Cross-Port InnerView

2020 B BEECHMONT AVE. BOX 150

CINCINNATI OHIO 45230

Vol. 2 No. 2 A GGA Chapter February 1986

NEXT MEETING February 20 AT 6:30

Cross-Port Basics

The January meeting kicked off the New Year with fifteen people in attendance. We welcomed Bob and Cindy for the first time. For Cindy, it was also her first time out in front of others and she seemed to be enjoying every minute.

On the business side we discussed the news-letter, InnerView. A letter was sent to our advertisers in the classified section along with a copy of the January issue of InnerView. The letter said that all ads for January were free and quoted prices for continuing the ads for 6 months and 1 year. So far I have received no replies, even though we have sent business to all of them. At this point I have decided not to continue the Classified Page. The average cost of that one page is $96 per year and I don't feel we should carry the cost for free advertising. We will continue to mention new places as we find out about them in "Girl Talk" and "Around Town" on a one time basis.

Fun Fashions is scheduled for the March meeting. They will have a display of lingerie and other bedroom items. Items can be tried on and orders will be taken in private. They have many items up to size 3x (XXX-Large). This will be your chance to buy many of those things you always wanted but didn't have the nerve to ask for.

Discussions focused on electrolysis and hormones and their good and bad points. The meeting ended around 10:30 with some of the people heading to the "Subway" and others to "The Islands". Thanks once again to everyone who could make it.

Telling The Kids

By Linda B.

One of the hardest questions raised as a TV with kids is should they be told. I suppose there are many of you who have children so I thought I would tell you how I viewed the situation. I realize that what works for one may not be right for another but it may give you a place to start.

For those of you who have never met me, I have been married for 11 years and I have three children. They are a boy 8, a girl 5, and a girl 10 months. I am 34 and I have dressed as long as I can remember. My wife found out just before we were married, and I have become a very contented cross-dresser since I can dress around the house.

When my first child came along, my wife told me that she never wanted me to dress in front of the kids. I on the other hand suddenly felt trapped. I was finally feeling like I would not have to sneak around, (although I never dressed much in my wives presence) and now I was supposed to go back into hiding. There are people who tell me that their family knows nothing about their dressing, but I have always believed that no matter how secretive you try to be, somewhere along the line, the kids are going to suspect something.

I decided, from the beginning, that I wanted my kids to know the real me, even if it seemed a little strange to them. Also this would give me peace of mind and relieve those guilt feelings that many of us have. I began dressing in front of them when they were babies. As each one has gotten older they start to realize that what I wear or look like is not the way "Daddy" is supposed to look. They start asking questions and I try to answer them as best as I can. Since I do know other cross-dressers, I show my kids pictures of others, like me and explain that I am not the only one who does this. I do ask them not to talk to their friends about it because not everyone understands. Small children really do understand quite well.

I have read many personal stories where sometimes the kids find out when they get older and they just can't except it. Not all of the endings are sad but I didn't want to take the chance of it happening to me. I also hope that by my children learning to accept me as "Daddy" regardless of how I dress, they will grow up able to accept others in the same way.

The kids knowing has other benefits as well. Sometimes we have a good time making jokes about it and going shopping for Linda. We all when shopping for Linda's last wig, and everyone was trying on wigs. We all had a good time even though the girl in the wig shop thought we were all a bit strange. Times like these are very special to me because of the sharing and the accepting of the whole family.

I do try not to dress all the time around the house, but I quite often wear a few items under my male clothes and once a week I get all dolled up and go out on the town. I feel quite lucky and very happy about my dressing and my family's acceptance of Linda. I don't regret anything about it.

I do hope that I will continue to meet people like those in Cross-Port and that I can further my knowledge of cross-dressing. If anyone would like to talk further about the matter, just come to one of the Cross-Port meetings and we'll discuss it. After all that's what we're all about.

AROUND TOWN

Places to Go

The Dock - at 603 Pete Rose Way (241-5623). Open Friday and Saturday nights. Have dropped dress code. Cross-dressers are welcome.

Side Door Lounge - at 619 Walnut (721-9551) Cross-dressers are Welcome.

Simon Says - at 428 Walnut (381-8196) Cross-dressers are welcome.

Spurs - at 318 E. Eighth St. (721-9007) Says No one is refused.

2601 Club - at 2601 Vine St. (221-3910) Says they've never had any cross-dressers but they didn't see any problems.

Note: The only place that any of us has been to is The Dock. The other places I called and those are the responses I received.

GIRL TALK

One of the joys of being president and editor of the newsletter for a group like Cross-Port is the many letters I receive from all of you. I'm sorry that I can't take time to answer each one even with being unemployed, it would just take to much time. I do try however, to make InnerView as personal as I can so that each of you feels as though It is written just for you. It takes a good deal of time and it is my way of answering all those letters.

Beginning this month I would like to begin to share with others in Cross-Port some of the letters, feelings and comments that you the letter writers have expressed. I will not use any REAL names only the fem names and I may not use all of a given letter. If you are writing and don't want any of your letter in InnerView please say so in the letter. Also I welcome articles you may wish to write. If you have a computer and modem you can send them by phone. Contact me for details.

By the time you read this, some of us should have been on the TV show Night Talk in Indianapolis. I hope to have a tape available at the February meeting for viewing. If I don't get one from the show maybe Betty will bring one with her.

On January 19, there was a benefit "Drag Show" for the organization "Stonewall" held at The Dock. They recently relaxed their dress code and now say that cross-dressers are welcome. While bad weather managed to keep me away, Sharon says it was a Great time and that everyone was super friendly. I'm told they raised over $500.

I'm also told that Jacober's is now only open on Friday and Saturday nights. It seems that's the only time people were going there anyway, but that could change since the Sunday Enquirer had a two page story about them and their shows.

Some of us girls really rang in the New Year at a party at 1470 West in Dayton. While we thought the music was a bit tooloud (we had a table with a speaker over our heads) their was a lively crowd and plenty of food. The

surprise of the night was a special show featuring two live entertainer from the Dayton area. Leah Landis and Loren Gray performed several live numbers to the delight of everyone. (Sorry if the spellings are wrong.) I even removed my ear plugs so I could hear the songs. One of them danced on our table and I managed to get a kiss from the other. Wow, what a night! To me the funny part was that I noticed more Gals in "drag" than Guys that night.

Corrections- Sorry I omitted the copy of the new card in the last issue. I decided at the last minute to swap pages 5 and 6 and when I laid out the pictures there was no room for the card. I also did the news-letter in December even though I said it was 1986 so I forgot to change the Date in the letter head.

Letters to Heather

Dear Heather,

This experience goes back almost 2 years ago, when J and I were married. I told her about myself completely so that our marriage would be based on truth with nothing hidden.

Of course J had never experienced nor had known any thing about TV's, but because of her Love for me - She accepted it. We took it easy at first and it wasn't long before she started to encourage me. That is one of the things I like to hear J say and that is "Oh, You look so nice", and since I have been out of work, I dress most of the time. But there was 1 problem.

When we were married, I knew that I could not dress in front of her 13 yr. old daughter, but thought I could wait until C was on her own before I continued with my own feelings. Of course when C was in school I'd dress and then at 3:00 as she would be coming home, I would change.

Then J, knowing of my feelings (which sometimes there was resentment because I could not be comfortable, but I tried not to show it) told me that we were going to tell C if I wanted to.

Now that was tough! I really don't care what the world thinks, but when it comes to my family - well I want to be accepted. We have so much Love in our family and I didn't want ANYTHING destroying this love.

We called C into the conference room and told her, C said "So, I love 'Dad' and what is the big deal?"

Well this family (although we did not know it could) has become stronger and with more love than can be imagined. C wants to start helping me with make-up etc. With Christmas coming, Mother and daughter went shopping for a dress that I had said I liked and J asked C if she felt funny about buying dresses for Daddy and C said, "No, I think it is fun. Let's buy something we all can wear."...

The point is that through Love and understanding, there is nothing impossible. Yes, I love my family, because they also love me.
Loretta

Dear Loretta,

Thank you for sharing your story with us. We need to here more of the same kind of thing happening in other families and we pray that for those who gain the courage to do what you and J did, the other family members will respond in love as C did.

Dear Heather,

It has been a long time since I have written to express my interest in your organization.... I know that I am still in my infancy as far as getting in touch with my own true self, and am kind of in awe of how mature and self-assured you all are about yourselves. I know I'm not ready yet, perhaps, for what Cross-Port is all about, but reading about it has given me insights and strength. For me joining you is still in the future ... Please keep sending me InnerView. DC

Dear DC,

Thanks for the kind words. I believe you are ready for Cross-Port, because you are the people we exist for. We ourselves are not as self-assured as you might think. If we were, we would not need Cross-Port. I hope you will decide to join us. Our strength lies in people like you.

Dear Heather,

There are many of us who desire to attend group support meetings on a regular basis, but for a variety of reasons cannot or choose not to do so. As one who is in such a position I wish to inform all, that I still regard myself as being present in spirit. I can assure you that my reasons for not attending for the time being are very compelling. I hope someday to be able to attend again.

I also want all to know that there are many ways in which a group such as ours can provide support. Just knowing that the group exist, and being connected with it through the monthly newsletter provides me with a very real and very meaningful support. For many of us "invisible" sisters, please keep up the good work. Lily

Dear Lily,

We in Cross-Port understand that coming to meetings is not always possible or desirable. That is why we ask only that people keep in touch. Write or call to let us know how you are doing. We are here to support eachother and we who do come to the meetings need your support as well. You must also keep in mind however, that if everyone was an "invisible" sister we would not have a group or even a newsletter. So, one of the purposes of Cross-Port and groups like ours is to help you to get to the point where meeting are possible and desirable.

Heather

Bulletin Board

CROSS-PORT'S Meeting schedule for 1986 is Feb 20, Mar 20 (FUN Fashions), Apr 17, May 15, Jun 19, Jul 17, Aug 21, Sep 18, Oct 16, Nov 20, Dec 18
Pajama Party - Postponed

The Paradise Club's Schedule - For 1986 - Feb 15, Apr 19, Jun 14 (Picnic - Rummage Sale), Aug 16 (Guest Speaker), Oct 18 (Meeting & Drag Show), Dec 13 (Christmas Dinner)
Be All You Want To Be Weekend - Jun 5 to Jun 8
Write Paradise Club, PO Box 29564, Parma, OH 44129, Attn: Susan for Prices and Places

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Transpitt's Meeting Schedule is Not available at press time.
Write Transpitt, PO Box 59406, Pittsburg, PA 15211, Attn: Johnnie

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Windy City Chapter's Meeting Schedule. They meet the Third Tuesday of each month at 8:30.
Spring Fling Weekend - May 1 to May 4
Write Windy City Chapter, PO BOX 2312, Chicago, IL 60690, Attn: Sharon Hart

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Joyce Dewhurst's Spring Pocono Fantasy - May 16 to 18. Cost is $189/person and $355 Male/Female Couples. Save $15 if $50 Deposit is Received before Feb. 1.
Write Joyce Dewhurst, 37-50 76th St., Jackson Heights, NY 11372 or call (718) 335-3048

TRI-ESS information Write Carol Beecroft, P.O. Box 194, Tulare, CA, 93275

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