

Cross-Port InnerView

P.O. Box 54657, Cincinnati, OH 45254

The next meeting is March 17 at 8:00pm

A New View

by Elaine

Well we had a good turn out at the last meeting the total count of ladies was 41. We also had three new members welcome to Dominique and John and Tasha. We would like to welcome back Donna and Myrna. Thank you for coming and we hope you had a good time.

We also had some disturbing news. Someone said the **Golden Lion** was closed. The truth is it closed only to remodel and repair. We wish to inform you that it is back open but under new management. We are not quite sure what went on but Bill and Dave will not be there on the 17th as owner and bar tender.

Joyce and I had a unique experience in that we had a question and answer session at Miami University in Oxford. We were well received we had an interesting time while there. The people asked some good questions and we hope we gave them good answers.

THE VIEW INSIDE:

by Bobbi L.

Girls, this past month I've been hopping like the one legged tap dancer. What with taxes and teaching and dealing with my father's illness, I

haven't been able to generate a new article of any kind. Plus, two months ago I gave two of our girls interview forms to fill out and return and I haven't heard from them yet. So, just like the television industry, this TV is going to try a rerun. My first interview, with Kristine Jones didn't make it to press in a readable form. I'm counting on Elaine to nudge this one onto the pages of the InnerView.

Perhaps by April I'll have a "fresh face" for all of you.

Stay Healthy. Stay Beautiful. Avoid Runners.

T.V.I. Kristine, first let's get down to basics. Give us ALL of your vital signs.

K.J. I'm 38 years old and I celebrate my femme birthday on May 10. I'm 6' 1" tall and weigh 170. I wear a size 16 dress and 11½ W shoes. My measurements are 43-34-42.

T.V.I. What are your preferences in, say, dress/suit styles, shoes, hair, hobbies, the arts...you know, all the good stuff?

K.J. I prefer either a coatdress, dress/jacket ensemble, or a "military-style" suit (with straight or pleated skirts). I love off-the-shoulder gowns. Greens are my favorite. In shoes, I like a pump with a 2½ inch heel

(matching my outfit, of course!). A red, shoulder-length wig which is curly in back and has bangs is my favorite hair-style. I do prefer to style it myself. My activities run from attending Cross-Port meetings, the Barony of Northern Kentucky, the I.F.G.E. to going out to bars, shopping, writing articles for the InnerView, and meeting new people in the gender community.

As far as the arts: I love Blues, Jazz, Zydeco, Classical, Folk - really almost any music. The paintings of the Renaissance masters (wish I could paint like Mike) and the Dutch masters hold my interest.

My taste in movies includes anything by Peter Weir or Bruce Beresford. I really like Australian film - Breaker Morant, Gallipoli (movies that rely on actors & scripts, not effects).

T.V.I. Thanks for being so candid. Now, one more honesty test. Do you have a favorite gripe?

K.J. Just one. Joyce and Bob: the IL Duce' & Duchess of Inflexibility. "It's my way or the highway!"

T.V.I. Kristine, how long have you been a member of Cross-Port?

K.J. Since March, 1991.

T.V.I. And how long have you been coming to the meetings?

K.J. Since March, 1991.

T.V.I. What is your earliest recollection of cross dressing?

K.J. Of cross dressing generally - my dad went to a costume party as a Playboy bunny. I was probably 10 or 11.

- Of my cross dressing - a pair of my mom's pantyhose made bedroom eyes at me. I was 12 or 13.

T.V.I. What is your favorite cross dressing recollection?

K.J. The 1993 Be All Convention. It was my 3rd time at the Be All and seeing my old friends from the '91 and '92 Be Alls was really a great time! It gets better each year. I can't wait for Pittsburgh in '94!

T.V.I. Are you married, or involved in a relationship, and does your S.O. know about your "sister?"

K.J. I have been married for six years. My wife knows. I told her while we were dating that I had the desire to do it but didn't have any clothes. I had never been fully dressed or been out. Two and a half years ago, I started buying clothes for Cross-Port. She accepts this part of me as she knows I enjoy it, but she would never come to a meeting for fear of recognition. She is very accepting.

T.V.I. What is the most satisfying aspect of cross dressing for you?

K.J. Meeting people...especially new members of Cross-Port. Hearing their stories. Also, getting dressed for Coronations or other formals is fun. But the greatest thing is seeing first time people & then see them continue to come back and enjoy the meetings.

T.V.I. What is the most disturbing aspect?

K.J. It's really tough to get

dressed and get out of the house in my neighborhood without being seen by the neighbors.

T.V.I. What do you imagine the future holds for Kristine?

K.J. I'll probably go to the "Be All" annually. And, of course, keep attending Cross-Port. I hope to improve the newsletter & eventually have color printing with more pictures.

T.V.I. Thank you, Kristine Jones, for a chance to glimpse the view inside one of Cross-port's most active ladies.

INSIGHT #48 By: Barbara Jean

Hello girls, this is Barbara back with another insight for you. OK here is the question for you, How old were you when you first started crossdressing? Question two, when did you first learn that you were not alone in your desire to crossdress?

Well if you were like most of us girls, crossdressing started in the early teens, or even younger. A lot of other factors were then involved in determining when you first learned that you were not alone in this desire to dress as a girl. I myself was about 12 or 13 when I first started my crossdressing, and I think I was about 21 or 22 when I first learned that there were others, or even knew that there was a name for this phenomenon. I did not have sisters, I was an only child in my family and I would often find myself when alone going into my parents bedroom to put on my step mothers clothes. Of course my parents did find out. Locks were put on the bedroom door (I always managed to find the key or to spring the lock thou) and they then sent me off for some brainwashing sessions with the local

witch doctor (psychologist) Now this was back in the early sixties. I do not recall him ever making mention of the word transvestite or even telling me that there were many men that crossdressed.

Shortly after I got out of the Navy I was in a local magazine store (we did not have the adult bookstore in our town then) and I saw a magazine with an article about men who dressed as women. Well I got the magazine and it was thru that magazine that I found out about Virginia Prince and Transvestia magazine. From there I did send off for some copies of Transvestia.

In one of Virginia's editorials she made mention of parents who would come home and find their teenage son hanging by a rope. There was never a note, but the clothes that the boy was wearing was pretty indicative of what was disturbing him so much that he felt he no longer wanted to live. Of course out of fear of being outcast by society, the family would always keep this information private.

Today our society has become a little more open and much better educated on the subject today than it was back then in the sixties. But given the fact that the teenage years are the most turmoilous in any persons life, I wonder how many young boys still end their lives, or attempt to end their lives due to being crossdressers.

It is due to this one fact alone that I have for years been an advocate of our getting our publications out of the realm of "for adults only". There is nothing more that I would like better than to be able to go to my local magazine stand and find our crossdressing magazines, located next to publications such as Ms. and Ladies Home Journal. Now we do have quite a few publications that could very well be put down below with these magazines, with no age restrictions for their purchase. Feminine, LadyLike, and Tapestry, are some that come to mind. So why do they remain available only thru the adult bookstore or via the mail? Certainly even someone like Jerry Fawell would not find anything

pornographic in these, these magazines are so clean that we cannot even classify them as soft porn.

I guess part of the answer lies in the subject that they deal with. Many people who seem to accept us, would not be willing to accept it if their own son was a crossdresser, it is the "This only happens to others" concept. How well educated a parent is also plays a big role in determining their willingness and ability to accept crossdressing in their own family.

Now mom may be more willing to accept and understand than dad is. As Virginia Prince said in an article entitled "Understanding comes before Acceptance" men have ruled this planet for the past 5000 years. The women's movement has only been around for the past 300 or so years, so forget anything that they have done, it has only made a minor dent in societies way of thinking. Then too, we have the silver screen informing us of what men are suppose to be like. I really do not think that dad is quite willing to accept the fact that his son is anything other than what the world expects of him. If anyone is reluctant to change, it is the men in our society. They have a position of power and fear that anything like this will be a relinquishing of their power.

Another problem in getting our magazines out of the realm of the adults only and onto the open magazine stand comes in means of distribution. In printing an adult magazine one would do the layout work, and then send it off to a magazine distributor who would do the printing and the distributing via the adult bookstores. Printing runs are small compared to that of other magazines and there are much fewer returns. To go thru open magazine stands, much larger printing runs are needed and there is the possibility of many more returns which the publisher would still have to pay for in the printing run. Thus there is the problem of a large financial backing needed to go on the open magazine stand.

But I think the really big

problem would be in us. Would we be willing to purchase our magazine if it was available at an open magazine stand, no plain brown bag to put it in? "Hey Joe long time since I seen you. Hey what are you doing with that magazine? Don't you know that is for those sissy guys that like to wear dresses? Come on your not one of them are you?" Huh Huh, you got the message girls. If the magazine were available on an open magazine stand would you buy it, or would you still want the security of the adult bookstore or via mail concept. Talk about peer pressure, consider the teenager who were to purchase one of these magazines.

I guess in the end before we can come out of the closet with our publications, we ourselves must first come out of the closet. We must work harder to educate society that we are simply normal men who wish to express and not suppress our feminine qualities. We also must unite with the women liberation movement, to end the practice of treating women as second class citizens. And most important we ourselves must show that WE consider women as equals, that WE will not tolerate them being treated as anything less than equal.

We must show that we have no shame, but immense pride in our being crossdressers, that our crossdressing is simply a tool used to bring out and develop the finest qualities in our personalities.

When I wrote the by-laws for MU SIGMA, I put in a provision for minor crossdressers to join. Written and notarized permission from the custodial parent was required, along with the requirement that the parent themselves attended the meetings. What about the group that you belong too girls? Are you ready to accept minors into your group. I think parental attendance is one way to show the parents that they have little to fear in us. As the cigarette ad says, "You come a long way baby to get to where you are today". Yes we have come a long way since the sixties, but we still have a long way to go. It may be many

years before we find our publications on the open magazine stand, available for purchase by anyone of any age. But we are the one who will forge the way. Just as the women of today are forging the way to changing the ideas that society has toward them, we are forging the way in changing the ideas that society has toward us. How do you want society to view you and what are YOU doing toward that goal?

Well that is all for this month. Do take care and be good to yourself. I love each and every one of you girls out there and you are worth every bit of that love.

JOYCE'S WORLD

The Barony Ball of Northern Ky will be held on March 12th at the Southgate House in Newport, Ky. Tickets are \$15.00 and are available by calling Baron Bob at (606) 581-7984 - - - leave a message if he's not at home. The price at the door, the night of the ball, will be \$20.00, so get your tickets early. Dress up in your finest and plan on a fun filled evening. We anticipate a large crowd, with people coming from many states and Canada.

Joyce made another trip to Canada the last weekend of January. Why I picked this time to go I will never fully understand. As cold as it was here, it was even colder in Hamilton, Ontario. On the way up, I had another encounter with the Customs Agents. After the usual questions, he wanted me to open the trunk of the car. The reason for this I assume was because the car sat so low due to the amount of clothing for three people. As usual, I took enough changes of clothing for at least a two week stay, even though we would only be there four days. After a quick glance, the agent sent us on our merry way...not nearly as exciting as the 1992 encounter (see December,

We stayed in downtown Hamilton at the Ramada Inn. Rick and I went sightseeing Saturday and Sunday, going to "Durhun Castle," "Withien House," the football museum, and assorted other places of interest. The evenings were spent being wine and dined at local restaurants and homes. Each evening concluded merrily at Bacon Wally Diamond's 121 Club, where we were once again treated as Royalty by the Hamilton Barony.

On our return trip, we once again stopped at Niagara Falls. I never tire of seeing them. We were joined by four other Barony members who had made the trip north. This time was different as all but the main flow of water was frozen, creating an Ice Castle effect.

The round trip totaled some eleven hundred miles. We encountered constant rain heading north and very icy road conditions on the way back. Never the less, the trip was uneventful until I was less than a quarter mile from home. It was about one a.m. as I turned onto the road where I live, when I saw the flashing red lights in the rear view mirror. Getting out of the car, I approached the officer and inquired as to the problem. He informed me that I had made too wide of a turn. He also wished to know if I was maybe unfamiliar with the turn. I assured him I was not, as I lived just down the road and made this turn every day. At this time he asked to see my driver's license. So, I dug into my purse and pulled out my wallet. As I handed my license to him, I explained that I was a transgendered person and that the license was, indeed, really mine. All this time he was very nice, did not so much as blink an eye, and told me that he just wanted to make sure I got home safely. He then sent me on my way. You know...the more I think about it, the less I am inclined to believe that I had made an improper turn. Rather, in my opinion, the officer

had nothing better to do and wished to liven up his evening by stopping and talking to a woman. Boy was he in for a surprise! Better luck to him next time.

On a more serious note, I recently had been contacted by three different, all inquiring whether Cross-Port had speakers who would be willing to give a presentation on the crossdressing community. These conferences were being held by the gay groups on campus. A three day seminar (February 18-20) at Earlham College in Richmond, IN was held in Carpenter Hall. Earlham is a small (1100 students) college. Nevertheless they had between 100 and 150 participants. During the initial contact with Cross-Port, I had given them the number for Crystal Club so that they could contact our sister club. As things turned out, Jamie Elizabeth, who is a member of Cross-Port as well, gave a presentation on crossdressing to about 20 students on Saturday morning. Sunday it was my turn. The group was somewhat smaller, 12, but very receptive. After a brief explanation of Cross-Port's aims and goals, and a lecture about the crossdressing community in general, I opened the floor to questions. There followed a lively discussion lasting an hour and a half. Richmond, I was informed, is an ultra-conservative town and consequently, the students are openly gay only on campus, and not in town. However, they are planning to become more visible in the future. I also learned that in the past, they had little or no contact with the "transgendered community."

I was also contacted by Miami University in Oxford, Ohio at Upham Hall. Miami is quite large in comparison to Earlham College. I was accompanied by Elaine and we were very well received. Again, I gave a ten to fifteen minute presentation. Then Elaine and I fielded questions from the fifteen students present (It seems we were competing with several other functions that night).

These students had many questions as you can well imagine. Elaine and I answered them to the best of our abilities. Here, as well as at Earlham, I handed out several pamphlets, Cross-Port cards, and left a copy of Tapestry for them to read.

I found both of these events to be very interesting and informative, not only for the students, but also for myself. From the questions asked, I have gained a better perspective of young people and their concerns. One thing which amazed me: NO ONE asked "the question:" "What bathroom do you use when dressed?" Rather strange, since this seems to be foremost in the minds of the heterosexual community.

University of Cincinnati also inquired about the availability of obtaining a speaker. I am still waiting for conformation as to the date and time. The last time I spoke with them, they mentioned some time in early April. I will keep you informed. Anyone interested in taking part, please contact me.

Take care and enjoy.
Love,
Joyce

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- February 26, 1994, time and cost undetermined, courtesy of Sixth Annual Texas T'Party, in San Antonio Texas. Contact Texas T'Party, P.O. Box 700042, San Antonio, Texas 78270-0042, U.S.A.
- March 17 or 18, 1994, date, time, and cost undetermined, courtesy of "Coming Together- Working Together" Convention of IFGE in Portland, Oregon. Contact Phyllis Randolph Frye, Attorney, Executive Director ICTLEP, 5707 Firenza St., Houston, Texas 77035-5515, U.S.A., (713) 723-8368 or FAX (713) 723-1800.



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"I don't care what the other wives do, Mr. Ace, mine wouldn't understand!"

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"There, that should help you to understand what my daughter expects of you. Remember the words are Love, Honor, and Obey."