Cross-Port InnerView

P.O. Box 54657, Cincinnati, OH 45254

The next meeting is May 20 at 8:00pm

A New View

By Elaine

There were approxamately 39 ladies and S.O.'s at last months **Cross-port** meeting. We had a pretty good turn out. I wish to thank the new person who came to the meeting Joe and two returnee's Hazel and Jean we hope they had a good time and will come back next month. We also had four guests. We also would like to thank Dan from A.V.O.C. for that fine demonstration he put on at Christopher's.

I went to Impressions II on Harrison Ave to buy some suits and to look at other clothes. As I was talking to Gloria the sales clerk and the owner of the shop Bonnie. they said they would like to see me in the suit I had just bought. So I said I would stop in later in the week and model the suit for them. So Thursday I Got all dressed up in fushia suit with a black and white check skirt my three inch heels and went to beautiful downtown Cheviot. Well there were a lot of people in the store when I got there so Gloria did not notice me when I got in the store. I walked around the store for a little while. When she noticed the suit I was wearing. She kept saying **"OH MY GOD!!"** over and over again. She said she would never have recognized me without the suit. We were sitting there talking when Bonnie came in and ask Gloria if she brought help for their inventory latter, when she also noticed the suit I was wearing and she said **"OH MY GOD!!"** also. She just stood there and looked at the suit (which I found out later she had tried on) and said it looks better on me than on her. So while we were there her friend Ken and her husband Steve came in and Bonnie said Steve and Ken were taking her and I to dinner. As we went to the resturaunt I kept thinking I had never been out dressed with a group of straight people who treated me as if I was a girl in their group. It was a strange and a wonderful feeling. Because no one questioned the fact that I was a girl, because that is how I was treated and it made me feel very nice.

INSIGHT #39

by:Barbara Jean

Hi girls, this is Barbara back with the insight. Ok, this month let's first take a little scenario. "Your wifejust found out about your being a crossdresser, but surprise, she did not run to the divorce lawyer, rather she accepted it with open arms. (well maybe not quite so open) She helps you with makeup, you go shopping enfemme with her, she helps you pick out clothes. SHE'S A DREAM COME TRUE. Then suddenly things don't quite seem to go so well, and one day you come home and find that she gave all your feminine clothes to the good old Salvation Army. She tells you that if you ever do it again she will leave. That seemingly wonderful "A+" wife has become a pure B****, and a flat "F"." Why, what happened girls?

Girls we must remember that there are a number of things that a wife fears when she finds out about our crossdressing. The three most predominant are that 1) we are gay or planning a sex change, 2) that the kids will also be crossdressers, and 3) her social standing with friends family and neighbors.

Cynthia Phillips in the W.A.C.S. newsletter made mentionof the fact that the one most important thing in our relationship with our wife or girlfriend is COMMUNICATIONS. But there is a very serious problem to communications with our wives, like it or not, we are men, and men do communicate different than women. This can make communications difficult with our wives. And yet a full fifty percent of communications involves LISTENING. It is very difficult for us to become mind readers, and yet we must seemingly be just that. We must not only listen to what our wives say to us, but we must also try and read her facial expressions. If we see that something bothers her we must get her to talk about it. Often times little things we do will really turn her off to our crossdressing.

Let's get some ideas of the things

that are a turn off for her. Do you come home from work and immediately change into your feminine wardrobe? Being able to dress at home is great, we have more time to be who we want to be, and it is so wonderful to be able to sleep in those beautiful gowns rather than the ugly cotton or flannel pajamas, but girls think of what signal you are giving your wife. Your wife is a heterosexual woman, SHE WANTS A MAN! While she may enjoy the company of a sister or girlfriend at times, she also wants to be in the company of a man. a BALANCE in necessary girls. If we spend too much of our time enfemme, she will be quickly turned off to us. Try to limit your dressing to something that is comfortable for both of you. TALK TO HER, GET HER TO TALK TO YOU, find out what is truly comfortable FOR HER.

Here is another problem to dressing at home. What if someone comes to the door? Have you and your wife handled that problem? Also if you have children at home, what is the effect on them? OK so they understand and accept, but when can they have friends over. Children can be very cruel to one another girls, and really aren't you being cruel to your children if they can't have friends over to the house when you are at home? Setting aside one or two days a week for dressing at home still gives them times when they can have their friends over. I know from past experience that if a friend of your kids knows about your crossdressing and their parents find out it can be devastating to your child's friendship. COMMUNICATE with both your wife and your children on this matter girls.

OK, now here is another problem that sometimes occurs. You are at a lounge enfemme and a man ask you to dance. You have (you think) convinced her that you are not gay, and it is really nice when a man ask you to dance, especially when the place is a straight place rather than a gay place. And there is really no harm in a little dance, but what signal do you give to your wife? Also girls, what do you think it does to her feelings when the man asked you to dance with him rather than her? Once again COMMUNICATIONS is important.

Here is another problem girls, What does your wardrobe look like, what does her wardrobe look like? When you buy yourself a new dress, do you think of her and buy her a new dress also? She has helped you to look as feminine as you can, but do you do the same for her? I know girls, all to often I have heard my wife say that I was prettier than she was, and all too often I failed to recognize that it was a cry from her, a cry for me to remind her that she was pretty to me. And all to often I know I had gone out and bought myself a new dress or a new pair of shoes, with nothing for her. She is still hurting that I had forgotten all about her birthday this year. It is the little things like these that will turn her off to us girls. Don't try and compete with her girls. This is a big turnoff for her. Looking pretty is very important to your wife also. It is bad enough that she must compete with other women, but now she must compete with you. Help her as she helps you. COMMUNICATE!

Shopping enfemme is also another problem girls. WHERE do you go shopping. Do you go shopping right in the town where you live? If you live in a small town this is especially bad. Many of us have gotten to the point where we do not care what people think or say, and many of us do pass, but I don't think any of us really pass 100% Sometimes we are recognized. Remember she is concerned about HER social standing with her friends, family, and neighbors. She does not want people ridiculing her, or asking her questions. Be thoughtful of her. Once again COMMUNICATE girls.

Maybe you have been reading up on hormones. Yes it would be so wonderful to have OUR OWN breast, to have a more feminine body, but what is the message that you are giving her? Huh Huh! Better can that idea girls. What do you want more her or that body.

Just as gender dysphoria can be bad for us mentally girls, so too can gender euphoria. Feeling good about ourselves is one thing girls, but when we put too much emphases on the feminine and so little on the masculine it does turn our wife off. being me does not necessarily mean being Barbara instead of Jim, but rather it means COMBINING Jim and Barbara together to make a better person out of me. As I said last month girls, there are positive and negative traits to both the masculine and the feminine. We must learn to integrate the positive feminine in our daily lives along with the positive masculine. Once again, COMMUNICATE! What are the positive traits of the masculine and the feminine that make you attractive to your wife. Do not destroy the masculine in an attempt to become more feminine.

Girls, remember if you have that A+ wife and you want to keep her an A+ wife, do LISTEN to her, and do be not only as considerate of her as you are of yourself, but more considerate of her than you are of yourself. Being considerate of others is one of the most feminine qualities that we can obtain girls.

Well that is all for this month girls. Remember I love each and everyone of you. Be good to yourself, and most important girls be good to your wife. You BOTH are worth it.

"...a brighter day."

by: Bobbi L.

Maybe it was the possibility that we could lose our regular meeting place. Maybe it was the images from the March on Washington from April 25. Maybe it was the pepperoni pizza we shared while watching the "Action

Auction" at 8:30 PM. Whatever the reason, I tossed and turned all through the night, upset, still, by the announcement at the March meeting that Christopher's might close. Finally, I fell into a REM sleep-state, during which I experienced an epiphany:

Beverly and I sat in a crowded auditorium, Music Hall? Riverfront Coliseum? All around us were the ladies of Cross-Port, Crystal Club, and a hundred other transgender groups. Were we at a Barony Ball? A Be-All? A T-Party? It wasn't yet clear. What WAS clear, however, was the electricity in the air. Everyone was smiling. Everyone was upbeat. Not one frown amongst all the satin, sequins, and silk. What was this all about?

Suddenly, an orchestra sent the glorious notes of a stirring fanfare throughout the auditorium. Every mascara-ed eye turned toward the stage as every glossy lip ceased its chatter. Spotlights swept across the velvet curtains which slowly parted. Stepping through the opening, dressed in a stunning, hourglass-shaping, shoulder-showing red sheath was our own Linda B. Her abundant blonde hair was -- big! She towered on 5" red pumps. Her perfect smile hypnotized us all. I looked around the aisles....EVERYONE was smiling, as the applause thundered over the orchestra's melody. It was obvious that Beverly and I were the only ones who did not know what was going on.

Then, Bob appeared with two microphones. He handed one to Linda. The fanfare diminished, the clapping subsided, Linda lifted the microphone and spoke: Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen, and welcome to "Drag-Aid'93!" Of course! "Drag-Aid," the first attempt by the TV/TS community to raise funds for faltering crossdresser support facilities. Conceived in the dark corners of smokey lesbian bars by very depressed transvestites, "Drag-Aid" had finally come to fruition! Beverly and I turned to one another, held hands, and smiled broadly. Linda continued her introduction, thanking the audience for their enthusiastic response. Then, with a sweep of her fake nails, she indicated the area behind the curtain. The orchestra once more began to play -- an energetic version of the theme from "Peter Gunn." Like a feline, the slinky, sexy silhouette of.....Belinda(!!!)...slithered center stage. Jazz-dancing to the driving beat of the music, Belinda leaped and turned and glided, much to the audience's delight. When finished, Belinda bowed to the clapping and whistling and flowed from the stage. After Bob had spoken of the impressive dollar amount raised by ticket sales for this benefit, Linda introduced the next act. The house lights dimmed. The hall became black. Strains of "Also, Sprach Zarathustra" pierced the darkness. A single, concentrated circle of light exploded on the stage, revealing a very familiar face and body: Tula! In her sultry, breathy voice the British TS sang. "Sometimes it's hard to be a woman...." The crowd erupted. When she had finished her version of "Stand By Your Man," Tula wished us all good luck in our goals, then "clicked" off the stage. Once again, Bob took over and urged us all to become more vocal in our support of those groups and organizations which support our special lifestyle. Linda reappeared, escorting....could it be?...YES, H. Ross Perot! Our favorite blonde seemed even taller as she led Ross over to meet Bob. It was obvious that Mr. Perot was enamored of our Mistress of Ceremonies, as he kept staring at her cleavage (of course, he WAS at eye-level with it)! After presenting "Drag-Aid" with a check for $10,000, H. Ross was nearly smothered by Linda as she hugged him tightly against her bosom, causing his ears to beat like Dumbo's. And so, on it went all night. Every big name in the crossdressing community spoke or performed: JoAnn Roberts, Jim Bridges, Jackie Loren, Joyce Schwab, Jahna Steele, Merissa Sherrill Lynn, even Dame Edna! The evening concluded with Linda and Bob announcing that "Drag-Aid" had netted over a half million dollars and that Christopher's was being purchased by Cross-Port. Its format was changing to that of a restaurant/bar/nightclub and was being renamed, "TV Dinners."

Suddenly, a shot rang out! Screams resounded through the panicked crowd! Running toward the stage, waving a pistol, Phyllis Schafly (in sensible shoes) threatened our host and hostess. I couldn't let harm come to these two. I MUST stop this crazy woman! I jumped over Beverly, took off my right shoe, and raised the stiletto heel. As I prepared to drive it into this "silly cow's" skull, she wheeled and fired point-blank! "BOOM!!!"

I awoke with a start! My hair was drenched with perspiration (ladies do not sweat). My heart was racing.... my breathing was labored! It HAD only been a dream! But, it was definately NOT a nightmare. My thoughts whirled. "Maybe, just maybe, Michael Jackson and Willie Nelson ARE onto something! Maybe "Drag-Aid" could work?" Well, Ladies, how about it? Can we talk....maybe over pizza?

"Girls will be Boys..."

[ED NOTE: the following article was sent to us by a gal from New Zealand where it appeared in a local paper]

In the battle of the sexes, a truce has been called, at least for fashion autumn/winter 1993.

Season after season magpie womenswear designers rifle every conceivable source for their ideas. This winter it is menswear that has inspired a major direction for women's fashion. Girls will be boys in anything from pin-striped trouser suits through to the flounces and frills of the Edwardian dandy.

It's a fashion lead given a feminine twist. A tailored pant suit may appear in a luscious pastel, a man-style jacket teams up with the newest long skirt, slashed to flash a length of leg. or an element of fantasy may be added by creatively accessorising with animal

print pieces, a French beret, retro jewelry.

Leaner lines apply to trousers as much as jackets but women at least can indulge in more than the tapered tailored styles, their choices extended by soft wide-legged trousers a la Marlene Dietrich, jodhpurs, flares (again!) and even knitted wool jeans. Offering flexibility, tactile appeal and real comfort, wool knitwear makes a strong showing. In menswear it transcends the more traditional clothing categories, and is now deemed appropriate for city dressing through to leisurewear. This season will see women add knitted tunics, wraps, duster coats and the newest cuffed leggings to their wardrobes.

The emphasis on tailored wear and garments with more than one vocation has assured wool its place as the designer's first choice of fibers. Flexibility, subtlety, drape, durability - these qualities are demanded of materials and compromise is a dirty word.

Fluid lightweight worsted wools are especially favoured, with wool/cashmere mixes and pure wools such as melton and loden figuring in generous, enveloping coats.

Jamie Elizabeth's Article

Two weeks ago I was interviewed by a student in Peace Studies from Earlham College. Somehow she got my name as a leader of the men's group at our church and wanted to know something of our focus. What were we interested in and what was our overall strategy? I had to respond that I didn't really know what our "purpose" was, but that we were simply trying to ease pain wherever we could. Since then (with Susan's help) I have been reading several very interesting books. Their titles are: Myths of Gender by Anne Fausto-Sterling/Basic Books, 1985 and Women respond to the Men's Movement, edited by Kay Leigh Hagan/Pandora, 1992. In the second book, Refusing to be a Man, by John Stoltenberg/Breitenbush Books, 1989 is mentioned.

In Women Respond..., several authors make it clear that there are two diverse branches to the men's movement. The first group called the "mythopoetic group" follows the ideas of Robert Bly (in Iron John) in seeking to regain the lost father through the "Wild Man." This is the group that has been getting the publicity by holding men-only meetings in the woods, by having sweat lodges,drumming, and seeking a mythical primitive self. This group emphasizes the "strong/hard man" through separation from women. In the videotape, "A Gathering of Men" Robert Bly himself talks poignantly about the longing for union with his absent father. (I have a copy for loan). In the video the emphasis seems to be on male bonding with no overt intent to exclude feminism. but several of the writers point out that this is classic patriarchy and that it is the sort of myth espoused by the Nazis.

The second group in the men's movement was described by Zsuzsanna Emese Budapest as the "Lunar Male" and in her words, "I would like to stand up for the so-called 'soft male.' I like him. And I think many women also like him. This is the Lunar Male who has found flexibility. The Lunar male knows how to wax and wane, how to grow into fullness. Lunar Males are identified with the human species as a whole, therefore women are part of them." In my own words the second (and less publicized) group in the men's movement are basically men unafraid to identify with women. They are not necessarily crossdressers, but they are concerned with the three major problems women everywhere face. These are: poverty or economic inequity, violence and intimidation (crossdressers risk some of this, too, but they can escape by a change of costume), and unequal responsibility for child care. My point is that crossdressers have some natural allies if we can measure up to their standards. I have heard us characterized as only interested in hair, clothes, and cosmetics.

I can see that the Women's Movement also has the same two clearly separated parts. They have the "mythopoetic" attitudes in their use of the Goddess concept and in the legitimization of witches as part of their effort to rid themselves of the Patriarchy. Others like Gloria Steinem seemed to be focused on improving the whole of humanity through a more equitable sharing of power and family responsibility.

Wearing women's clothes has caused me to change in ways I had not expected. In my return to crossdressing with a more accepting partner, the eroticism has faded rather quickly and even the former overriding concern with hair, clothes, and cosmetics seems to be diminishing. I am however still stuck on the need for intimacy which to me is like dancing with my partner's spirit. Another change during this past year has been an increasing interest in political action and spiritual growth. I'm also doing more of my share of the home chores like ironing, laundry, dishwashing, and cleaning. Susan has been giving instruction on cooking but my progress has been discouragingly slow. I guess my goal is to seek personal improvement as a human through what I can learn from women. When LuAnn said we wee part of the Women's Movement, I wa a bit surprised but I have to agree, even though N.O.W. may not be ready for us, yet. I'll wait for your comments at the next meeting. -- Jamie Elizabeth

PERSONAL GROWTH & SELF ESTEEM

GENDER ALLIANCE FOUNDATION MEETING N.C.G.A.

The first conference was held on April 17, 1993 at the Sheraton Inn-North in Pittsburg. I attended along with twelve other sisters representing the following

sororities:
Alpha Omega - Cleveland
CCDC - Toronto
CrossPort - Cincinnati
Crystal Club - Columbus
Erie Sisters - Erie
Nu Phi Chi - Buffalo
Sigma Nu Rho - Trenton
Transpitt - Pittsburg

The main focus of an alliance of clubs is to foster better communication between the clubs. The alliance can provide a "clearing house" for the announcement of upcoming activities and events among the clubs. It would be the intention of an alliance to publish a fact-sheet of current events that each member club can include in its own newsletter.

Other topics discussed, where it was believed an alliance could be of benefit, were a legal referral guide listing local laws important to the community and how to deal with problems that might arise, publication of club "how-to" guides to share the wealth of experience among the clubs in areas such as speakers and hot lines, and sponsorship of a partners' group.

The foundation meeting touched on structural issues only briefly, preferring to leave the mechanics of organization up to a future meeting. Ideas that were discussed include:

-Publication of a club current events page

-Allowing inter-club visitation by all members of clubs in the alliance without restriction.

-Providing clubs alliance membership ID cards to be used as alliance and individual club member's identification.

-Each member club would have two representatives to alliance business meetings. Each member club would have one vote on alliance issues.

-The alliance would hold meetings quarterly or semi- annually. -Club dues to the alliance should be held between $50 and $100 per year per club. The next alliance meeting is scheduled for July 10 beginning at 12:00 noon. At this meeting the club representatives will formulate Articles of Alliance which will serve as the constitution for the alliance. The meeting is tentatively set to be held at the Sheraton Inn North Pittsburg, the same location as the foundation meeting.

Cheryl Leslie will act as alliance coordinator and serve on the alliance Panel of Representatives without representing the interests of any one member club. Details regarding the July meeting and future meetings will be issued by the alliance coordinator. The alliance currently holds about $175 for expenses after paying for the foundation meeting. These funds were contributed by clubs participating in the meeting.

The foundation committee was unable to arrive at a suitable name for the alliance. We ask that each participating club submit a suggestion or two via their representative to the July meeting. The name need not indicate the purpose of the alliance or its geographical boundaries. Try to be as creative in naming as you can. The Panel of Representatives will choose the name from the suggestions at the July meeting.

I feel this is a worthwhile cause. We had a very productive first meeting. The alliance being still in a formative stage, we are looking for suggestions not only for a name, but also for ideas that our sisters would like to see explored and possibly be incorporated as part of the Alliance's agenda. I would urge all of you to give this some consideration and forward your ideas to Cross-Port by June 1st so I can take them to the next meeting. The success of the Alliance could have a great impact on the future of the entire "CD" community. We need your ideas and help.
Love,

Joyce

Every year for the past five years

MIKE'S CHRISTMAS PRESENT
by: Michelle Richards

I have gone to a certain department store in a nearby mall to buy my nylon pantyhose. I always go in October and order from a salesperson named Wanda.

Well, the first time I ordered from her I told her the nylons were for my wife. I usually bought about 20 or 25 pairs of Hanes nylons to last me out the year. I would purchase three different shades, so Wanda usually had to special order them for me each time.

This past October I went to see her and placed my order. She took down my order then, about a week later, called me at work to tell me that she had misplaced the paperwork. I gave her the order again.

Late in November I called her at the store and she said she was working on my order. She said that several pairs of MY nylons were in but not all of the order. She said she would call me when the rest of MY nylons were in. Note, she kept referring to "MY" nylons.

I called her again about two weeks before Christmas . She said that she still had not received my whole order but would have it by the middle of January if that was all right? I told her it would be o.k..

In the middle of January I received a call from Wanda saying that she all of MY nylons so I told her I would be by after work if she was going to be there. I stopped off at a candy store and bought her a box of candy, then went to the mall and parked the car. Before I went into the store I took off my male socks (I had nylons on) put my shoes back on and went into the store.

Wanda totalled up my order and I paid her for them. Then I asked

her to come over to the nylon racks as I wanted to show her something. (There were several customers around the cash register).
When we were alone I lifted my suit pant legs and showed her my nylon encased legs as I asked her why she had kept referring to MY nylons. She replied "I thought they were for you." Then she said, "I sell a lot of pantyhose to men. Some wear them to keep their legs warm, some wear them to keep their tummy in, and some men just like to wear nylons!!!"

Instead of HER being shocked, I was the one who was shocked! Then she said, "Did you ever hear the ad: 'Gentlemen Prefer Hanes?" I laughed.

She then gave me a new style that had just come out and wished me "Merry Christmas!" She added that the reason she did not have the order ready sooner was that she knew Hanes would being having its sale in January an she wanted to save me money on MY nylons.

I think when I go back this coming October I will be wearing MY nylons and also will show her my red toe nails!!!

ROBERTA'S LATEST OUTING

On the morning of March 20th, I visited a nearby thrift shop. I found a black blouse that was in my size. Then as I turned around a red skirt caught my interest. It was my lucky day! That red skirt also was in my size. Normally when ever I see something I like, it is the wrong size. In a very short time I got 2 new items at a very reasonable price.

As I pulled into Joyce's drive it came to me that I now had two outfits to wear. Joyce and I decided, as we shared some coffee, that I should try on both of them. Within 20 minutes I had my make-up on and was dressed. The first outfit was a white blouse with the new red skirt. I used a red crystal pendant that really worked great with that combination. Joyce did point out that I needed to use my black belt to hold the elastic waist in place. I was then able to have Joyce take 12 photos of "Roberta" in that outfit.

I then went upstairs and changed over to the new black blouse with grey skirt. The red pendant also looked good with this combination so I left it on. The remaining 12 photos were used up with this outfit. That is when I suggested going to Bill Knapps' for something to eat. Since the black and grey outfit looked and felt O.K. I decided to leave it on for this outing. Joyce drove us up there, but they opened at 11 AM and we arrived around 10:45. So, we decided to visit the "Impressions" consignment shop to kill some time. Both Joyce and I saw some things that caught our attention but everything was in the wrong size.

Upon returning to Bill Knapp's we were about the third group seated in the place. There were empty booths on both sides of our booth. This gave me a much better feeling of not being overheard as I talked with Joyce. I ordered a sandwich platter for I was a little on the hungry side. I noticed that I was so much more relaxed during this experience than the other times I had been out in public. I placed my order with the waitress in a near-normal volume. Even when a lady was seated in the booth right behind me I was still able to enjoy my conversation with Joyce. When we were done I got the check and walked right up to the cashier and paid the bill myself. I felt good about my being more confident out in public as "Roberta."

Riding back to Joyce's I started to think about where the next step of being out in public as Roberta would take me. Joyce had mentioned in the past about going shopping in one of the malls.

I do know warm, hot weather will restrict where I can go. I have very dark hair on my arms that I can NOT shave or bleach without getting questions from my wife. With short sleeve dresses or tops being worn during the summer, my hairy arms will show. About the only ideas I have come up with are: one, just staying in the back yard at Joyce's for some coffee & talking; two, maybe going to a nearby park and walking around the grounds or eating a snack at a picnic table. Any other suggestions from my sisters would be warmly received. You could pass the information to Joyce at the meetings for me. A note to Cross-Port, in care of "Roberta" would also be possible. Till next time, I wish all the best for all of you.
Sincerely,
Roberta

Publication Notice

© Copyright 1992 Cross-Port

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.

Articles and information contained in *InnerView* may be reprinted by other non-profit organizations without advance permission, provided a copy of the issue containing the reprinted material is sent to Cross-Port within two months after the material is published.

The opinions or statements contained in *InnerView* are those of its authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of Cross-Port.

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

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