

Cross-Port InnerView

P.O. Box 12701, Cincinnati, OH 45212

The next meeting is May 18 at 8:00

A New View

by Cathy

Happy Valentines Day with Hearts and Kisses to all of my favorite ladies!

The January meeting went well with thirty-four people attending. While the weather was not great, it could have been worse, and at least I was able to wear the new outfit Laurie bought me for Christmas. I liked it so well that I am looking for another excuse to wear it. I simply can't wear it to the February meeting. Being seen at the same function twice in the same outfit?!?

No one seemed to be interested in filling out a questionnaire for George Brown. I'm bringing a bunch back to the February meeting in case you change your mind.

We also announced that Barb Baily from the Suggestive-Something Boutique will definitely be at the February meeting. Those of you who were at the last meeting when she came will remember the nice stuff she brought. This is someone who takes time out to be extra nice to us and who always refers new people to our group. Help by coming out and supporting her in return.

For the first time in a while folks put on their dancin' shoes and gave the jukebox a workout. Come on girls! As it was patiently explained to me when I attended my very first Cross-Port meeting, it's OK for girls to dance together. After things slowed down, Perkin's again got a workout as a number of girls headed there for food and gab.

Jeaninne announced her intentions to go to the Texas Tea Party, she's going down early so it's too bad she has to miss the February meeting. Still, if

I had to make a choice, you wouldn't see me at the meeting either. If you haven't been to a convention yet, try to get to one -- it's the next best thing to full time.

Sharon from Indy brought jewelry for sale, nice stuff; sterling not plated. She also announced the results of the IXE election at their January meeting. In gleaning the details from the IXE newsletter; Dana, Elaine, Kerri-Jean, Sarah, Shannon and Sharon were all elected to IXE's board. Sharon will serve as President and Treasurer, Kerri-Jean will be Vice-President and she and Dana will represent IXE at Justice, Inc. Elaine, Sarah, and Shannon will edit and publish the newsletter.

Makes you wonder when Cross-Port is going to have elections doesn't it. Well we're not. We don't have by-laws, a steering committee, a board or elected officials. We are a Ruling Military Cross-Dressed Junta. The only difference between us and Manuel Noriega is our complexions are better.

Seriously, since we are a loosely knit social group, we don't spend our time on organizational tit-for-tat. The way we look at it is if you are interested, you'll put in the time -- if you're not, an election won't make you.

Cross-Port is proud to be the first organization to announce that there is now, for the first time since seceding from the state of Virginia in 1861, a cross-dressing support group in *West Virginia*. See page three for more details.

The Dayton Herald is printing Cross-port in it's support group section in the Sunday paper. We had four requests for information after the first week it ran. I haven't seen it yet as I don't get that paper. Could someone bring a listing to the next meeting for me? Thanks.

Laurie and I went to Florida for a few days right after the last meeting. It sure felt strange at first to run around in public with shaved legs at the beach and in the stores while not dressed as a girl. No one noticed (or they all *pretended* not to notice (or I *thought* they pretended not to notice (or they really did have a set of keys to the food locker and were eating my strawberries (or ---)!)!)! Good Lord, Paranoia gets even me sometimes. You Bogart fans will understand.

Well, once I adjusted, we had a really great time. On the last day we were there we met with Claudia (actually it was Claudia's twin brother) who lives in Cincinnati half a year and spends the rest of her time in Florida (poor girl!) who took us out to dinner. We were supposed to have reservations, (which we didn't) and we ended up sitting around for about an hour until we could be seated.

The restaurant was exclusive, with only ten tables, and we were waited on by the owner. As we ladies were sitting with such a distinguished gentleman, no one gave us a second glance. The food and company were both excellent and it was the perfect ending to a nice vacation. It was also the first time I have ever had enough color on these pale, pale legs to go out in public without stockings. Don't expect me to do it up here, it's far too cold this time of year.

As a side note, Claudia is also going to the Tea Party. That makes two from Cross-Port.

Cathy had only one other chance to go out since the last meeting. I went to dinner at Burbank's Real Bar-B-Q with my friends Debbie and Lance one Sunday evening. The food was good, inexpensive, and they had a live blues band playing. It was a much nicer experience that I had expected from the playground of Earl Pits.

In reading the Renaissance newsletter, they have started a Pen Pal program which seems to be working quite well. Here at Cross-Port we receive letters from transsexuals and transvestites who want to correspond with others but who are either unable or unwilling to "come out" and join the rest of us. As we are a social organization geared toward getting people out in public feeling good about themselves, there is little we can do for these sisters. If some of you are willing to put in some time and postage to help these people, we can do the same thing. See me at the meeting or drop me a line if you are interested.

For those of you who want to have a get-together on a weekend, see Linda's note on the Copa on the last page. Meet us there -- say 9ish. See you there!

Linda sure will be busy that weekend. First the regular meeting on Thursday, the Copa on Saturday, and sandwiched in between, she and Heather are going to address a group of University of Cincinnati students concerning cross-dressing on Friday morning.

With the 4th annual I.F.G.E. sponsored "Coming Together" convention coming up in March, it's hard to think ahead to 1991, but the Gender Identity Center has been selected as the host(ess) organization for the 5th annual I.F.G.E. convention to be held in Denver, Colorado. Start planning now. Maybe they'll have a seminar on "How to Ski While Wearing Heels".

For those of you who have missed Diane from Huntington, she's relocated to Texas and is doing well. Also be sure to say bye to Michelle McDee next time you see her, she's taken on a new job in Chicago and will be moving in late February. We'll think of you at the next Oregon District Halloween party Michelle since it was your idea to go there in the first place.

I also talked to Julie Gilbert, she is currently looking for a roommate for a two to three month time span.

Cross-Port Finances

Here is the current status of the Cross-Port Treasury:

Beginning Balance as of the January Newsletter is: \$1164.60

January Expenses:

Phone:	\$32.00
Envelopes & Stamps:	\$25.00
Printing Jan. Newsletter:	\$27.43
Bank Charges:	\$ 1.20
Total Expenses:	<u>\$ 85.63</u>

January Incomes:

Meeting Collection:	\$81.00
Dues, Etc.:	<u>\$299.00</u>
Total Income:	<u>\$380.00</u>

Ending Balance as of February 11: \$1458.97

We also mailed six intro packets this month.

Trans-West Virginia

by Alona

Hello from your sister "up north". Hi, it's Alona. Yes, the sister from "up north" Tabettha referred to [*Readers, Dec '89 -- eds.*] was me.

From the sounds of the InnerView, things are going very well for Cross-Port. I really miss you girls. Some of you became very much like family to me. I don't know when I'll get back down there again, I'm hoping it will be soon.

I am writing for more than just social reasons. I would like for you to help get the word out that there is now a group meeting in West Virginia. For now lets call it Trans-West Virginia, or TWV for short.

As it stands we will be meeting on the third Friday of the month, each month. Our first meeting was January 19. It was not a large meeting, only three people attending, but it is a start. The February meeting will be Friday the 16th. We will be meeting at a Days Inn located at the Winfield exit off of I-64 between Huntington and Charleston. We will have a bedroom/changing

area and an adjacent conference room. We unfortunately do not have a place like Christopher's available to meet in yet.

We would like to invite any of our sisters from Cross-Port, who may wish to attend, to please come and join with us. We will need the help getting started. Also we would like to extend a special invitation to any of our sisters in the West Virginia and southeast Ohio areas.

Anyone wishing to attend may contact us at this address:

Alona V. Miller
P.O. Box 258
Kingwood, WV 26537

By for now. A sister always -- Alona.

Laurie's Thoughts

(That in itself is a scary concept, especially for those of you who question the existence of such -- probably the same folks who question the existence of God.) Rule #1 - Always question or at least pay attention to people who start their paragraphs with parenthesis. I know, I seem to be in Tabettha mode tonight -- one of my favorite Cross-port letter writers -- and lucky us, if the moon is right and our ever vigilant Cathy is on the keyboard, another one of her letters will be in this ish.

However, I must share some of my glee, refreshed from a little vacation during which Claudia's male self took Cathy and me out to dinner on the Nokomis waterfront. We had new, coordinated (but not identical, fer sure, Muffy!) blue dresses. I'll let Cathy spill the details -- she's so good at that -- and I'll let you decide if I mean spilling, or the details. No, she was quite graceful company and co-Claudia the gracious host, and the too short but pleasant episode beats even Epcot for top Memory Billing.

I returned to the news that one of my InnerView articles has been reprinted in the most recent Tapestry, so Linda says. This for a girl who was pretty shaky about coming to her first Cross-port meeting (and even shakier about Cathy coming to hers) is kind of an acknowledgement of the growth that life blesses us with if we are open and develop security in our own esteem.

Ok, enough with the esoteric stuff. Arnold the Accountant (one of my personas) wants to point out what a good deal you are getting coming to the meetings. On a recent past showing of Current Affair, a hotel/boutique in Manchester, England that caters to a TV clientele was featured.

For about \$100.00, the show reported, one can dress, chat for a few hours and "have a cup of tea". Still better than a \$100.00 a plate political dinner. Are Cross-port meetings a steal or what? Second thought, better can Christopher's copy of this issue before he gets a load of the prices.

I guess one of the bargains I get from the meetings is a different perspective. Cath and I were shopping (imagine that) and I found an acid washed denim vest with a sweat hood that was just dear, it was so woodsy-rogue on me. Cathy then pointed out that we were in the Boy's Department and had a field day with that.

Which brings me to one of my other favorite Cathys (but you're safe C., she's kind of shallow -- two dimensional in fact, on the comics page). In the comic strip these past weeks, Cathy is at a charity auction where you bid on dates with celebrity men (just like real life -- there is such an annual happening in Cincinnati). Cathy muses to her friend why there aren't any women on the block, and her friend, shocked, replies "Well, that would be sexist!" Need I say more? What a non-sequitur for someone with always something more to say!

The episode of Current Affair that Laurie mentioned aired Wednesday, January 31st and was an interesting, non-judgmental segment where those being interviewed were treated with respect. Unfortunately, after the segment ended, Maury Popovich the "anchorman", grinned at the camera and said "Let's just pretend the last thirteen minutes didn't happen." --Eds.

Hair Today, Gone Tomorrow

by Renee S.

Guess again girls! It is not quite that fast and the only pleasant part of it is the end result. I went into this procedure of electrolysis pretty much ignorant and uninformed, mostly due to my philosophy of remaining at arms length from other

transsexuals for fear they would unduly influence the very important decisions being made in my life.

I wanted to make these decisions based solely on my inner feelings and needs; not being influenced by these friends, my family or some head shrink. Especially the latter, which I have little regard for, and as of now, have never felt the need to pay one to tell me how to run my life. I'll do that myself, thank you.

As I realize most of you would prefer being more informed than I was, I will tell you of my experience. During the week of November 13 I made the decision to start electrolysis and hormone treatments. Hormones are another story.

I contacted a local doctor of electrolysis and made my first appointment for November 21. By blind luck I had the good fortune of selecting a full time doctor of electrolysis with twenty years experience who has offices in three cities in Ohio. This doctor has, in the course of his practice, removed the facial hair of over five hundred men. At the present time he is working with three other transsexuals besides myself. He is an impressive professional and a very intelligent, understanding person.

Of course I was full of questions and eager to get started. How much will it cost, Doc? Sixty dollars per hour. How long is each treatment? Fifteen minutes to two hours. It will vary according to your wishes, your tolerance to pain, and the condition of your skin and its ability to withstand this treatment.

How many hours will it take? How much is the complete removal going to cost me? I can't tell you that until we are into the treatment for a while. Naturally it depends on the number of hair strands you have, the speed of removal depending on your skin condition, and your tolerance to pain. Also the rate of regrowth is ten to twenty percent and that has to be removed again. But Doc, give me a ballpark figure. I have heard \$2000 to \$2500, is that close? I would rather not say until we have had a few treatments. There was no way to get him pinned down on this one.

About the pain, how bad is it? Well, we are going to stick a needle into each hair follicle about 1/8 to 1/16 inch depending on the hair strands, release electrical energy burning the hair root and then we pull the hair out. Some areas of the face are particularly sensitive, and with some patients it is necessary to obtain the help of a cooperating dentist to deaden the area around the mouth and

nose. The chin is also very sensitive. He seemed hesitant to elaborate on the pain any further.

Well, anyone who knows me also knows that once I make my mind up to do something, it will be done. Besides, having been run over a by a few 500 pound sows in the course of my past farming career (not to mention numerous other muscle and back injuries), I am no stranger to pain.

So full speed ahead! I opted for two hour treatments on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. We started on the cheeks then moved to the neck. It didn't take him long to find at least ten times as many hair strands as I would have believed existed, especially on my neck. The pain was bearable, sharp at times, and at the end of two hours I was more than willing to depart for home.

I was lucky again! Why? because we had a lot of cloudy weather. I soon discovered that when the direct rays of the sun strike a recently treated area, there is intense pain like a sunburn. How do patients stand this in the summer Doc? We have to cut the time of treatment, treat less often, and try to stay covered or out of the sun. Am I ever glad my decision to do this came in the winter! On my job I have to work out in the weather most of the time.

The doctor suggested that he could be available for Saturday and/or Sunday appointments. Since I am not big on pain and like to get it over with the quicker the better, I started taking eight hours of treatment every other week as my schedule permitted. Let me assure you that I don't think there are too many humans alive that can stand more than eight hours of this painful treatment per week. It keeps me completely exhausted.

Would you like an idea of how it feels before you make a decision to do it? Okay. Just grasp one of the hairs in your moustache area with tweezers and pull it out. Did the tweezers slip off and you had to pull it two or three times before it came out? That happens often in treatment also. Remember how much it hurt on that final pull when it came out? That is comparable to the pain when the needle goes in before the pulling. Now multiply this experience by the number of hair strands on your face the add ten to twenty percent for regrowth. I'll give you a break -- some locations don't hurt quite this badly.

As I write this on January 18, I have completed forty-two total hours of treatment. That total

includes quite a bit of regrowth in earlier completed areas. The last four hours have been pure h__ll as we are finishing up in the most sensitive area under the nose. I find myself burrowed about four inches deep into the treatment table and swear the needle goes completely through my lip and into the gums. I declined to obtain the services of a dentist to kill the pain and am still handling two hour long treatments -- barely! Crazy I guess, but once again proving to myself that I am a very tough person who will allow no one to look down on me, no matter what clothes I wear or what sex I choose to be.

Only two more hours to go and all my original growth will be gone. Then only a few one hour and a few half hour appointments spaced over three or four months will be necessary to clean up the regrowth as it comes in. Is it worth all the pain and money? My mirror answers with a resounding Yes! Could I stand to do it all over one more time? I doubt it!

We all go through our personal torments to be the person we are meant to be. We should be very proud of that person. I certainly am.

From Our Readers

Dear Cross-Port-ettes,

Hi. Hello. Why am I writing? Well I am writing in response to Cathy's request for some stories and escapades. I love to write, why else would I have over 100 pen-pals worldwide. I really enjoy reading about other peoples' adventures and observations too.

I wish to relate to you an observation I made two weeks ago. I am in college now, so this semester I signed up for a class I've been wanting to take for four years. It was a Theatre class called Stage Make-up. It sounded fun and it was.

As you might guess, in a make-up class you get to apply make-up. Where do you get this make-up? You buy it through the teacher. The way the class was set up we had three men and three women at our make-up table. In the second week of class, two of the others bought their make-up; a guy and a gal. When the teacher brought them their make-up kits they behaved quite differently.

The girl opened hers immediately and went through it saying stuff like "Wow! Neat! Isn't this cool!". And the guy? Why, he didn't even open his. He just shoved it back and tried to ignore it. Heck, I wanted him to open it, but no. I think it is unusual that our society would make men so "repulsed" by make-up. How can talc and oatmeal change your sexuality? Frankly I think that makeup is neat stuff.

Another observation I've made is about the veritable plethora of instances of cross-dressing on TV and films. Look at the movies "Tango and Cash" and the latest "Back to the Future" movie. When they advertise those movies, they show clips of Kurt Russell and Michael J. Fox in drag. I've not seen the afore mentioned movies, so I do not know how the cross-dressers were portrayed. Another instance was in the latest "Mission Impossible". It had a female to male cross-dresser. [Who was, of course, an assassin who was killed in the end -- Eds.]

Well I guess that is enough for now. Time to turn up "Erasure" and enjoy some good sound waves. Lipstick and mini-skirts for everyone.

Colorfully --

Tabetha

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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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.

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L I N D A ' S C O R N E R



A couple of weeks ago I had to go down to Atlanta for a few days. I knew I had one free night, so I called up the number one drag queen in town, Kathy Jo. She just happens to be a good friend from a few years back, and one of the leaders of Sigma Epsilon (Tri-Ess group from Atlanta). She knows the best places in town, and makes a great gal to go slutting around with.

We first stopped for dinner at gay restaurant called Crazy Ray'z. They had excellent food, and the service and setting were very nice.

After dinner we went to a bar called "Lipstix". It's one of the best show bars I've ever been in. They had 10 regular performers and 2 guests. The bar has a big stage with plenty of seating (Much bigger than any in Cincinnati). The show was as good as any I've seen in Chicago or on the west coast. About two-thirds of the crowd was straight, and they just loved it. Everyone was extra friendly, and I even met another girl there from Kentucky, who was there for the same reason I was.

About one o'clock we left for a bar called "Backstreet". This bar is like three in one. Each section is a little different, and each by itself, is larger than Christopher's. It's one of a few 24 hr. bars in the city. By 3 am. it's so crowded, people stand outside in the cold waiting to get in. You name it, and you'll see it there. We partied until 4 am. and I had to call it quits for the night.

I want to take this opportunity to say that if you get a chance to travel, you usually only have to find one gay place in town. There you will find the area gay newspapers with lists of all the places in town to go. Now days, just about any large town has someplace a crossdresser can go and feel comfortable. So girls, lets get out and live a little.

Speaking of getting out, I noticed that the "Copa" will be having the Miss Copa Pageant on Feb. 17th. Some of the girls have already said they plan on

going down. If you don't know how to get there, they are on Glendora & Charlton Sts., in Clifton (across from Zino's). For more information phone them at 861-3966. For you girls who want something to do on Saturday, here is your chance.

This year for Christmas, almost everything I got was for Linda. This includes a gorgeous gold cocktail dress from my wife. Problem is, you almost have to have gold shoes to match.

I searched through a few catalogs I have, and decided to get some from the sexy shoe man, Jim Leslie. I spoke to him a few years ago, and at that time, his shoes only went up to size 10. I told him he was missing out on a very large market, especially since his shoes would attract TVs (all his shoes have only 4 & 5" heel heights). Well now his catalog has shoes up to size 13, including all half sizes.

The girl I spoke with, when I placed my order, was very helpful in choosing my proper size. She said she wished everyone would just be open about what they wanted, and it sure would make it easier. She said that size 12 was by far their #1 seller, and she's almost sure that they weren't for their wives.

Well I got my shoes in two days UPS, and just love them. I think I will wear them to the next meeting. If you would like a free catalog from the sexy shoe man, write to: SEXY SHOES, 480 N. Second St., PO Box 48, Rogers City, MI 49779

Nowdays any retailer, who sells larger womens apparel, knows and must expect men in their shop. You'll find that most of the girls who come right out and say it's for them usually get help they need, and leave with a good experience.

In case no one has told you, the new Tapestry (# 55) is out. We will try to get some in to sell at the meeting.

Did you know that Tapestry takes many of its articles from the hundreds of newsletters it receives. Tapestry

usually chooses between 8 to 15 different pieces. Of the six most recent Tapestrys that sit before me, at least one article from Crossport's Inner View has made each issue. I guess we do a pretty good job Girls.

Another book, (actually a photographic journal), just out is by Mariette Pathy Allen called "TRANSFORMATIONS: Crossdressers And Those Who Love Them" It cost about \$25, and is available from IFGE. (617) 894-8340

Have you ever wanted to attend a fancy ball, dressed like a million dollars, in your long gown, and feeling like a queen? Well, two you might look into, are coming up in the next few weeks.

IFGE reports that 1989 was a very good year. Yvonne says IFGE has experienced a growth of somewhere in the vicinity of 75%. Last year they processed over 12,000 pieces of mail, and 15-20,000 telephone calls. Merissa has counted a 25% increase in personal listings in the Tapestry from issues #54 to #55, which relates into a net 25% increase in subscriptions in just four months.

First there is the LAMBDA BALL in Pittsburg. I know many of the girls who go, and they love it. For information, write to: Lambda Foundation, 500 Pennsylvania Ave., Pittsburg, PA 15224, or TransPitt, PO Box 3214, Pittsburg, PA 15230.

But not everything is going up. Rumor has it, Merissa has dropped two dress sizes in the past few months after she joined Weight Watchers.

Second there is the "Night of a Thousand Gowns". This is a charity ball at the Grand Hyatt Hotel, NYC. This is the biggest event in the country. Many people come in limousines and enter by way of a red carpet (just like the Oscars). On lookers cheer as everone has come to show off. All this hoopla doesn't come cheap however, be ready to spend around a thousand big ones that night. Write to: Ben Freeman, 2M, 200 E 16th St., NYC, NY 10003.

Do you know someone who should be tested for Aids? If so, one can get a FREE and Anonymous test run for the Aids antibody at the Cincinnati Health Department. It is located at 3001 Burnet Ave, in Clifton by UC. No appointment is needed, but for day and evening hours, call 352-3138 for times.

If you're a Pre-op Transsexual, and thinking about going to Brussels, you might look into a new book out by the Ingersoll Gender Center (Or you could ask Dana from our group who just recently went). The book is called "The Brussels Experience". It's a candid, practical guide which covers everything from what to bring, where to stay, how to get around, surgery, emotions felt, and experiences of three girls. They have compiled this day by day account into a guidebook which is invaluable to those contemplating surgery. For copies write to the Ingersoll Gender Center, 1812 East Madison #50, Seattle, WA 98122.

If you know someone who has Aids, or has died from Aids, and they or their family or friends need support in any way, one might contact the Aids Volunteers of Cincinnati (AVOC). Their hotline is 421-AIDS. Mon-Fri 7pm-10pm, Sat 10am-3pm.

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