

Cross-Port InnerView

P.O. Box 12701, Cincinnati, OH 45212

The next meeting is December 21 at 8:00

A New View

by Cathy

Christmas time again, a time for all cross-dressers to sneak out of the closet and into the malls to purchase new clothes under the guise of buying "a little something for the wife for Christmas".

At the December Cross-Port meeting, we will again be having our annual "pot-luck" dinner. Please try to bring a snack or appetizer. This has traditionally been the largest meeting of the year for the past several years with 45 people showing up at last year's dinner.

Speaking of dinners, I hope some of you were able to attend the dinner that IXE gave. Since their dinner was on the 15th, and this newsletter was mailed on the 14th, that is why you got your invites to it in your Christmas cards from us.

Last month's meeting was attended by about 35 people as again mother nature dumped several inches of snow and a nasty cold spell on us the day of the meeting. We had a short business meeting and the main decision made was to invite Barb Baily of the Suggestive-Something Boutique back to our February meeting. We also announced that Cross-Port had been unable to get a volunteer to locate a restaurant for a joint Cross-Port/IXE dinner here in Cincinnati. It was then announced that IXE would be having a dinner on their own in Indianapolis so we invited Dana to give us information on that.

We had four new people show up at the last meeting. Welcome to Suzanne from Dayton, Tom from Lima, and Terry from Huntington. Also welcome to Suzanne (a different Suzanne) who came to check things out because the poor girl's stuck dating Jennifer. Of special recognition is

the fact that Jim's twin sister Connie showed up for her second meeting in a row and broke all of her previous attendance records. Congrats. Joining Dana from IXE were Sarah, Kerri and Elizabeth.

People had a good time until about 1:30am, when at least 16 of the girls descended on the local Perkins for food and another hour or so of "girl talk"

Don't forget that your newsletter subscription probably expires with the January issue (look at the upper right hand corner of your mailing label to double-check). To keep getting your *InnerView* without interruption, send us \$18.00 for the next twelve issues. If the name on the check does not match the name we mail the newsletter to, please include your mailing label so we can keep everything straight.

We also are in need of an alternate to attend the Greater Cincinnati Gay/Lesbian Coalition meetings on those dates when Heather can not make it. It doesn't count just to pay your dues, if your group misses three meetings in a row, that's it. They have supported us in the past and have pointed a lot of people seeking support in our direction. Since they are working on getting anti-discrimination laws passed in Cincinnati, it is important to support them in return. It would be nice to get a law passed which protects transsexuals and transvestites as well as gays from discrimination. If you are interested, call Heather at the Cross-Port phone, 851-6174.

Along that line, many of you may have been following the Great Toilet Debate which sprung up after Seattle passed an anti-discrimination law which did include just such verbiage. To further clear(?) the air on this subject, we have an article from Rupert Raj-Gauthier this month on which concerns that very subject.

To those of you who were told by Jennifer that she didn't dress anymore, don't be surprised if you see her at the next meeting because she's back out of the closet again. We went to dinner together to the **Dragon Inn** at the Swifton Commons shopping center this past weekend

As we walked in the door and were waiting to be seated, the girl behind the counter looked at us and said "Are you twins?" Jennifer and I looked at each other and shook our heads no, so she asked "Sisters?". That we decided was definitely acceptable, so we said yes, and the girl nodded knowingly, happy that she was able to recognize the resemblance. It definitely made our evening more entertaining. I was so amused that I even refrained from pointing out to her that Jennifer is the eldest between us.

Jeaninne told me that since I had left out the name of the club she was going to in Louisville from her letter in last month's *InnerView*, that I had not been much of a help. Still, she and Gerri headed down to the **CONNECTION** in Louisville and had a good time anyway. There.

Well, this is the twelfth issue of the *InnerView* with me as editor. It has been an interesting year, and for the most part, *relatively* painless. It really helps that the number of subscriptions keeps climbing. I hope that you all have enjoyed what has been done this last year, and I want to take a moment and thank all of you who have contributed articles in the past year and/or put in time to get the newsletter out. For those of you that I won't see at the December meeting, Season's Greetings and have a Happy New Year.

Observed Mannerisms

by Dana

Reprinted from the IXE newsletter.

Being of the feminine gender means also having feminine mannerisms too. For persons of our gender dysphoric community, feminine mannerisms are something that we all must continually keep in focus, not like real women who were born with *ooootles* of feminine qualities that come to her naturally.

As one who has always analyzed the feminine sex with both wonderment and envy, I have observed a few girlish mannerisms that

persons of the feminine gender enjoy naturally, and have absolutely no problem reflecting their feminine gender via their feminine mannerisms. I wish it were only that easy for the male to female GD person to project the same feminine mannerisms.

One of the mannerisms that I am talking about is opening a door. When a lady opens a heavy door, she will almost always use two hands to open it, while a man will use only one hand. The reason for this fact is that women in general have a lot less upper body strength to pull a door open with, while a man will swing the same door open with zest. Going out the same door, a lady will lean into it, pushing the door open using her whole body while the man will merely push it open with one hand.

Another example of this upper body strength is driving a car. Most ladies will use two hands to control their vehicle, while men will use whatever is handy, usually two fingers or one hand.

While walking is a complete subject all in its self, I just want to comment on just a couple of visual parts of it that I think will make it more difficult to be read. Observation wise, most ladies will walk like they know where they are going and have little time to waste, using shortened feminine length steps. Unexperienced male persons walking in heels for the first time tend to be a little unsteady and walk a tad slower using long strides typical of male persons. Try walking by leading each step with your thighs, using a shortened stride. This may sound a tad simplistic, but this does work for most.

Also, while walking, most women will swing their "free" arm a lot more than male persons. Their arm will swing as much as 100 degrees, while men will barely swing 30 degrees.

My last observation is a little bit silly, but here it is anyway. From which shoulder will most women hang their purse strap? While I was sitting in the K-Mart parking lot one day last summer, I decided to count women who got out of their cars to see which shoulder their purse strap went on as they made their way into K-Mart. Real scientific, isn't it? Anyway, out of 42 women, 40 put their purse on their left shoulder, while only two women used their right shoulder. Muuuummmnn. More right handed ladies that left handed ladies??? Duno. But, I have continued to observe this very one sided phenomenon and the left shoulder continues to outnumber right shoulder by about the same wide margin.

I don't know if any of this information will help any one or not. Maybe?

Transsexual Issues: Coping With the World

By Heather Peerson

Reprinted from the Transsexual Voice.

On one of the radio shows I appeared on, one of the callers stated that I was "totally disgusting and a very sick individual." I needed "a lot of help and should be locked away." Someone listening to a tape of the broadcast later asked me, "How do you keep from letting that kind of person destroy your self-esteem and how do you keep from totally hating society for the way they view you?"

As for the caller, I have come to realize that for each one of them that feels that way about me, there are five people who feel that way about them. I receive more supportive calls than I do non-supportive calls. Many of the supportive people state that to them persons with that kind of attitude are sick and very insecure.

When it comes to hating society, there is very little point in wasting the time or the energy it takes to hate. I was born a transsexual, I did not ask for it but then neither does an alcoholic or a blind person. I did however, have a choice about what I was going to do about it.

I view my choices much like placing a row boat into a rapidly flowing river. I know when I see the river what its direction is and how fast it is going. I can either chose to go with the flow, which is the easy way, and hope I like where ever I end up or I can chose to row against the flow, knowing that it will be hard but that I will end up where I want to be.

I knew the view of society before I made my choice. I may not agree with it or feel it is right but I knew what it was. When I chose to go against it, I was fully aware that it might be a long hard struggle and that there would be many against me but it was my choice, a choice I made for me not for society.

It is not easy for me to wake up knowing that there are people in this world who don't know me but they hate me just because of what I am. But transsexuals are not the only persons who must face that kind of hate. It's just that I

had to face it later in life than some others. It is a comfort to know however, that there are people who are with me and who support me. This is what keeps me from hating.

If I say, "To hell with the world, I don't care what they think," that does not imply that I don't care about people. It only means that I do not need other people's permission to be who I am. I do care about the quality of life for myself and for others and I am constantly striving to improve it. But I can not let my concern for others or their lack of concern for me be a weight on my shoulders. I must try to live my life to its fullest and hope others will do the same.

When finally I look back at my life from the seat of old age and wisdom I am sure the words of Anka, Francoise, Revaux and Thibault will ring true. "Yes there were times, I'm sure you knew, when I bit off more than I could chew. But through it all, when there was doubt, I ate it up and spit it out... the record shows, I took the blows and did it My Way".

Those words reflect the feelings of many people who made the choice to "row" against society, whether they were gay/lesbian, handicapped, women, black, American Indian or transsexual. So instead of hating society, I look at some of the company I am part of and thank God that I live in a country where doing it my way isn't even more difficult.

TEMPEST IN A CHAMBERPOT: A Social Perspective

By Rupert Raj-Gauthier

Perhaps against my better judgement, I am entering the debate on "the toilet issue", employing hopefully a somewhat more objective perspective considering that I am writing as a "social scientist".

Although I would normally say that the Ladies' Room should be the exclusive privy of those legally classified as women (ie. those having a female sex status under the law), I am of the opinion that preoperative male-to-female transsexuals as well as those who think they might be, and are trying to express their feminine selves in public (ie. those transvestites and transgenderists who might later "graduate" to transsexualism, and eventually, cross over the gender border), must also be granted the same

rights to exist in society as those accorded to women. After all, we know that sex and gender is not as cut and dry as we once thought. (Witness the modern-day phenomenon of altering one's physical sex by means of endocrine therapy and surgical intervention.)

My rationale for including cross-dressers who might not go by the handle "transsexual", is that I do not believe that anyone at present (be s/he a medical professional, psychologist, legislator, transsexual or transvestite) can say categorically who is, or who is not a transsexual, given that a percentage of transvestites do go on at some point in their lives (in some cases, well into or even past middle age) to "become" transsexual (with the attendant desire to fully adopt the female role and to have all the bodily parts a woman has).

However, many of these transvestite-cum-transsexuals might not themselves know exactly when their gender conflict becomes "gender dysphoria" (one of the fundamental traits distinguishing the transsexual from the cross-dresser), nor can they really ever predict such a turn of events. (In fact the agonizing uncertainty regarding their "core" gender identity - this wrestling between "Animus" and "Anima", and the accompanying indecisiveness - is known as "gender confusion".) These "Jenny-cum-latelies" are termed "secondary transsexuals" and make up, according to most researchers, the majority of transsexuals - "primaries" being a rare species, indeed. (cf. Steiner, 1985, Ross & Walters, 1987, Docter, 1988.)

Bearing this in mind, do any of us have the right to make absolute diagnoses, or to precisely label any gender conflicted or confused individual as belonging to one class or the other? Remember that even so-called gender "experts" can be misled by this medical mystery, "Gender Dysphoria Syndrome", and can make mistakes in the clinical assessment and/or the medical management of these patients.

Furthermore, I believe that the percentage of cross-dressers who might be sexually motivated or erotically aroused while answering a "call of nature" in a female public convenience are in a minority. For as both JoAnn Roberts and Virginia Prince have pointed out, there is another and equally powerful, incentive to cross-dress. That is, the need to give expression to one's other self or feminine side - the yin element of the whole person.

Given the above, perhaps we could all make a concerted effort to try to be fair in our dealings with one another, whether TV, TG or TS. We are, after all is said and done, every one

of us a "child of the universe with a right to be here."

From Our Readers

Dear Cross-Port-ettes,

Hi. Hello. I just finished reading the latest *InnerView*. It was Ok. Why am I writing... oh just to share some thoughts and experiences.

Several weeks ago a sister came down from up north to talk to me and another sister "Renee", about starting a group here (in WV). It's been 8-9 weeks since that meeting. Oh well. Anyway because of that meeting and because it was Halloween, I decided to eradicate a major obstacle to me dressing up. I shaved my moustache.

I guess I only kept a moustache for the past couple of years as protection of sorts. I mean if someone found my femme clothes I thought I could deny my other self by pointing out the moustache. Plus the moustache may have been a way to deny my true self to me?

Nah. I mean I've always known I wanted to dress up. I now am wearing black hose, black leather miniskirt and a pink sweater. Very cute outfit. I can remember being in the 6th grade thinking that girls had neater clothes. By the time I made it into the 11th grade I was just a big bunch of envy. Even now, as always, I will envy girls' freedom. At least now I've some clothes of my own to wear.

But, when I get to wear what I want I have to stay put. I mean that now I could not get a drink of water, use the bathroom, or even talk to someone without changing my clothes. That is why I rarely dress up, because it is a pain to be locked down. I mean what do people find so repulsive about cross-dressers?

On one day of my Thanksgiving vacation I happened to catch "Sally" and the subject was cross-dressing. I watched about the last 35 minutes of the show. I wish in a way it did not air because whoever edited the show together had a poor view of cross-dressers. Of the comments from the audience, most were negative. One woman got up and said something to the effect "I know it's not your fault, but I think there should be a law to keep you inside." Eeek what a bad thought. She went on to say that she did not want her kids to be harmed from seeing a cross-

dresser. What harm? I mean let's worry about Freddy Kruger who happens to be fave among 10-14 year olds. Viewing a CD verses having children whose idols are movie born incarnations of Satan?

That is not really a good one-to-one comparison, bet let's get things in perspective people. A kid seeing a guy in a dress, so what? That is nothing people should worry about compared to drugs, sex in movies, parent and coaches obsessed with sports, and MTV. I like MTV every now and then, but lets face it -- there is some weird stuff on that station. I know I am mainly "preaching to the saved" so to say, but maybe this will fall into the hands of an unbeliever.

Ok. Time to shift back to mid-October. I was in Charleston (WV) for business, but had time to go to the Town Center. I first made my way to the 3rd floor to munch on some Greek food, but decided on Pizza instead. Well it was now time to window shop. I then got on the elevator and went down to 2. The doors opened and there was my fave store Parklane. Tons and tons of neat dancewear and performance wear.

Something snapped and I walked in and mumbled I wanted to buy a unitard. The lady working was not surprised and started to ring it up. Then I lost my mind, in a way, and asked to try it on. I'd really hate to spend 25 dollars and drive home two hours away to find it did not fit. Anyway I did ask her, and she let me try it on. It did not fit, but since I'd gone this far I wanted to get something, so I asked her to show me what else she had. She was not helpful, but she let me try on all the skirts and leotards I picked out. She kept looking at me as if I'd lost my mind. Oh well. I ended up buying a basic black leotard and matching tights. I wore these out of the store under my male clothes. It was a fun shopping trip. My first to try on anything in a store, although no one has yet seen Tabetha.

Anyway now that I've run out of things to say (not to mention I am out of paper), I will close this letter, file the *InnerView*, and put Tabetha's things back under lock and key.

Colorfully --

Tabetha

A heck of a letter, Tabetha, definitely the longest seen to date (although Laurie tells me girls don't say things like "heck of a"). Thanks for taking the time. I saw the last 5-10 minutes of the same television show. It had several cross-dressers who had only come out after they were in their 60's. There was definitely a strong

negative reaction from the crowd when the "Which bathroom do you use" question came up, and one of the cross-dressers answered that they usually would use the facility for which they were dressed.

I also have had difficulty understanding why some people are so anti-cross-dressing. The best thing I can come up with is that most people in this country seem to be really uneasy about sex and sexuality. You even mentioned sex in movies as something to worry about yourself. Violence people think they can handle, but not sex. Most are unable and/or unwilling to make a distinction between sex and gender. In addition to, and maybe partially because of this, cross-dressing is also related by these people to homosexuality. Let's face it, the "Men do manly things, good ol' US of A" has never been very receptive to gays either. If it makes you feel any better, I don't find anything repulsive about cross-dressing, so that makes at least two of us.

If possible, could you help us get in touch with the "sister from up north"? We may be able to help each other get something going club-wise in West Virginia. 'Til then, if you are limited to traveling only on weekends, try writing The Crystal Club, P.O. Box 287, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068-0271. They meet on Saturdays in Columbus, OH. Their next meetings will be on January 6 and January 27.

Take care --

Cathy

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.

Our January meeting will be held Thursday the 18th at 8pm -- plan now!

Build your own resource library.

BODYSHOCK: The Truth about Changing Sex by Liz Hodgkinson - \$18.00

GENDER NETWORKER newsletter (two 1988 issues) by Rupert Raj - \$6.66

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Linda's Corner

With Christmas just a week away, and New Years around the bend, I look back over all the things Linda has done in the past year.

I've flown dressed to San Francisco and lived for 7 full days at the IFGE Convention. Went everywhere and did everything imaginable while there.

I went down to Atlanta and spent several nights out on the town, going to dinner, and dancing until 5 am. with friends I had met at the BE ALL WEEKEND the year before.

I visited Indianapolis on several occasions, to see friends and party. One of those times, is when Heather and myself were on an hour long, live, television show. We came up the night before, and stayed in a \$140 a night converted train car, and were treated like Queens. (?)

I attended church dressed, and then went out for dinner.

I went to a very expensive store down town and tried on several fur coats with the help of the salesman.

I attended the BE ALL WEEKEND for the fourth year in a row.

I visited LA in the summer and went to many of the night spots, and got the chance to meet many TVs, shemales, and TSs that are quite well known in national magazines.

And lastly, I got to meet many new faces from all over this country, who I now call friends, and hope to share many moments in the future.

I know this may sound like a lot to some of you, but it just goes to show, there's plenty of new adventures awaiting you, if you just make up your mind to enjoy your feminine side whenever you can. I realize how hard it is to venture out into the world. Did you know I still feel knots in my stomach before walking out the door? The only difference now, is, they go away quicker. But still, because I only go out one or two times a month, I still enjoy the thrill of dressing and the anticipation of the night ahead.

I'm sure that everyone who reads this

has also experienced some new first times, this year. It may be just the fact that you came upon the group, or attended your first meeting. Whatever the case, I urge you to take it one step at a time, and always try to proceed in a forward direction.

It's been about 15 years since I first came out, and it took many years of practice, to perfect my overall looks and confidence. It took even longer to obtain acceptance and support of my family, which is a never ending project. But as you see, I'm still learning about life, and obviously enjoying it every chance I get. I guess the reason I stick with groups like Crossport and IFGE, is because I would love to see everyone be as happy with themselves as I am.



With Christmas a few days away, I still need to get my wife a present. Every year, my mind races as I try to think of something I can surprise her with, that I know that she'll like.

For her, its very simple, if she buys me something for my fem-self, she knows I'll love it. Actually its more than a gift. She knows, that I know, she would prefer me not to dress around the house all the time, (or not at all) but she also knows that my feminine side is very important to me. It's part of me, and it's something I can't let go. I could try to depress these feelings, but they will never go away. She can read me like a book. If I am dressed in one form or another, she knows I'm happy with myself and my surroundings.

So when gift giving time comes around this Christmas, I know most of the gifts will be "Linda" gifts, because that's what makes me happy, and she loves me very much.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY
NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE

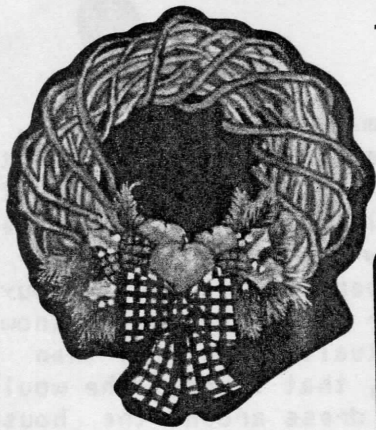




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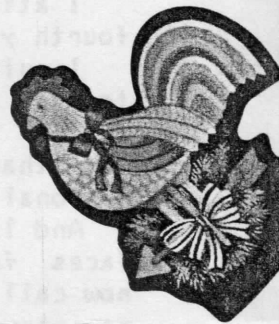


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