

# Cross-Port Inner View

2020 B BEECHMONT AVE. BOX 150

CINCINNATI OHIO 45230

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Vol. 1 No. 6 A GGA Chapter December 1985

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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

**NEXT MEETING December 19 AT 6: 30**

## **Gross-Port Basics**

At the November meeting of Cross-Port we welcomed 14 people for an evening of talk and support. New faces this time included Marsha, Caryn, Andrea (from Cleveland), and Jennifer. Lily also made it for a short time. I thank everyone who took the time to come and hope those that couldn't make it last time will be able to join us this month.

By the time you read this the Christmas Party will have already happened. I'm sure all who attended had a good time. I'll report on it next month.

For those who don't know, I am currently unemployed. I stated at the meeting that this could have an effect on the news-letter, since I no longer had access to a copier. The cost for having it copied would be around \$30/mo. I still reject the idea of dues at this time but I agreed to ask you all to pitch in and help with whatever you can. Four days later I received a call from one of the girls in Indianapolis. They have taken care of the copy problem by giving me a copier. I can't tell you how much that kind of support means to me. We will still need your help however, I know that should any thing happen to the copier it cost a bunch to get it fixed. So send what you can and we will put it aside for future expenses. Sharon has said she can get the paper. Thank you all for caring.

Another way that you can help, that was brought up, is to order a subscription to the Tapestry for \$30. This is a quarterly publication of about 120 pages of good articles. When you order, ask them to send \$10 of your subscription fee back to Cross-Port. This way you get a nice magazine and we can build our treasury. For a subscription send a check to "the Tapestry", P. O. Box 19 Wayland, MA 01778. (I've enclosed a subscription form for "the Tapestry" and for the Phoenix.)

Since the first meeting, I have always had mixed drinks available at the meetings as well as beer and pop. These things were paid for from the money collected at the meetings. At the last meeting it was decided that the group will no longer pay for the mixed drinks. Beer and pop will be available

and you may bring anything else you wish to drink with you.

The meeting ended around 10:30 and some of us headed for The Subway

## COMING OUT

As many of you know, last May I didn't know any other TV's or TS's. Even though I had been dressing almost all my life, I had never been out in public as a woman except for the short drives or quick walks, most of us have taken late at night. Now just a few months later, things are quite a bit different. I have been to bars where we are accepted and walking in town. I've even been to my doctor dressed during the day. For some of you more experienced, these are but small feats. It is not for you that I'm writing this but for those who have yet to leave the comfort of their homes.

It is the hope of each of us that one day we can look at ourselves in the mirror and say, "I pass. I really pass." For many however, the closest we get is, "I HOPE I pass." Some simply say, "I don't pass." It is this fear of passing or not passing that keeps us locked inside. But what is this fear really about? Are we afraid that we won't be accepted as women or of being ridiculed as men who like to dress funny? To me there is a difference and I believe it is that difference which determines how many of us handle going out dressed.

Certainly each time we dress to go out we hope that we'll "fool" most the people that we meet. But a person that goes out thinking that NO ONE will catch on is fooling themselves more than the others. That is not to say that some days you may pull it off, but I believe that a person that goes out dressed, must be prepared to "get caught".

For the person who wants to be accepted as a woman, "being caught" can be a terrible experience. It is worse than an actor being told he gave a bad performance. Here you are, dressed as a woman and feeling like a woman and suddenly someone make you realize that you are not a woman. There is no escaping that fact. No talking your way around it. You are not what you said you are.

For the person afraid of ridicule, I don't feel things are as bad when "caught". Most all of us have had someone make fun of us in our life. It is a situation we have dealt with in the past. We each handle it differently, but we can handle it. We are what we say we are. We are just expressing ourselves differently.

I have had to deal with both feeling. The first I don't like. I don't like walking in town because I feel I have to be accepted as a woman. When someone walks by and says, as happened one night, "undercover tonight?" I am assaulted and insulted. I feel bad. I had almost forgotten what I was and they had to remind me. I prefer to go to the clubs and be with people where I don't have to pass. I can be me, without pretending to be something else. I can dress and feel like a woman without saying that I am a woman. As time goes on, my hope is that I will begin to feel comfortable going out any place without the need to pretend. Secure in the fact that I am me and that I have the right to express myself.

For you who have yet to go out, I suggest that you get in touch with your feelings as to what you hope to get out of going out dressed. I also suggest that you not go out until you feel that you are prepared to handle mentally the fact that you may be discovered.



### Places to Go

The Subway - at 609 Walnut. No cover, they have treated us very well whenever we have gone there.

### Clothes

Harriet's Bra Salon - 1942 West Stroop Rd. in Dayton. Very friendly and open to us.

## SARAH SAYS

My reasons for being involved as a member and officer in Cross-Port run the gamut from getting to know other individuals with similar backgrounds of cross-dressing, to offering my acquired knowledge and support to those trying to "find themselves."

It was six years ago, in the San Francisco Bay Area, that I first became involved with a TV/TS support group. It was the Gateway Gender Alliance (G. G. A.), and I was one of its earliest members. There was another support group nearby, the Pacific Center, and I would often go to that support group also. The meeting times of the various groups in Northern California were (and still are) arranged in such a way that one could visit a half dozen group meetings during the course of a month, each meeting in a different locality.

In this way I became acquainted with a number of TV's and TS's over several years of living in California. We may have come from different backgrounds and cultures, but most of us realized that there was a common thread that held us together, and that was the desire for the freedom to express ourselves in a manner of dress and behavior that felt natural and comfortable, regardless of the traditional norms. It also became quickly evident that we had a lot more in common with each other than any of us realized. Certainly we were not alone, and not unique in our feelings.

The benefits I derived from the support groups in California were of an immediate and personal nature. I quickly became able to "open up" and express my inner feelings to others. In this way I self-proclaimed my course in life, an admission I had always kept pent up and locked within myself. It was heartening to observe others, both TV's and TS's, come to terms with their lifestyles, and on some occasions, to witness the gradual involvement of the wives of some of the TV's with the support groups.

Now, living in Cincinnati and being involved with Cross-Port since its inception last spring, I feel that I am near the end of my quest for identity and self-fulfillment. However, I feel that the benefits that I am deriving now from helping others, by what I have learned, and to watch others "come into their own" are just as rewarding. To witness others achieving happiness and self-fulfillment is as gratifying as when I achieved these same goals

myself.

## G I R L T A L K

The last time I mentioned that we were thinking of having a Pajama Party. I contacted a company called Fun Fashions. They come to your home and put on a lingerie show. They sell sizes up to 6x and all types of other thing. They are very interested in being part on our Pajama Party.

I must get some feed back from ALL OF YOU as to weather you want something like this or not. From the response to the Christmas Party, I don't feel that weekends are a good time to have activities around here. I would need more people committed to coming before I could ask these people to give up there time.

We could skip the Pajama Party and just invite them to the February meeting. Please call or write as to how you would like this to go.

I have been contacted by Dick Wolfsie, an Indianapolis talk show host, and asked if I would like to do a show about cross-dressing. My feeling is yes, I would be willing to do it (in dress of course). I'll keep you posted on what happens.

That's about it for now. For all of you that I won't get to see before the holidays, have a very happy and blessed Christmas. Thank you all for the support you have shown me these past 6 months and I wish you all the very best in the New Year.

*Heather*

## Bulletin Board

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CROSS-PORT'S Meeting schedule for 1986 is Jan 16, Feb 20, Mar 20, Apr 17, May 15, Jun 19, Jul 17, Aug 21, Sep 18, Oct 16, Nov 20, Dec 18  
Pajama Party - Sometime in February

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The Paradise Club's Schedule -12/14 (Christmas Dinner). For 1986 - Feb 15, Apr 19, Jun 14 (Picnic - Rummage Sale), Aug 16 (Guest Speaker), Oct 18 (Meeting & Drag Show), Dec 13 (Christmas Dinner)  
Be All You Want To Be Weekend - Jun 5 to Jun 8  
Write Paradise Club, PO Box 29564, Parma, OH 44129, Attn: Susan for Prices and Places

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Transpitt's Meeting Schedule is Dec 14. (Paradise Cove Dinner)  
Write Transpitt, PO Box 59406, Pittsburg, PA 15211, Attn: Johnnie

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Windy City Chapter's Meeting Schedule is Dec 19. They meet the Third Tuesday of each month at 8:30.  
Spring Fling Weekend - May 1 to May 4  
Write Windy City Chapter, PO BOX 2312, Chicago, IL 60690, Attn: Sharon Hart

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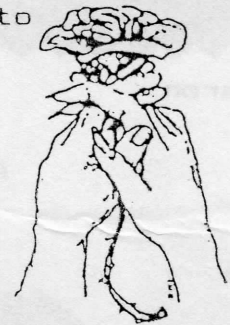
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