

# Cross-Port InnerView

P.O. Box 12701, Cincinnati, OH 45212

The next meeting is March 15 at 8:00

## A New View

by Cathy

It was a dark and stormy night. No, that's not it. The newsletter editor stood upon the burning deck. No, that's not quite right either. Well, anyway, last month's newsletter was the second January newsletter we have had this year, and not only that, it announced that the next meeting wasn't until May. How could such a tragedy occur!?

Those of you who are familiar with computers know the terror which lurks behind the word "upgrade". That is a term which means that under the guise of making things work better, some office terrorist installs a new, *improved* version of the software which invalidates anything you have learned about the *old* software which worked just fine in the first place.

That's what happened to me last month when I went into the office to print out the February newsletter on their laser printer. Low and Behold! The word processing software had been changed to Wordperfect 5.1. I'd never used that version before. What was worse? My nice, neat layout which I'd worked so hard to achieve got all shifted around and spilled over onto a new and undesired page.

Well, I finally got all that straightened out, but was so freaked out by the experience that I forgot to double check my headings, thus the stupid dates. I didn't even notice they were wrong until we had several dozen envelopes stuffed and stamped. Heather told me she got several phone calls about it. Fortunately she understands computers and computer users.

Even with the (wrong) announcement that the next meeting would be in May, we had thirty-four people show up for the February meeting. Barb Baily from the Suggestive-Something Boutique in Dayton came with several nice outfits and a lot of fashion rings and other pieces of jewelry. Her selection was smaller than last time because her store had been burglarized a few days before. She braved the rains, however and we thank her for that.

Rebecca came to her first Cross-Port meeting. Even though her twin brother had come to several meetings previously, he was nowhere to be seen that night. She looked very nice too. I always have thought that the less facial hair the better. Gary also came to his first meeting and there were several faces there who had only been there once or twice before. The big news -- Suzanne from Dayton was finally able to convince me that her name *wasn't* Stephanie as I'd tried to tell her at previous meetings.

Several of the girls volunteered to fill out George Brown's survey to help with his study of crossdressers, so he should be able to include five or six responses from Ohio in his data. Thanks to those of you who took the time. Dr. Brown will be at the Be-All in Pittsburgh this June so if you are able to do so, stop by and say hi.

And the Rains! Buckets and buckets and buckets. If it's not cold, it's snow. If it's not snow, it's rain. I hate to think what the weather will be like for the meeting this month. Lion or lamb this time of year. I just hope if it's a lamb that it's not a wolf in sheep's clothing.

Jennifer, Julie and I went to the Leather and Lace show at Christopher's the weekend before the

last meeting. While it was nice to be going out we were a little disappointed in the show itself. The girls who were doing the stripping (and they were real girls) just didn't seem to have their hearts into it. They peeled their outerwear pretty quick then spent a lot of time dancing around in bikini outfits. Not much down and dirty sexuality in the act. It definitely wasn't the way women strip before a male audience. Our guess -- the girls were straight and the mostly female audience chilled them out a bit.

January Incomes:	
Meeting Collection:	\$73.00
Dues, Etc.:	<u>\$132.00</u>
Total Income:	<u>\$205.00</u>

Ending Balance as of February 11: \$1558.84

We also mailed three intro packets this month.

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## Can We Talk?

by Heather Peerson

This month's issue contains a couple of articles from Heather. For those of you who have been asking why she hasn't been in print lately, she makes a return in a big way.

Next month we should have article from Jeannine detailing her experiences at the Texas Tea Party in San Antonio. *Perhaps* Linda will have something as well from the Coming Together convention in Boston. The crossdressing convention circuit sure is warming up, we just got a packet of brochures about the Be-All in Pittsburgh in June. We will have them at the next meeting for those of you who are interested.

It's been a while since this column appeared so I thought I would revive it. As all of you regular readers can tell, things have been going well for Cross-Port and for myself as well. My job is great. I'm back working with computers (the thing I like to do best) and they really seem to like having me there.

The boss is visiting our San Francisco office and one of the women from there called me to say he can't stop telling them how wonderful I am. (I bought a hat 2 months ago but it doesn't fit any more.)

About two months after I started there one of the women got a hold of a high school year book (the year I graduated) and looked up my picture. I was glad she wasn't pregnant she would have had the kid right then. They never told me, so I didn't find out they knew until about a month after that. I decided to let them know that I knew that they knew. (WOW) When I called them all together to talk about it my boss said it didn't matter. He said as long as I wanted to work there I would have a job. I told him about the old job and why I really left and he said it was their (the old job's) loss and his gain. (I felt I could equate that with the feeding of five thousand people with five loaves of bread and seven fish.) I received a raise in January and I'll be due for another in June.

Why am I telling you all this? Because if it can happen to me it can happen to you. So have heart and go for it.

Cincinnati Gay Pride Week is June 1st to June 10th this year. I know most of you are not gay and you don't always feel comfortable at gay events but you are welcome and it is a chance to do something you may not otherwise get to do.

Last, from the *Renaissance News* comes a note from Paula Sinclair's column that a female impersonator who is a former Miss Ohio Valley U.S.A. is currently serving a one year sentence for selling cocaine to an undercover policeman here in Cincinnati.

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## Cross-Port Finances

Here is the current status of the Cross-Port Treasury:

Beginning Balance as of the February Newsletter is: \$1458.97

### February Expenses:

Phone:	\$32.00
Envelopes & Stamps:	\$35.20
Printing Feb. Newsletter:	\$27.43
GCLC meeting dues:	\$9.00
Bank Charges:	<u>\$ 1.50</u>
Total Expenses:	<u>\$105.13</u>

The Schedule so far is:

6/1	Kickoff Dance
6/1	Canoe Trip
6/3	Kings Island Day
6/4	Ecumenical Service
6/4	Roller Skating Party
6/5	Concert
6/5	Fund Raiser at Spurs
6/6	(Day off for my Birthday)
6/7	Movie Night
6/8	Cocktail Party
6/9	Parade
6/9	Pub Crawl
6/9	Coffee House
6/10	Sawyer Point Concert

More information will be coming in the April Issue.

I wanted to take a couple of moments to talk a little about Cross-Port. June 5 will be Cross-Port's sixth anniversary. Much has happened since then and I have met and talked with a lot of really nice people.

It was my hope then and remains my goal to have Cross-Port function as a support group. It was never meant to be a club or an organization. Its purpose is not to make itself bigger or to be the richest or the most active group anywhere. The purpose is to help all of you to have the best life you can have and to make all of you better people.

To that end we have helped to get several other groups going including IXE in Indianapolis (to a larger degree) and the Crystal Club and now TWV in West Virginia (to a lesser degree). With each new group we lose a few people and sometimes the meetings feel small when only 25 or so attend. But that is OK. As a support group we should hope that as many people as need support can get it as close to their own home as is possible.

We should also not be surprised when we see faces changing and people coming and going. As people become comfortable with their crossdressing whether they are a TV or a TS it is likely that they will need less support and they will move on to other more important things in their life. That is the goal of a successful support group.

Our chief means of giving support is to simply be there. To offer people a place to go where they can meet others who feel as they feel. Once someone knows that they can dress and be accepted

they can begin to control their crossdressing instead of it controlling them.

We do not try to hold parties or offer makeup lessons. We don't try to compete with national organizations like I.F.G.E. That is what they are there for and they are good at it. We have never even placed ourselves in quite the same category as Paradise Club. In fact, I have often recommended that people who feel we should be doing more things join Paradise Club. They are a good group and offer quite a bit including co-sponsoring the "Be All You Want to Be" weekends with Transpitt and Crossroads.

This is not to say that we are not willing to have parties or go to them. It means that those of us who take a more active role in the group are not willing to sit around thinking of things to do, putting them together then having no one show up.

Cathy, Jennifer, and Linda have done a good job at adhering to the goal of being supportive as they have taken much of the work off of my back over the last couple of years while I tried to get my own life in order. I have continued to answer the phone, do some public speaking and represent Cross-Port in the gay coalition. While you may not hear from me as often in the InnerView, I am still here supporting, caring and loving all of you as my sisters and brothers in the gender community and in God's family.

As we approach the anniversary of our sixth year take some time to think back at what it was like before you came to Cross-Port. Remember how afraid you were your first time. Recall the courage it took to come to your first meeting and remember there are still a lot of people who have yet to experience their first time. They need your support, your encouragement, your love and your understanding. That is what a support group is.




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## Jeannine's Notebook

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*Local Girl Makes National Scene!* Our sister Lori from southern Indiana casually mentioned to me that she had participated in the Miss Pocanos Pageant last fall and had won the crown! Not second or first runner-up, but the real bona-fide Queen title with crown, trophy and all.

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Talk about modesty! She received this prestigious award and as I understand, said not a word about it for over four months.

I'm sure we all join in congratulating Lori for this honor and for proving once and for all that midwestern girls can compete with the best of them.

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I've learned that this year's Miss Gay U.S.A. Pageant will be held in Louisville, KY at a relatively new and very nice nightclub named **The Connection**. It is located at the northwest corner of Floyd and Market Streets in the downtown area. Details are pretty sketchy but I'm told it is a five day event starting Tuesday, April 3rd with the finals on Sunday night April 8th. This is supposedly a rather prestigious event so there should be a lot of femme talent and glamour there. Be sure to remember though, that there is no competition held on Saturday night April 7th.

Management states that the pageant will probably start about 10 to 11pm and that there are no reservations -- it's first come, first seated. The club seats 300-400 in the newly completed Pageant area. The club complex also includes a pretty good restaurant and a very nice bar with a separate disco area.

If you are interested in possibly attending, you should call them at (502) 585-5752 for full details. Also, you can be assured that crossdressers are very welcome as I have been there several times and have discussed it with them. I may try to make it either Friday or Saturday night myself. The club also mentioned that the downtown Holiday Inn on Broadway was offering a special(?) rate of \$40.00 for one and \$45.00 for two people per night so I presume many of the contestants will be staying there.

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## **Transsexual Issues: Unconditional Love**

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Whether we believe in Christmas or not there is no denying that there is a special magic at that time of year. People will do some very unexpected things during Christmas that they would not do

otherwise. Maybe they would like to do these things all year but because of their own image of themselves they are not able to give themselves permission, so they use Christmas as an excuse.

On Christmas Eve 1987, I had not begun living full time as Heather. I had spent the day with a friend and was expected to go to church at 5:00 P.M., then to a family get-together. I was not expected as Heather. I changed into the old male role and did as the family expected. I had a miserable time.

Christmas morning I decided to go to church as Heather. It was not the first time I had gone to church that way but it was my first time returning to a Catholic Church. I remember I got there just as the service started so I had to stand throughout the celebration. When it was over I returned home with very mixed feelings.

I had enjoyed the service and the feeling that I had finally been able to worship God in a manner consistent with my sense of being and in a place of my choosing. These feelings were over shadowed by the knowledge that I would once again have to change back since I was supposed to be going to my mother's house that afternoon. She knew about me but she had never seen me as her daughter.

I decided to call her and cancel. I explained that I had made the change the day before and it had been very stressful. I expressed my sorrow at not seeing her on Christmas but said I would make every effort to see her the following day. At around 4:00 P.M. I answered the phone and to my surprise it was my mother telling me to come on over just as I was. I felt as though my heart would leap from my body. My mother had given me the greatest gift I would ever receive for Christmas, her unconditional love.

That was the beginning of a new relationship between my mom and me. She now sends me cards from mother to daughter and even told her doctor that she once had three sons and a daughter and now she has two daughters and two sons.

The rest of the family has not been quick to follow. While my sister has been supportive, I have not seen or talked to her much. She had concern for her three kids and how they would react to the news, so I could not go places where the kids would be.

My two older brothers were less kind. The second oldest told me that if this is what I had to do that I should do it, but he never wanted to see me again. My oldest brother and I never discussed it. I just was never invited to his house with the rest of the family until this Christmas.

My mother called on Christmas Eve morning to say that he had called and invited me to the house that night. It was the first time I had seen him or his wife in over two years. When I walked in I hugged him and told him I loved him. He said he loved me too. (Something he had never said to me before.) He did try to call me Heather and refer to me as SHE, but more often he forgot and used the old references. I didn't seem to mind, I was happy to be there.

On Christmas day they stopped by my apartment, and I saw them again at my mother's house that night. This year my brother had given me the second greatest gift I've ever gotten, his unconditional love.

Over the last two years I have tried to remind myself not to hate them for the rejection they have shown me. I tried to remember that I have had 38 years to deal with these feelings and they have had only two. I have tried to love them unconditionally, even when they could not love me that way. If I am unable to do so, then what right do I have to ask for their unconditional love.

Unconditional love means accepting the fact that they may never be able to accept me. It means accepting the fact that they may not want to see me. It means that I must find a source of love from those persons who do accept me and from deep within myself so that I have love to give them even when they don't seem to love me. It means trying to understand their reasons for rejection even when it hurts. I believe that if I can give my family that kind of love, then I may find that they respond back with the same kind of love. If not at least I have loved them.

What better reminder of what unconditional love is than Christmas. The celebration of the birth of the one who first gave us unconditional love, and how appropriate that when it finally came to me it came both times at Christmas.

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## From Our Readers

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Dear Cross-Port,

Although I can't attend many meetings, just having the group available is worth the newsletter dues... and more. My thanks for keeping the group together, you are doing a great job. The group is particularly valuable to part-timers like myself. The meetings are the highlight of my month and the only time I feel comfortable just being myself.

I would like to recommend more guest speakers on subjects such as makeup, clothing and other "tips" on how to look better. I realize that one of the "regulars" might not benefit, but we beginners need all the help we can get.

Thanks again. If you need volunteers for something, I'd be glad to do my share.

Sincerely --

Amanda

*Thanks for the vote of confidence. As Heather's article stated earlier in this issue, we are here primarily for you to be able to get out and express yourself. We do have occasional guests as last month bore witness, but as demonstrations in a bar are difficult to do we do not actively recruit them. Perhaps, as you have volunteered, you may be willing to locate a makeup or fashion consultant who would be interested in coming to a meeting.*

### 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.

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In case you were one of the few girls who could not attend Crossport night at the Copa, I guess I will just have to let you in on what you missed.

I arrived just about 9 o'clock. A few of our girls were already seated along with a good number of other anxious patrons. The show was not scheduled to start until after 10, so we had plenty of time to mingle, drink, dance, and make new friends.

I had a chance to run into some familiar faces, whom I have not seen in some time; Roger, with the Gay Coalition, and a good friend of Heathers; Peaches, the so-called Queen of Cincinnati. (She says she was the first Queen of Cincinnati; crowned back in the forties), Kenneth, with Hair Works, Goldie, a member of Crossport from about 4 years ago, and Eartha Quake a friend and performer who was running for Miss Copa.

The show started off with an introduction of the contestants. One at a time, the nine girls came up on the stage while the MC gave a little history on each.

After a small break, the evening gown competition started. As expected, each girl tried to out do the other with very expensive and gorgeous gowns. They were all so beautiful, it was hard to think of them as men.

The second part was talent. This alone, was worth the trip. Singing and dancing from revival music to Broadway. The one number even had a group of men, all dressed alike, which danced along with the contestant. Gee, but we are getting fancy.

Lastly, the girls were given a question to respond to. Now, the judges would put it all together, and come up with a winner. About 2:45 am. they announced the new Miss Copa, and she received her crown.

It seems like everyone had a great time, and hopefully Crossport will be able to have many more get togethers like it.

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Last month, Heather and myself,

spoke to about 150 students at the UC Medical School.

We met early, and had a nice lunch with the professor, while covering a few topics we wanted to speak on.

The class was suppose to last two hours, but we held their interest and extra 15 minutes because no one was clock watching.

Heather covered all the Transsexual issues, with me taking care of the Transvestite end. We each spoke for about 15 minutes before starting questions. We were of course bombarded by everything from the "What bathroom do you use?", to complex surgery related questions regarding sex reassignment.

Groups like this are very rewarding to speak to. The people are intelligent motivated, and eager to learn what you have to say. Nothing like being up on stage in front of an audience with a talk show host. You feel the effort you've made has really helped the outreach goals of IFGE and all the crossdressers you represent.

At it's conclusion, many of the students came up and expressed their appreciation of our presence. (One girl who was about 6'2", wanted to know where I buy my clothes) We stood around and talked for another 30 minutes before departing. Mark up another fine showing for Crossport.

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Don't forget the IFGE convention from March 27 thru April 1. There's still time to join me there.

Also coming up in May, there is the "Paradise in the Poconos" weekend. It takes place from May 17th thru the 20th. Write to Creative Design Services, Box 1263, King of Prussia, PA 19406.

And let's not forget the "Fantasy Adventure Weekend" in Houston, TX, from May 4-6. Contact Jackie Thorne, Box 441754, Houston, TX 77244. (Ed. note: This only last Friday night, all day Saturday, and half day Sunday. But it is very reasonably priced for under \$100.)