

# Cross-Port InnerView

P.O. Box 54657, Cincinnati, OH 45254

The next meeting is September 16 at 8:00pm

## A New View

by Elaine

There were 34 ladies and S.O.'s at the **Cross-Port** meeting last month. There were 3 new people at the meeting, Welcome to Cathy P., Paula H., Kelly. We wish to welcome returnee Della and Crystal Club member Victoria. We hope you had a good time and that you will come back.

We still do not have word on when the club in Monroe will open. We are still trying to find out the particulars at this time.

I never knew I was possessed by the devil until I went dressed to my brothers 40'th birthday party over the Labor Day weekend. I don't know what it is about me but I tell people what I like to do for fun and show them some pictures and they say "oh that's nice". It is a completely different reaction when they actually see me dressed for the first time in person. Well anyway I went to this get together dressed kind of conservative at least for me. I wore a white satin blouse, a navy double breasted jacket, a black and white plaid mini-skirt, nude hose and black suede pumps. Everyone told me I never looked better. Everyone handled it very well

except for my step mother who took me aside and asked me if I wanted to be cured of this affliction. Well at first I asked "What affliction" then it dawned on me what she was referring to. I asked her how she would cure me. She said her and a friend would perform an exorcism and cast out the demon that made me want to dress like this and return me to the way of the righteous. You have the picture I'm standing there trying to keep from laughing because I can see she is very serious about this, but I can't suppress the smile that comes to my face every time I think about it. I think I like this particular demon it just took me 30 years to discover that it was the real me. She didn't want to hear that. So I told her that I was happier than I had ever been and that I did not want to be cured.

## Shopping for Clothes By Mail Order

by Kristine Jones

While it is best to shop for size and style in person, many of us cannot. So for those, here is a list of the mail order firms and a short summary of what they offer. If I have missed one of your favorites, let me know and I will add it in a

later article.

Willow Ridge, 421 Landmark Drive, Wilmington, NC 28410, 1-919-763-6500 have stylish fashions for misses 6-18 and petite 4-16. Very nice career dresses, separates and sportswear. Has same day shipment for instant gratification. Many suits and dresses for under \$50.00. Call for catalog. Same as Bedford Fair catalog at the same address. 1-919-763-5600 is the telephone number for Bedford Fair.

JRT (James River Traders), James River Landing, Hampton, VA 23631-2141, 1-800-285-4100 Great style and great prices is the theme of this attractive catalog featuring the latest fashions and comfortable casuals. Many dresses under \$50.00 with most all in sizes 4-16. Fedex delivery at no additional charge (cannot send to P.O. Box).

Jos. A. Bank, 500 Hanover Pike, Hempstead, MD 21074-2095, 1-800-285-BANK their women's catalog has a variety of career clothing, with the nicest wool suits available by mail order, Most in sizes 4-16. Also beautiful career dresses in rayon or polyester/rayon blend with the same size range. Many nice blouses to mix and match with the suits, in silk and polyester.

Nicole Summers, P.O. Box 3003,

Winterbrook Way, Meredith, NH 03253-3003, 1-800-642-6786 has sizes 6-20 and selected petite and women's sizes. All orders shipped for overnight delivery via Airborne Express, so if ordered by 5:00 PM, in-stock items arrive the following day. "must have" casual wear and sharp coattresses and shirtdresses, Most between \$100.00-\$150.00 Very sophisticated suits in this attractive catalog.

Chadwick's of Boston, One Chadwick Place, Box 1600, Brockton, MA 02403-1600, 1-508-583-6600 is the "original off-price catalog". Beautiful fashions and values in misses, petite and women's sizes. Many dresses for under \$60.00 and value priced casuals.

Avon Fashions, Avon Lane, Hampton, VA 23630, 1-800-285-4200 offers brand names at discount prices, most in sizes 6-16 and some tall and petite offerings. Many dresses for under \$40.00, with some as low as \$25.00 for a fairly good looking dress. Selection of shoes to size 10, with lingerie and casuals, too.

Lane Bryant, P.O. Box 8301, Indianapolis, IN 46283-8301, 1-800-456-9838. At one time I read an estimate that 20% of the catalog sales are to crossdressers. With those statistics, I wouldn't be shy about calling in an order. Lots of tasteful dresses, suits and separates for under \$25.00. Their stores carry the same merchandise and are all around, so you can check out what you are ordering in the store. Good selection of shoes to size 12 and tall sizes, too.

Roaman's, P.O. Box 8360, Indianapolis, IN 46283-8360, 1-800-274-7130 (operator 20) is the large size catalog division for Lane Bryant, with a similar selection of suits, sportswear and separates at

like prices to Lane Bryant. Good selection of shoes to size 12.

Lerner New York, Midwest Distribution Center, P.O. Box 8380, Indianapolis, IN 46283-8380, 1-800-288-409 has a good variety of casuals, suits and coats at reasonable prices. Worth a look at this free catalog.

Premiere Editions, Hanover, PA 17333-0240, 1-800-822-9982 "Glamorous styles for a special price" is the billing for this selection of budget-minded but attractive offerings. Many dresses for under \$40.00 in pretty styles and colors in acrylic or polyester knit.

Silhouettes, 340 Poplar Street, Hanover, PA 17333-0240, 1-800-852-2822 is the 14W-26W version of Premiere Editions. Has some nice gowns in the back of the catalog.

Appleseed's, 30 Tozer Road, Beverly, MA 01915, 1-800-767-6666 has had quality clothing for 47 years or so they say. A few nice dresses, but many are somewhat matronly looking to me. Appleseed's Just Right at the same address and telephone, surprisingly has a more contemporary set of fashions in sizes 14 and up than the regular size catalog. Attractive formal wear and dresses at prices that are not unreasonable. Good selection of winter coats in the winter catalog.

Madeleine Fashions, Inc., 112 Seventh Avenue, Monroe, WI 53566-1364, 1-800-344-1994 has tasteful and very fashionable outfits. Expensive and one of my favorite catalogs.

Talbots, 175 Beal Street, Hingham, MA 02043, 1-800-8TALBOTS has a wonderful collection of classic clothing, career wear, special occasions and casuals in misses 4-20 and petite 2-14. While the

prices are high, the quality is too and satisfaction is guaranteed. The career dresses are always well constructed, nicely tailored, and fashionable. Or shop their stores locally and order.

Armoire, 408 Pasadena Avenue, Suite #1, Pasadena, CA 91105, 1-800-528-3131 beautiful and expensive dresses and dressy sportswear. Very savvy and chic. Mixables, 2636 Walnut Hill Lane #205, Dept C-F1, Dallas, TX 75229, 1-800-541-7057 has ladies mix and match fashions in 50/50 cotton and polyester interlock knit. Dresses, blouses and pants S,M,L,XL.

Philippe Marcel Collection, 680 Engle Road, P.O. Box 94610, Cleveland, Ohio 44101-4610, 1-800-869-9901 has good value in its small catalog. Attractive sportswear, dresses, separates and jewelry, with most dresses under \$40.00. Sizes 6-20, with some petite and full figure styles.

Old Pueblo Traders, Palo Verde at 34th, P.O. Box 27800, Tucson, AZ 85726-7800, 1-602-747-5000 has casual separates, dresses 6-20 in misses, women's, half sizes and petites, foundations, shoes 7-11. Some very fine values.

L&Sard, 2305 Eighth Avenue S.W., P.O. Box 306, 55912-0306, 1-800-728-7273 has casuals and dresses 4-16/S,M,L. Small selection, but appealing look and quality for \$29-\$60.

Blair, 220 Hickory Street, Warren, PA 16366 has nice mail order dresses for \$19.85, tops for \$10.00, pants for \$14.95 and \$20.00 sweaters.

Mark, Fore, & Strike, 6500 Park of Commerce Blvd. N.W., P.O. Box 5056, Boca Raton, FL, 33431-0856, 1-800327-3627 bills itself as "fun, casual clothing since 1951." Very attractive, contemporary sportswear and comfortable casual clothing.

One of the best looking catalogs available.

Clifford & Wills, One Clifford Way, Asheville, NC 28810-1000, 1-800-633-3485 (for free Catalogs)

Classic is the description for this selection of casuals in sizes 4-16/S,M,L. Many blouses under \$40.00 and a great selection of trendy sweaters.

The Silk Collection, P.O. Box 620825, Middleton, WI 53562, 1-800-831-0909 has classic and stylish tops in luxurious silk for \$25-\$50 (sizes 4-18), silk sweaters for \$38-\$50 in S,M, L,XL and silk dresses and skirts.

Home Shopping Values, 11851 30th Court N., St. Petersburg, FL 33716-1829, 1-800-848-2929 has a handful of dresses, including leather skirts and stunning sequin and beaded dresses for under \$100.00.

Simply Tops, P.O. Box 12, Hanover, PA 17333-0082, 1-800-848-2060 "your source for the unique" has not only tops, but attractive skirts, pants suits, jewelry, shoes, and lingerie. I defy you to flip through this catalog and not see something you want. Sizes 6-16, Shoes 6-10-11. Most items under \$100.00

Long Elegant Legs, 400 Watchung Avenue, Plainfield, NJ 07060, 1-800-344-2225. Have you been looking for ladies jeans, stirrup pants, leggings and other items that are long enough to fit your legs? This small catalog has several pants sets with 36" inseam and the pants are longer in the rise. The blouse and sweaters are longer in the torso by 3" and 4" in the sleeve, with sizes 6-22. Nice but small selection.

Ujena, 690 East Arques Avenue, Sunnydale, CA 94086, 1-800-227-8318 Beautiful selection of swimsuits, but also has a few dozen dresses in very sexy styles.

Carabella Collection, 1852 McGaw, Irvine Ca 92714, 1-714-263-2320 similarly has mostly swimsuits, but also has a few dozen hot sportswear and dress offerings.

On the Boulevard, 1400 North Shoreline Blvd., P.O. Box 7211, Mountain View, CA 940039, 1-800-447-8119 has the same selection as Ujena or Carabella, and some sexy lingerie, too.

Frederick's of Hollywood, P.O. Box 229, Hollywood, CA 90078-0229, 1-800-323-9525 The ubiquitous Frederick's has it all: lingerie, shoes, wigs, bras, sportswear, dresses, and where else can you get a glitter catsuit?

Victoria's Secret, P.O. Box 16589, Columbus, OH 43216, 1-800-888-8200 has nice mail order suits, dresses, and casuals available in addition to the most sensual lingerie collection available. Most dresses 4-12 or 14 and other items are S,M,L. Very up-to-date styles in an enticing catalog.

Night and Day, Box 22, Hanover, PA 17333-0022, 1-800-832-8288 has a similar selection to Victoria's Secret, with lingerie, foundation, casuals and dresses in sizes 1-14/S,M,L. Some very sexy items, including some very nice dresses for under \$70.00.

Spiegel Catalog, P.O. Box 6340, Chicago, IL 60680-6340, 1-800-345-4500 (Ask for catalog 475) They charge \$6.00 for this catalog, but you get a coupon for \$6.00 and usually a free gift. Very nice selection of casual clothing in a range of sizes.

Exotic

Steamed Heat, 200 Pier Avenue, Suite 28, Hermosa Beach, Ca 90254, 1-800-747-4328 has some cutout dresses, spandex dresses, bras etc. in S,M or one size. All the stuff Mom never wore. \$30-\$150.

Dream Dresser, P.O. Box 3787, Washington DC. 20007, 1-202-625-0373 Wow! The best in fashion, fetish and fantasy in leather, PVC, satin and patent. 5" & 6" heels in sizes 6-13, stretch patent miniskirts 4-20, and pink satin maids dresses 6-24. Pricy and everything for the B&D look. All the stuff Mom never knew about!

East of Eden, P.O. Box 9124, San Rafael, CA 94912-9124 has several catalogs, but basically offers lycra, PVC, and wetlook dresses/pantsuits. The "Stagedoor" catalog is an offering of everything for the crossdresser, including makeup (with a pretty good instructional section), wigs, foundations, gaffs, breast forms, and pages of clothing in large sizes.

Formals

Lillie Rubin, 15705 N.W. 13th Avenue, Miami, FL 33169, 1-800-LILLIE0 has a continually beautiful selection of sportswear, dresses, and fancy evening wear gowns at equally stunning prices. You must see the catalog or visit one of their stores. Most items in sizes 4-14. Believe me, these are the sequin, satin and beaded outfits you dream about and even if you can't afford a \$1200.00 gown, it doesn't hurt to dream.

Klass Collections, Inc., 212 West 35th Street, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10018, 1-800-24KLASS "The elegant look for the woman who cares" is the lead-in for this selection of sequin, beaded and lace formal gowns. Large sizes available and the prices can be big, too.

Department Stores by Mail

Saks Fifth Avenue Folio Collections, 557 Tuckahoe Road, Yonkers, NY 10710, 1-800-345-3454 is the mail order catalog for the famous department

store on 5th avenue in NYC and on 5th Street in Cincinnati. Always classic sportswear and casuals, as well as sharp accessories and a few dresses. Priced like the Saks stores (high).

Jacobson's, P.O. Box 844, Jackson, MI 49204, 1-800-635-4770 is a mail order catalog for the department stores located in Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio (nearest is Columbus). Lovely sportswear, casual coordinates, and dresses, as well as accessories and a few pair of shoes.

Bergdorf Goodman, P.O. Box 5258, FDR Station, New York, NY 10150-5258, 1-800-662-5455 has designer dresses \$500-\$1000 most in sizes 4-14 or P,S,M. Also, very fashionable casual wear (shirt \$115, Sweater \$225), and brilliant styles in day and evening dresses. Great accessories. Too expensive? Hey, Calvin Klein has a big mortgage payment to make, so order now.

Neiman Marcus By Mail, P.O. Box 2968, Dallas, TX 75221-2968, 1-800-825-8000 The winter catalog has a very fashionable selection of coats (a few to size 20), career suits (4-14, a few to 20), some sharp dresses 6-16 and great looking formals. Prices are on a par with Lazarus or Parisian.

Lord & Taylor, Box 119 Midtown Station, New York, NY 10138-0150, 1-800-223-7440 has some tailored career coordinates 4-16, a nice selection of shoes and some refined executive dresses 4-16. Plenty of reduced jewelry, as well as casual clothes and junior selections. Not as pricey as you might think.

Bloomingdale's By Mail Ltd., 475 Knotter Drive, Cheshire, CT 06410-1130, 1-800-777-0000 features trendy casual wear 4-14, the newest in contemporary separates, and dazzling executive

and formal dresses 4-14 (some larger). A very full catalog with moderate pricing.

I. Magnin, P.O. Box 2096, Oakland, CA 94604, 1-800-227-1125 has pages of alluring but simple cocktail/dinner dresses in 4-14 for \$120-\$180, and also dressy pantsuits and career dresses. See also the catalog for sizes 14 and up which has the same good selection.

## Potpourri

by Bobbi L.

Cincinnati Post, August 20, 1993:

"Rights foe: 'We're not homophobic' "

"Sex orientation...new campaign issue" by: Sharon Maloney (Post staff reporter)?

"Take Back Cincinnati, the group behind the petition drive to put a possible repeal of the Cincinnati's gay rights ordinance on the Nov. 2 ballot, is calling for candidates for city council, school board or any other public office to reveal their sexual orientation..."

They are set to fight not just gay rights ordinances but what they believe are gay influences in the schools and the government where, they contend, gays are working to accomplish a 'homosexual agenda...'

Phil Burress, the head of Citizens for Community Values and one of the organizers of the gay rights repeal movement, said...'We're just raising the question. Since they're passing laws based on sexual orientation then shouldn't city council say what their interests are - just like in any other debate (where) they have a personal interest in the issue.' Burress compared it to the disclosure of financial holdings."

Cincinnati Post, August 21, 1993:

"Pols feel privacy invaded"

by: Sharon Maloney (Post Staff Reporter)

"Many political professionals in Cincinnati don't believe - and some don't even want to comment on - suggestions that public office-holders reveal their sexual orientation..."

'Whose business is that?' queried Tim Burke, chairman of the Hamilton County Democratic Party. 'It has nothing to do with service on city council.'

Democratic Council Member John Mirlisena said he had no problem letting everybody know he is 'straight,' but said this a matter that should be left to the individual.

Republican Council member Nick Vehr said he would not comment and 'will consider a response when I get asked the question.'"

Cincinnati Post, August 14, 1993:

"Deadbeat, er, 'mom'"

"A transsexual who is now living as a woman has made a national list of most-wanted deadbeat dads. William Henry Reid, now known as Billie Jean Reid, 43, was last seen in Port Hueneme, Calif., according to the National Council of State Child Support Enforcement Administrators. The registered nurse fathered two children, but had a sex change operation in Miami in 1985 and owes \$53,000 in child support payments, according to authorities."

[Y'all can't say that Bob G. hasn't tried to warn us!!!]

Cosmopolitan, August 1993:

"Agony column"

by: Irma Kurtz

Q. Not long ago, my husband and I attended a benefit party where, as a gimmick, all the men dressed in drag, entered a beauty contest, and had to serve drinks to the ladies. My sister, who is a beautician, helped my husband get dressed and put on makeup and jewelry. Later, she told me he had (become obviously aroused). When we arrived home after the party, he made passionate love to me - the best in out ten years of marriage - while he was still dressed as a woman. Now he doesn't want to wear his own clothes around the house. The minute he gets home, he changes into something of mine. When we go out at night, he wears one of my suits with all the accessories, heels, even carries my purse under his arm. I hate to admit it, but it's kind of fun. The problem is, a couple of weeks ago, he asked me to tie him to a chair in the basement, so I did, with old rope and adhesive tape. As I stood back to look at him, I had...such a rush of power.... Since then, I've bought patent-leather pants, which I wear when I train (my husband) whom I've renamed Barbra. I enjoy every powerful moment of this, but I'm getting concerned that it's going to far since (this) has become an almost-daily routine. What's happening to us?...How can we stop it and get back to normal life before we are discovered and shamed?

A. You and your husband are obviously made for each other. He likes to wear the skirt in the family, and you like to wear the patent-leather trousers. Believe it or not, the fantasy world you're living in is not at all that uncommon. I don't know at what kind of 'benefit party' you learned the joys of cross-dressing, but I suspect the

greatest benefit was given to transvestites in the crowd; most of these men were probably into bondage as well.

What are you worried about? You are not harming anyone....You're not breaking any law. There is no reason you should be 'found out.' If you are really afraid of discovery by unsympathetic people, there are plenty of clubs for transvestites...where you can meet other like-minded people....

The only thing that astonishes me is that you were married ten years before discovering how perfectly matched (you) are. Aren't you sorry you didn't let it all out sooner?"

Esquire, May, 1993:

"Of Bent Genders...."

by: Jean-Christophe Castelli

"Since we've all seen *The Crying Game*, who knows what lies coiled beneath even the most innocuous pair of knickers? Will Self is a young British writer in the snidely articulate Martin Amis mold (his name even sounds like an Amis character's), and he has great fun knocking gender around in *Cock & Bull* (Atlantic Monthly Press), a pair of novellas about sexual metamorphosis: *Cock*, in which a London housewife named Carol sprouts one of her own; and *Bull*, where a rugby-playing sportswriter wakes up to find a vagina growing behind his left knee. The newly empowered Carol gives her husband an evening he will never forget, while poor Bill has to fend off the increasingly lascivious advances of his doctor. Will Self fully lives up to his name: willful and self-indulgent, (and) politically incorrect...Feminists, Iron Johns, and anyone without a polymorphously perverse sense of

humor will probably be offended...but that's the way...satire ought to be: a Swiftian kick in the who-knows-what."thearoused┐

Esquire, June 1993:

"Boys Will Be Girls"

by: Joseph Hooper

"Fair-skinned with crimson hair, British filmmaker Sally Potter rather resembles the title character of her new movie, *Orlando*. A serene intelligence keeps them both in the quiet center of storms of their own creation. *Orlando*, a young nobleman serving as the British ambassador to Constantinople in the 1700's, goes to bed one fateful night and wakes up a woman. He/she lives for four hundred years and is, at the close of the movie, still just thirty-six years old....

In the movie, Potter first subverts our sense of the world with an Elizabethan England where life and death and courtly rituals seem real enough, but gender is always something of a wild card. The lad *Orlando* (...Tilda Swinton) is a court favorite of Queen Elizabeth (...Quentin Crisp) who has an eye for a well-turned male calf. Here we have the tableaux of a woman playing a man who will turn into a woman being fondled by and old queen being played by an old queen. Rich, you say, but then the English have always fone in for gender bending...(Benny Hill in a tutu, the Kinks' song, *Lola*). Potter's achievement is to make the perverse normal, or as *Orlando* puts it as she inspects her new female body in the mirror, 'same person, different sex' [adapted from Virginia Woolf's novel]. *Britishgoneto*.' It is the film's idealistic yearning for a pure self, free from society's gender codes, that has touched a chord in unexpected places. I've had

middle-aged men come up to me in tears,' Potter says."

Girls, next month I'll be back (and I'm sure you're just thrilled about THAT) with a review of RuPaul's album. So, strap on those dancing pumps and get ready to shake yo' silicone!!! [Stay Healthy. Stay Beautiful. Avoid Runners.]

Seen recently along Kellogg Ave. :  
"Slips Available"

It's obvious to me that the Four Seasons Marina has just opened a lingerie shop near their ship's store (rimshot, cymbal crash!) From this banner, i And remember: Hate is NOT a family value!

Cincinnati Enquirer, Sept. 1, 1993  
"Seen Around Town"

"About 400 guys, many of them cross dressers, done up to the hilt in furs, feathers, and beads. "Ain't it the truth," says artist and entertainer Don Blain who goes by the name Betty Rambo when he gussies up in tulle and chiffon. The party? The "Imperial Sovereign Queen City Court of the Buckeye Empire," a dress ball at the Omni Netherland that attracts cross dressers from across the country. This one drew such nationally known gents as New York's Coco LaChine and West Coast diva the Widow Norton. Crickett, a Cincinnati, was crowned Empress in an ever-so-regal ceremony, replacing Kate of Central Parkway, Blain said. The party raised \$11,000 for Aids Volunteers of Cincinnati (AVOC) even as it confused the heck out of people. 'See,' Blain/Rambo says, 'there were two weddings with basic reception crowds milling about the hotel. Then,' Blain/Rambo said, 'we showed up in our gowns. One of

our guys was even in a wedding dress and that confused people even more.' "

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## APPOINTMENT WITH ELAINE

by: Roberta

I was somewhat nervous upon arriving at Elaine's place around 9:30 AM. When Elaine opened the door she was a "knockout" in her red mini skirt, black hose, and white blouse. She made a pot of coffee to go with the donuts I had brought for a snack. We then sat down and relaxed, talking over some of the things covered during our phone calls to each other.

Then Elaine got out the items needed for the color analysis and testing of the skin sensitivity. The color analysis consisted of holding various patches of color material under my chin. This provides information which color dresses or blouses are best for highlighting the face. The sensitivity test was next. Elaine applied four small treated circles in various places on my face. After about five minutes, Elaine removed the patches, marking down the results on another form. A questionnaire was then given to me to fill out concerning what I knew of the condition of my skin. This information was then entered into a computer program and the results were checked off by Elaine as to which kind of makeup was best for my skin.

When that was done, Elaine changed into one of her favorite dresses: a very shapely royal blue dress of satin or silk, which once again, made Elaine very attractive. Then she started to apply the makeup for my makeover. It was a very pleasant experience to have such an attractive lady so closed

and having that person providing such special treatment for me.

With the makeup done, I changed into one of my outfits for some picture taking. I took some photos of Elaine in her blue dress and she took pictures of me in the 2 outfits I had brought with me. After that we sat down and Elaine showed me some of her photos. Take ny word for it, they were a feast for the eyes. One remarkable photo is of Elaine in a beautiful white wedding dress. That photo could be used as an ad for doing wedding photos. Elaine looked great!

The next thing I knew it was 11:45 and I had to rush up to head back home. I paid for the make over and told Elaine I was sure the time spent with her will be pleasant memories for a long time. I believe for sisters that do not have anyone to help them with makeup, contacting Elaine is the answer. Elaine has the understanding of what concerns us about lack of knowledge in this area. All three sessions lasted a total of around one and a half hours. If you have to budget your time for such a meeting, allow yourself 2 hours so you can relax and enjoy the experience.

Until next time, take care and be happy.

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## JOYCE'S WORLD

Hello Gals, just a brief note

Joyce took her first mini-vacation by herself and had a wonderful time. Two days and one night to Bardstown, KY to see "the Stephen C. Foster" outdoor drama. Had a couple interesting

experiences along the way. As I returned to my car from one of the many museums, I discovered I had a flat tire. Here I was in a nice Blouse and skirt and high heels. I was just thrilled to death as you can well imagine. I had just placed the jack under the car bumper, when an elderly couple stopped and the gentleman in a true chivalrous fashion came to my rescue, gladly changing the tire for me and advising me to have it repaired before proceeding in my travels. The second incident was of an entirely different nature. As I entered the Harrodsburg State Memorial grounds, an elderly gentleman spoke to me briefly. Later, I met him once again inside the museum and once again we struck up a conversation. After exchanging small talk for a half hour or more, he asked me for my phone number and address for a future date. He lived just across the Ohio River from me. During our conversation, I learned that he was married. I demurely declined his proposal on the fact that I did not date married men, and so left him to his own devices without hurting his feelings...I hope. We did meet and speak briefly a third time. What I found most intriguing was that in neither case was there any indications given that they were any the wiser about me.

For the past week Joyce has been temporarily put back in the closet. My nephew invited me to his anniversary picnic and I gladly accepted. While there, he asked me to help him put a porch roof on his home. So, for a week now, I have taken hammer, saw, and nails in hand and acted out the macho-man type. (Much to my regrets, I broke two fingernails in the process!) Helping my nephew accomplish his project gave me a very rewarding

feeling. However, I can do without the macho feelings....they seemed so out of place.

Tom Fields, a representative from "Stonewall of Cincinnati" will be at the Sept. 16th meeting. He will give a short talk on transgendered rights and how they could be affected by the repeal referendum (of the recently passed "Gay Rights Ordinance") which will appear on the November ballot. He will also pass out a survey sheet on "Hate Crimes and Discrimination" which he will ask each of us to fill out and return. I would urge everyone to take the time to listen and fill out the survey as this affects ALL of us. If the extremists on the right have their way, the Gay Rights Laws will be repealed as they were in Colorado last year. Let's all do our part!

Some upcoming events of interest:  
"The Fort Lauderdale Fling"  
"Fall Harvest '93 Weekend (Oct. 28-31)  
Erie Sisters' "Riverside Gala Weekend" (November 19-21)  
The Sixth Annual "Texas-T-Party" (Feb. 25-27, 1994)

I will have a limited number of brochures on these conventions for those interested. Start planning now for a great time later.

Take care and enjoy!  
Love, Joyce

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## THE MORE YOU DO IT, THE EASIER IT GETS!

by: Bobbi L.

Last month I bored you girls with details of my first "solo" excursion in drag. Well, roll up those stockings, Ladies, and get

ready to run, 'cuz I've been at it again!

On Friday the 13th (t Well, I had plenty of time, so I followed the simple directions and pulled into an empty parking lot., in spite of needing to stop for fuel., There I went into the store and was greeted by the store manager, a male in his 20's, who was restocking the size 12 shelves. I tried on a few pair of shoes, just enjoying being a girl. Although the prices were very reasonable, I didn't find anything that I couldn't live without. Suddenly, I noticed that the store had now become VERY busy. It seemed that every mommy in Middletown had decided to buy the family shoes that afternoon. I stepped back into my pumps and headed for the door. One of the salesgirls said "goodbye" to me and I responded in as feminine a voice as possible.

Then it was down the road to McAlpin's at the Towne Mall. I examined some of the fall fashions and decided to purchase some panties. Again, it seemed that lingerie was the busiest department in the store. I had to wait several days to get waited on. But, in spite of the fact that I was sweating like a race horse, the purchase went smoothly. Hey, this being a girl-on-the-go thing is kind of fun!

I decided that I'd better not push the triskaidekaphobia (phonetic spelling, sorry) envelope any further, so I headed for the Bluegrass via I-275. Smooth as silk....until I hit Erlanger. I had just stepped into the bedroom, when Beverly told me that the purchaser of my boat was at the door, ready to pick it up (about 2 hours early). I got out of my clothes and off with my makeup in record time. I wonder if he and his son noticed my shaved legs and the smell of

Obsession as I helped him wire the trailer.

My Friday adventure had been such a treat that I decided to go out again the following Friday. After all, in two weeks school would be back in session and my chance to prance would be severely restricted. I phoned Joyce and asked her if she would be interested in going to the Art Museum with me to see the display of Victorian gowns. She said that she'd love to. With that plan in the works, I realized that I NEEDED a new pair of comfy flats to walk the halls of the museum. Just my luck, Shoe Carnival placed a flyer in Sunday's paper and, wouldn't you just know it....they had just the shoe I demanded. You guessed it, Girls, Bobbi was out again Tuesday morning and on her way to SHOP! First, however, I stopped at the local K-Mart to drop off the film I had taken at Michelle's. I had been out so much in the past few weeks that walking into that store, less than a mile from home, and across the street from the school I had taught in for 18 years, didn't cause more than an extra flutter or two.

Gosh, I was having fun!!! Back in the Baby Blazer and on to Shoe Carnival in Alexandria. What a "fun" place to shop. I walked in and was asked by a cute, blonde teen if there were anything she could find for me. I showed her the ad and told her I needed a 9 or 10. I feel certain she "read" me, but she was so sweet. I followed her to the huge stack of boxed shoes and she found me just what I requested. Then I found a seat and began to try on the footwear. I was so enjoying myself, being surrounded by GG's and not feeling pressured, that I must have tried on about 10 different pairs. In the end, about 30 minutes later, I stood in line with two pair of shoes:

the "vanilla" flats and a forest green pair of mid-heel pumps which matched another new outfit Beverly had purchased me. On the way home I stopped in Newport to pick up some toiletries at Walgreen's, then headed for the ranch. Pulling into the driveway, I noticed the boy next door playing in his backyard with two of the neighbor kids.

The following day he asked me who the lady was driving my car. I told him that she was my "sister."

Thursday, of course, was the Cross-Port meeting at Golden Lions. I wore my green pumps with the new outfit. Had a wonderful evening with all of you ladies (and you, too, gentlemen).

Friday morning couldn't arrive quickly enough for me. I hurried to get ready but found myself running late for my arrival at Joyce's. Then, I forgot to check on the construction barriers on 275 and discovered, too late, that my planned exit had been closed. I had to travel about 7 miles out of the way (wouldn't you love to own an orange barrel manufacturing facility?). When I finally made to Joyce's I found her looking her always-sophisticated-self. We slid into her big, white Caddy and headed for Mt. Adams. Now this is the ONLY way for a lady to travel! We arrived at the museum at about 11:30 and found it to be moderately busy. After checking our umbrella's (I guess a lot of art vandals are Tote's toters) we paid our \$5.00 admission fees and immediately headed for the gowns. What a showing this was! There were gowns of traditional fabrics and trimmings displayed. "Afternoon" gowns, "evening" gowns, "reception" gowns, and even, "morning" gowns (of course, Joyce and I, in our ignorance, mistakenly called them "bathrobes."). Not all of

the gowns were desirable but a few of them were glorious: belle-of-the-ball stuff, ultimate Barony gowns, to-die-for prom dresses. Completing that section, we headed for the more permanent gallery of evening wear. Here, Halston's and other designer ditties are offered as art. And one or two WERE worth the attention. There was one clingy, body-hugging number that just screamed: "Where's Belinda!!!" (or Chrissy).

Joyce and I then turned our attentions to the more traditional offerings in the museum. I can't begin to tell you girls how fulfilling it was to my soul to be able to walk the serene halls of this lovely place as a lady. This was a dream come true. We were paid the greatest compliment we could have asked for: we were basically ignored. One male security person did come over to us in the Baldwin gallery, to spend several minutes explaining the history of the panel work upon which the paintings were hung. I think he was more interested in gaining Joyce's favors than in being hospitable. In one other gallery, we did notice that a toady female guard seemed to be following us from painting to painting, but we chalked it up to HER being paranoid rather than ours.

About 2:30 we decided that we had seen everything that interested us (the third floor contemporary art gallery was put off for a later time, like two or three centuries from now) and that it was time for a light lunch. The Rookwood Pottery restaurant was our destination. It had been several years since Beverly and I had last eaten there. At that time we received such lousy service that a return visit was scheduled for about the same time as the contemporary art floor. But Joyce and I figured lunch might



provide a more reliable set of servers. We were seated by one of the huge kilns and soon had our waiter at our table. Wouldn't you know it, I recognized him from The Boot which used to be in Covington. I also remember seeing him at Golden Lions when Cross-Port had its first meeting there in 1992. I was sure that HE would definitely NOT recognize me (I never went to the Boot in drag) but thought to pump his ego by remembering him. He beamed when I asked about his days at The Boot. From that moment on, his attention to our needs was assured. Joyce ordered a Reuban, I, a soup du jour and salad.

This was another Kodak moment for me. One of two girls enjoying lunch in a sophisticated bistro. What a kick!

Remembering that Robert had a dinner-date with Beverly that evening, I picked up the tab (Joyce was flying, so Bobbi was buying) and we headed for the East side of town. On the way home Joyce commented to me that I seemed so very relaxed in my femme role. I thanked her and told her that being with her was a great confidence builder. And also, that this was my fourth day in seven dressed and out in public. As the saying goes: "The more you do it, the easier it gets!"

Stay Healthy. Stay Beautiful.  
Avoid Runners.

## Linda's Corner

Everyday in the news, you can hear about some city proposing a new human rights ordinance. Also every day, you can read about some city like Cincinnati where a human rights ordinance has been voted into

law by the city council. What usually follows is an out cry from some disgruntled citizen who wants to repeal it by putting it to a public vote. These laws all have the same common element. They have to do with discrimination against homosexuals in housing, employment, and other items they perceive to include as equal rights in general.

The ordinance which Cincinnati City Council passed last year outlawed discrimination based on sex, race, religion, disability, Appalachian origin or sexual orientation in housing and employment. This November, if you live in Cincinnati, you will have the opportunity to vote on whether or not to repeal this ordinance. You don't have to look hard to find someone speaking publicly on this topic. It's a hot subject locally, and will soon draw national attention.

Backers of the repeal measure has turned the words Equal Rights into "Special Rights". They claim that these rights are not needed. Yet when they get specific, they say they only want to remove the words "sexual orientation" from the ordinance. The rest of the ordinance, including of course, the religious part is ok. And after you hear them speak for awhile, it always comes out that they are right winged religious activists who only want to impose their religious teaching on everyone else.

Of course they still believe homosexual behavior is a life choice. We in the gender community of course know this is not true. None of us know why we are a transvestite or a transsexual. What we do know, is that the only cure is acceptance and

understanding. However, it is human nature to be afraid of, that which, we do not understand. Unfortunately, comprehension and fortitude are acquired virtues which some folks will never know.

Many of us in the transgendered community, feel that we also need some form of protection from the so called normal population. To accomplish this, some of the more out spoken individuals of our community have managed to tack on to these human rights ordinances, such phrases like, "sexual orientation" or "gender expression". If you are transgender in any form, you are probably excited about getting something like this passed in your hometown. After all, it certainly can't hurt the cause, or could it?

In order to imagine how a law based on discrimination in our favor, might effect us in a negative manner, lets review some points that have come to light since certain minorities started getting special rights.

When it comes to employment, most ordinances state simply, that an employer must not discriminate. The intent is to achieve "equal rights" for the minority workers. The problems arise when a select few, twist it around for personal gain. They turn "equal rights" into "special rights", because that's what that select few believe it to be. It's almost like passing out guns for people to protect themselves, while at the same time you also gave guns to the bad guys who never before had one.

As I speak to you, keep in mind that I am a small business owner. I employ 8-10 people in my office. I

also employ a large number of subcontractors, who in turn have many employees. None of my employees are minority. Most, but not all, my subcontractors mirror my company. Because my business is small and I do not contract with the government, I am not forced to follow any minority employment guidelines, like affirmative action. I do not hire protected minorities. It's not because I don't like them nor do I think they could not be excellent employees. It's because of discrimination laws. And it's because I plan to stay in business. Case in Point: I've seen other small business who did hire some minorities. In more cases than I would like to count, if this employee didn't work out, and they were fired, they rebutted back saying they have been discriminated against. They now employ their "special right" by filing a law suit. The employer many times go to court plus spend lots of time and money, regardless of the outcome. Bigger companies may even settle quickly out of court because it's cheaper. Regardless, the business loses. And in the long run, so does all minorities.

Bottom line is, if there are plenty of qualified people for the job, why take the chance and hire someone who may later be a detriment. This holds true for someone who is transgendered. If there was a law in my town protecting say transsexuals, I would never consider hiring one. My heart goes out for the good worker, but the reality of real life business tell a different story.

And what about perceived minorities. Most of our girls out there have plucked eye brows, pierced ears, shaved legs, or

something. If you give reason for skepticism, you could be discriminated against because they suspect you could be protected under the law.

And what about the view of the minority. Most don't want to be treated special. Earning equal respect from your fellow worker becomes impossible when they suspect you just got the job because of your minority status.

If I were transsexual and in the work place. I would rather know that my employer hired me for my ability, and not because of some law, or fear of legal repercussion. Sure it's going to be tough, but the good things never come easy.

I also own some apartments and belong to local & national apartment associations. Anyone who is a good apartment owner wants the same thing. We don't care about your sexual orientation, but we do expect you to be a good neighbor, take care of the place, and live up to your lease agreement. We do rent to anyone who promises to live by these rules, and so would 99% of all property owners.

And while we try our best to please everyone, we constantly must watch our back for the minority gold diggers. And the bigger the pot, the better the chance that someone will try to stick their hand into it.

Some people can't understand want why so many other people oppose "human rights" laws. The biggest reason is, there are too many laws already, and business are tired of being told what to do. It's hard enough trying not to give anyone reason to yell discrimination

with current laws. At least you can see a current protected minority when they approach. With gays and transgendered individuals, they're for the most part, impossible to detect unless you ask. And then, if these laws are in place, anyone could say that they are gay, and they have grounds for a lawsuit. (And a pocket full of free money.)

Others fear that equal rights is the first step to affirmative action for another select group, which could lead to their loss of benefits and even their job.

So first you must decide if this law is really in your best interest and those it will effect. Also, is there really a need for this type of law? In the past months has it really made a difference in anyone life? After all, if its not broke, why fix it.

The bottom line is, any minority will lose when equality under the law bears the misnomer of "special rights". History speaks for itself. Every time a repeal of this law has come up for a vote to the general public, it has won by a wide margin. Let's face it, the numbers are not in the minority's favor. And they never will be.

#### Publication Notice

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