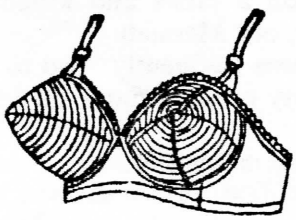
This is a questionable translation. If one looks at this and the three verses following, God is talking about people who are "obsessed" with certain forms of behavior to the point that verse 12 concludes with "...all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of [obsessed by] any." It's not much of a stretch to see obsession with "expensive clothing (soft raiment)" is that which is being labeled.

This fits easily with Christ's message in Matthew and Luke. And again it is consistent with the one hundred thirty verses in the New Testament regarding what is required for salvation.

If the Bible is God's revealed Word, then it must be consistent throughout. Human translators have added and deleted words for what they felt was consistency or to put forth their own theology; but as in the Galatian's verse above, added words only obscure the truth of what God is telling us.

God loves us and gave His only begotten Son for our salvation. Cross-dressing and other variations in the gender community are not an abomination against God. IDOLATRY and OBSESSION are!

Coming in the October Issue of InnerView: "The View Inside" Paula Harmston AND DianeTorrance



FLY FISHING IN PATENT LEATHER PUMPS

Jennifer Marquette

Some people like change and some people don't. I hope most of you like it because it looks like you're going to get it. First off, please note that Cross-Port has a new P.O. Box effective immediately. The new address is Box 1692, Cincinnati, OH 45201. We hope this becomes a permanent mailing address since it is a centrally located, Downtown box. Also, after we can work out a few logistics, we will have a new phone number.[(**606) 581 -3711** c. 10 /95]

For the last half year I have been hearing certain criticisms and complaints about our group. Most of these had to do with the fact that we are primarily a social club and not a support group. I have seen evidence of this in dwindling membership, attendance, people that show up for a meeting or two and return to the closet and many other indications that demonstrated to me that we should work in the direction of better addressing more and varied needs of our group and our community.

After the Be All Convention those of us who were instrumental in creating the event decided to keep the inertia moving by redirecting our energies toward revamping Cross-Port itself. On Wednesday, August 9, we had a three hour business dinner that was attended by 15 members. At that meeting we discussed and outlined the programs and reorganization that we wished to accomplish.

We ended up with a fairly aggressive list that includes: developing better mechanisms for TS support, TV and TG support, spouse/partner support, rebuilding a viable lending library, building the newsletter subscription rate and widening its editorial base, strengthening ties with the Gay / Lesbian Community groups in order to enable us to be better involved with oncoming political change and helping us access community relations, reworking our new member introductory performance, formalize and enhance a speaker's bureau for public outreach, look into sponsoring events / fund-raisers, and several other topics.

(cont'd p.5)

Rainbow Trout Take Longer To Do Their Makeup

One additional issue has to do with how future meetings will be held and where they will be located. There has been sufficient desire for a number of different reasons to relocate our meetings. Our goal at this time is to move to a new venue by October's meeting.

A future Cross-Port meeting may run somewhat like this: a formal business meeting attended by committee members but certainly open to all members (this may or may not incorporate a dinner), followed by a presentation or seminar directed at a topical concern varying from styling your own wig to dealing with confrontations to involvement in political action.

After this, it would be nice to see people break down into smaller groups to mingle casually or to address very specific needs; whether it is a discussion of how to disclose your dressing to your family or trading "after hours" stories with Linda. I really see this aspect of the meeting as an important one as it provides the communal support that builds good friendships within the group and is flexible enough to be serious or just fun.

Trying to accomplish this in a noisy bar atmosphere tends to be impossible. Of course, a lot of us just like to be social and having music, drinks available and the bar environment would be the basis for the latter part of the evening.

Now the problem is : where can a meeting like this take place? Does it occur in two different locations or one? Does it work better to have two meetings a month : one business and support and another more purely social? Your thoughts or suggestions are needed so feel free to call or write me on this or any of the above subjects.

While you're at it, why don't you come to an all day planning session we will be having at the Holiday Inn Blue Ash on Sept. 23. They have set aside a conference room for us and we will meet to further discuss and outline specifics on all aforementioned subjects.

We will start in the morning, have lunch in another room down the hall and run till maybe 6pm. This is an excellent opportunity for you to get involved and have your say in what direction Cross-Port will take for the next years.

Get in touch with me if you're interested in being involved. It's more fun than it sounds.

Fall Harvest, 1995 (or Beat Me in St. Louie)

A number of Cross-Port gals are going to the 6th annual Fall Harvest Convention in St. Louis this Oct. 26-29. It looks like a real good time and the cost is reasonable. People that have attended before say it is a very friendly convention and if the people we met from St. Louis at the Be All are any indication, that would seem to be the case. If you're interested in a brochure, let me know.

As a final note, I want to take a brief moment to acknowledge the hard work and generosity of time that Joyce Schwab provided Cross-Port. During a time when few of us were actively doing much to maintain the group, Joyce carried many tasks on her shoulders alone and did this with few thanks. As she steps down from these duties, it has become very evident to me how many pairs of feet it is taking to fill her shoes (not that her feet are **that** big). If it weren't for her taking the baton through this dry spell, it is hard to say how much of a group we would have had left. We all owe her a great debt of gratitude.

Up the Street... and Around the Corner

Heather Phillips

It has been a busy month. Between looking for a new job and working part-time for a friend, my days have been full. There have been some happy and some sad times.

It is with a great sadness that I must report that my friend Liz passed away. (See May 1995 *InnerView)* It was hard for me to say "good-bye." I couldn't find any words of condolences for her family. It seemed anything I said was inadequate.

I will miss her, I loved her, she was a good friend. I will hold her always in my heart. If anyone was loved more, I don't know who. Rest in peace, Liz.

On a happier note, I attended the wedding ceremony of two friends from church, Julie and Ann Marie. I just loved Julie's dress. She wore the traditional white dress. It was stunning. It had along train and a big bow in the back. It was decorated with small pearl like beads. Julie made a beautiful bride. Reverend Bonnie and Reverend Joe conducted a lovely ceremony.

The bride and groom made it special. One could sense the love between Julie and Ann Marie, it surrounded them. To both of them I wish much love, happiness and joy.

Unfortunately, due to family commitments I had to skip the reception, I am sure I missed a good time.

"Yet, with each peak or valley there is hope; the hope that tomorrow will be better...."

My son, Harry had his seventeenth birthday August 15th. He was looking so forward to it. He was just tired of being sixteen. Like most kids, he is in a hurry to grow up. There were two things he told me he wanted, a new baseball bat and a pair of swim goggles, I got him both.

The bat I bought is an aluminum one. It's been awhile since I purchased a baseball bat, and this was my first aluminum bat. I was smart enough to let him pick it out. I went back later when I was alone to purchase it. I had sticker shock when I saw the price tag.

Later, there was another problem. Have you ever tried to wrap a baseball bat? I wanted to disguise it. I couldn't find a box big enough. I couldn't disguise its shape. I ended up rolling it up in the paper. He took one look at it and knew it was his bat. Oh well! I tried.

Each moment I spend with him is precious. I never realized how much I enjoyed being with my children, until we were separated. Not being a part of my daughter and son's daily life is the hardest part of my journey.

I approached a friend from my church who is a member of SOL (Slightly Older Lesbians) about speaking to them regarding gender issues. I feel that it is important to get our message heard. Paula and I work well together having successfully addressed the New Spirit's men's group. The ladies meet above the Crazy Ladies Bookstore, so on August 16th we addressed the SOL meeting.

At the last minute we were thrown a curve. A TS named T.C. was there and we were asked to allow her to join us on the program. Paula and I graciously welcomed her to the program, but I was nervous. The problem was we didn't have a chance to compare notes, therefore we didn't know her position on gender issues. When it was T.C.'s turn to talk, I saw the importance of Jenn's comments about being on the same page.

T.C. had her own agenda and it wasn't in complete harmony with ours. We did manage to keep the presentation on course and all in all it went quite well. Paula did an excellent job explaining a CD's mind set. I tried my best to complement her when presenting the TS side.

If there was a downside, it was the lack of adequate time for questions. Afterwards some of the ladies invited Paula and me to join them at Bull Fishes. I had fun sitting and chatting one-on-one. I even got to indulge in my favorite sport of male bashing. Just kidding, it's only my second favorite sport. Talking is my favorite.

As with most of you, my street is made up of peaks and valleys. The peaks of the wedding, the presentation, and my son's birthday. They bring me joy and happiness. Then there are the valleys. The death of friends, separation from my children, unemployed

Yet, with each peak or valley there is hope; the hope that tomorrow will be better, that life will be easier to live. Each of us needs hope for without hope there is no tomorrow.

Until next time, this is Heather, up the street and around the corner of Greater Cincinnati. May God bless and keep you in His love.

Fantasia Fair '95

October 15 - 22, 1995

An Experience to Remember

Provincetown, Mass.

For info write: FanFair '95

Atten: Registrar, PO Box 941, SE PA 19399

From our Readers:
Letters, etc.

PAULA'S LAST NIGHT AT OLD STREET

The following is an experience that happened to me. I thought that I would share it with you. It seems like a good time to get this off my chest, especially while thoughts of a different meeting place are on everyone's mind.

Let me start by saying that I have always enjoyed the Cross-Port meetings. I especially thought that a second meeting each month at Old Street was a good idea. I supported this idea by attending these (second) meetings when I could. I thought Old Street was an ideal location, that suited just about all of our needs.

At one of these second meetings, I was sitting at a table with some other Cross-Port gals. On my second or third trip to the bar (no table service) to get my drink refilled, I was asked by the bar maid in front of several other patrons and in an unfriendly manner, why I never gave her a tip for the other two drinks.

When I returned to the table, I told the other girls what had just happened. It was decided that a tip is up to the patron. In view that we were going to the bar to get our drinks (not having table service) a tip wasn't due.

"I hope everyone keeps this incident in mind when it comes time to decide on a new meeting place."

As I was leaving for the evening, I went to the bar and told the barmaid that I did not appreciate her asking for a tip, and furthermore I did not appreciate her putting me on the spot in front of other patrons. The barmaid informed me that I owed her a tip for **allowing** me to use the women's restroom.

She told me it was a risk she was taking and for that risk she deserved a tip. She informed me that if a state liquor agent caught me using the women's restroom her liquor license could be revoked. At that time I put a dollar on the bar and left. I have not returned since.

Looking back on this, I ask myself was it the **owner's** rule that the barmaid was trying to enforce? If so, I wonder why no one had ever said anything to me in the past concerning the use of the women's restroom, since I had frequented the Old Street many, many times. Or was this just the barmaid's way of getting back at me for not tipping.

It is **always** a concern as to what restroom to use. Running into a problem at Old Street was a shock to me.

I hope everyone keeps this incident in mind when it comes time to decide on a new meeting place. And as far as this particular barmaid is concerned, I wonder what restroom HE/SHE uses?

Paula D.

The Perils of Paula:
a continuing saga

How I Spent My Summer Vacation
Paula Harmston

Did the summer go by fast or what? Wasn't it only yesterday that I was punching out lil' doggies at the local country western dance hall during the "Be-All" weekend? It seems impossible that three months have passed and that I've already done half of my time in the penalty box and can go back there in just ninety days, on December 11th.

More seriously, my summer has been an emotional roller coaster of depressing lows, followed by exhilarating highs. The bar fight on June 11th was my first real confrontation with mainstream America and I got on management's bad side and was banned for six months.

But only two weeks after the fight I was on a "high" as my parents celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary and I enjoyed a three day festival of activities with my brother and two sisters, their families and our parents.

A 50th anniversary is pretty rare and shows how lucky I am that they loved each other enough to stay together and were blessed with the physical strength to do it. For sure my parents are partly responsible for my trans-genderism but I'll never blame them as I'm lucky to be where I am today and owe much to them.

Then there was the July 5th fireworks. Most of you celebrated on the 4th but on the 5th a car behind me didn't even remotely slow down and rear ended me at 40mph, totaling my car. So July 5th

was definitely a "low". But July 25th was a "high." I bought a new car.

My old car was a big road car, my new car is smaller and much more of a femme-mobile. Then there was the run-in with my Mormon bishop on July 16th. That was truly a rotten day. Only two weeks later I discovered the Mormon post-op in California who was described by her bishop as "a wonderful person." I was definitely "flying high" when I made that discovery.

And lastly, my marriage has stunk for quite awhile. I've been separated for sixteen months but am still legally married so we see each other for business matters which sometimes leads to loud verbal exchanges.

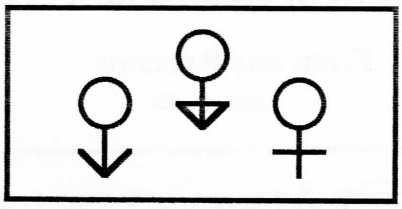
"The most surprising thing is that she likes ALL of me, even 'Paula,' whom she met"

In May we ended up shouting at each other in a parking lot so loudly that a nearby policeman came over and got in my face. I guess he was just doing his job but he didn't have to be such a butt-head about it. I offered to "just go home" but he ordered "backup" and kept me in the parking lot for thirty minutes before he ordered me to "just go home."

One antidote to a bad marriage is to find a more compatible mate. To my good fortune, I met "Jan" on one of my many business trips to New Jersey. She line dances so we automatically had something in common. That she has a masters degree and a Phi Beta Kappa key is frosting on the cake. The most surprising thing is that she likes all of me, even "Paula" whom she has met.

She visited Cincinnati in August and met Gina and Diane, read a number of gender articles and seems at ease with it all. Truly amazing and the answer to prayers.

With autumn just around the corner I'm looking forward to more fun and adventure. I'm going to California on business in October and the Erie Sisters Riverside Gala in November. Gina will be going with me to Erie. Something exciting is bound to happen.



POST-OPinion

Diane Torrance

During the year before my transition, I got to the point where I had exhausted all my resources. I felt isolated. I called Cross-Port and spoke to someone named Joyce. It had been a long time since I had talked to anyone who knew what I was going through. Joyce was knowledgeable and understanding. We spoke for probably 2 hours that night. When I hung up I knew two things: first, I would attend the next meeting of Cross-Port and second, I had found a friend.

One summer evening two years ago, I went to a concert at Seasongood Pavilion. While walking down the aisle to find a seat, I spotted a familiar face. Joyce. We found we had similar taste in music.

Joyce has opened her home and her heart to me on more than one occasion. Joyce gladly shared her experiences while cross-living, she became a role model and a confidant.

For the last three and a half years, Joyce has answered phones and mail, been our speakers bureau, found new places to hold our meetings when old places ceased to exist, and did whatever else needed to be done because she "had the time". I don't think she realized how difficult retirement was going to be. Joyce has worked her butt off for us. And that does not even include what she did for the Be-All.

Several members of Cross-Port are currently trying to reshape the organization. There are many areas where, with greater involvement, Cross-Port can become more responsive to the needs of the gender community in the greater Cincinnati metropolitan area.

There is not a single doubt in my mind, however, that the only reason there is still something to change is due solely to Joyce's efforts. Cross-Port would have ceased to exist without Joyce. Period. And I don't think we can ever adequately repay her for this. **(cont'd p. 9)**

Joyce, thank you for what you have done for me personally and for Cross-Port as a group.

RELIGIOUS ISSUES

A week before my copy of the most recent issue of *Tapestry* arrived, I wrote a "position paper" for Jenn to take to Chicago on "Cross-dressing and the Bible" (printed elsewhere in this issue). Tapestry did a special section on, "Transgender and Religion."

My Christian belief structure, by its very definition rejects the paganism espoused by two of the five articles.

Terri Main's article, "The Enemy: A New Perspective," shares a basic tenant of Christianity, "Love thy neighbor even though he may be unlovable." In "Homophobia, the Bible & the Church," William Sloane Coffin does discuss homophobia; but spends far more effort explaining it in the secular world and never addresses Biblical issues as the title of his article suggests.

In my opinion, the best article in the section is "Transsexuality and Religion: A Personal Journey" by Karen Kroll, a former Catholic priest. Her discussion of the origins of modern day morality is a brief but well thought out explanation of why society has not embraced those of us who are gender challenged.

Those of us who do not fit organized religion's idea of "normal" have been beaten with the Bible to the point that it is easy to be distrustful of the Bible and never pay attention to what it really says. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you might have...

TRANSGENDER ON-LINE

I recently found a great way to spend more money than I really wanted to. I got my modem hooked up and signed on to America On-Line (AOL). I have made some wonderful friends and reacquainted myself with some I hadn't talked to in a while.

I've also gotten access to Bulletin Board Services (BBS) that have specific information for the gender community.

The hot topic right now is the Employment Non Discrimination Act (ENDA) and the Human Rights Campaign Fund's (HRCF) opposition to including "transgender" in the bill. I find that outrageous...HRCF is a gay organization, they know what discrimination is all about, and yet they are saying, "We're getting ours. The rest of you can go to hell."

How are we going to combat this attitude? Simple, stay involved. Help the gay community when we can so they will remember who we are. Many members of the gay/lesbian/bi (glb) community are not unlike the rest of the population: they either don't know who we are or have an incorrect opinion of what we are (they watch Springer, also).

"No one is going to just hand us our rights on a platter...we've got to EARN them!"

The only way to change that is through contact with their community. Stonewall Cincinnati is looking for volunteers to stuff/sort mass mailings, put out yard signs for "approved" candidates, and door-to-door distribution of election material, all non-threatening activities requiring only a small time commitment.

Let the Cincinnati glb community know who we are because it needs to be the GLB*T* community. Phone: 513-541-8778. You'll be doing yourself a favor.

I'm SO glad you asked about National Lobby Day (October 2nd and 3rd, in our nations capital)! I'm still planning on attending. I live in the second congressional district in Ohio. It would be great if some of you from the first district (Rep. Steve Chabot) and N. Kentucky (Rep. Jim Bunning) would also come along. No one is going to just hand us our rights on a platter...we've got to earn them.

!!! Stop the Press !!! September 4, 1995

ROSELAWN - Councilman Dwight Tillery narrowly missed having to speak with six members of Stonewall Cincinnati PAC this morning. Contact was averted when Councilman Charles Winburn directed several of his bodyguards to surround the Stonewall contingent which consisted of five known lesbians and one gay man, thereby screening both councilmen from their constituents.

The proximity of Councilman Tillery to this group resulted when all the above named parties and about five hundred other people joined together in the Walk for Unity, a peaceful demonstration against violent hate crimes which result from intolerance of anyone who might be different.

Councilman Tillery, who cast the deciding vote against the Human Rights Ordinance in city council last year, was understandably shaken by the near confrontation. Stonewall Cincinnati is dedicated to promoting equality for all people, a concept Mr. Tillery alludes to in all his speeches.

Neither Councilman Tillery nor his staff was available for comment. However, a member of Stonewall was heard to mutter something about, "...Jack-booted Thugs..."

Please add to your calendar of events:
Meet the candidates night, September 26 at 7:30

St. Johns Unitarian Church
320 Resor Avenue (Clifton)

Future Fun

September 14-17 - *Paradise in the Poconos*, Canadensis, PA

September 21st - *Cross-Port* meeting

September 29, 30 and October 1st - *Southern Comfort* in Atlanta

October 2nd and 3rd - Gender lobbying day in Washington, D.C.

October 5-9 - *Fall Fling,* Cape Cod, MA

October 13-15 - 3rd annual GCGLC campout, Cowan Lake

October 19th - *Cross-Port* meeting

October 26-29 - *Fall Harvest*, St. Louis, MO.

November 16th - *Cross-Port* meeting

November 10-12 - Erie Sisters' *Riverside Gala*
(rescheduled)

December 21st - *Cross-Port* Christmas party

August Attendance.....24
July Collection.....$70.00
New Subscriptions.....$44.00
Newsletter Sales.....$7.00

September *InnerView* Staff:

"Head" honcho.....**Bobbi L.**
"Slave" typist.....**Diane T.**
"Creative Juicer".....**Jennifer M.**
"Proofreader &
Provider of Moral Support"....**Beverly L.**

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

"Then the discord is mostly about your son, Vito, here?"

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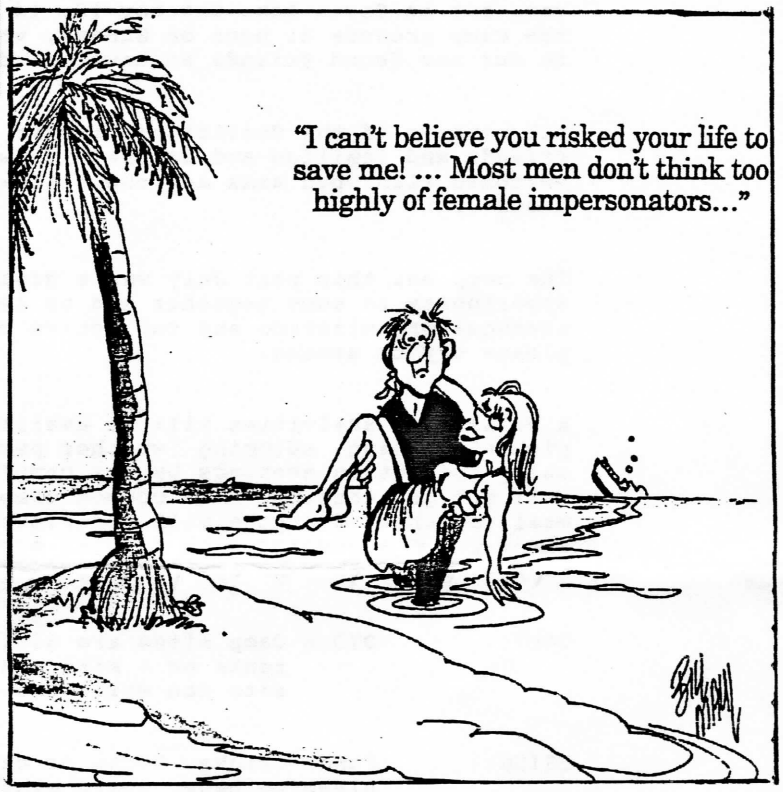

GCGLC

Cincinnati Pride

1995

CAMP OUT

The Greater Cincinnati Gay and Lesbian Coalition is organizing a camp out at Cowan Lake October 13, 14 & 15, 1995. We usually leave the camp grounds at noon on Sunday, when we say our fond farewells to our new found friends we have met during the camp out.

All members of the Coalition's member organizations and their friends and families and anyone else who wish to attend will be welcomed with open arms and the fellowship that the Coalition is based upon.

The camp out this past July was a great success. Again we have the opportunity to come together and to learn to work together to be a stronger organization and collective body for our community. So please try to attend.

A variety of activities will be available to do. You can take your pick of fishing, swimming (weather permitting), hiking, or just enjoy the autumn evenings by the campfires. On Saturday evening we will all get together on a common camp site and enjoy our evening meal together. Everyone will contribute something to the meal in the form of a covered dish or what ever. This will be a great way to show off with your specialty , if you have one.

COST: OYO - Camp sites are $13.00 per night. We can put 3-4 tents on a site and the persons sharing that site can split the cost amongst themselves.

BRING: Food, drinks, tents or campers, pillows, blankets, sleeping bags, spare clothing and a jacket. Some of us have extra tents that we will be glad to share. If you have a spare tent and don't mind sharing, please bring it.

MORE INFO: Community Center Switchboard; 651-0070
Jill; 771-1289

DIRECTIONS: From Cincinnati take I-71 north to the Fields-Ertel Rd. exit, turn left at the end of the exit and go to the first traffic light and turn right onto Fields-Ertel Rd. and go east to Montgomery Rd. (State Route 22), and turn left and go north to State Route 350 and turn right, go east thru Clarksville to State Route 730 and turn left, go north about 3 miles and watch sign pointing to camp grounds (on the right). There will be a "GCGLC" sign on the bulletin board at the check in station saying which site(s) we are on.