

Cross-Port InnerView

P.O. Box 12701, Cincinnati, OH 45212

The next meeting is July 20 at 8:00

A New View

by Cathy

Well, this newsletter is late and I must apologize to all of you faithful readers for that fact. Add that my @#%*& disk drive decided to croak forever to the &#%@!! copier also gave up the ghost again and this newsletter was printed by (an as yet to be determined at this writing) outside service. It will be interesting to see what attitude they express when I pick up the finished product.

Last month was our last attempt to put the newsletter together at the Gaslight. The copier had broken then too and Laurie and I finished printing the last page a mere fifteen minutes before we were to meet at the Gaslight. We hopped in the car and roared south on the freeway only to get caught in a forty-five minute traffic jam because someone decided they needed to repave a bridge at 7pm on a Thursday night. By the time we arrived at the Gaslight, there was no one from Cross-Port there. After going through that we decided that it just wasn't worth the effort to have things spoiled by a road crew. As a result, we are back to folding, stapling, stuffing and stamping at our house. If anyone is interested in helping on August 10th, let me know.

We had a really great meeting last month with about two dozen ladies in attendance. Really good numbers for the middle of summer. We would not have done so well if a half dozen of the girls from Indianapolis hadn't come down. Also, a special welcome to Andrea who joins Cross-Port while temporarily residing in the area. Her permanent residence is in New Mexico.

The big raffle that Linda sponsored was held at the meeting and Ginger from Lexington won

the travel makeup kit. Wear it in good health girl.

The really exciting thing at the meeting was the Suggestive Some-Thing Boutique from Dayton. Barb brought wigs, clothing and jewelry and I think everyone at the meeting bought at least one thing. The gold and silver chain by the inch was really popular and several of the girls had ankle bracelets made for them.

A special thanks to Chris and the Lounge for allowing them to come in. We hope to repeat this in November, just in time for the holiday self-indulgence.

Another thanks goes to Rupert Raj. This month we are running the last of the book reviews he sent us. I know that I have learned a lot from the glimpses he has provided.

I will admit that the InnerView is a bit slim as compared to previous issues, but many of us don't go out much in the summer (except Linda), and therefore not much is turned in to us editors. The last two times I have been out have been to the last two Cross-Port meetings although I normally make it out at least one other night a month.

I will be in Dallas, TX the last week in July I have made contact the Delta Omega Chapter in that area, but they have nothing planned that week. I was advised that due to the heat and humidity of Dallas in July, many of that group wear waterproof makeup just to get by. Makes me wonder if I'll have anything to write about from that trip.

For those of you who have expressed concern over not having read anything by Heather recently, and did not see her at the last meeting, do not fear. She is alive and doing well with

both a new job (in her chosen profession in her chosen gender) and a new apartment. She will still be "manning" the phone for Cross-Port for a couple of months although the number has changed. For the time being, the phone company will give you the new number when you dial the old one. Since Heather's new job will increasingly take her out of town, we are looking into ideas of what to do about the phone on a more permanent basis. More about this at the meeting, so get your ideas ready.

For those of you who may wish to attend a meeting of another cross-dressing group in the general area, here is a listing of groups that you may wish to contact. We trade newsletters with most of them and bring these to the Cross-Port meetings.

IXE

P.O. Box 20710
Indianapolis, IN 46220
Open group. Meets 1st Thursday of the month.
Meeting place varies.

Alpha Omega Chapter (Tri-Ess)

P.O. Box 954
Elyria, OH 44036
Heterosexual TV group. Meets 2nd Saturday of the month.

The Crystal Club

P.O. Box 287
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068
New, open group which meets the 4th Saturday of the month.

Paradise Club

Attn: Lindsay Maxwell
P.O. Box 29564
Parma, OH 44129
Meets 3rd Saturday on even months, socials on odd months.

Transpitt (Tri-Ess)

P.O. Box 3214
Pittsburgh, PA 15230
Heterosexual TV group. Meets 3rd Saturday of odd months, socials second Thursday every month.

Sorry, no clubs in Kentucky or West Virginia. Maybe you girls in the those areas could head south to

Butternut Belles and Boys

P.O. Box 3776
Knoxville, TN 37917
Open group.

Cross-Port Finances

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

Beginning Balance as of June Newsletter	\$978.14
June Expenses:	
Phone:	\$19.00
Envelopes & Stamps:	\$37.57
Returned Check:	\$18.00
Donation to GCGLC:	\$50.00
Copier Supplies:	\$54.23
Bank Charges:	\$ 1.20
Total Expenses:	<u>\$180.00</u>
June Incomes:	
Meeting Collection:	\$74.00
Dues, Etc.:	\$30.00
Donations:	<u>\$4.50</u>
Total Income:	<u>\$108.50</u>
Ending Balance as of July 13:	\$906.64

We also mailed six intro packets this month.

Cross-Port now has 54 dues paying members receiving the InnerView. If you add in the thirty-odd people who don't get the newsletter but who come to the meetings in a somewhat regular basis, that makes us a pretty good size club in the gender community.

We also mail out newsletters to 50 other groups, helping professionals, crisis centers and supportive stores and bars.

Book Review

by Rupert Raj

BODYSHOCK: The Truth About Changing Sex, Liz Hodgkinson, Columbus Books, 1987 (184 pps.)

A tall order to fill within the pages of such an introductory -- though compact -- little book, the author does succeed, to a limited extent, to live up to the subtitle of her report on people who have "changed sex". A British freelance journalist by profession, Liz Hodgkinson tells the everyday man and woman about some of the "real" reasons why certain individuals have crossed the gender line (or are contemplating doing so). In spite of several inaccuracies and a couple of blatant omissions, the general facts, as they relate to transsexualism and gender reassignment, are presented to the reader in a

clear, straightforward manner by means of an easygoing storytelling style. In fact, Hodgkinson weaves a good tale, catching the reader's attention -- and hopefully empathy -- with her lively narration of some of the more colorful examples of "sex-switched" celebrities in Britain and the United States.

She recounts a number of case histories gleaned from the Self Help Association for Transsexuals (SHAFT) in England, letting these members, for the most part, speak for themselves. (As a point of interest, the author dedicated her book to the Founder of SHAFT, Judy Cousins -- a "new woman" who used to be a male officer in the Indian Army and who is now, in her 70's, a grandmother and talented sculptor.)

To her credit, Hodgkinson includes accounts of no less than **seven** English female-to-male transsexuals, two of whom have since passed away. The first was Radclyffe Hall -- a well-to-do novelist who was tried by the Crown for her 1928 semi-autobiography of a female sexual "invert" (in this case, a masculine woman who felt more like a man). The book was banned in England shortly after its release, with Hall dying 15 years later from cancer despite the dedicated nursing of her long-time lover, Lady Troubridge. The second was Dr. Laurence Michael Dillon -- a "blue blooded" ship doctor who was the first female known to have had a penis surgically created in 1948 -- who later went on to become a Buddhist monk and eventually died of malnutrition in a Tibetan lamasery in 1962. (Hodgkinson has penned a biography of Dillon entitled Michael, nee Laura, also published by Columbus Books, in April 1989.) Probably the most interesting modern day F-M TS the writer tells us about is Mark Rees -- a middle-aged university graduate who sued the U.K. government (and lost) in a widely-publicized human rights case in 1986, on the grounds that the British Crown was denying his rights to privacy and equality by not legally changing his sex designation on his birth records.

And, of course, there are accounts of eight modern-day male to female transsexuals living in Britain who have had the surgery, including a Canadian named Dora -- a computer consultant who considers herself a feminist. Another of the English "new ladies" is Rachael Webb -- a radical feminist community worker and left-wing Labour Councillor who was chastised by the press for getting her operation "on the rates" and who now works with lesbian and gay groups and campaigns for transsexual rights. Still another is Stephanie Anne Lloyd -- a former successful businessman who recently founded a private gender clinic, an inn, several clothing shops and a line of clothing

shops and other products -- all for the transvestite and transsexual.

The book also includes sections dealing with the etiology, psychology, medical management (hormones and surgery) and legal aspects of transsexualism, as well as how the condition differs from both homosexuality and transvestism, and also how it affects others.

The reader can almost put up with the fact that this is not a well-researched book (which is patently obvious by glancing at the sparse bibliography at the back of the book or by noting the existence of a minimum of statistical data) when its other merits are weighed in the balance. These included such considerations as sexual equality, social gender roles, androgyny, and relations between men and women in society.

In her chapter, "Transsexualism and the Battle of the Sexes", the author discusses the controversial issues and concerns surrounding Janice Raymond's forceful argument that transsexuals are "constructed" males and females who **"contribute to the continuing gap between sexes by reinforcing sex stereotypes in the gender-identity clinics and then living them out after they have changed over."** (p. 170). Raymond, a feminist anthropologist who wrote The Transsexual Empire, (1979) goes on to say the transsexual experience makes us aware how far apart the sexes are, how much we judge people on their physical appearance, and that we judge people as men and women first and as human beings second. It is clear that Raymond is not sympathetic to the transsexual condition. She hopes that **"soon transsexuals may be able to accept themselves in their original bodyshape and consciously learn to become who people while remaining in their original biological gender"** (p. 181).

Hodgkinson, in spite of her partial support of Raymond's thesis, concedes that the whole subject is very complicated. She disagrees with Raymond that all transsexuals are stereotypical, saying she has **"never met one who ... conforms to the 'standard' picture of a man or a woman ..."**, and that **"once transsexuals become postoperative, they always have to redefine and modify their relationships with others."** (p. 176). Yet, she does concur with Raymond that it would be good if maleness and femaleness could meet in the same person without that person being "gay or butch, transvestite or dykey" Rachael Webb's influence is also apparent as the author's summary statement shows:

"Transsexuals can teach us much about the way in which men and women regard each other -- the

true, innate differences between the sexes, and to what degree biology and hormones play a part -- but only by being prepared to come out and state that they are transsexuals... [They] are the only people who are in a position to promote harmony between the sexes, from their direct experience. They don't particularly have to make any political statements, just set an example of how it is possible to live successfully as a man and a woman in the same basic body ... [T]hey can demonstrate that what sex you are doesn't matter all that much -- it is the person inside the body that really counts." (pps. 182-3).

This reviewer feels that BODYSHOCK deserves a well-earned place on the bookshelf, along side such other non-medical works as Feinbloom's, Stuart's, Bolin's, Devor's (in progress), and yes, even Raymond's -- all feminist researchers who presented their findings from a social science perspective, with a special focus on the definitions of gender roles within our society.

From our Readers

To Whomever --

Hi. I thought I would drop you gals a line. It's strange how fast the InnerViews pile up. I've been a member of Cross-Port now for 26 months. I've never been to a meeting, never been anywhere really, but someday I hope to get to a meeting. I know the other Cross-Port member in my area but hey, Thursday night meetings are hard to get to especially because of the long drive.

But, on to other things. I missed Heather in the InnerView but I do say you other gals are doing a great job. Please keep Cross-Port going. How many members does Cross-Port have all together. How come some group does not put an ad say in Popular Science? Or a bunch of groups go together and put a ¼ page ad in say Time? Major Exposure. Well anyway keep it all going.
-- Tabetha

We always enjoy getting a letter from you Tabetha. Thanks for the donation for a Popular Science ad. We'll look into it and if we can swing it, make an attempt to put an ad in one of those little blocks they have in the classifieds in the back. Under what category should we run it, Software? The answers to your other questions are scattered throughout this issue. Maybe one of the listed groups which meets on a weekend will give you a chance to get out.
-- Eds.

Dear Cathy and Laurie --

I want to thank you and all the girls for one of the most "enjoyable" shows I've ever done. The kindness from each and every one of you toward Judy, Gilene and myself meant so much.

I have to admit, I had feelings of whether we would be accepted and I worried about that. I have done many shows and other than one lounge here in Dayton which I am called to do several times a year, Cross-Port will go down as one of my very favorite places. I'm learning more about cross-dressing and most of all understanding it.

Even if I don't have what you may be looking for in my store, most of all, you have my love and your best wishes at heart.

Being fairly new in the retail business (2 years now), I'm trying to acquire many different items and hope I can help you with some of these.

Again thank you so much! What a Beautiful, Beautiful group you are. God bless and stay in touch!

-- Barb Bailey

We would like to thank you again Barb for coming. We really enjoyed the items you brought and think you and the girls are pretty special. Hope to see you again soon.
-- Eds.

Dear Editors --

As a member of our club, I have purchased some heels from a reliable source. I gave them the names of some of the organizations to which I belong and told him of an untapped market he could acquire.

I told him that I was a cross-dresser and that I needed a size 11½. His prices are reasonable, you might like to plug him in the next newsletter I highly recommend his catalog.

Sexy Shoes
480 N. Second
Rogers City, Mi 49779-0048
(513) 734-4030

Yours in the Lifestyle

-- Michelle M.

Thanks for the information Michelle. It always helps to find sympathetic and reliable vendors as our last meeting proved.

-- Eds.

Build your own resource library.

BODYSHOCK: The Truth about Changing Sex by Liz Hodgkinson - \$18.00

GENDER NETWORKER newsletter (two 1988 issues) by Rupert Raj - \$6.66

In Search of Eve: Transsexual Rites of Passage ny Anne Bolin - \$18.00

Standards of Care - Harry Benjamin Int'l Gender Dys. Assoc - \$15.00

The Uninvited Dilemma: A Question of Gender by Kim Stuart - \$15.00

T.U.D. Research Supplement - \$15.00

If you are interested in any of these books write GENDER WORKER, Box 1224, Station A, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M5W 1G7. Prices are in U.S. Funds. Allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

If you travel much, the International Gender Support Directory can be invaluable in helping you locate cross-dressing groups in other parts of the country. Published by ETVC (The Educational TV Channel) in San Francisco, this directory contains the names and addresses of over 125 groups in the U.S. and more than 35 others around the world. They also list a dozen gender related computer bulletin boards for those of you with that inclination. ETVC tries very hard to keep their directory up to date by attempting to publish every six months. To get your own copy, send a mere \$2.00 to:

ETVC - Outreach Committee
P.O. Box 6486
San Francisco, CA 94101

Definitely the best periodical put out for those of us in the gender community is the TV-TS Tapestry. It is published quarterly by IFGE (International Foundation for Gender Education). This is a magazine published for people who are TV and TS by people who are TV and TS. It is definitely not an exploitative magazine.

Each issue is filled with articles on "how to", medical information and clinical updates, cartoons, stories on being "out" and classifieds. Subscriptions are \$40.00 per year for 4 issues. To order Tapestry, write:

TV-TS Tapestry Journal
P.O. Box 367
Wayland, MA 01778

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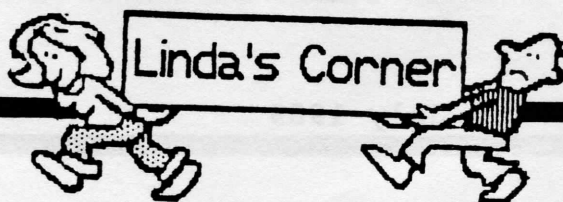
InnerView is a monthly publication of Cross-Port for its members and friends. Subscription dues are \$18.00 per year payable in January of each year. It is our goal to support the TV, TS and Gay communities and in return we need your support.

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Contributions of articles are welcomed but may be altered, with the author's intent retained, or may be rejected, whether solicited or not. Absolutely no sexually explicit material will be accepted or printed.

Cross-Port is a not-for-profit support group which meets solely for the support of cross-dressers, transsexuals and their family and friends.



Well I'm back from the "Be All" weekend in Chicago, and I must say that this was the best one yet. At the banquet on Saturday, it was announced that over 276 people had registered for the weekend, making it the largest group ever to assemble to date. As usual, there were many wives and girl friends in attendance. I got to meet many new friends, and renew friendships with many I had met on previous outings.

The hotel we stayed in, was one of the city's best. Unfortunately, it wasn't really large enough to handle a crowd as large as ours. We filled the main ballroom to capacity at most meals, with Saturday's event being so large, a second room across the hall had to be used.

There were six girls I saw from Crossport. They include; Jeanie, O'Day, Claudia, Jeannine, Michele, and myself. (I only saw myself when I was putting on makeup). It always makes me happy to see people in our own group getting out and meeting others and enjoying themselves.

At the luncheon on Saturday, I had the privilege to be the one to present IFGE with a check for \$ 150. This is the money we collected for the month of May. I mentioned about 2 months ago that we planned to do this, and I must say, it went over very well.

IFGE had set three goals at a meeting earlier in the year. The third goal was to start a trust fund. At the luncheon, it was announced that the check we presented, would be the first contribution to kick off this fund. They were very grateful, and thanked Crossport for this, and all we have done in the past years to help IFGE and the community in general. I felt very proud of our little group. I told them they could count on our continued support, and hoped others would follow in our footsteps. Then they took some pictures, so they could publicly thank us in the Tapestry.

This year again, "Be All", had sessions especially for Couples, Wives/Girlfriends, and Transsexuals. They also featured many rap groups with the helping professionals, and the usual self-help things like fixing your hair.

The exhibit room had people who would help with wigs, makeup, nails, and clothes. Also, there was an array of literature available for free and to purchase. I personally picked up on a new book intitled "My Husband Wears My Clothes". This is being added to the IFGE book list, if you are interested: When I get time, I will review it for you.

One thing I like about Chicago, is if you go to the right place, many bars stay open until 4 am. The bar in our hotel closed down about 1:45, but no one was tired. So Saturday I went down to the Ramada O'Hare where we had the IFGE convention last year to get a drink. As soon as I walked in, I was greeted by some of the staff who remembered us. They bought me my first drink, and said how good it was to see me. I felt right at home, and told them I would bring back some friends. Well I brought back about 60 crossdressers, and we took over the bar. Most of us didn't leave until after 5 am, so we didn't even have to use our headlights to get back.

I want to relay a proposition made to me by 3 Frenchmen I met at the bar. We kept talking to one another, but I couldn't understand them. So I told them to speak very slow and clear, and perhaps I would understand.

Then one stood up and said, "I.... would...like...to...know...if...you... and...your...friends...would...come... party...with...us. I said, "What do you boys have in mind?" "Don't...worry", he said, "We...have...lots...of...money ...and,.....we...don't...care... if...you...are...real. It's too bad it was 5am, or I would have asked him, "Real what?" Especially since I think he thought we were just a bunch of regular tall and ugly women out at 5am for a good time in our high heels, short skirts, and thick makeup.

Well anyway, everyone had a good time, and we all look forward to next year when we can all meet again and relive another "Be All" weekend.