

Cross-Port InnerView

2020 B BEECHMONT AVE . BOX 150
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45230

Vol.3 No.10 For The Crossdresser October 1987

Next Meeting October 15th At 7:30 **CROSS-PORT BASICS**

The September Cross-Port meeting was really hot. We saw a number of new faces as the entire fire department arrived to put out a small electrical fire which had broken out. We thank them for coming to our rescue and hope we don't need to see them again.

There were 19 people present for the evening which was cut short about 10:15 because of the fire. I do thank everyone who took the time to show up and hope that the added excitement will not keep any of you away in the future.

The main order of business for the evening was a decision on where our future meetings would be held. There was a lengthy discussion about the pros and cons of both continuing where we have been meeting and moving the meetings to 1470.

Almost everyone agreed that the Dayton location may be more conducive for meetings, but the fear that fewer people might show up for those meeting because of the longer drive seemed to be an over riding concern. A majority vote decided to remain at our current location.

We thank Bob and the others at 1470 West for their gracious offer and hope they will remain open to the possibility of our meeting there in the future.

THE TV'S WIFE

By Heather Peerson

I was given a paper some months ago by the wife of one of our members titled "Women Married to Transvestites: Problems and Adjustments". It was written in 1986 by "Thomas Weinberg and Vern Bullough". Each month since, I have wanted to write something about that report but both time and space have prohibited it. Well, here is the space, and now is the time.

It is a research paper involving about 70 wives of transvestites. The ranges of age, length of marriage and the degree of crossdressing vary greatly among those who have participated in the study, however, some common facts seem to come out.

To me, the first and most important fact is that the longer into the marriage that the wife found out about the husbands crossdressing, the harder and less likely she was to

accept it. Wives who found out later well into the marriage generally felt betrayed, deceived, and a degree of guilt.

When then is the best time to tell a wife? The most obvious answer to me is, before she is your wife. Entering a marriage and staying in it is difficult enough without entering with this kind of secret hidden from the other. Unfortunately, most men don't find this out, don't realize the importance of their crossdressing, or are not willing to risk losing the woman they love for it until their second or third marriage. Even so, telling before the marriage and her acceptance does not guaranty a happy long lasting marriage. It only makes one less obstacle the couple will have to face and over come later in life.

What about those who are already married and their wives don't know? How and when can/should they be told? In the end only you can make that decision. I can only share my feeling about it.

First, should she be told? I believe each person in a marriage has the right of full disclosure. I have often heard "What she don't know, won't hurt me". That simply is not so. A secret of this magnitude kept from some one so close can become the corner stone of a communications barrier. Not only can it build resentment in the person unable to share an important part of themselves, but it can breed the feeling that as long as I am keeping one secret what's one more. Soon there can be more secrets kept than there are things shared. Secrets, can be like parking ticket, the longer they are kept, the greater the penalty.

Second, how do I tell her? If you already have lines of communications built in your marriage the "How" part will be easier. I suggest the first step is preparation. Get books and other information, especially articles and letters from other wives of crossdressers. Read them yourself and have them ready should the occasion arise. Don't slant the information by getting only totally positive views. A person is more likely to identify with a letter in which the person writing speaks of problems to which the reader can relate. Your wife is more likely to feel that the woman who wrote the letter actually experienced the same thing she did. Second, look for opportunities. Watch for radio and television shows, and newspaper and magazine articles that talk about the problem. Use this chance to state your feeling that you don't see why these people should not be permitted to do what they do. LISTEN to her reaction to the show and to your comments. Get a feel for where she is and what you might be up against.

Have a picture in which you look your best, ready. This will allow you to present yourself without worry about how well you did your make-up and without breaking the conversation. It also affords her the ability to continue to talk to you without seeing you dressed should she find it more than she can handle. Under no means should you rush in and dress just to show her or suddenly surprise her by being dressed when she comes home.

Lastly, have another crossdresser and his supportive wife on call. There are a number of places that you can line up this kind of support and be ready to have them help out. This is a good idea even if you don't plan to tell your wife. She still could find out at any time.

Only you can determine the right time, but being prepared can help make a difference in her final acceptance. In the cases studied only 3% of the wives were given literature to read before they were told. It is not surprising that the most common reactions were confusion, surprise and shock.

Next month I'll take a look at some of the other findings of this study.

CAN WE TALK!

By Heather Peerson

The month has only just begun and already it has been a full one. I received a call from a very good friend on Wednesday September 30, telling me that one of the local radio talk show host had requested that if any TV's were listening they should call in. I called and talked to the program director who said they would call me back. He called back within two hours and asked if I would be a guest on the show the following day from 4:00 until 5:45 p.m. I agreed.

I must admit that I had never listened to the show since I don't listen to talk shows as a rule. When I mentioned the appearance to my wife and a couple of other friends they said I might be in for a very rough time. It seems the two people that do the show are known for their attacking of guest that they disagree with. A friend, Kim, offered to go along and give me support.

We arrived at the station about 10 minutes before 4:00 and to my surprise we did not meet with any one before I went on the air. While the news was on at 4:00 they took us to the broadcast booth where we met Jim and Baily, the male and female hosts of the show.

They seemed pleasantly surprised at meeting me and made several nice comments about the somewhat "Prepie" outfit I was wearing. I had decided to wear a denim skirt, white blouse, a pink and white sweater, and gray boots. One of the staff remarked later, that when she heard I was coming dressed she had expected me to show up in lingerie.

The comment was made on the air that I looked like the average, ordinary woman. I took that as a complement. It was a call in show and the male host stumbled around for words when asked if he would go out with me if he weren't married, by one of the callers. I bailed him out by stating that I would not be interested in him anyway.

When Jim, finally asked the "All Important" which bathroom question, I told him I had bet someone \$5 that the question would come up and \$10 that he would ask it.

By the time the show was over, fifteen minutes longer than they had originally stated, they seemed genuinely impressed with me as a guest and my ability to have a sense of humor about what I was doing. They asked if I would be willing to return sometime. Naturally, I said any time.

The second thing that occurred was a request from a friend, that I do computer work for, to consider working part time on a more regular basis. Since the first of the year I have only had to do a about 10 hours of work for him. He needs someone to work a couple of nights a week.

He knows about Heather, so I told him I was interested but that for me to give up that much of my own time I would need to be able to work my way, as Heather. I explained that I would not be hurt or have a problem with his saying that he could not handle that. I understood, it is his business and he must look out for his interest. He said he did not have a problem with it. How I worked was my business. So Heather finds she now has a part time job, and so do I.

That brings me to my next comment. Working the new job will require even more of the time I have been spending for Cross-Port. I have stated that I will not be able to continue with my same level of involvement after the first of the year. To date, no one person or group of persons has expressed an interest in taking over. When the group began two and a half years ago. A steering committee was formed to set the group in a growing direction. The committee consisted of a Chairwoman (me), a secretary, a treasurer, and a vice chairwoman in charge of membership. Though I am the only original person still with the group and on the committee, the committee survives.

One year under a steering committee is a long time for a group, much less, two and a half years. The group is established. We have a sizable treasury for a small group and about 40 paid members. It is time to decide whether we are a group or not. We should have by-laws, election of officers and the paid membership getting involved. Support is a two way street and those who choose to come only when it is convenient, when they feel like it or fail to get involved can not offer much support. Supporting others means thinking of others, not just yourself.

I have been told, time and time again, "I just don't have the kind of time you do." I didn't have the time either. I cared about you, so I MADE time. If you care about others you'll MAKE time. We set up meetings to be at the same time, and the same place every month for a reason, so you can plan around it.

We set up low cost due and meeting fees yet some people can not find \$2.50 a month for the support they claim they need and must have. Yet they spend money for drinks at the meeting and on clothes and doctors and other things that must be more important.

Everyone of us, at some time in our lives, has hoped, and prayed, just to meet some one else who crossdressed. I find it hard to imagine going back to those days, but we may be very near that. Yes, we are all different. Yes, we each have different needs. Yes, none of us receives from a support group everything we need. But, each of us has gotten something and more than that, we each have a lot to give.

If you truly wish to experience the femininity that each of you claims to have, try looking past the clothes, past the wig and past the make-up to your heart. Remember all those women, yet to me, who are hoping and praying to meet some one just like you. Will you be there, as some one was for you, or will you simply say "Let the other person do it. I don't have the time."?

When January 21st, 1988 comes will you have some where to go? If not, will you care? What about six months or a year from now when you would like to talk to some one but you've lost touch with all the other girls? Only you can make that decision. If you wait until January it will probably be too late. Stop looking at the girl in the mirror long enough to find the woman in you heart.

The Second Annual TV/TS convention is scheduled for February 24 through March 1 at the Ramdada O'Hare Hotel in Chicago. There are a number of different kinds of programs being presented including programs for the helping professional. The cost this year is \$175 per person and \$275 per M/F couple. Accommodations are not included. See the attached flyer for complete details. The date to receive the 20% discount for pre-registration has been extended to November 1, 1987. This will be the last one in this part of the country for a couple of years so I hope you all will take advantage of this wonderful week-end experience.

Both 1470 West and Christopher's Lounge will be having Halloween Parties though I don't know what nights they are having them. Please check them out since some of us will surely be going to one or both of them.

Because of the short time before the meeting I have had to cut this issue short. I will resume the Names, Names, Names next month. If you have some experiences or just a reflection you would like to share with others please send them to me at the PO Box.

Heather

Publication Notice

© Copyright 1987 Cross-port S/C

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.

Articles and information contained in InnerView may be reprinted by other Non-Profit organizations without advance permission, provided a copy of the issue containing the reprinted material is sent to Cross-Port within two months after the material is published.

The opinions or statements contained in InnerView are those of its authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of Cross-Port.

Contributions of articles are welcomed but may be altered, with the author's intent retained, or may be rejected, whether solicited or not. 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 crossdressers, transsexuals and their family and friends.

REGISTRATION FORM

'COMING TOGETHER-WORKING TOGETHER' CONVENTION 1988

Send completed registration form to I.F.G.E., P.O. Box 19, Wayland, MA 01778 (617) 358-2305

Date: _____

Name(s) on ID Badge: _____

Club/Organization: _____

Mailing Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Arrival: _____ Departure: _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

_____ Check, Money Order (U.S. funds only)

Charge my credit card: _____ Visa _____ MasterCard

Acct.# _____ Exp. _____

Signature: _____

do not write in this space:

FEES:

Registration fees do not include accommodations fees.

CONVENTION REGISTRATION FEES:

(For both non-professional and professional programs)

FULL CONVENTION:

___ \$175.00 PER PERSON ___ \$275.00 PER M/F COUPLE

PER DIEM PER PERSON:

___ \$35.00 WEDNESDAY ___ \$75.00 THURSDAY

___ \$75.00 FRIDAY ___ \$75.00 SATURDAY

___ \$75.00 SUNDAY

(20% discount if paid in full by October 2, 1987; 10% discount if paid in full by January 1, 1988; 5% discount if paid in full by February 10, 1988)

MISCELLANEOUS FEES:

SPEAKER'S LUNCHEONS (Not included in registration fee)

PARTICIPANT \$10.00 per luncheon

___ THURSDAY ___ FRIDAY ___ SATURDAY

NON-PARTICIPANT \$25.00 per luncheon

___ THURSDAY ___ FRIDAY ___ SATURDAY

AWARDS BANQUET SATURDAY EVENING (Included in registration fee)

NON-PARTICIPANT ___ \$40.00

WORKSHOPS & SEMINARS (Included in registration fee)

NON-PARTICIPANT NON-PROFESSIONAL \$15.00 per hour

NON-PARTICIPANT PROFESSIONAL \$25.00 per hour

Indicate which sessions: _____

International Foundation for Gender Education

*cordially invites you to its second annual
international convention:*

"COMING TOGETHER – WORKING TOGETHER"

**FEBRUARY 24 - MARCH 1, 1988
at the Ramdada O'Hare Hotel Chicago, Illinois**



The Convention is sponsored by the International Foundation for Gender Education on behalf of the entire Transvestite/Transsexual Community. The Convention is planned and coordinated by representatives from Alpha Zeta, Androgyny Unlimited, The Boulton-Park Society, the Butterfly Group, Chi Chapter, Chi Delta Mu, CHIC, Chicago Gender Society, the City of Lakes Crossdressers Club, Cross-Port, Crossroads Chapter, Dallas/Fort Worth, Delta Chi, the Educational TV Channel, the Emerald City Club, Eon, the Foundation for the Advancement of Canadian Transsexuals, the Gender Identity Clinic, Iota Chi Sigma, Janus, J2cp Information Services, Life, Metamorphosis Medical Research Foundation, The Neutral Corner, the Northwest Gender Alliance, the Orange County Gender Clinic, the Paradise Club, the Outreach Institute, People Systems Potential, Phi Chapter, The Rainbow Gender Society, A Rose, Renaissance, Shangri La, the Society for the Second Self, the Tiffany Club, TransCend Counseling, TransPitt, Transition, the Transsexual Voice and the XX Club.

PURPOSE:

To have a Convention that is of actual and effective service to the Transvestite/Transsexual Community, and those affected by that Community. It is also intended to provide an educational resource to those persons who may be interested in issues related to Gender Expression and Identity.

OBJECTIVES:

To promote self-validation and self-respect, to develop a sense of togetherness and working together to benefit all, and provide an in-depth educational opportunity for all.

We will achieve our purposes and our objectives by providing a comprehensive program of workshops, seminars, moderated special topic raps, social activities, etc. There will be programs for **crossdressers, transsexually inclined persons, wives & significant others, helping professionals (therapists, educators, etc.), and those members of the general public who wish to learn.**

"Last year our objective was to have a convention that would pull us together as a community, give us a chance to tend to business, and an opportunity to reinforce our self-respect. We wanted a chance to learn how to help ourselves, and how to help others. We brought together nearly 150 representatives from 36 organizations and services from the United States and Canada. We talked, shared ideas, and learned from each other. We worked on issues important to our community as a whole, and found solutions to our problems. We emerged with an active Board of Directors working on projects such as a national speakers bureau, and educational publications. We emerged with a convention transcript, a 100-page publication that is bound to be the cornerstone of the future of our community. We emerged with a new spirit of togetherness, and an excitement for our future. Our success exceeded our hopes.

Last year's convention was terrific, but it was also a challenge---a challenge to build on what we've learned. Last year we talked about and found solutions. This year we must do more than talk. We must provide those solutions! We talked about a speakers bureau. Let's build one! We talked about networking. Let's network! We talked about outreach. Let's outreach. We talked (and talked) about the foibles of the helping professional community. Now let's work with the professionals to HELP them do a better job serving us.

Last year's convention challenged us, now let's meet that challenge. See you in Chicago."

Merissa Sherill Lynn, Director

"COMING TOGETHER", c/o I.F.G.E., P.O. BOX 19, WAYLAND, MA -01778 (617) 358-2305

CODE OF CONDUCT:

It is expected that all persons attending the "Coming Together" Convention will dress tastefully (whether that be in masculine or feminine attire), will exercise good manners and common sense at all times, and will protect the security and peace of mind of all. It is our intention to project an image of dignity and self-respect, and we expect all participants and guests to act accordingly.

ACCOMMODATIONS:

The Ramada O'Hare is a beautiful 1st class hotel. The hotel staff is fully aware of the nature of our convention, and is willing to work with us and support us in any way they can. The Ramada has gone out of its way to help us feel welcome, and we are going to go out of our way to preserve that trust.

PROGRAMS:

We have taken the best programs of last year and refined them. We studied the transcripts and evaluations and emerged with several new and exciting programs including a Positive Action workshop and a comprehensive 18-hour program for helping professionals.

WORKSHOPS & SEMINARS FOR NON-PROFESSIONALS:

- Wives and Significant Others Program** (on-going)
- Transsexual Program** (on-going)
- Positive Action** (reacting to positive and negative media)
- Religious Aspects**
- How To Form And Maintain An Organization**
- Communications** (how to make the world hear your song)
- Networking** (how to work together for the benefit of all)
- Marketing** (how to sell our product)
- Peer Support** (how to become a more effective support organization)
- Counseling Techniques** (what works, and what doesn't)
- Newsletter Production** (a rap group for publishers and editors)

WORKSHOPS & SEMINARS FOR PROFESSIONALS:

- (Certificate of attendance provided, APA approved CEU's pending)
- Opening The Shutters** (2 hrs) (Niela Miller, LCSW, Mariette Pathy Allen) (using photography as a vehicle for better understanding)
- The Helping Professional and the Paraculture** (1 hr) (Ariadne Kane, Ph.D. c.) (an examination of hypotheses that have shaped current thinking and

attitudes among professionals)

Dynamics of Gender Shift (2 hrs) (Ariadne Kane, Ph.D. c.) (what happens when an individual's principal mode of behavior is in conflict with established gender role)

Three Concepts of Gender Deviance (1 hr) (Richard F. Docter, Ph.D.) (the intrapsychic model, the socio-cultural model, the learning model)

A 5-Stage Theory Encompassing Fetishism, Transvestism, and Secondary Transsexualism (1 hr) (Richard F. Docter, Ph.D.)

Professional Support of Transgendered Clients (10 hrs) (Roger E. Peo, Ph.D., Niela Miller, LCSW) (a weekend training program providing information about human sexuality and transgender issues, an experiential perspective, and methods of therapeutic intervention)

In addition to the above named seminars and workshops:

We will have our annual formal Saturday evening awards banquet honoring one person from our Community who has given an outstanding lifetime contribution to our Community.

We will have keynote speakers (including Dr. Richard F. Docter and Merissa Sherrill Lynn) for the luncheons and dinners.

We have a committee to coordinate social activities (parties, receptions, etc.).

We have a committee to coordinate outside activities (lights on the town, guided tours, places to go, things to do while in Chicago, etc.)

We will have a reception room with informational literature, publications for sale, a browsing library, and wishes to talk with them.

We will have small conference rooms set aside for impromptu meetings, unscheduled raps, etc.

There will be vendors available to help with wardrobe, make-up, counselling, etc.

And more!

FEES:

Registration fees do not include accommodations fees. See: Ramada O'Hare Hotel Registration

CONVENTION REGISTRATION FEES:

- (For both non-professional and professional programs)
- FULL CONVENTION: \$175.00 PER PERSON; \$275.00 PER M/F COUPLE**
- \$35.00 WEDNESDAY**
- \$75.00 THURSDAY**
- \$75.00 FRIDAY**
- \$75.00 SATURDAY**
- \$75.00 SUNDAY**

MISCELLANEOUS FEES:

- SPEAKERS LUNCHEONS THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY** (Not included in registration fee)
- PARTICIPANT \$10.00 per luncheon**
- NON-PARTICIPANT \$25.00 per luncheon**
- AWARDS BANQUET SATURDAY EVENING** (Included in registration fee)
- NON-PARTICIPANT \$40.00**
- WORKSHOPS & SEMINARS** (Included in registration fee)
- NON-PARTICIPANT NON-PROFESSIONAL** \$15.00 per hour
- NON-PARTICIPANT PROFESSIONAL** \$25.00 per hour

DEPOSITS:

A minimum \$100.00 deposit is required. Balance payable upon arrival. To guarantee registration in your preferred programs we must have your payment in full prior to February 10, 1988.

REFUNDS: Total refunds can be given prior to January 1, 1988 and 50% refunds prior to February 10.

PAYMENTS: All checks and money orders must be payable in U.S. funds. No personal checks can be accepted after February 10. Make checks and money orders payable to: I.F.G.E.

Visa and MasterCard are accepted (+ 5% service charge). Send your Name, Address, Account Number, Expiration Date, and Total Amount to: I.F.G.E., P.O. Box 19, Wayland, MA 01778.

REGISTRATION:

We need your name (legal or adopted), (Address and phone number are preferred, but optional.) We need to know what requirements (if any) you may have, and when you plan to arrive and depart. Upon receipt of your registration, you will be sent a letter of confirmation, and any other instructions you may need.

AIRLINES: American Airlines is our official carrier. They are offering 35% off regular fare, and 5% off any fare. To take advantage of this offer you must purchase your ticket before 7 days prior to departure.

You can only earn the exclusive fare by calling American's Meeting Services Desk or through your travel agent. Dial 1-800-433-1790. Ask for STAR File #S-81959. Tell them you are planning to attend the I.F.G.E. Convention in Chicago.

RAMADA O'HARE HOTEL REGISTRATION:

Single \$69.00 Double \$79.00 Triple \$89.00 Quad \$99.00 (Suites available by contacting hotel direct) For reservations call 1-312-827-5131. Cut-off date for reservations February 1, 1988.

QUESTIONS: If you have any problems or questions, write or call MERISSA SHERRILL LYNN, Director, P.O. Box 19, Wayland, MA 01778 (617) 358-2305.