

Cross-Port InnerView

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The Next Meeting Is
August 18th at 7:30

August 1988

CAN WE TALK!

By Heather Peerson

On the Saturday after the last meeting, seven Cross-Portians went to the Cops to see one of their Female Impressionist shows. We had a good time and what I would call the "Big Clock". Wendy Martian, one of the girls in the show is familiar with Cross-Port and while we were trying to just "blend in", she managed to spot our table and ask if we were all with Cross-Port. What could we say? We denied ever hearing of such a group. But she saw through our clever disguises and went on to say nice things about us any way. Thanks Wendy for your support.

There are some nice benefits to be had as a person involved with the gender community. I recently received two of them in the mail. The first was an Award of Merit from Metamorphosis Medical Research Foundation and Rupert Raj. The second was a Certificate of Appreciation from I.F.G.E. for participation in the convention. It is, many times, that little thank you that can help a person feel that the work is worth the effort. I thank both organizations for their thoughtful consideration.

Speaking of I.F.G.E., they held an open house on July 23 & 24 at their new headquarters which is 6 Cushing St. (2nd Fl), Waltham, MA. Their phone numbers are (617) 894-8340, 899-2212 or 358-2305. Remember I.F.G.E. is for you. We also returned to them a check for \$20 which was a rebate for two Tapestry subscriptions. They can use the financial help, if you can help please send them a tax deductible donation.

For those of you who are really into fashions, there is an exhibit at the Cincinnati Art Museum called "Simply Stunning" which runs through September 4, 1988. It is a collection of over 105 dresses from the 1770s to the present. If you go on Saturday, the cost is

\$2.00 for the exhibit and the museum is free. Alice and I saw it and highly recommend it.

The 3rd annual Lesbian/Gay Day at the Cincinnati Zoo will be September 11. As always, crossdressers are welcome to attend.

"Three members of Renaissance, a Delaware Valley support group for transvestites, transsexuals and their friends, were the featured guest on a recent 'Morton Downey Jr. Show'". So goes the news release from Renaissance. If you have never seen this show you are lucky. It is kind of like television's answer to the National Enquirer. Angela, Therese and Paula deserve our round of applause for even considering going on much less doing it. They were heard to say "We Survived". I did not get to see the show but according to NWGA newsletter's Roni L., she "felt the show came across so negatively that it will drive many crossdressers further into the closet..."

While on the subject of television, those of you who missed Alice and I on The Ira Joe Fischer Show the last time had a second chance to miss us. The show was re-aired on August 10. I was told we were much better the second time.

This is a message to Tracy Mitchell: Alice and I would like to come visit you. Please write and tell me how we go about it and when is the best time. Sorry to here they won't let you use Tracy any more.

Alice and I are also planning a trip west at the end of this month. We are hoping to visit the Gender Identity Center in Denver, some of the groups in California and if time permits a jump up to Seattle to see the Ingersol Clinic. We would like to go east also to visit with IFGE for a few days. All of this depends on me still not having a job. What a bad way to put it!

Our sisters in Indianapolis at IXE are having a picnic on August 27 at Eagle Creek Park. We are all invited. An add-on flyer is enclosed with more information. This is a family picnic, so bring your families.

Finally, we had about 26 people at the last meeting from whom we collected a whopping \$18. That won't even pay the phone bill this month. I hope you will all be a little more generous in the future. \$3 per person is not too much to ask.

Heather

Breaking the News to Mother

By Cathy

One night I was home alone, dressed, when my mother called on the phone. "All my friends think I live the most boring life," she told me, "Not one of them thinks I do anything that is at all interesting."

She went on to explain she felt her life was exceedingly dull even for a first grade teacher. After talking to her for about fifteen minutes we concluded that when I moved away and was no longer there to stir things up, exciting things just didn't happen any more. At this point, an evil, nasty little gleam lit up my eyes. My mother didn't know I cross-dressed. I asked her, "How would you like it if I came over and put some excitement back into your life?"

This really wasn't a spur of the moment decision on my part. I had already decided that someone in the family should know about "Cathy" in case "something bad" happened to me while out and I needed help. Letting them in on the secret at that time would be a bit late. I knew my father would make no attempt at understanding. My brother would either accept it or shoot me in the leg with a crossbow bolt depending on his "attitude of the day". That left my mother who had always been willing to listen before developing an opinion. I wasn't sure if I was making a mistake, but I was determined to take the chance.

I drove over to her house, parked, got out of the car and walked toward the door. Before I got to it, my mother who had heard the car pull up, opened the door and looked out. She looked at me. She looked at my car. She

looked at me again then at the car again, then at me as I said "Hello mom" and walked past her through the door into the room. My mother looked at me with her mouth hanging open. "What does this mean?" she demanded. "What are you doing?" To this I simply replied "This is something I do. I cross-dress."

She said "Sit down. I can't look at you yet". As she said this she turned away from me and walked off. I sat there uncomfortably wondering if I had done the right thing as I listened to my mother pace back and forth in the adjoining rooms. It wasn't long, however, before she came back into the room with two glasses, some wine and sat down across from me saying "Let's talk."

We talked for almost two hours. It took half that time to get her to stop calling me a female impersonator. Transvestite was also an uncomfortable term so we used "cross-dresser". Her big question was "Why?". I'm not sure I was able to adequately explain this to her. I was able to get across that I had not made any conscious decision to be TV any more than another person might "choose" to be gay. She did wonder if wearing frilly shirts as my male self would accomplish the same thing for me. I explained that I was trying to capture the feeling of femininity, not trying to be effeminate. To this she replied "Good. I don't like effeminate men."

It really wasn't very long before she told me how attractive I looked. Soon after that she started saying things like "You look like your cousin Christine.", "You remind me of your Aunt Marilyn." and "That sounds just like my cousin Betty." Acceptance came rather easily for her, but she still had some reservations. Her biggest worries were that I would lose my job, or that perennial favorite of mothers-- what would happen if I were hurt in a car accident while wearing the wrong underwear.

At the end of the evening she told me that if cross-dressing was a part of my life, she was glad that I had chosen to tell her about it. She said that if I had not shown up dressed, she never would have been able to understand. A simple explanation would not have been enough. In return, I assured her that although she now knew my secret, she may never see me dressed again.

The next day I stopped by to see my mother again, but as the boy she'd always known. When I did this she hugged me and said that although I would have turned out to be

wonderful daughter, she really preferred seeing her son. Thanks Mom, I don't think I made a mistake.

Transsexual Issues

The Family

By Heather Peerson

Cathy's article is a very good example of how some parents are able to handle the news that their son or daughter is a crossdresser. It also points out why for many transsexuals the experience can be very different.

In Cathy's story, her mother is able to handle the news of Cathy's interest but can always fall back to the fact that she still has her son. If Cathy was a TS however, that fall back position would not exist. My mother, for example has had to begin dealing with the fact that I am no longer her son but I am in fact her daughter.

Many times, we transsexuals forget that it has taken us much of our lives to finally face who and what we are. Once we do, we expect everyone around us, including our families, to simply accept us. We fail to respect the fact that they need time to adjust also. For some they may never adjust, just as some transsexuals never fact who they really are. But for many, this adjustment time is critical and if handled slowly and properly it can bring about a stronger love and friendship than previously existed.

One of the first things I had to convince my mother of was that it was not her fault. She had raised me the best she could and nothing she had done would have changed who I am. I told her that I did regret that my transsexualism had not been recognized earlier, like in my teens when they first discovered my crossdressing. But I know that even if they had realized it there is little they could have done. There weren't many places that dealt with transsexualism back then. So they encouraged me to be the best man I could be. They gave me ideals and values that are just as valid whether I live as a man or as a woman. I told her that I knew she loved me and that I loved her and would continue to love her even if she could never accept me as her daughter.

On Christmas Day 1988, my mother gave me the greatest gift she could. She invited Heather and Sunshine over. I have seen her several times since then and feel welcome at

her house. She calls me Stevie (for Stephanie) and still refers to me as he, but she is dealing with it and that is all I can hope for.

Yesterday, July 31, 1988 was our family reunion on my mother's side. The family numbers around 250. I have two brothers and one sister. My oldest brother has never seen me as Heather. I don't know what his feelings are about me. My other brother told me, if it was what I had to do, do it, but he never wanted to see me. My sister and I have talked about it and she seems accepting but her husband is not.

On Mother's Day I was at my mother's when my sister and her family and my brother and his wife arrived. They saw my car was there so all but my sister left. That very act told me something about them. Their dislike for what I was doing was greater than their love for their mother. I realized that a dislike that great may never change so I spoke to my mother about the reunion.

She agreed that while it was my decision, she felt it best if I did not attend. I knew it would take pressure off of her and would allow my brothers and sister to attend without fear of seeing me. I knew if I ever expect others to respect who I am, I must respect who they are even if they don't respect me. Some one must go first. I also knew that without the support of my own family facing the other 240 family members would not be easy.

Reluctantly I did not attend. I was deeply hurt and to a degree angry. I can only pray that by giving them their own space and time to adjust they may one day return the favor.

Publication Notice

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The Press

By Heather Peerson

We all remember Mariette Pathy Allen's bout with The New York Post. It has been three months now and in a letter sent out from ETVC she reports that the case was settled out of court after she was advised that it would be a long drawn out case that may be hard to win. That article attacked both the crossdressing and the gay communities.

Now the Weekly World News has run an article which in an attack on transsexuals and an insult to women. The headline reads, "Weirdo Weeding Sparks Family Feud". The story tells of a man in Great Britain who married a transsexual a year after paying for her surgery. The story goes on to say the his mother was outraged when she found out after the wedding. One of her quotes is shown below.

The real attack and insult did not come from the story but from a sidebar which listed 10 ways to tell if your bride is an ex-guy. After reading the list you will see that many of the ways listed can be true of many women and not just transsexuals. Many women have large feet, hands and noses, have had silicone implants, chemical peels, and electrolysis, have small hips, husky voices, and are tall. As if these weren't enough, It goes on to say the someone who doesn't complain about toilet seats being left up, clothes left about the floor, and other of HER mates bad habits probably did not start out as a woman. What a stereo-type!



COUPLE pose for pictures with unsuspecting wedding guests.

***Groom's enraged mom says:
'I should have known she
was a man when I saw the
size of her feet!'***

10 ways to tell if your bride is an ex-guy

The shocking rise in the popularity of sex-change surgery is enough to make any guy wonder if the woman in his life might have ever been a man. Here's how to tell for sure.

1. Next time you kiss, take a good look at her throat. If she's got an Adam's apple, you've got a problem. Men have Adam's apples, women don't and that's one thing sex-change doctors can't alter.

2. Cleavage can be created in the operating room, and if your gal didn't come by hers naturally, tiny telltale scars under each breast will remain after silicone implants are made.

3. Pay attention when holding

hands. If hers is as big as yours, your girl may have once been a guy.

4. Check out her curves. Women have bigger hips than men, so their shapes curve in at the waist. A shape that's straight as a board may be cause for alarm — and second thoughts.

5. Hormones might help to raise a once male voice but if your gal's got a husky voice, it might not be the result of a cold.

6. Take a good, hard look at her face. Tiny dots of scar tissue will very often remain if electrolysis was used to permanently remove whiskers.

7. While you're at it, examine the nose. Men tend to have longer

noses with larger nostrils. Small scars may mean surgical alterations have been made.

8. If the skin color on the face and neck doesn't match, watch out. Many men who become women have the skin on their faces chemically peeled to make softer.

9. Don't ignore height and foot size, two things that sex-change surgery can't change. After the operation a man who was six feet tall with size 12 feet will be a six-foot woman with size 12 feet.

10. Finally, a woman who doesn't complain about toilet seats being left up, clothes tossed carelessly on the floor and her mate's other bad habits probably didn't start out in life as a woman.

The Miss Gay Cincinnati Pageant

On July 31, the Copa hosted the 1988 Miss Gay Cincinnati Pageant. Belinda and myself were fortunate to attend this gala event which hasn't taken place since 1984.

I got to go back stage and talk to some of the contestants before the show started. Let me tell you, they were all very nervous and anxious to get the show on the road. The seven girls were as follows.

Toni Montel, a Barbara Streisand look a like who some of you may remember from Jacober's Downtown Bar. Since she has been around for awhile, she has a large group of fans that follow her.

Windy Martin, (Miss Copa 1988) has been a familiar face in the drag scene about town as long as I can remember.

Misty Dawn, who drew boos from the Crossport girls because she beat out Belinda in the Miss Christopher's pageant.

Eartha Quake, who has been on tour the last few years. She sings all her songs live, and seems to have many friends in the gay community.

Coco Cartiar, is a 21 year old black girl who works the streets and has all the characteristics of the real thing.

Samantha Rollins, new to this area, but a two time winner of the Miss Columbus title.

Monica London, a cute 24 year old has lived full time as a woman for the past 4 years. She has her own breasts and dances for a living in a all girl strip bar. She looks so good, no one at work has any idea she's not real. She came with her mother, Mary, who some of you know from "The Thing Shop" in Newport.

Well the MC for the night was Bobbie Holiday, the current Miss Cincinnati. A dynamite show girl, who performed a few numbers to take up the slack. This made the show almost non-stop until 3 AM.

Special guest for the night was Leigh Shannon, a former Miss Gay Kentucky. She performed the best numbers I've seen in quite a few years. Her Dolly Parton was second to none. She is what you would expect to see at the Queen Mary in LA.

The pageant had three parts. First the introduction, where the girls came out in their everyday wear. Second, was the evening gowns. Third, was talent. All the girls looked really great, and each did a good job with their performance. But only one girl can be Queen of the Queen City, and Toni Montel was that girl. Second place went to Windy Martin, and third went to Coco Cartiar.

I must say I had a great time, and plan to be back next year. Maybe I can cheer one of our own girls on next time.

If you like pageants, the Miss Gay USA is held every spring over in Indianapolis. This event takes 6 hours to complete, and have been told, is one of the best in the country. Also, the Miss Continental Pageant, (two days) is held in nearby Chicago over the Labor Day Weekend. If anyone would like to attend any of these affairs, ask me for details. (The one in Indy would work out real nice as a joint party with IXE.)

Up Date News

Some very intelligent people, now tell us that Hitler was really a woman. And thanks to the Weekly World News with the help of a scissors and a little glue, we can now see what she really looks like. I just wish they would have cut off her mustache for the picture.

Did you ever want to attend a formal wedding as a woman. Here's your chance. Muriel Olive, who sponsors the Pocono Festival Weekend in New York, plans a formal garden wedding, and reception at her weekend this fall. This along with the all night parties, Fantasy Ball, and all the other goodies planned, should make for a super time. The event runs from Sept. 8th thru the 11th.

In October the 14th annual Fantasia Fair kicks off from the 14th to the 23rd. (These events not only seem to be more frequent, but now last twice as long. The IFGE convention next year will last a week)

Closer to home, the Tri-S national convention will be held in Chicago in the fall this year. We'll let you know more later.

Rumor has it, that a new TV group is starting up in the Dayton Area. A few girls I know, that regularly attend Paradise, but never Crossport, are forming this closed, by invitation only group.

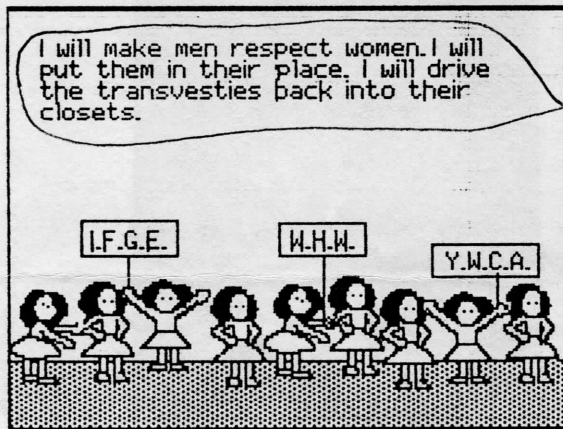
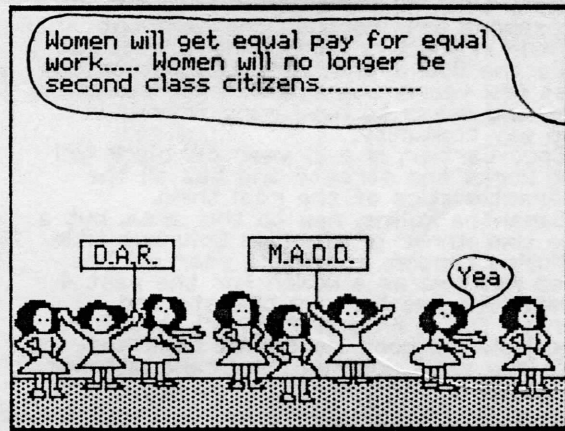
Another news source reports that Michael Jackson was caught out in public in drag. My, who's next?



Here's Linda at the BE All weekend in her prom dress.

Just Deserts

by Linda



PICNIC

IXE Picnic we want you all to come, relax and enjoy the fun.

Where: at Eagle Creek Park. When: August 27 ☀ rain or shine.

Time: ☕ we have a shelter from 9:30 till 5:00

Dress: casual every day type stuff. This is *not* a "dressed" affair, so bring your wives, girlfriends or S.O. and forget the world. We will supply some hotdogs and the charcoal. Please bring your own meat, drinks (no alcohol allowed in the park) and a side dish for all to enjoy. Please don't everybody bring desserts ☹, some of us must watch our weight. Also an extra grill or two might be nice. See the map for directions on how to get there, elsewhere in this issue. See ya!!

(DON'T FORGET YOUR FOOD AND DRINKS AND ANY GAMES YOU WANT !!)

The best way to get to Eagle Creek from I465 is via the 71st St. Exit The Exit for 56th Street is Northbound only! (OK if you're coming from the South) Or if you're familiar with the area, 56th is a good route out from the city.

Eagle Creek Park is West of Indy If you're still having trouble, look at the map of where we meet. I've added Eagle Creek's location!

We're in picnic shelter E. It is secluded, has lots of parking, and it is ours from 9:30 that morning until 5:30 pm. I plan to stay all day; I wasn't a Girl Scout for nothing!

We're looking forward to plenty of IXE sisters!!!
NOTE: TS's, yes it says this is not a cross-dressed picnic. If you're living as a woman, come as you are!

