

Cross-Port InnerView

P.O. Box 54657, Cincinnati, OH 45254

The next meeting is July 15 at 8:00pm

A New View

By Elaine

We had twenty nine ladies and S.O.'s at the meeting this month. A pretty good turn out considering the short notice for the change in location. We hope to have a better turn out at the next meeting. We would like to welcome our new member George. We all hope he had a good time and that we will see her again in July.

We found out it is official Christopher's is closed for good we have not received word as to why, but we now know it is for good this time.

We know that a lot of girls are opposed to where we are meeting now. We also have asked people for ideas as to a meeting place that we can all agree on. The Dayton girls want us to meet there but all the people that do for Cross-Port live in the greater Cincinnati area and we don't want to drive all the way to Dayton any more than they want to drive to Cincinnati. So we at Cross-port would really appreciate some help in finding a place. You can send your suggestion to the address at the top

of this newsletter.

Thank you from the officers of Cross-Port.

Shopping for Wigs and Wig Care

by Kristine Jones

The wig is probably the single most important beauty accessory for the crossdresser. Therefore, it is probably the most important purchase you will make. Wigs are available in both natural hair and synthetics. You will almost certainly purchase a synthetic wig, as formerly the human hair wigs were manufactured largely from the hair of 16-year-old convent-bound girls. If we had to depend on that source these days, the waiting list for wigs would be quite long indeed. Fortunately, however, wig technology has improved beyond the brittle, ugly synthetic wig of the 60's. With the wig fibers and styling products available today, many of the wigs on the market pass readily for human hair. My caution is to go to a wig shop and try on the product before you buy. Often, the mail order companies sell outdated styles and

the catalog pictures don't tell you how the hairpiece will look on your head. Similarly, you can not tell if the wig cap will fit your head and often the smaller head sizes of women mean a wig cap size that is too small. Unfortunately, the wigs from mail order are many times non-returnable, so you are running the risk of getting stuck with a bad style, color or fit before you actually see it. Most reputable wig shops have booths and will allow you to try on wigs. But for you that can't or won't, the mail order locations are listed at the end of this article. If I have missed one of your favorites, let me know and I will add it in a later article.

Whilst it is important to have the hair color you've dreamed of, try to take into account your eye color and complexion. Too often, you see fair skinned crossdressers with very black wigs or girls with dark complexion with a platinum or pale blond shade. Instead, a medium brown or chestnut brown for a dark skin or a golden brown blonde/sandy blonde is better for a fair complexion. If you have brown eyes, you will look more natural in dark shades. If you have blue eyes, you have the look to usually pull off a light color. Green or gray eyes often look best

in reddish tones. If you want to be unique, wear a red wig; crossdressers avoid red wigs almost without exception.

If you purchase a wig from a shop, insist on the one on display. Part of what you are paying for is to have the shop style the wig the way you want it. I wouldn't be shy to ask them to make alterations to the style before you purchase. Additionally, many wigs are overpriced and many times the shop considers the price negotiable or will offer two for a reduced price. Don't be afraid to bargain. You can purchase a stylish and attractive wig for \$20.00. Try the downtown wigs shops in Cincinnati- Accent Fashion Wigs and Jade Wigs.

To clean and restyle the wig, we aren't talking expensive products. It's kind of like taking care of polyester pants. First, brush out the wig to remove the hairspray buildup that was teased in the wig. Then, in a bucket or sink of cool water, add dishwashing detergent (a tablespoon or two of "Joy" per quart is plenty) and soak the wig for a while, depending on how dirty the wig is. Swish around in the soap and rinse all traces of the soap out. Finally, condition the wig by soaking in fabric softener (I use Downy). Let dry thoroughly and once dry, brush out with a vent brush or wire-bristled wig brush. Styling a wig is not as hard as you think. Unlike human hair, wigs tend to hold curl through several washings. Wigs curl with heat, so you can change the curl and style by setting with hot, steam or molecular rollers; however be careful not to melt the wig fibers, which curling irons tend to do. To style, place the wig on a canvas block or styrofoam head and secure

to the form with T-pins. Begin by pulling out the tangles, treating the wig firmly but gently. Lightly backbrush or backcomb the hair. This conceals the cap and locks the style in place, as well as adding height and fullness. Brush or comb the surface hair by smoothing into the desired style. Flatten and lightly tease the hair around the face line to create a natural hairline appearance.

Remember to balance your facial and shoulder features by the selection and styling of the wig. Bangs can balance out a large nose and height on top can balance a strong forehead or large face. Broad shoulders mean you need a volume of hair horizontally for a good size balance. Nothing looks worse than a small wig perched on top of a big frame, so maintain a sense of perspective.

A good spray of hairspray will hold the style and remember to spray as you style. The spray in the fluffed portion of the tease will hold the style much more than just if you spray on the surface.

If cared for properly, wig will look natural and stylish for a long time. Replace it when it starts to show wear and the length is no longer current.

Paula Young's Fashion Wigs, P.O. Box 483, Brockton, MA 024-03-0483, 1-800-343-9695 has a selection of wigs from \$49 to \$119. Good selection of styles, colors, and sizes, with 750 color and size combinations. Free Catalog.

Beauty Trends, P.O. Box 9323, Hialeah, FL 30014-9323, 1-800-777-7772 offers wigs from \$29 to \$115 with both Revlon and Adolpho wigs. Fine style and selection at equally good prices.

Perhaps more up-to-date than others in style. Free Catalog.

Carla Corcini, P.O. Box 1700, Brockton, MA 02403-1700, 1-800-229-1234 has an extremely nice selection of wigs, from \$27 to \$115 with more longer lengths than the others. Free Catalog.

Louis Feder/Joseph Fleisher, 14 East 38th Street, 8th Floor, New York, NY 10016, 1-(216) 686-7701 very nice human hair and synthetic wigs-very, very expensive.

INSIGHT #42

by: Barbara Jean.

Hi girls, this is Barb back again. Well girls I got some more letters in the mail.

The first one came from a girl by the name of Patricia in New York State. Patricia writes to say that she has come to accept her femside, but still feels guilty whenever she crossdresses.

A second letter that I received came from Kim in Virginia. Kim wrote that all her life she was taught that girls clothes were wrong, that girls thoughts were wrong, that girls were weak. I think a lot of us girls can relate to what Kim writes. Is it a no wonder why we feel guilty about our crossdressing?

First off girls let's understand you are not a crossdresser by choice. I think the number of us who actually make a conscientious choice to become crossdressers is minuscule. Why are we

crossdressers? Well first let's read this little bit by Jan N. called the alphabet prayer.

THE ALPHABET PRAYER

by: Jan N.

I don't know where I heard it, but the story goes something like this....

A mother was passing her daughter's bedroom one night when she thought she heard voices from within. Upon opening the door she saw her daughter kneeling as if in prayer saying "....D,E,F,G,H,I,J,...."

In reply to her mothers obvious question the daughter said, "I didn't know what to say to God tonight, so I was saying all the letters of the alphabet and letting God put them in the right order cause He knows what is in my heart."

Child like innocence, to be sure, but a world or truth in her prayer too. I don't know why the story stuck with me, but it hit me that I pretty much feel the same way as that child did, whenever I pray about my being a crossdresser.

It's true, I don't recite the alphabet and then say to God to do the rest. What I usually do, however, is to pray something like this:

"God You know what is in my heart. Please look into that heart, past all the outward trappings, and see the real me, whether masculine or feminine, and know that I love You.

I don't know why You made me like I am, but I do know that You don't make mistakes. So whatever reason dear God, I am who I am because You have willed it.

You know that whenever I am dressed as a woman I don't mock them or You, but rather I give them the highest praise that I possibly can. In my own way I am paying homage to one of your greatest creations--woman. Surely, that cannot be wrong.

Please help me, Lord, to understand why You made me like this, and if that is not your wish, please help me to accept myself as I am until I do Understand. I love You Lord. Look past the clothing and see the love.

Amen"

So in my own way, I am very much like that young girl. I am asking God to look into my heart and see what is truly there. I am asking him to take all the words I pray or think and, like the letters of the child's alphabet put them "in the right order, cause he knows what's in my heart"

OK girls if we look at that prayer itself we soon realize that it was God that made us a crossdresser. Our being crossdressers is a part of God's wonderful plan for us. We do not know what that plan is, and we don't know why crossdressing is a part of that plan, but then who are we to question God's great wisdom.

Girls if we are to have any semblance of what God's plan is for us I think the first thing we must do is look upon our crossdressing as a tool used by God and our girl within to bring out and develop our femside.

What is femininity? Ladies

Home Journal once asked that question of it's readers and got about as many answers as it did responses. We each have our own idea of what femininity means. To me it means gentleness, it means being compassionate and concerned, it means being loving and caring. For me crossdressing is simply a tool used by God and my girl within to bring out and develop those characteristics. As they are developed the feminine remains even while I am in the masculine form.

Girls if we are to stop the feelings of guilt we must do as we ask God to do, look past the clothing, look into the heart and see what is really there. Perhaps then we will begin to see what God's wonderful plan is for us, and begin to understand how crossdressing is a part of that wonderful plan. When we see the heart, when we see just what femininity really is, when we allow the feminine to interject with the masculine to help create a better person out of us, then we will rid ourselves of the guilt, and we will replace it with great pride in God's wonderful plan for us. Like me girls, you will recognize that your crossdressing is a wonderful gift from God, and you will take great pride in the fact that he choose YOU to give that wonderful gift to.

Well that is all for this month girls Do take care and stay sweet. God loves you and I love you, and you are worth every bit of that wonderful love.

HEY, BABE! A BOOK ON THE WILD SIDE

by Bobbi L.

Holly Woodlawn's bio captures the gritty world of Warhol, "the Factory," and its "Superstars" who were the darlings of the art world in the 60's and 70's.

A LOW LIFE IN HIGH HEELS THE HOLLY WOODLAWN STORY

By Holly Woodlawn with Jeff Copeland

HarperPerennial: \$12.00

What Transvestite over the age of 15 hasn't felt the tug to "blow this town" upon hearing Lou Reed's seductive hymn to coming out, "Take a Walk on the Wild Side?" What most TV's DON'T know, I'll bet, is that the song was more than a mere tribute to crossdressers. The Holly who "...came from Miami, F-L-A...." in Reed's classic is an actual personality from that era: Holly Woodlawn, one of Andy Warhol's superstars from the 60's; and one of the few surviving into the 90's. In her biography, Holly takes the reader from her childhood in Puerto Rico, through the gutters (literally) of New York City in the 70's, and into the limelight of nostalgia which illuminates her today.

The 300 plus pages of this paperback are a "fun" read. Holly is nothing if not outspoken. What does one expect from a "man" who, in the first 100 words claims to be "...like Nathaniel Hawthorne's Hester Prynne [adulterous heroine of The Scarlet Letter] because of his "blazing libido." The analogies continue. At various points in time Holly sees

herself as: "Breakfast at Tiffany's" Holly Golightly, Liz Taylor, Lana Turner, Marlene Dietrich, Phil Silvers, Judy Garland, heir to the Woodlawn Cemetery, and even Frank Sinatra.

Of course, besides Holly Woodlawn, the names which play the largest role in this book are those of Candy Darling, Jackie Curtis, and Andy Warhol. These four were bound to one another by the whirlwind atmosphere of Warhol's art studio/warehouse known as The Factory. When not shooting film [Trash, Women in Revolt, etc.], this circle of fame and creativity was drawn to Max's Kansas City Restaurant where they could bask in their notoriety (and run up a tab on Andy).

While embellishing her fame and success, "...Low Life..." certaining is no white wash of the truth. Holly is equally at ease describing the dirt and ugliness of her life and career. About the only drug she didn't abuse was aspirin. Her resume includes: obnoxious drunk, thief, and con-artist. She took advantage of people's generosity and wealth. She abused those whom she loved. Yet her story is an endearing one. She was true to herself and believed in her dreams..."Technicolor" dreams!

I recommend that you put on your make-up, slip into something feminine, pour a glass of wine, and "take a read on the wild side."

NOTE: Refer to the April, 1993 InnerView where I mentioned that Madonna and Harvey Feirstein are collaborating on the film version

POTPOURRI

By: Bobbi L.

Cincinnati Post, July 19, 1993:

"Male victim was in a dress"

by: George Lecky (Post staff reporter)

"A Covington man charged in the strangulation death of another man in Walnut Hills last week thought the victim he had picked up downtown was a woman, according to court testimony Wednesday. James Huff, 22, ...charged with aggravated murder in the June 16 death of Rodney Dean Scott, 33, of Elmwood Place, was bound over to the grand jury Wednesday following a preliminary hearing before Hamilton County Court Judge Timothy Hogan. A 15-year-old relative of Huff's testified that he and Huff were driving downtown when they met Scott in the Over-the-Rhine. Scott was wearing a dress, the teenager said. Scott offered to perform a sexual act, the teen said, and the teen accompanied Huff and Scott to the Fulton Manor Hotel (in) Walnut Hills. ...Later Huff, who drove the teen to his home from the hotel, told him that Scott "turned out to be a guy." Scott was found dead later the same day in the rented room. Huff surrendered June 16. Homicide investigator Ray Morano testified that he interviewed Huff and Huff admitted he got into a fight with Scott and killed him."

Cincinnati Post, July 1, 1993

"Lovett's versatility never ends"

by: Mary Jo DiLonardo (Post staff reporter)

The brunette in the slinky sequined gown who

introduced Lyle Lovett at the zoo Wednesday night was not his new wife, Julia Roberts. "She" was a "he" in drag, presenting Lovett to the sold-out crowd of 3,500 over the recorded strains of "The Crying Game." Lovett's tongue-in-cheek cover of Tammy Wynette's "Stand by Your Man" was on the soundtrack of that movie and it was with that song that he kicked off nearly 2 1/2 hours of eclectic music "

Cincinnati Post, July 2, 1993

"Films so bad they're good"

by: Paul Clark (Post staff reporter)

"...Director Tim Burton ("Batman") plans a movie biography of the late Edward D. Wood Jr., the cross-dressing director responsible for unintentional howlers such as "Plan 9 From Outer Space...."

SRS: cheap, but not without a price "Penis reattached after wife cut it off" (Associated Press, June 19, 1993) A 24-year-old woman was charged with malicious wounding after admitting she cut off her husband's penis while he slept, police said. It was reattached surgically.

July's GQ should interest you!

The July, 1993 issue of Gentleman's Quarterly has two articles which should be of interest to Cincinnati's TV/TS community. The first is entitled: "Town Without Pity" by Peter Richmond. It is a critique of the Queen City which the "Up Downtowners" will probably NOT endorse. The sub-title of the says it all: "It's a model city, Cincinnati. Clean and safe and quiet and repressive, and resolved to keep itself that way." Staring back from the second page

of the article is our region's guardian of morality, Simon Leis. Richmond emphasizes that "...It all works too well in Cincinnati. The comfort level suppresses liberty. Diversity. Tolerance." It's a well written, though somewhat embarrassing study. The second piece I think all of you will find enlightening is "The Straight Queer" by David Kamp. The author suggests that in the this decade "...many prominent heterosexuals are aping the gay sensibility as a kind of grand fashion." He claims that "...whereas the disco-era explosion of gay chic was a velvet roped, titillation-minded affair, this go-round is more earnest and inclusive: gay chic with a message--gay positivity." As proof he offers the proliferation of on-going gay/lesbian characters on such mainstream television series as "L.A. Law," "Roseanne," and "Melrose Place." From the trans-gendered community have come the recurring words and images of Lypsinka, "Lady" Bunny, and RuPaul, whose success, Kamp claims, "...seems to portend a robust, drag-queen driven economic recovery...." The article compares the appearance of the "straight queer" (a hetero who mouths support for gay causes) to that of the "white Negro" during the Civil Rights movement of the '50's and '60's. For a while we will be bombarded with celebrities claiming "some of my best friends are gay/lesbian." Andrew Sullivan, gay editor of "The New Republic," summarizes the gist of the piece best: "Maybe we have to go through this phase of being overly noticed until we are viewed as banal." Kamp says that this trend will continue until the culture "becomes boringly familiar" and

gays/lesbians/TV's/TS's are seen as "ordinary, pie-eatin' folk." Get a copy of July GQ and enjoy! Stay Healthy. Stay Beautiful. Avoid Runners.

The Baron Speak's

Hi Girls, this is the Baron speaking. Sorry I missed the last meeting and did not write a column. I was ill.

The Barony Ball in N. Ky. went off very well. The Blizzard of 1993 did not stop us--just slow us down. I watched a video of the Ball today. Hey-we are good! In fact our program went more smoothly than the Lexington Court's Coronation Ball which Baroness Joyce, Lord Richard, and I had attended.

May 7,8,9 saw The Baroness Joyce, Lady Mirian, and me it the "big" town of Vineland, Ont. Canada attending the Barony of Steel Knights and Ladies of the Golden Harvest Ball. Vineland is about halfway between St. Catherines and Hamilton, Ont. Since the Barony included both towns, the Ball was held 1/2 way between the two.

We had a pleasant trip up with Joyce in Dress. She was not read at all, but did confess to the Border patrol. Friday night after a long delay, the Out of Town show began at 11:15 P.M.. Audio trouble-no D.J.. Anyway, Lady Marian gave a Royal Command Performance by singing in her own voice "Stay Young and Beautiful."

Saturday Joyce and I spent the A.M. exploring the countryside including historic Balls Falls Park. In the afternoon all 3 of us toured the Baron Wally's Bar--all four floors of it. We were served a

delicious lunch. The Bar is 121 in Hamilton, Ont. They have everything a person could want--from dancing and drinking, to dining.

After a short rest, were ready to go to the Hall where we were served dinner and cocktails before the show began. (I won't say anything about sharing a bathroom with two ladies--I didn't want to shave twice in one day and with Old Spice spray-on deodorant, I wasn't too rank.) By the way, Joyce did not take ANY men's clothing--she was a lady the entire time--and I do mean a lady!

As the Ball began, we had the 2 national anthems, a prayer, then the St. Catherines Barony's Baron and Baroness were seated with 4 honored guests. After 2 command performances, the Baronies and Courts were introduced. We walked up aisle and stairs about 50 feet long. Our Barony was called first! We made our entrance in our "Rainbow and Ribbons" costumes and caused quite a stir and a lot of applause from the audience. We were very pleased and somewhat surprised.

The Ball went on as usual. Joyce and I were "commanded" to walk with Cincinnati's Court since we are the brother and sister to the Emperor and Emperess I of Cincinnati. I am also an ambassador from the Toronto Court to Kentucky, so I had to walk with Toronto also. During the intermissions you should have seen us dancing our foolish feet sore with all those Handsome Hunks!

Sunday we attended Brunch. We had a good meal with an Emperor and Emporess at our table. Our biggest moment came as awards were announced. We won the trophy for the best court

entrance! What a great finale to a marvelous weekend! Once the awards were all given and the usual speeches had ended, we begged permission to withdraw since we had a long journey home. Permission was given by the two Barons and Baronesses (yes,two--the Home Court of Toronto broke the original Barony into 2 Baronies: St. Catherines & Hamilton Baronies). Next year we will have one more Ball to attend. Won't you join us?

Oh, heck! I forgot to mention that the Baroness Joyce and I were honored to sit on the dais as guests during the second set. Each set lasted about an hour. I almost had a "nicotine fit" before we were excused, Ha!

Well, girls, I am sorry to say that I missed the May meeting also. I headed west for 2-3 weeks visiting my mother and old friends. Will see you in June. Please take care and "play safely."

Love to all,
Baron Bob

Linda's Corner

I just don't seem to ever have time to get this column out before the newsletter goes to print, but this time I made it.



A bunch of us just recently returned from Chicago where we attended the Be All Weekend. I must compliment Naomi Owen of Chi Chapter for a superb job. Over the past few years, I felt that the Be All was falling behind the times. The weekend was still just a bigger closet. But this year there were many more outside activities like a boat trip on the lake, and dinner theater outing. She understands that today's Crossdresser is ready to go out into public and have a good time. Also with it being in Chicago, meant they saw registrations exceed the 300 mark.

I'm afraid that Candy from Crosssport became addicted with the weekend. Like so many other first timers at an event like this, she acted like she died and went to TV heaven. She partied with the best of them till wee hours of the morning, and woke up refreshed and ready to go each morning. Unlike Elaine, she did not spent a years worth of paychecks on clothes. In fact all the vendors want to know when Elaine is coming back.

Jim Bridges, the make-up artist, said to say hello to all the girls in Crosssport he's met over the years. I'm amazed he remembers so many people considering he attends about 12 events each year. By the way, he's opening a new store in New York real soon for those of you who travel and get up that way. Also he said Trish (from LA) said Hi. You all may not remember Trish. She left our quiet little group to join the "Scene" at the Queen Mary. She and her wife opened up special TV apartments in their huge home for those who need room and board. She's not as busy as she'd like to be, but she's doing alright.

Speaking of going out. Before the last meeting, Kristine and I were planning to meet early at G.J. Gaslight's for supper. Obviously some of the other girls had similar thoughts, because six of us showed up. We had such a good time, we decided from now on, we would get together before each meeting. Unfortunately for me, I will be out of town for the next outing, but count me in for August.

I'm sure many of you heard about the Crossdresser who was murdered here in Cincinnati in the past month. Bob tells me that "Diane" was actually transsexual, and has been living as a woman since she was 13, at which point she was disowned by her family, and kicked out of the house. She was in her mid-twenties I believe at the time of her death. As if dying isn't bad enough, he said that when her parents claimed the body, they cut off all her hair and dressed her as a boy for the funeral.

IFGE really keeps me hopping. It seems a day hardly goes by that I don't have to either respond to a phone call or a letter. The organization has grown by leaps and bounds over the past few years and a brighter tomorrow is just ahead. How lucky we all are to be living in a time where fantasy and self-fulfillment can be reality. I, of course, am looking forward to our next board meeting which will be held in Atlanta at the Southern

Comfort Weekend. If any of you can make it, I would like to see us car-pool down with as group. This is the third Southern Comfort, and in just the past 2 years has grown to be one of the biggest and best. I expect they will have over 250 people without a doubt. As soon as we get brochures, we'll bring them to the meeting. So start saving your money and come join me for the time of your life.

Do you receive Tapestry? You should, if you want to keep up on what the gender community is up to. After all, it is the best of all the periodicals in the world, that relate to ourselves. You may of course call IFGE @ (617)899-2212 and place an order, grab Joyce or myself at the meeting, or you can go to The Thing Shop over in Newport and ask Bob or Larry for the latest issue. By the way I also have many back issues if someone needs one. I even have a few left with me on the cover.

The Imperial Court of Cincinnati will be having their Coronation August 21, in the Hall of Mirrors, at the Omni Netherland Plaza Hotel. Talk about doing things up right. Nothing better than strutting your stuff in one of the fanciest places in town. We need to all get together for perhaps cocktails and a snack earlier. If you want we can even rent a room and party all night. I hope a few out of town

girls read this and also want to join in. Last year we all had a great time, and speaking for myself, I can't wait.

I'm sure they will also have the in-town and the out-of-town shows the 2 days before, so if you want, you can make a couple of days out of it.

Publication Notice
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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.

