

Cross-Port Inner View

P.O. Box 12701, Cincinnati, OH 45212

The next meeting is February 16 at 7:30

Oops! Well, in putting out our first newsletter, we made a mistake. Admittedly, it was a big one. We said that the meeting in February would be on February 17 That was **WRONG!** It is actually on the 16th, the third Thursday of the month. Sorry folks, we're still learning.

Can We Talk?

by Heather Peerson

Well, we are off and running with the start of a new year and things seem to be off to a good start. We had about 40 people at the January meeting, about five of which were new faces. It is really getting hard for me to remember everyone's name.

Christmas really brings the crossdressers out of the closet. It is the one time of the year when they can shop to their heart's content feeling safe in the belief that the store clerk really believes those size 12 shoes are for the wife. As a result, I have been getting a lot of new calls on the hot line. Many of these calls won't flower and bloom for a number of months yet but at least they have taken the first step.

February 2nd was National Crossdresser Day. It is reported that the "Official Crossdresser" spent the entire day getting ready for the "Official Trip to the Bar". She ventured out of her darkly lit closet at about 7:30 pm dressed in her "Official SPRING Outfit". Fortunately, the head lights of a large truck, passing by, caused her to see her "Official Shadow" and she ran back into the closet. It looks like we will be having 6 more weeks of long sleeves and leather skirts. Hurray for the truck!

On January 26th I was on WHIO radio 1290 AM, in Dayton, from 9:00 am until 11:00 am and

on WHIO TV 7 from 9:30 am until 10:00 am The show went very well although I did have the most number of negative calls I've ever had.

One of the more puzzling thoughts to come out of the show was the number of people who believe I should seek counseling. When I told them I had eight years of it and that my doctors support me in my current direction, they say I should seek more counseling or be locked up. Why do so many people believe that counseling provides only one answer to every question? They say I should see a counselor but they do not accept what the counselors say. I guess the counselors are sick and should seek counseling also.

On February 9th I will be speaking at Miami University in Middletown. The professor said they had been trying to get someone to talk about crossdressing for several months.

The talk at the Suicide Prevention Center in Dayton was videotaped and as soon as I receive my copy it will be made available to members of Cross-Port. I felt it went very well. My thanks to Annette Scarazzo for inviting me to speak.

The other day I received a call from one of our TS's. She had gone to Thriftway to get her prescription for hormones refilled. The druggist on duty refused to fill it on the moral grounds that it is wrong to give female hormones to a man and questioned her about this matter in front of other customers. He said he would transfer the prescription wherever she wanted She refused. The acting store manager said he could not do anything about it.

The following day I talked with the assistant store manager and the TS talked with the main office of Thriftway. They apologized to her and told her they wanted her business. They said they would speak with the druggist who was paid by them and that they would give her a discount on future prescriptions. When she returned to the

store the druggist apologized I, for one, am happy that she was willing to stand her ground and not allow one druggist to dictate his moral judgement upon her. I am also happy for the way in which the Thriftway management handled the situation. I wonder however, how they would handle the situation if they were paying her salary instead of taking it.

I won't be at the February meeting (it's the first I've ever missed in 3 1/2 years) and doubt I'll have a column in March but I hope to see you all soon.

Heather

The Saint Valentine's Day Massacre II - The Transvestites

by Jennifer

Aerial long shot of a city at sunset. The camera slowly pulls in and lights come on in the buildings as the sky gives way to dusk. The camera eventually settles on a high rise apartment building and centers upon two opposing bathroom windows. Inside we see two men shaving.

Closeup of MAN 1 running a rotary razor over his chin. Cut to - close up of MAN 2 shaving closely, carefully with a blade. Cut to MAN 1 trimming his mustache. Cut to MAN 2 plucking his eyebrows. The camera cuts back and forth between the two men preparing to go out for the evening. The shots are tight. MAN 1 combs his hair, MAN 2 starts applying female makeup to his face. MAN 1 pulls on his boxer shorts, 2 slips on panties and a bra. Other shots of the men getting dressed. 1 dons a pinstriped double-breasted suit, 2 a white cocktail dress. 1 adjusts a wide brimmed hat, 2 tugs on a brunette wig. 1 slaps on some after shave, 2 dabs on perfume. 1 picks up a violin case and tucks it under his arm, 2 throws a few things into a purse and checks the image in the mirror.

Cut to - apartment building hallway shot of two entrance doors. Simultaneously the doors open and out come the two men. They slightly startle one another but they've been neighbors a long time.

MAN 2

Evening, Ralph.

MAN 1

Evening, Norton.

MAN 1 opens up his violin case, pulls out a Thompson sub-machine gun and with much gratuitous violence, fires dozens of rounds into the white dress, pauses over the dead body, tips his hat and exits the smoke filled corridor. Music up, title and credits.

Last Monday I had lunch with some clients from a large national brewery concerning a marketing show we were doing. They bemoaned a lack of effort of their salesmen and wanted suggestions on lighting a fire under their butts.

In a stroke of positive reinforcement genius, I said, "Let's move the show to Valentine's Day, we'll have an old garage interior set, then you welcome on stage the ten worst salesmen. At that moment a 1926 Chrysler Coupe de Gras roars on stage and out pop the CEO and the Board with Tommyguns blazing and decimate the unquota ten." They liked that.

Teeing off with that thought the lunch conversation bent to the idea that Valentine's Day should be celebrated every year with the extermination of some despicable minority such as people with warts on their lips or door-to-door used condom salesmen or Elvis impersonators or poodles, any poodle. Further, we thought a film should be produced of the event and telecast on PBS. The St. Valentine's Day Massacre Part IV - Morton Downey, Jr. Yes, it seemed a fine idea until the group started to vote for which group should be pogrommed on the premiere program. "Teadrinkers. MADD members. Slopes that wear stetsons. Fags." "Naw, they're killing themselves off." "Coors Lite drinkers. Women that don't put out. I still say fags!" Okay, so I created a monster. "All sexual perverts - starting with transvestites." That bristled my neck hair a little so I asked why. "Oh, Bill had a bad encounter with one in Atlanta. Thought she was the real McCoy and didn't like it when he found he was a real McBoy. I told him that they supposedly give good head but he was still pissed off."

But they all seemed to hop on the transvestite bandwagon even though I suggested drug addicts. (Bill doesn't know that I know of his cocaine habits. I needed to slam him somehow.)

"So we do perverts the first several sequels." I said. "According to statistics, in a few years you guys are going to have some lonely sales meetings not to mention that the faces at this lunch table will change. Don't go looking around at each other, you know who I'm talking to." (Nice bluff, that.)

"Seriously guys, you do in transvestites and I guarantee that you lose close friends and relatives."

"All right, let's go back and vote on the geeks that don't blow their noses but lick their upper lips."

These were intelligent men from a generally open-minded field who took the opportunity to enunciate their small prejudices. It's an old story by now how sexual subgroups harbor some ill will towards other subgroups. All striving to be accepted but oftentimes unwilling to accept. I overhear this in our own group. So, think about what you are doing and saying and stop it. Please apply this to other beings as well. If you want to despise someone specifically, well, okay. Some people earn that. But if you paint that prejudice in broad strokes you may paint yourself into a corner.

My final suggestion at lunch for the Valentine Massacres was Part II: The Hypocrites and Part III: The Self Righteous. Figuring that after these two installments there would either be no one who wished to pull the triggers or there would be no one left to.

Not a lesson, just a reminder.

Cross-Port Finances

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

Beginning Balance as of Last Newsletter (Jan. 13):
\$476.64

January Expenses:

Phone:	\$19.00
Envelopes & Stamps:	\$73.50
Office Supplies:	\$29.13
Bank Charges:	\$1.05
Total Expenses:	<u>\$122.68</u>

December Incomes:

Meeting Collection.	\$55.00
Dues, Etc.,	\$470.00
Donations:	<u>\$35.00</u>
Total Income:	<u>\$550.00</u>

Ending Balance' as of February 9: \$913.96

Since the last newsletter, we have sent information to eight new people interested in Cross-Port and have also added the Crisis Care Center of Cincinnati to our mailing list.

Places to Shop

by Sharon

Here are two places in Hamilton, Ohio where I have shopped which may be of interest to those of you who live in the area.

The first is Susie's Wigs at 319 High Street. It is a brand new shop run by a Korean gentleman. Their wigs come in a variety of styles and colors. They also have jewelry, make up, silk scarfs, belts, purses and a few other things all for women. I have been there twice so far and both times they were very kind and helpful. To me their prices were very reasonable, and because I went in when they were just opening, they threw in some extra "baubles" at no extra charge.

The other place is the Valley Thrift Store in the Hamilton Plaza shopping center. Cash Only!!! It is a used goods store with a lot of very nice clothes from childrens sizes to adults. Their clothes for women come in a lot of different styles and include prom, wedding or evening gowns, sweaters, skirts, dresses and pajamas and nightgowns. They also have coats, including fur coats. Also in stock are bras, girdles, panties, slips, lots of shoes and even some perfume and purses.

Their prices are really cheap. Most of the clothes run from 90 cents to 4 or 5 dollars. Coats, however, can go as high as 40 dollars depending on what kind it is. Check all of the clothes before you buy to make sure they are not ripped or stained and also that it will fit. Once you buy it there is no returning it. Most of the clothes are quite nice though and I have bought a lot of my clothes there. Happy shopping!

Shopping Hints

Women's clothing has so many sizes that I never cease to be amazed. Just when I think I have them down, I run across a size I didn't expect, like a 24.5 in Stuarts which never has anything bigger than a 14. Here is a reprint from the September 1987 InnerView which should help the experienced buyer as well as the beginner.

Clothing Sizes

Juniors/Misses Sizes

SIZE	12	14	16	18	20	22	24
Bust	34	36	38	40	42	44	46
Waist	26	28	30	32	34	36	38
Hips	36	38	40	42	44	46	48
BkLen	16.2	16.5	16.7	17	17.2	17.5	17.7

Note: petite Misses are about 1 inch shorter in back length.

Women's Sizes

SIZE	36	38	40	42	44	46
Bust	40	42	44	46	48	50
Waist	34	36	38	40	42	44
Hips	41	43	45	47	49	51
BkLen	17.4	17.5	17.6	17.8	17.9	18

Half Sizes

SIZE	14.5	16.5	18.5	20.5	22.5	24.5
Bust	37	39	41	43	45	47
Waist	31	33	35	37	39	41
Hips	37	41	43	45.5	48	50.5
BkLen	15.5	15.8	15.9	16	16.1	16.2

The half size is for the women who was a Junior who has started to lose her figure. The size is shorter overall, with a higher bustline, smaller shoulders and shorter sleeve lengths. Most cross-dressers do not fit into this category. Please remember this when you shop.

As if this were not enough, the clothing industry attempted to "standardize" sizes by establishing a new sizing terminology. To this date they have not been particularly successful.

The "New" Sizes

Old Size	New Size
32	18W
34	20W
36	22W
38	24W
40	26W
42	28W
44	30W
46	32W

There is a lot of overlap in the bust, waist and hip measurements, particularly in between the Misses and Womens sizes. Look at the measurement called back length. This is the distance from the base of the neck to the center of the waist. That is where the real difference is.

From Our Readers

My wife and I had a great time at the last Cross-Port meeting. It was really fun being able to completely dress up as female and then step outside the house and go out in public. I want to thank Cathy, Laurie and Heather for sitting and talking with us. It made me feel more comfortable and it helped Donna understand a lot more about why we dress to see others dressed that way too.

The other night was the very first time I have ever stepped outside of my house dressed as a woman, but I have a question. What would happen to me if I was dressed as a woman and I was out driving around with my wife or was by myself and had a car accident? When the police show up they will ask me for my driver's license and when they see I am crossdressed are they going to arrest me or what?

I would like to go out dressed shopping for clothes for myself, but first need to know if I would get into trouble or not. I hope you can help me with that question because it bothers me
-- Sharon

That is a question which bothers all of us. Since what we do is not the accepted norm in society, we all run some kind of risk whenever we leave the sanctity of our homes (of course the Supreme Court has ruled there are some kinds of behavior the State can ban even if it is within the privacy of the home). In the end we must rely upon the kindness of the people we meet while in public. This is what actually determines if we "pass" or not.

As far as the legalities involved, please read the next article. It should answer most of your questions.
-- Eds.

Dear Heather, Linda, et al:

Thanks for continuing to send the InnerView to me down here in Texas, that last bastion of liberalism in the South. I have made contact with Boulton & Park here and they are a warm, open group that accepts visitors/newcomers/transfers readily

I have enclosed some info from a recently formed TS informational service group in California that some of the girls might be interested in

Keep up the good work and my best to all.
-- George B.

Thank you George. Here is the information he sent on a recently formed educational/support

group for the Gender Dysphoric Community, the American Transsexual Education Center (A.T.E.C.). They are currently providing a library of educational information about gender dysphoria and man a hotline for peer counseling, information processing and referral.

Current publications (generally \$5.00 each) include Hormones and Hormone Therapy for Transsexuals, The Transsexual and the Law, and Starting Electrolysis. A.T.E.C. can be reached by writing 1626 Wilcox Avenue, Suite #584, Hollywood, CA 90028. Their phone number is (213) 664-4098.

Ms. Cathy, Jennifer and Linda,

A friend of mine in Milwaukee has been urging me to attend a meeting. At the present time I cannot present myself as a woman. This is really torturing me. I see no prospect of that changing in the immediate future. However, if it should happen, whom could I phone or contact?

Again, many thanks.

- Fran

Fran, there is nothing that says you can't attend a Cross-Port meeting as your male self. We don't have a "dress" code, and many of the girls who attend first came to meetings in "drag" until they felt more comfortable. We would welcome you dressed or not. If you decide that you wish to attend a meeting, call the Cross-Port phone at (513) 631-0732 and leave a message or write us at the Cross-Port P.O. box, someone will get back to you. Hope to see you soon.

-- Eds

Dealing with the Police

by Cathy

It is not against the law to crossdress in any jurisdiction I am aware of in southwestern Ohio. There is an ordinance against it in Covington, Ky. I checked with a police officer I know and he gave me this information.

The best way not to get into trouble is to avoid it (sounds like a policeman doesn't it). Obey the traffic laws, don't speed, don't try to beat yellow lights, stop a full three seconds at stop signs and above all-- don't drive intoxicated.

If you do get pulled over, you must surrender your driver's license. Driving is a privilege granted by the State, not a right. You are required to give your date of birth and in some

jurisdictions, your social security number. In any situation where a police officer has reasonable suspicion, and you are asked to provide identification, you must do so.

Do not argue, raise your voice or threaten an officer. If he does not approve of your lifestyle, the easiest way for him to cause trouble for you is to arrest you for disturbing the peace and/or resisting arrest.

If you are being written a citation, many forms include your place of employment. You are not required to give this information, it is there to help the police locate you if they feel it is necessary. You may answer this question self-employed, or unemployed. Be aware that if you have gotten a previous traffic ticket while not dressed, and your place of employment was on that ticket, it is now public knowledge which the police in the jurisdiction the ticket was issued have access.

It is against the law in both Ohio and Kentucky to enter a bathroom marked for the opposite sex. This can be extended to dressing rooms if your presence is undesired. Again, disturbing the peace is cause enough for an unsympathetic officer to arrest you.

Finally, avoid places where prostitutes hang out. Most police officers assume that a man dressed as a woman in that kind of situation is there for only one reason-- and they will hassle you.

A side note on Covington's ordinance. The officer I spoke to is familiar with several Covington officers. He said that ordinance is in place to give Covington an added punch against she-male prostitutes to get them off the streets (if they can find no other excuse to do so) and also to prevent men from dancing in the girlie bars as women (kind of a consumer protection against misrepresentation). I was told that chance of being arrested simply for driving through Covington while dressed is almost zero, even if you are dressed while stopped for a driving violation.

Transsexuals Issues: The Medical Profession

by Heather Peerson

About a year ago I had a day which was filled with appointments. I dressed as Heather, which I was not doing full time then, and started

off to the first which was my dentist. They had never seen me as Heather. When I registered I signed under my male name then put Heather behind it. The receptionist checked the book and said "Heather please come with me." The dentist was off that day, but the receptionists and hygienist in the office treated with respect all the time I was there. He has since retired and I now see another dentist who's office personnel also treated me the same way.

From there I went to see the person who was my hair dresser at that time. He knew about my dressing but had never seen me that way. While he admitted it was a little hard to get used to he said he had no problem with it.

Later that day I had to go to a neurologist. This guy charges \$150 for the first visit. He had a staff of about 6 nurses and two receptionists. From the moment I walked in I received stares and snickers. While I sat in the waiting room each nurse slowly walked by and looked. When I saw the doctor he asked me some questions and admitted that he had never treated or met a transsexual before.

Why do I bring all of this up now? It has occurred to me that one of the worst enemies of the transsexual is some of the medical professionals. These are people who, even though they may not have dealt with a TS before, should be trained to treat any type of patient with respect. Yet many of them do not. Their attitude is reflected in a large percentage of the medical profession.

Some months ago, Larry King had a show about female to male transsexuals. One of his guests was a doctor from New York who is also a lawyer. He is trying to get all transsexual surgery stopped on the grounds that it is dangerous, elective and is not a cure for a psychological illness.

In a New York court case in which a male to female TS filed a petition to get a birth certificate changed so that she could get a marriage license, the board of health asked the New York Academy Of Medicine to make a recommendation. Their finding was:

1. Male to female transsexuals are still chromosomally males while ostensibly female;

2. It is questionable whether laws and records such as the birth certificate should be changed and thereby used as a means to help psychologically ill persons in their social adaptation.

With this type of attitude still so prevalent in

the medical community is it any wonder that the congress and courts are reluctant to grant us our rights or that we may be treated poorly by persons who call themselves medical professionals?

I recently had a conversation with a friend who works in one of the mental health clinics here. She told me that while they do have a policy about treating gay and lesbian clients with respect and dignity they do not have such a policy for gay and lesbian staff and employees, therefore many of the gays and lesbians who work there are afraid to come out of the closet. I question how anyone can help people have dignity and pride about themselves when they are also placed in a position which strips them of their own dignity and pride. I also would question the ability of the clinic to help me deal with my problems when they seem willing to ignore their own problems.

There are a lot of medical professionals who truly are caring and willing to work with us and treat us with the dignity we deserve. Seek them out. Do not allow yourself to be treated with anything less than respect when dealing with doctors and nurses and refuse to pay any bills incurred from a doctor's office where they have not treated you with respect. It is the only course of action we can take.

In the Greater Cincinnati area, ethical complaints against physicians can be addressed by calling the Academy of Medicine Executive Board at 421-7010. In addition to this, you can follow up by calling the state licensing board for physicians.

--Eds.

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.

Linda's Corner

Last week was ratings week for the television industry. During this time of course, they like to put on shows which will get the most attention. Crossdressing has become one of those topics. It seems that not long ago we never heard much on the subject. Now you can see or hear about it almost every week.

Last week, Heather and I appeared on the Dick Wofsie Show which is shown live in the central Indiana area. It is produced by the NBC affiliate out of Indianapolis. Also appearing with us was Elaine from IXE. Many of you who attend the meetings I'm sure have met her. She and a group of girls from that area have been coming to our meetings every month for some time now. They all plan to come down again on the 16th.

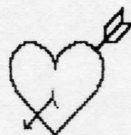
If anyone can remember, we both did his show about three years ago when he was on real late at night on a much smaller local station. Again the time seemed to fly away before we got to say everything we wanted, but we did get some good points across. We already have received a number of calls from many different people.

I will say that appearing on TV is a real ego trip. This time we arrived the night before and the show put us up in the Holiday Inn located in Union Station. Not only is this a very plush hotel, but they even got us one of the best rooms, a converted train car in this case. We had a great time going to dinner in a nearby restaurant and then off to the hotel lounge to relax and sip a few drinks. No one ever suspected a thing and the night reminded me of earlier days when Heather and I use to hang out together all the time. I believe that was way overdue. I really had a good time.

The show really seemed to go well. We hope to get a copy if anyone would like to see it, let us know. We also had a picture taken with Dick, so he can hang it on his wall. We also want to put it in this newsletter. After the show we had lunch with the IXE girls and some of their friends. We bid farewell and went back to the car for the long journey home.

The Washington D.C. Court of Appeals has ruled that a man waving at cars in a high-prostitution neighborhood could not be convicted of soliciting. In a 2-to-1 decision, the court also ruled that the fact the defendant was wearing a matching black jacket, mini-skirt, leotards and a wig was "immaterial." Being in "the 'wrong' place, wearing the 'wrong' clothes and acting in a manner which might be consistent with a desire to engage in a sexual activity cannot form the basis for conviction for solicitation," the judges' opinion said.

In other words, you may dress like a slut, act like a slut, and feel like a slut, but if you're just playing the part (as I assume that's all a good Crossport girl does, and this includes Jennifer) just watch what you say, cause that's what gets ya in trouble.



I.F.G.E. NEWS

With the Convention getting closer by the day, I am receiving some very nice pamphlets which I can send to anyone who is interested in attending this week long extravaganza.

There is of course the "Program Schedule" which everyone should have received last month. Along with this is pink fold out pamphlet which talks about the other things you need to know.

The pink pamphlet sums up just what you might expect if you should come. There is a letter from Merissa Sherrill Lynn talking about objectives the convention is trying to achieve.

It talks about the Code of Conduct which is expected of all the girls (dressed or not) while attending.

It gives you the information you need to get an accommodation at the San Franciscan Hotel. This is where all the meetings take place, and most everything else. I strongly recommend one stay here because it's so nice to go back in your room when you get tired, or you may just want to change into your 3rd or 4th outfit for the day, like some girls do. It also is in walking distance of many places to shop, eat, and night life. It has been completely refurbished and the sleeping rooms are excellent. The hotel knows who we are, and is looking forward to hosting our convention. A discounted convention rate of \$50 Single/\$60 Double will be honored if you mention the Convention.

Air travel arrangements have been made through United Airlines. A special discount is available and details are included with the registration acknowledgement.

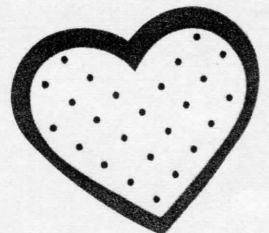
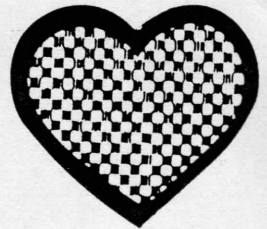
Another pamphlet we have (white) is directed for Psychiatrists, Psychologists, Counselors, and Therapists. This tells them just what to expect and how to register for the Convention. If you currently have contact with someone like this and you would like them to know about the convention just let us know.

The orange pamphlet talks about the extra little programs you might want to attend while at the convention. (At an additional cost.) This includes such things as Scarf Tying, facial lift, and learning to accept your self.

The cream colored pamphlet talks about IFGE in general. It speaks about its purpose, history, membership, publications, speakers bureau, library, and its research and educational projects.

The black pamphlet tells you how to get back at a talk show host like Morton Downey Jr., with out being charged with murder.

If any of the above pamphlets I have described above are desired, you can contact us here at Crossport, or you may write to I.F.G.E., Post Office Box 367, Wayland, Ma. 01778, or call them at (617) 894-8340.



TV Lover

by Linda

