

Cross-Port InnerView

2020 BEECHMONT AVE BOX 150
CINCINNATI OHIO 45230

Vol. 4 No. 10

The Next Meeting Is
October 20 at 7:30

October 1988

CAN WE TALK!

by Heather Peerson

I have returned from the west and what a trip it was. Traveling west on I-40 Alice and I stopped at the Petrified Forest/Painted Desert, Grand Canyon and Meteor Crater on our way to Santa Barbara. We spent 4 days in Santa Barbara and the L.A. area visiting Robin. One of the Days we drove down to L.A. to see Hollywood Blvd. and take the Universal Studio tour. It was 120 degrees.

Next we drove up the coast highway toward San Francisco and 60 degree weather. We cut inland in order to drive through Redwood State Park. In San Francisco we saw Fisherman's Warf, Pier 39 and had dinner with our old friend Sarah. I managed to talk with some of the ETVC people but we were pressed for time so we didn't get to see them.

From there we headed for the sunny, 80 degree temperatures of Seattle by way of Lassen Volcano National Park. We zipped right through Portland and arrived in Seattle on Friday Night. We spent Saturday seeing the Science Center, Laser Show and Space Needle. Sunday we visited with Janice of the Emerald City group. She took us to an open house at Jason's, one of the councilors with the Ingersol Clinic.

Janice gave me a copy of Seattle's open housing ordinance which makes discrimination because of sexual orientation against the law. In that law, transsexualism and transvestism are listed as part of sexual orientation. Every city needs a law like that.

We parted Seattle on Monday. In Montana near Butte it had snowed the day before and it was about 40 degrees. Stopping briefly at Mt. Rushmore and the Badlands we arrived home Wednesday night, in plenty of time for the Thursday Cross-Port meeting.

Ok, so why did I spent so much time telling you about my travels in a newsletter about crossdressing? One, simply because we are involved in the crossdressing world, we should not make it our only subject of interest. Two, to let you know that I am making progress toward becoming comfortable as Heather. And three, to let you see that we had no trouble making our way across this land as two woman traveling.

My thanks to everyone who helped to get the InnerView out last month especially Linda. She is on her way to becoming a good president. (Hint, Hint) I knew I was writing early but I didn't realize how early. Just about every date I gave was over by the time you got the newsletter. Sorry about that!

You can also tell what I've been doing since I've returned, writing. It would seem that either no one else has anything to say or they don't have the time to say it. In either case "you all" get to hear from me, me, me and Linda this month.

Heather

Reasons Within

By Heather Peerson

I wanted to make a comment about part of the subject matter of last month's cartoon which appeared in InnerView. The cartoon depicted a crossdresser who had presumably stolen some women's clothing from a laundry line. It certainly was not meant to condone such actions, however it does show an area of crossdressing which does hurt others and should try to be understood.

Many crossdresser's, especially in their teenage years, do steal clothing from various

places. Their fear of being discovered is so great that they take to stealing clothing rather than risking being embarrassed by buying them. But the stealing can often have other underlying reasons as well, especially when it is an older person doing the stealing.

If the items are being taken from a woman such as in the case of laundry lines, laundry rooms, apartments and homes, the crossdresser many times does not even know the person whose clothes they have stolen. They are not out to get, rape or sexually abuse the woman. Quit often they are simply trying to share their crossdressing with the rest of the world. Deep within they would like to be "caught". This desire to be "caught" is expressed in many of the fantasy stories which appear in the crossdressing magazines. The story usually goes something like, "...she caught me looking through her clothes. Her friend and her then forced me to wear...".

The idea's of "caught" and "forced" run heavily throughout crossdressing literature. I believe that the desire to be "caught" is an expression of a crossdresser's desire to own-up-to and confront the crossdressing. To bring it forth in the world and to make it a real part of one's life. Their own fears and social pressures seem to make this impossible so they fantasize about it. These fantasies can take a creative form such as the writings or can be destructive such as the stealing.

Being "forced" to crossdress, I feel, expresses this desire still further. In all of the fictional stories I have read where being "forced" to dress is a theme, the "victim" is never forced to do something they really did not want to do already, or that they did not end up liking in the end. The stories never end with the "new female" killing themselves or even seeking therapy because they can not accept their "forced" condition. For a good percentage of crossdressers, their inability to accept the consequences of going public, and/or their lack of knowledge about how to do so, and/or the lack of support they would receive, all contribute to the fantasy of being "forced" to crossdress. If they are "forced" to crossdress then they can not be held responsible for their actions.

In both instances, the crossdresser is expressing a need for help, from outside of themselves, in dealing with their feelings. But help seldom comes unless one asks for it, and asking for help involves going public (even if it is to one person) and going public is the

thing which is most feared.

The reality of being "caught" and being "forced" is seldom what is fantasized. If one is caught stealing clothing help may come as part being forced by a court order and a probationary sentence to seek it, but it is a hard and expensive way to receive help. Being "forced" to dress could also prove hard to take since being forced to do something really means that you did not want to do it or that you were not ready to do it. Talk to one of the many women who are raped every year about what being "forced" is really like. Ask them if they ended up liking what happened. Find out why they may spend years in therapy trying to deal with the nightmare which occurred to them.

In our society coming out of the closet can be hard and painful. It takes courage and help, but it is far less painful than being caught stealing clothes or the guilt which arises from the stealing. I know, I have experienced both.

Transsexual Issues Seeing the Past Through the Future By Heather Pearson

Recently I appeared on another radio program. Some of the questions I was asked I have been reflecting on ever since. I would like to share some of those reflections with you.

I was asked if it would not be easier for me to just pack up, move and start a new life as a woman where no one knew my past. For many this is the best way to go and I applaud those who can do it. However, my search for myself, who I am and where I am headed has been a long hard one. Granted my overall life before I began living as Heather was unhappy, but there were many good times. Times I cherish and do not wish to "give up". I also have people who were friends and who I would like to continue to see and know. Some of them may not understand or ever be able to accept me as a female but I do find they are willing to accept be in the role of a woman and continue to treat me with respect. I also feel that I have spent most of my life hiding what I am. I do not wish to spend the rest of my life hiding who I was. It takes too much energy away from the real task of building a life as a woman with a purpose.

That leads to another question I was asked, "What are my goals?" It is not enough to say I want to live my life as a woman, I must be able to say what kind of life I expect to live as a woman. Do I want to work and continue my career or do I hope to become a homemaker? Either may be desirable but one may not be realistic. The odds of a woman finding a husband diminish greatly as her age increases. Those odds will be even greater for a transsexual woman if she chooses to be open about her past with her intended husband. Because few of us were lucky enough to be raised as woman, most of us do not view the future from a woman's point of view. Add to that the fact that for many the only goal they have ever set for themselves is having surgery and we find a person who once they begin living their new life finds it has no purpose. We must learn to adjust our dreams and goals to fit our new life.

In the book, "The Uninvited Dilemma" Kim Stuart stresses that surgery for the transsexual should be a "last resort". This is not to say that it should not remain important but it should always be remembered that surgery does not make the woman it only completes the process. The main part of this process is building a life. A life that has a future and a past. Have you ever heard an elderly person say how fast time seems to go? Think about why. When you are young much of your time is spent looking ahead. Ahead to when you start school, ahead to when you can drive, ahead to when to get out of school, ahead to when you have a good career, ahead to when you settle down... There is no slower time then the time we spend looking ahead. It seems it will never get here. But as you get older more and more time is spent looking back. Back to the day you started school, back to the day you first drove... and it doesn't seem so long ago.

As we grow older memories become more important yet I am amazed at how many transsexuals spend so much of their time worrying about surgery that they fail to take the time to build memories. Since June, when I first began full time cross living, I have been to amusement parks, concerts, on trips, on dates and on job interviews. All of these are Heather's memories. Some of them are things Heather should have done while growing up as Heather but couldn't because there was no Heather. By doing them now I am able to blend my new memories with my old. This allows me to remember my childhood in a Heather sort of way and helps to broaden the reality of my

womanhood. It is this past which I will look back on with fond memories when I am old and it is this past which I do not wish to give up.

Someday, maybe the world will accept a person for who they are without requiring them to change and be like everyone else. Until then, moving and starting a new life remains the only answer for some, but for me, my struggle to be a woman requires that I also be a complete person. A woman with a future and a woman with a past.



Publication Notice

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Cross-Port is a not-for-profit support group which meets solely for the support of crossdressers, transsexuals and their family and friends

For Every Woman

For every woman who is tired of acting weak when
she knows she is strong,
There is a man who is tired of appearing strong
when he feels vulnerable;

For every woman who is tired of acting dumb,
There is a man who is burdened
with the constant expectation of "knowing
everything";

For every woman who is tired of being called
"an emotional female,"
There is a man who is denied the right to weep
and to be gentle;

For every woman who is called unfeminine
when she competes,
There is a man for whom competition is the only
way to prove his masculinity;

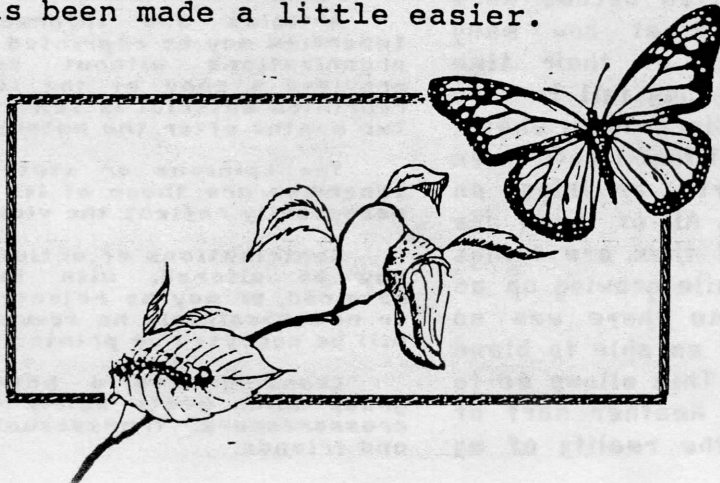
For every woman who is tired of being a sex
object,
There is a man who must worry about his potency;

For every woman who feels "tied down" by her
children,
There is a man who is denied the full pleasures of
shared parenthood;

For every woman who is denied meaningful
employment or equal pay,
There is a man who must bear full financial
responsibility for another human being;

For every woman who was not taught the intricacies
of an automobile,
There is a man who was not taught
the satisfaction of cooking;

For every woman who takes a step toward her own
liberation,
There is a man who finds the way to freedom
has been made a little easier.



Nancy R. Smith

Shoe News

I have had many people ask me lately where they can buy some larger size shoes. Well of course there are the local stores like Payless and Picway which usually carry a fair selection of size 11 & 12. Since each store works off of supply and demand, they stock what they sell the most of.

For some reason black women in this area have large feet. You will always find that the shoe stores in areas where they shop and live will have the larger sizes.

Don't forget places like Penney's Catalog. Almost every style they sell now has a size 11, and many with size 12.

Actually I was writing this article to tell you where one could buy extra large shoes. I'm afraid I don't know any place local that sells sizes 13 & 14. If there is, I'm sure no respectable TV would be caught dead in them.

We must go to the mail order catalogs of which one of their prime customers are the TV's. In fact all the places I mention here carry shoes to size 14, and most are sexy and fun to wear. Most are priced between 35-65 dollars. That may seem high, but many times they are selling good leather shoes. You find that most stores that cater to TV's will usually try to please their customers. Many TV's are really into their fem clothes and are willing to spend big time money, so most stores are looking for return business.

Of all the places I mention here, I have either done business with or known someone who has.

Lee's Mardi Gras Ent., Inc.
P.O. Box 843
New York, New York 10108
(they carry about 25 styles)

Little Max's Shoes Dept. E
1536 W. Chicago Ave.
Chicago, Ill. 60622
312-421-8435

(This is an actual woman's shoe store that wants our business. I went in there with my kids (as a male) and tried on a few styles. The people were extremely nice and gave me one of their catalogs.)

Versatile Fashions
P.O. 1051
Tustin, Ca. 92681
714-534-1490

(I've been told they have nice shoes, but I personally have never had contact with them. I do plan to visit there store next summer.)

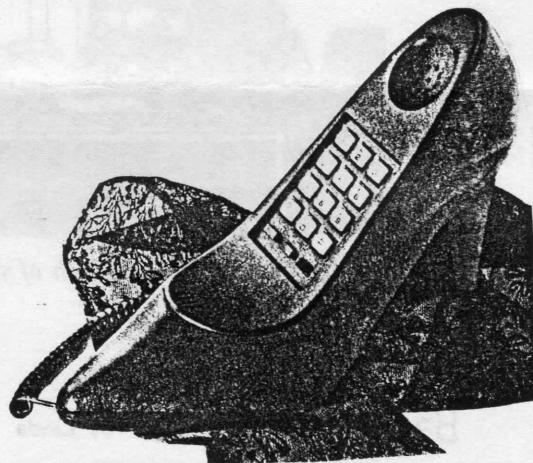
Vernon's
386 Moody St.
Waltham, Ma. 02154
617-894-1744
(Smaller selection but nice shoes.)

Even in the Frederick's of Hollywood's new Christmas Catalog, you will find extra sexy shoes in larger sizes. They use to only carry one or two styles in a size over 10. They now have 11 styles that go size 13. And two others to size 12. Unfortunately they only carry a medium width. But many men find if they buy the next size larger they will fit. Especially if the shoe is made of leather, since it stretches to your

foot size. Also if you order from them and if it doesn't fit, no questions asked, they will take the shoes back and refund your money. I know this from experience.

It seems like it was just as few short years ago and you couldn't find any shoes at all to fit. Now everyone seems to want to get a share of the market.

If you would rather wear your pumps on your ears, then I got just what you are looking for. There's now the High-heeled phone. Its available from the "Sharper Image", through their catalog or one of their stores. Their Address is , 650 Davis St., San Francisco, Ca. 94111. It's got a glossy red finish with a stylish 4" heel, and sells for about \$35.



Bits & Pieces

Make sure you pay attention to the TV nightclub sequence in the new Eddie Murphy movie "Coming to America"

Also look for the new ISUZU (car) commerial. I see some models now come with a TV.

A friend was on jury duty recently, and while the group waited for the lawyers, the Judge told them some stories about the weird people who come before the bench. His best stories were his He-she encounters.





"First, which of you is Mr. Marshbanks?"

Bad Luck

by Linda

