

# Cross-Port



P. O. BOX 12701  
CINCINNATI OHIO 45212

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The Next Meeting Is  
December 15 at 7:30 come. December 1988

## CAN WE TALK!

by Heather

I received a strange letter the other day. It was from a person who wanted information about Cross-Port. They said they would like to attend a meeting but that they are only in the area once a year, around the 24th of December. It was addressed. Box Holder, PO Box 1, Elves Grove, North Pole.

Speaking of letters, I would like to clarify a statement I made last month about Tri-Ess brought to my attention by Diane Ingram. The statement about persons who "...wish to ride along on some one else's skirt tail." was not directed toward the members of Tri-Ess. It was a reference toward a number of transsexuals I met at one of the big get-togethers.

Many transsexuals (certainly not all) enter the crossdressing/gender community at a crisis point in their lives. They want help and support but they do little in return for the group and once they have their surgery they disappear from the gender community. I feel they are not willing to put in the time or the effort it takes to run a group so they feel that they should have a right to join and attend Tri-Ess. Many of them do not consider themselves crossdressers (a feeling I am beginning to understand) yet they want to join a support group for crossdressers.

In our own area some of the TS's wanted a separate support group that would address TS issues. One of the girls started one in Dayton. After several months she dropped it because no one was coming. Every month she had to call everyone and almost beg them to

At Cross-Port meetings, the least amount of financial support comes from the TS's. Some do not pay for the newsletter and do not receive it, then they come to the meetings and buy drinks but say they don't have three dollars to donate to our collection. Some say they don't contribute because they don't get anything from the meetings, so why do they come?

Since I myself am a TS, I understand many of the feelings that TS's have. For us this is not a once a month thing but our very life. It can be difficult to watch others come in dressed, feeling and looking good, and having a good time knowing that tomorrow they will go back to their jobs and families happy to be back in their original gender. But the fact is that no one, including the world owes us anything. Being a TS was not my choice, but what I do about it is my choice. What I get out of life is what I put into it.

Please don't misunderstand me, there are a number of groups being run by TS's and they are run well. In Columbus Ohio and in Atlanta Georgia, there are support groups for transsexuals. No TV's are welcome. In almost every city there are gay/lesbian bars and support groups where crossdressers are not welcome. If Tri-Ess feels a need to exclude TS's and Gays from their membership they have that right just as these TS groups have the right to exclude TV's.

It is true that some of us simply have a problem with exclusion. It would be nice if everyone could just accept everyone else. If that were true we wouldn't need support groups. It would also be nice if we minorities

who are asking the world in general to accept us could set some examples. The fact is that everyone belongs to some minority and if every minority set the example then we would all accept eachother.

In other issues, this is my last month as President, Editor, Financial Controller and "anything else that needs to be done" girl. I will remain President Emeritus, will continue to answer the phone, will write my column(s) and will attend the GCG/LC meetings. We still need an alternate for the GCG/LC position.

Linda will continue to run the meetings and she, Cathy and Jenifer will edit the newsletter, handle new inquiries and anything else that needs to be done.

It has been a good three and a half years. Hard at times, fun at others but always rewarding. There is a saying that old group leaders never die they just hang around causing trouble. Well we'll see.

*Heather*

## A NEW VIEW

By Cathy

Look for changes in the InnerView starting next month. That is when Heather bows out as editor and Jennifer, Linda and I step in. Notice that it takes three of us to fill her shoes (not that her feet are actually that big). What this will mean is that the InnerView will probably be a bit ragged around the edges as we settle into our new jobs and get a feel for working with new software and each other. We have been experimenting with some new "desktop publishing" software and are looking into getting access to a laser printer.

**New Ideas:** We intend to include a new monthly article reporting Cross-Port's state of financial affairs. After all, it is your donations and subscriptions that keep us going. If you have any ideas on columns or articles which will make the InnerView more interesting or useful, please let us know. If it's one thing that we should know more than most people, variety is the spice of life. One thing I haven't seen in the InnerView which I have seen in other publications is fiction. Any budding fiction writers out there?

**Editorial Policy:** Heather has tried very hard to insure that the InnerView is a very Cross-Port oriented newsletter and that most of the information and articles included are from you, our loyal readers. This has also meant that Heather has also had to write entire newsletters from cover to cover at times when submissions for publication were not forthcoming. With more of us to cover the load, hopefully that won't happen again. Life being as it is, you may occasionally see articles gleaned from other newsletters to fill in any slack which may occur.

I've had one person comment already that with only TV's on the editorial staff, it looks like TS articles will become scarce. Let's not let that happen folks. While we can't write from personal experience on that issue, some of you can. We will try to publish anything submitted with as little alteration (purely for aesthetic reasons) as possible. Really weird stuff such as stories about animal group sex with one-legged Armenian toothless proctologists and gerbils may require exceptional alteration, especially for aesthetic reasons.

Our production schedule has been set as follows: All submissions must be sent to the Crossport mailbox or handed to one of the editors by the first Friday of each month. Late submissions will held for subsequent issues. On the second Thursday of each month we will gather to collate, staple, fold, stamp, stuff and address. We are currently trying to arrange a place to do this which will give people another chance to go out dressed in addition to the regular meeting. With just over one hundred newsletters to prepare, things go a lot faster with an extra half dozen or so people. Also, the faster we get the issue put to bed, the sooner we can get down to some serious socializing.

In case you missed it last issue, Cross-Port's new mailing address is: Cross-Port, P.O. Box 12701, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45212.

**Post-Script:** Start saving your pennies, come January the time to renew your subscriptions to the InnerView will be here again. Subscriptions are \$18.00 for twelve issues. Send your check or money order to the above address.

# Feminine Reality

By Arlena Maria Parrish

Reality? What is your feminine reality? Is it the appearance we present to others when we are dressed as either female or male? Is it how we feel about ourselves? Is it the spirit of the mind or the physical concreteness of the body?

All of the questions concern each and every one of us as sisters and members of the cross-dressing community. These questions can only be answered by each of us as they pertain to us on an individual basis. Each answer is yours and yours alone. Your answers should not be applied to another sister, nor should another sister's answers be applied to you. Each of us is a totally unique person with different views about our cross-dressing and just how reality affects us.

My own personal reality is derived from the label or classification which I use to describe my cross-dressing views. My reality is that of being a bigendered transsexual. This does not in any way state that I am also bisexual. My own sexual preference is my business and mine alone. My sexual desires are both of the feminine and masculine nature. Until I am able to fully live with and understand these desires, I will not say anything about them.

Reality for me is the appearance I present to others when I am dressed as my feminine personality. My appearance is not as good as some of my more fortunate sisters. Improvement in my personal appearance is coming along very slowly. Someday I will be able to present my own personal illusion of femininity.

Reality for me is being feminine when I am really masculine. It is also the fact of being a female trapped inside a male body. Last but not least, it is knowing that I can never be truly female. My total transformation to female from male will never truly take place.

Reality for me is working and living part of my life as a male. It is also living most of my free time as a female. I become my true feminine personality on the weekends and at least once during the week, when I go fully cross-dressed.

Arlena Maria lives for the times she is happiest as the female she was meant to be,

not as the male Richard is.

# Transsexual Issues Religion

By Heather Peerson

Imagine for a moment that there are two women who have never heard of or seen pictures of the ocean. Each one sets out on a journey to discover the experience of the ocean. When the first one finally reaches it she happens upon an area that is very rough. The waves are pounding into the rocks. The water is cold and deep and the wind is very strong and cold. The second happens upon an area that is very calm. The waves are mild. The water is warm and shallow and the wind is gentle and warm.

Which of these two woman experienced the ocean? They both did, but their experiences were very different. If they were to meet and discuss the subject of, "What is the ocean?" they would probably end up fighting since each one would not be able to relate to the others experiences. Both of them would be right however, since they are both relating their own experiences. If on the other hand they were to meet to discuss their journeys and struggles in reaching the ocean, not only would each women's experience remain valid and unthreatened, but each could learn to appreciate the other's experiences.

I believe that our experience of God is much the same as the two women's experiences of the ocean. We each experience God in a different way and at different times. That doesn't make our experiences wrong, only different. I am not writing this to convince anyone that my experiences are right for anyone but me. I am writing this to share my journey, struggles and thought processes which have lead me to my experience of God and transsexualism.

"God does not make mistakes, therefore if God created you as a man then you don't have the right to change yourself." That was one of the first statements I faced as I talked to a friend about my being a transsexual. I found I was caught up in that statement. I too believed that God does not make mistakes. Yet how could I account for the many birth defects that exist in the world. I know the temptation is to simply say, that birth defects are part of life and that God has nothing to do with them, yet I believe that each of us is created by God and we each have a Godly purpose. Then

it struck me. I am what I am because God wanted me that way. It is not a mistake.

The feeling that arises once that conclusion is reached is, "Why me? Why did this have to happen to me?" It is easy to feel discouraged and down when faced with the problems of being a transsexual. Yet when I started to really look at Scripture I was encouraged. Moses asked, "Why me?". Jeremiah asked, "Why me?". Job asked, "Why me?". It was then that I began to see a pattern taking place. All of these persons had asked "Why me?" because they could only view the world from their own point of view.

There was a man who had to travel over 100 miles to go to church which he loved to do however he had to travel 100 miles in the opposite direction to go to the market. Since he could only do one thing each week he rotated weeks between church and the market. So he began writing to a construction company about a piece of land across the road from him that would be a perfect spot for a church. One day sure enough construction began on the sight. He watched each day as the structure neared completion. It was a strange looking church but he would be happy just to have it close by. When it was finally completed the man was shocked to see not a church but a market. He ran to the man in charge and screamed, "What have you done? I asked that you build a church here not a market. I still have to travel over 100 miles to go to church." The man calmly smiled and said, "I considered your request and thought about what was best for all. Since you are the only person in this area who goes to church I felt that more people would be served by building the market however, because the market is so close, you will now be able to go to church every week."

The man was upset because he had only been able to see things from his own point of view. Many times I forget that my existence is not a part of my plan but of God's plan and that God's thoughts are far above my thoughts. Instead of asking "Why me?" I must learn to ask, "How is God using me for God's glory".

Another part of the struggle of "Do I have the right", comes when I say, OK if I am a transsexual because God wants me to be one then I can also say that I must keep my male body because that's what God gave me. Throughout Scripture there are both masculine and feminine images of God. In the Book of Wisdom, Wisdom is a desirable woman and

male lover. The father image we have of God comes from a time when women were considered property. It was an attempt by Jesus to make our relationship with God a personal one. By the time that the Gospel of John was written that view of women was already changing or the story of Jesus and the woman at the well would not have been written about.

The fact is that God is a spirit and has no gender, just as angels have no gender. In Galatians we are told, that in Christ there is no male or female. It is also implied in several places that we too will be only spirits in the next life. I believe that if gender were important to God spirits would also have gender. God's concern is for relationships. How do we deal with God and with each other. In Genesis, it is Adam and Eve who determine that being naked is wrong. They hide from God because of their guilt. God was not concerned about their bodies. God was concerned about the change in the relationship. Where they once walked with God, they were now afraid.

Finally, Jesus was a sinner, not in the eyes of God but in the eyes of many persons around him. He ate with tax collectors, touched and healed lepers, and was accused of blasphemy. When he was admonished for healing on the sabbath, he made it very clear that the laws were given as an aid to us. They are to help us in our relationships, yet if that same law obstructs our relationships then there are times when the laws need to be set aside in favor of the relationship. In Matthew 12:7 Jesus says, "If you understood the text, 'It is mercy I desire and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned these innocent men." The laws were given to show us how to be merciful, not as a means of holding people accountable. Therefore, I can expect that there will be people who will say that I don't have the right to change my body, for they will be holding me accountable. I believe however, that only when I am at peace with myself can I have meaningful relationships with others. That peace can only come when I am finally the complete person I feel I was meant to be.

## The THING Shop

Newport's Undieworld  
811 Monmouth Street  
Newport, KY 41071

11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
Wed. 11:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Mary Curtis

Store 606/431-4469

REMEMBERING THE GOOD OLD DAYS

Perhaps there is no one who remembers Cincinnati's first crossdressing group better than I. Yes, that's right, Crossport is not the first group in this area and probably won't be the last.

For me, my first encounter with a crossdressing group was in 1972, back in the old college days. I was sitting in the frat house drinking beer and looking at dirty magazines. In the corner was a small ad which said, "Do you cross dress", along with an address. As soon as I was sure no one was looking, I ripped out that very small ad and tucked it away for later.

When I got home, I just kept looking at it, over and over. Was it possible that there were others like me out there? Or perhaps this was some trick to catch sick people so they could be exposed to the world. I was scared, but I had to find out. It took me about 2 years, to get up the nerve to finally write. What did I get? Well, it was a brochure on the new TRI-S group. (They had just changed their name after FPE merged with Mamselle.) I couldn't believe what I was reading. It was just too good to be true. But I was still very apprehensive.

About 2 years later I finally joined TRI-S. After about a year, I got a letter from a girl in the Louisville area that wanted to start a chapter. I was more than willing to help out. After much correspondence, we set our first meeting day. This would be the first time I ever met another crossdresser, and while there, I would also get dressed. The date was Sept. 19, 1981.

At that meeting the Lambda Delta Chapter of TRI-S was officially born. Our area was made up of Indianapolis, Lexington, Louisville, Dayton, Columbus and any other nearby city. The 4 of us decided we would meet every other month in a different city. About the 3rd or 4th meeting is where I met Valerie from our group. I also met Linda Carson from Dayton, and Tommie from Indiana, just to name a few. In less than a year, our group broke up. Everyone lived too far from one another, and the driving of long hours just to sit in a motel room got old fast.

After the group died, Valerie and myself use to drive to Indianapolis or Louisville to take in a drag show and do a little dancing. This went on for a while until our friend Tommie from Indiana decided to start a group. He worked long and hard, getting names from wherever, and writing tons of letters. Soon the first date was set. A week before the meeting, I received a letter from his wife stating that he was badly hurt in an accident at work, and the meeting would have to be postponed. I never heard from Tommie again and no one knows what happened to him.

About a year later, I heard from Linda Carson from Dayton. She said a girl named Cathy Rogers was going to start a group up in the Dayton area and was interested. Of course I was. When we finally met, I thought for sure, this time it was going to work. At the first meeting we

had about 10-15 people who all lived nearby, and they all seemed to want to help. We elected officers, collected dues, and started a newsletter. It looked like we were on our way, but then one day it stopped just as quick as it got started. A year later, I heard a few of the girls were starting to attend Paradise in Cleveland, but that was just too far to go. I did meet a few girls at the meeting, however, who would later make up a few members of Crossport.

Things were starting to change. Not just here in the Cincinnati area, but all around the country. Groups started popping up in almost ever major city. Now many of the new groups were for both TV & TS's. We started to see crossdressers on television shows like Phil Donahue. Many became more public without the fear they once carried. A third sex, the Shemale was now visible in book stores and on film. Stores were opening up just for the crossdresser. Many groups were getting so large, they split into other ones. Crossport was just waiting to happen.

And it did. In June of 1985, I received a call from Sharon, who told me someone named Heather was starting up a group. Again I was more than ready. This time, a few of us now knew what would and wouldn't work. Those meetings grew from just a few, to now more than thirty. Many people now return each month to be with friends and to enjoy themselves. The group was no longer just for support. But all groups that survive seem to have a good balance of many things.

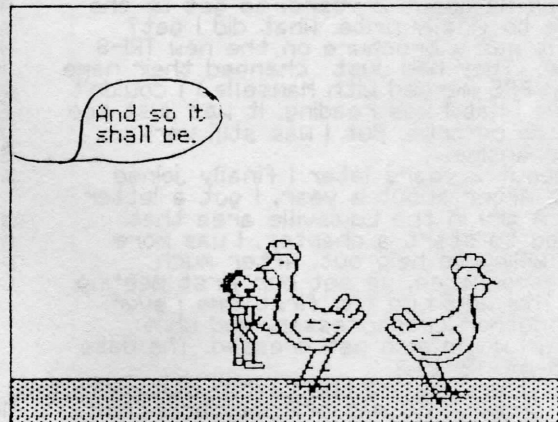
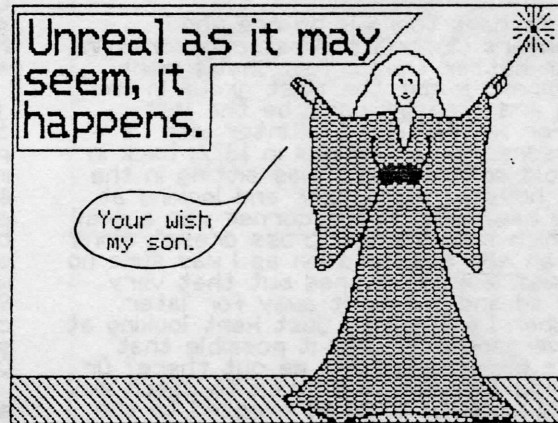
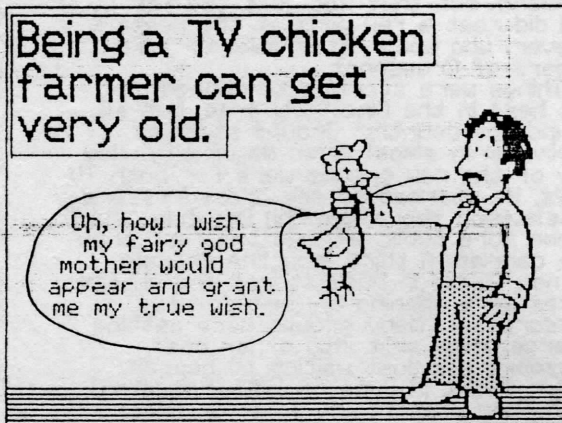
In the future, Crossport may change as new people come and go, but that's not necessarily bad or good. I do know personally speaking, as long as I'm around Crossport will be to.

I would like to wish all my sisters a Merry Christmas, and I hope to see you all at the Christmas party



# The chicken wish

by Linda



## 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, T5 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 crossdressers, transsexuals and their family and friends.