Cross-Port InnerView

P.O. Box 54657, Cincinnati, OH 45254

The next meeting is April 21 at 8:00pm

A New View
By Elaine

Hello there were 46 ladies at the meeting last month and we wish to thank the ladies from **Crystal Club** Audrey, Denise, Michele, Victoria, Donna and Myrna for coming and we hope they had a good time. We also hope that Gary Gee na's friend had a good time

I am sometimes upset at how few ladies actually participate in the running of our organization. There are only a few ladies who do all the planning and work of **Cross-Port** functions. Write all the articles you read and when we decide something that people don't like they complain, but they still won't get up and help out by writing an article planning an event. We have tried several occasions time to get other people interested in doing something for our organization. There is an event coming up in May that **Cross-Port** Needs Volunteers for and I would like to see more ladies there than the few who normally volunteer. So please won't you help out **Cross-Port** and yourselves by Coming to Louisville on May 11-14 and working in our booth at this convention.

We also hope that Cindi is doing well after her hospital stay. Get well soon Cindi.

We were wondering if there is any interest in a second meeting at a local motel that is accepting of us. Sometime in September.

INSIGHT #51
By: Barbara Jean

"In Germany first they came for the Communist and I did not speak up for I was not a Communist. Then they came for the Jews and I didn't speak up for I was not a Jew. They came for the Trade Unionist, and I did not speak up for I was not a Trade Unionist. They came again for the Catholic's, and I did not speak up for I was not a Catholic. And then they came for me and by that time there was no one left to speak up against them." Martin Niemoeller a Lutheran Minister during the era of Nazi Germany is attributed with the above quote.

Hi girls this is Barbara back with another Insight. The above quote has been published many and many a times, and yet how easy do we of society tend to forget the message that Rev. Niemoeller was conveying in his words. While reading some of my crossdresser magazines and newsletters I noticed one where a sister was advocating that we of the gender community discontinue our association with the gay community.

For years people have acquainted crossdressing as a gay thing. Those who would advocate that we sever any association with the gays feel that in doing so society in general will be more accepting of the crossdresser and crossdressing. In reality I seriously doubt that will be the case, rather we of the gender community will feel the full blunt of their prejudice's.

What ties do we of the gender community have with the gay community? OK many of us go to the gay bars and nightclubs, some groups will meet in a place that is provided by the gay community, some of us will rally behind the cause of the gays, some of our magazines are oriented toward the gay crossdresser while others will print news of gay issues. Intended or not, the alliance between the gay community and the gender community has been a good one.

Is society more homophobic than it was five or ten years ago? I think not, but rather in light of many gay issues now being brought to the public eye, like the gays, homophobia has now simply come out of the closet.

As a heterosexual person I admit that I myself am somewhat irked when a persons first question to me is "Are you gay?" when they are informed of my membership in the gender community. I am irked especially in light of the fact that in almost all surveys of crossdressers the findings are that only about five percent of us are in fact gay. (Studies also show that only about five percent of the general population is gay) We have gone on talk shows, addressed college classes, and done many other things in a effort to educate the public about the gender community. One would hope that by now the general public would realize that few of us are in fact gay.

I feel that we of the gender community should not sever ties, but rather we should strengthen our ties with the gay community. In the past we have reaped the benefits of all the battles that the gays have fought. Twenty years ago even in the big cities one had to be very cautious when going out in public. There was the fear that you could actually be arrested simply for crossdressing. I do remember one sister in Chicago who was pulled over for making a U turn and then hauled to jail simply because she was crossdressed. Today I think that is something that we need only worry about in a very small town. Even there charges would be dropped.

Today the gays have become more than just a community, but have also become a political lobby, and one that is gaining power all the time. It is because of this political lobby that many of the antiquated laws have been repealed, including laws against crossdressing. And while many antiquated laws still do exist, most of them simply are not enforced. (let's face it police today have much more important things to worry about) As laws against gays are repealed, so too are laws against crossdressing. In this sense, the association that society makes between gays and members of the gender community is beneficial to us.

I have always believed that we of the gender community were just one better than society as a whole, that we have been better accepting of people of difference, that we are a community of love and not hate. Any attempt to sever ties with the gay community does nothing more than to show that we are in reality no better than the general society. That we are just as prejudices, and just as willing to exercise those prejudices. There is far too much hate in our world today. We of the gender community have the ability to show society that we can show love for our fellow man, love without bias. I firmly believe that showing such love can be the greatest tool in changing prejudicial views of society.

Like many of you girls I too am a veteran of Viet Nam. This was perhaps America's most unpopular war. Many believed that we did not belong, that it was not our fight to fight. I believe that it was our fight just as much as that of the Viet Namese people for in participating we have shown the world that we are a voice to be reckoned with, that we will not ideally stand by when there is injustice. Also in coming to the aid of others who are oppressed, we tend to build allies for that day that the oppressor comes to our front door.

First they came for the Gays..... Will we speak out, or will we remain silent? And then they came for the crossdressers..... You decide how to end the epitaph.

Well that is all for this month girls Do take care and stay sweet. I love each and every one of you out there.

THE VIEW INSIDE

by Bobbi L.

A poet once mourned, April is the cruelest month... I think I know what he meant. Mother Nature provides such beauty, such positive changes, and yet, the longer, warmer days signal not only the reappearance of color and fragrance, but also, I'm sorry to say, the disappearance of many of our sisters. With the shortening of sleeves, unshaved arms are unwilling to be exposed. The congregation of neighbors on lawns and sidewalks inhibits many of us from venturing out. Alas, as the hours of daylight increase, the numbers at our meetings are sure to decline. So to those of you going into summer hibernation:

One of our members who no longer finds herself restricted by neighbors, or hairy arms, or sunshine is Heather Phillips. Heather is the subject of this months the View Inside

T.V.I. Heather, what are your earliest and your most favorite recollections of cross-dressing?

H.P. Does being baptized in a white dress at the age of two weeks count? Actually, I always thought I belonged in girls clothes. When I was real young a lot of what I wore could be described as unisex. Around the age of four I remember my mother got upset when she caught me playing dress-up with my sisters and I was in one of her old dresses and heels. She got some old suits from her father and after that I was sentenced to wearing them.

My favorite recollection would have to be the Halloween when I was 13. I talked my mother into letting me go trick-or-treating in my sisters clothes. It was great! I heard a lot of what a cute girl I made. Since we went to my grandparents house afterwards in costume, I got to be my feminine self all night.

T.V.I. Heather, how long have you been a member of Cross-Port? And how did you learn about us?

H.P. I have been a member of Cross-Port since December, 1991. I first heard about Cross-Port from a sales clerk at the One Stop Bra Shop in Reading. She had another client who was a member. It took her several months to get me the phone number, then it took me several more months to get the nerve to call it. I'M really just a shy girl. Calling actually proved to be easier than attending. I first called the hotline in December of 1990. I found every excuse not to attend. What happened in that year between my phone call and my first meeting? I began to come to terms with my transsexualism. Once I admitted to myself who I was it was easier to be myself.

T.V.I. How long then have you been coming to the meetings?

H.P. Since that first meeting in December, 1991 I have only missed one meeting. That was last August when I took my S.O. and my son on what may have been our last camping trip together.

T.V.I. Heather, are you married or involved at this time? Does your S.O. know about Heather?

H.P. I am separated. With the exception of my son, my immediate family knows about my true gender. He is autistic, and we are working on introducing him to Heather. In learning of my transsexuality, my family has gone from anger to varying degrees of acceptance. My gender dysphoria has ended a 20 year marriage and stripped my children of their father figure. I believe, that if asked, they would prefer that I was born the same sex and gender.

T.V.I. Heather, for you what is the most satisfying aspect of cross-dressing?

H.P. The inner peace I feel when I can be myself is something that was missing for most of my life. Living without that inner turmoil is what sustains me now.

T.V.I. What most disturbs you as a cross-dresser?

H.P. The price I must pay to be myself. The monetary costs for righting natures errors seem

small when compared to the emotional price. I have lost family and friends. Leaving behind Mary, Jen, and Harry is a burden that, at times, seems unbearable.

T.V.I. When Heather is out shopping, what are her favorite style choices?

H.P. With the exception of my jeans skirt, I choose dresses or suits (size 16 Tall) that are basically conservative. In shoes I prefer pumps (size 10) with not too high of a heel (I'M already light headed from the altitude). My preference in hair stops at the shoulders, and I like bangs.

T.V.I. What do you do for fun?

H.P. I enjoy going to bars, dinner, shopping and at quiet times, reading. My musical tastes include Country & Western (I love Garth Brooks) and 50's & 60's music. In art, I choose the traditional works. Being in Paris and seeing the Mona Lisa was the high point for me.

T.V.I. And in film?

H.P. Depends on my mood. I like comedies, romance, and ones that can provide a good cry.

T.V.I. Might we pry further? What is your age, D.O.B., etc?

H.P. It's not nice to ask a lady her age. Lets just say between 21 and 65. My birthday is March 25. I'M 6'1. Weight is another no-n but I'M about 178 and shrinking. I hate the measurement question, but mine are 38A - 36 - 42. I'M working on them.

T.V.I. Can you offer any insights on presenting a more feminine appearance?

H.P. I don't know what tips I can give. I'M still learning myself. All I can suggest is to dress appropriately for your age and the event. Try to blend in.

T.V.I. And now for the trip wire.... any gripes?

H.P. This is where I told Kristine that no comment is the best and only response. But who ever takes their own advice? Certainly not me!

Well, It's not really a gripe but a suggestion for change. I would like to see a welcoming committee of 2 or 3 people to greet new members, introduce them to the membership, and possibly give them an introduction packet.

I try to meet all of the new members and make them feel welcome, but sometimes I get involved with my friends - time just slips away. If the new members were introduced to everyone, it would break the ice and make it easier to include them.

T.V.I. And, Heather, now that you've put your pump on it, let me suggest that a lady as gracious and steadfast as yourself would make the perfect chair for the welcoming committee you suggest. Please consider it.

T.V.I. In closing, would you share with us what you imagine the future holds for Heather Jean Phillips?

H.P. Actually, I have quite a bold view of the future for me. I imagine a successful transition, including surgery. I plan to live my life as, and be accepted for the woman that I am.

T.V.I. Well, Heather, Cross-Port can count itself blessed to have a wonderful member such as yourself. Good luck in realizing all of your dreams. Thank you for your time and thoughts. Stay Healthy. Stay Beautiful. Avoid Runners.

POTPOURRI

by: Bobbi L.

My ,it's been quite a while, hasn't it? I've been so terribly busy that writing this column has not exactly been a great priority. But there's been so much good stuff in the media recently that I finally pushed some things aside in order to "spread the news."

First, I need to send out a call for help. Girls, in order for our newsletter to improve and grow in its appearance and appeal we need more of you to get involved. Elaine and Joyce and Linda and I could use those of you with typing skills, PC skills, proofreading skills, and some time, to "pay back" a little for the support which Cross-Port offers. One Sunday a month we meet at Elaine's for a couple of hours to put this thing together. Additionally, Elaine and Joyce spend many hours assembling and mailing the newsletter so that we all can stay in touch. There are so many talented ladies in our organization that to lay the

burden on only a few is grossly unfair. See us at the meeting or contact us through the "hotline" and arrange to help share the work. (Typists are especially needed).

Kentucky Post, March 26, 1994 (Associated Press) Louisville.

"A high school senior arrested after wearing a form-fitting dress to school declined a prosecutor's offer...to dismiss charges stemming from his refusal to leave....

John Paul Poynter, 18, was charged...after wearing an ankle-length embroidered black dress with a side split, black pantyhose, women's shoes, and a wig to Louisville Central High School.

Poynter explained that he was trying to express 'another side of my personality' and that the issue was his right to express his homosexuality.

(A school spokesperson) said Poynter's dress violated district policy that a student's appearance should not be disruptive. ...it was Poynter's stepfather who suggested (the principal) call the police."

Everybody's News, April 1-7, 1994. "News of the Weird" by Chuck Shepherd

"In February, the Royal Bank of Scotland announced that it would begin to issue extra check-cashing ID cards to its transvestite customers who request them -- so that they might have separate cards depicting themselves as male and female in order to "avoid embarrassment or difficulties," according to a Bank spokesman."

Glamour, February 1994. [men right now], "One man's life as a woman"

"Having lived 24 years ...as a man, Christian Sykes...decided a change of gender might be fun. So he logged on to an interactive computer game under a female pseudonym....

'I couldn't believe how quickly men thought they could consider themselves on intimate terms with me once I was a woman...I was talking to someone who seemed like a nice guy - but when it came time to log off, he said, 'Well, I'm going off to bed now - wouldn't it we a nicer place if you were coming with me?'

....Sykes also found that as a woman he was assumed to be inexperienced at the game ("These guys just kept explaining the basics to me over and over again.")....

When Sykes finally revealed himself to be a man, one disgruntled suitor was so angry that he tried to get Sykes kicked out of the system.... 'It was nice to be the subject of all that attention, ...but I wouldn't say it was easy being a woman.' --Susan Dominus"

Kentucky Post, December 18, 1993

"Body in drag star's closet a mystery"

Associated Press, New York--

"When famed drag queen, Dorian Corey died earlier (in 1993), he didn't leave any skeletons in the closet. He did, however, leave wigs, sequined dresses, feather boas - and the mummified body of a murder victim.

Friends...found the body in October while rummaging through (Corey's) apartment....months later, investigators still can't explain how it got there....

Corey, 56, was a veteran of the drag show circuit and star of the 1991 documentary "Paris is Burning"....

Police soon determined the man died from a gunshot to the back of the head...about 15 years ago.

But who pulled the trigger remains open to speculation.

A diary recovered from Corey's apartment did not contain a confession or any mention of (the victim)."

LINDA'S CORNER

Well I just got back from Portland, and I must tell you that the scenery was spectacular, everyone was extremely friendly, and the Convention couldn't have gone better.

My nine days as Linda started Saturday morning when Ginger came to pick me up to head for the airport. We pulled into the "Fast Park" lot, and the van

pulled along side. He took one look at the tons of luggage we had and said, "Leave it to a woman to bring everything she owns. What are you ladies planning on taking a trip around the world?"

Actually this was "Gingers" first flight, and she was a bit nervous. But nothing exciting happened and we had a pleasant and uneventful flight. In fact no one on the plane suspected anything until one of the flight attendants came back and took our picture with a flash camera. So after that we dropped the falsetto Mickey Mouse voice routine, since our cover was blown.

Ginger rented a car with her brother's credit card and off we went to the hotel. We checked in, dropped our stuff off in the room, and decided to spend the afternoon site seeing. Sheila Kirk joined us, and we drove around the entire downtown area looking for a good lunch spot for two hours. We found this great little Chinese place that was well worth the drive. Actually it was also well worth the walk, because we later realized that this place was only a block from the hotel. Afterwards, we drove up the Columbia River Gorge Area and stopped off at several of the water falls and overlooks. We used the business woman approach, since everyone else was wearing jeans, sneakers, and sweatshirts, and we were a tad over dressed in skirts, heels, and fur coats. We did get a few looks, but I blamed Ginger because she was wearing white pumps before Easter. A real fashion no no.

For supper we got a group of 12 ladies together for a visit to an oyster house. The food was so so. Maybe my story about just returning from a PTA meeting wasn't bought, because the one gay waiter keep asking what's going on tonight. Odd question, don't you think?

Later we went to an alternative bar to party till wee hours. I ran into an interesting guy in a dress. She wanted me to buy one of her XXX video tapes, in which, she is the star. She said her goal in life was to be a famous She-male porn star. I told her she should rise to the top quickly. Especially since most of her predecessors have died of aids in the past year.

On Sunday, Ginger turned into boy, so I moved out of the room. Actually he had to go visit mom for a few days, so I stayed with Sharon Ann Stuart until I got kicked out for a prettier roommate.

I went shopping most of the afternoon. It was a warm and sunny day. Downtown Portland is very much alive on the weekends and through late in the night. I picked up a couple of pairs of heels, some ear rings, and a fabulous new outfit. That evening, about ten of us drove up the near-by overlook to have a first class dinner at the Chart House. If the lady a few tables away hadn't had a stroke and almost died, it would have been a very quiet and relaxing evening. But no one paid any attention to us anyway, because they were all watching the emergency crews revive the old lady.

Monday I went on the all day sight seeing trip to Mt. Hood. Upon arrival, Taylor Montgomery (Post-op FTM), and a Chris (FTM crossdresser) talk me in to going skiing with them. Unfortunately, we have no idea how to ski. We signed up for equipment and lessons, and soon this gender bending threesome hit the slopes, in more ways then one. Me and Chris got this half drunk old man as our instructor who still believes a man should act like a man. Unfortunate for me, I might add. He was extremely rude and nasty, and kept prodding me about the way I was dressed. But he was the exception, because everyone else had a good time with us. Especially the young men on the ski lifts. They kept whistling and making silly remarks. When Taylor and myself got on the lift together, the one guy says to Taylor, "My but your wife is looking lovely today."

Our skiing was a joke. We ventured down this huge trail that we couldn't stand up on. Going back was out of the question. We rolled, tumbled, and slid down on our backs. While we struggled for our life, these six year old kids would ski by like pros. We were in perfect view of the people on the ski lifts, so they got quite a show. The big laughs seem to come every time I would loose my hair. I'm not sure this could go down in the books as

positive outreach or not. By the end of the day my legs were like jelly and glad to get back on the bus.

I have a pointer for you courageous Transvestites who may want to try this. Don't wear your Frederick's of Hollywood fake butt. It's just like having a huge sponge in your panties. I bet I soaked up two gallons of water that I toted around all day. And the trip home which included stopping at a nice restaurant was a bit mortifying because of the water seeping out wherever I sat.

Tuesday started the actual convention. Truthfully I spent five days in Board and Committee Meetings, which most of you would find very boring. Most people attended sessions. Tuesday night there was an open reception and a public forum for the general public.

Wednesday evening was the Trinity Awards Banquet in honor of some very deserving individuals who have serve the Gender Community for countless years. Since I always know most of these recipients, I always find this to be very emotional event. This is also the day Ginger returned back from Moms, so she was ready to party. We hit some bars, but I made her take me back to the hotel about 12:30 AM. She got mad and took off. She returned around 4AM with a big grin on her face, but refused to say what happened.

Thursday evening we went to Darcelle's Dinner Club. It's one of the most famous female impersonators dinner clubs in the country. It was an excellent show and prime rib dinner. Again we went to several night spots, and Ginger (the lush) returned just before daybreak.

Friday was casino night and Ginger won big. I ran into an old friend named Tracy who would spend the remainder of the weekend with us. We parted till 3AM, and this time Ginger returned two hours latter. (I might add, Ginger didn't make many sessions during the day.)

Saturday night was the Virginia Prince Banquet at which Ellen Summers was honored. The evening highlighted a splendid dinner and show, giving tribute to one of the most outstanding and loved human being I have ever got to know. To me, this again, was a very special night. Ginger however skipped out early.

About 11:30 we took off for the bars again. Ginger was slowing down, I think her feet were bleeding from dancing in pumps for so long. By two o'clock, she was ready for something quite. We also picked up Michelle and went to look for an all night diner. Some horny guy started riding along side the car. I decided to use some teasing tricks Bobbie taught me. I first licked the glass and blew him a kiss. Ginger pulled away. I then stuck my stocking leg and 4" pump out the window. This got him wild and caught up with us again. I teased him a little more, but grew tired of the game. Ginger decided to dump this guy, and dropped the clutch. Just like a male dog after a female in heat, this guy stuck to us like glue. Ginger had us down by the river in a high speed chase, darting into allies and parking lots. After fifteen minutes of some real "Dukes of Hazard" type driving, we had to stop for gas. An attendant filled our tank while this dush-bag climbs out of his car and lays on the hood of Ginger's car, while kissing the windshield and begging us to open the car door. (fat chance) Then the bad news. The attendant told Ginger she had to go inside to pay. Ginger grabs her mace runs to the person inside. He is of course waiting outside. She spoke in her most masculine voice while pointing her weapon, "You come near me, or if you don't leave us alone, your dead meat."
Opened jawed and depressed he stepped away, and we high tailed it out of there.

Sunday I had the traditional good-by breakfast with my friends while Ginger slept. She was so bushed, she could not even bring herself to dress for the trip home. Now I must look forward to next year in Atlanta.
****

On a more serious note, IFGE has informed me the Dr. Roger Peo, less than two months after first being diagnosed with lung and bone cancer, has passed away quietly at his home on April 7. Dr. Peo was very well know in the community,

serving on the IFGE Board in the past, writing his column in Tapestry, speaking and teaching at many Gender events, on television, and with his colleges. I will miss him very much. He was a good friend.

EDUCATION AND FUN ALERT !

IFGE in cooperation with Crossport and IXE ,will be attending the 26th Annual Conference of The American Association of Sex & Therapists (AASECT).

WHEN: From May 11-15
WHERE: The Galt House Hotel, in Louisville, Kentucky
WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT: ASSCET is a conference for professionals. IFGE has rented a table in the exhibit area. We plan on meeting many of the attenders and giving out information on IFGE and our local support groups.
WE NEED YOUR HELP: We need volunteers to staff the booth for three days. On Friday night, we intend to host a wine and cheese party in the Presidential Suite for anyone willing to attend. We need people to set up and clean up.
WHO WILL BE THERE? From the Gender Community you will meet Linda Buten (Chair of the IFGE Board), Dr. Sheila Kirk, (Author of the Hormone Books and member of the IFGE Board), Mariette Pathy Allen (Author of "Transformations"), Nancy Nangeroni (Member of the IFGE Board), and Ari Kane (Founder of the Outreach Institute and Fantasia Fair). On the professional side, you may recognize the names of Sandra Cole, Marilyn K. Volker, David Prok, and many others.

WHAT ABOUT THE FUN?

Unlike the BE ALL or the other Gender Bending Weekends, this cost nothing. You can get reduced rates by going through the Conference for only $75, but you must act fast. The Galt house is one of Louisville's best hotels, and it's downtown on the river. This means shopping is in walking distance, and "The Connection" night club , that we all love, is only blocks away.

Saturday night the conference has booked the Star of Louisville dinner cruise ship. For $40, you can slip into your finest cocktail dress and dine on jumbo shrimp, prime rib, and snow crab legs while we cruse the Ohio river for three hours. There's live music, a cash bar, and plenty of time to walk the observation deck.

For more information, call Joyce at 474-9557.

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, trans-sexuals and their family and friends.

NOTICE

Transsexual looking for same or other transgendered for a roommate to share 6 room apartment. Must be compatable with rock and roll life style. Apt .on major bus line.
Call Lisha at (513) 751-3106

Miami University Gay Lesbian Bisexual Alliance
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Dear Joyce and Elaine,

Thank you so much for the excellent presentation you gave at our February 24 meeting. Despite my initial dismay at our relatively small turn-out, I was pleased in that I found the discussion to be intimate in such a way that each member felt a part of the group and could therefore benefit more personally. I know that, for me alone, the session was incredibly informative and enlightening, and I'm sure I speak on behalf of all of my group members when I tell you both you have done a wonderful job of sharing and educating. I hope that we may have the opportunity to call upon you again.

Thank you again for having the devotion and courage to educate — not just in 297 Upham on Thursday, but everywhere, on a daily basis. Your strength is inspirational to us all.

Yours sincerely,

Craig Benson

Craig Benson
GLBA Co-President

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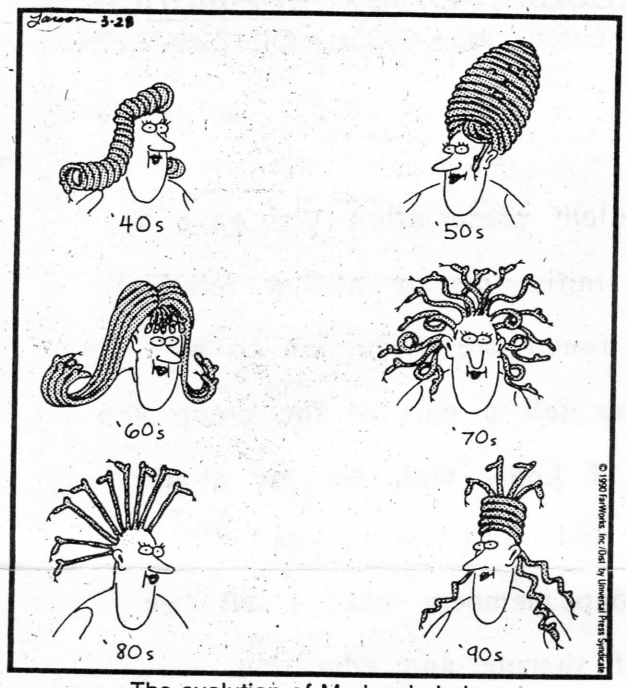
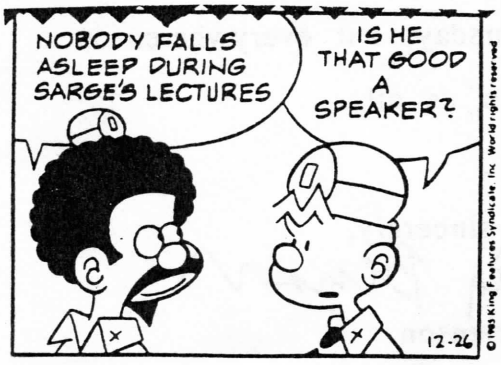
The Far Side



The evolution of Medusa's hair

"Here's one you may like . . . size 10 on the inside and size 5 on the outside." SIR".



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