

# Cross-Port InnerView

P.O. Box 54657, Cincinnati, OH 45254

The next meeting is February 18 at 8:00pm

## A New View

by Elaine

There were about 40 ladies and S.O.'s at Cross-Port this month. We had a very good turn out. We hope that all the new ladies that came to the meeting in January had a good time and will continue to attend.

I did something she said she would never do. She bought a southern belle gown. When I saw the color of the fabrics it was to be made of I fell in love with it. The dress is made of fuchsia lace with a gold under skirt. I think it is very beautiful especially with the shoe I found, the same color as the lace.

I am looking forward to wearing it for the first time at the Barony Ball on March 13th at the Travelodge in Newport. I would like to invite all of you to come and take part. It will be a festive occasion. Hope to see you there in March.

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## Labels

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Tiffany Club of New England Inc.  
volume VI issue 1

Labels  
by Jessica Warren

A few years before Jessica emerged

from the closet, my mother gave me a copy of the book Love by Leo Buscaglia. To this day that book means a great deal to me. I remember it having a profound effect on me then, and earmarking it and copying parts into my journal.

As my participation in the transgendered world has increased, I have realized how applicable some of Leo's sayings are to us. In particular, he noted that we all use labels as a distancing phenomenon. Whenever we meet someone, we try to categorize them and label them. While this can be useful, it is also a way we keep people at arm's length and do not get to know them.

One of the first things we noticed about a person is their gender (which most people confuse with sex). Since all of us in this community know that one's gender and sex do not have to match, you would think we would be aware of the trap of using labels. Unfortunately, old habits are hard to break. When you see someone, do you think black, white, hispanic, bum, woman, nerd, man, gay/lesbian, white collar, etc.? By pigeonholing people in this manner, you may be failing to see the person inside. Your own preconceived notions attached to each of those terms obscures your ability to see the **PERSON!**

One often hears of a young professional black man who, despite

being neatly attired, elicits fear in the white people. The women clutch their purses tighter, the men cross the street, and so on. These people only see *black* and attach their own prejudices to the people they've labeled.

I repeat that one would think that a transgendered person would know to look beyond the facade. Alas, this is untrue. We label each other as transvestites, transsexuals, crossdressers, gay, heterosexual, drag queens, homosexual transvestite, etc....often at the expenses of seeing and connecting with each other. Perhaps looking down on others makes some people feel big. To me that is a shallow person. TSs look down on TVs, TVs look down on TSs, straights look down on gays. This has got to stop!

I have yet to meet two transgendered people exactly alike. It is one long continuum, and by labeling people you can fail to appreciate that person for who they are. Of course these terms are useful, for without words we could not communicate. However, they are two-edged swords. The *words* shouldn't be an obstacle.

During a recent conversation with an acquaintance concerning gays in the military, I was regaled with such a stream of utter garbage and nonsense that I learned more about the person talking than about the topic. The other person obviously was extremely

homophobic. When you don't understand something, you may fear it. Such fear in one respect manifests itself as labels.

I know some organizations limit enrollment by excluding people such as homosexuals. These groups are doing themselves a disservice by not confronting the issue and educating themselves. The same is true of TVs and TSs toward one another. I have heard a TS refer to certain clothes as "transvestite clothes" in a very negative manner. I let that roll off my back, but I can't help feeling sorry for that person. Where is their compassion? Empathy? These are "feminine" qualities. Shouldn't they be promoting those emotions if they plan on changing to that sex? Shouldn't a transvestite try to develop those emotions in herself? Isn't that a reasonable goal for someone who seeks to emulate a woman physically?

I hope that my crossdressing has brought me more in touch with such "feminine" feelings as compassion, empathy, and understanding. Hopefully, I use labels less, or at least do not let them become a barrier to greater understanding and a greater sense of community. Maybe you do, too. In this instance, I think recognizing the problem is half the solution.

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## The Baron Speaks

Hi, Girls, this is the Baron speaking. Surely was sorry to miss the last meeting. I was in Oklahoma visiting with my mother and my step-father-to-be. Yes, they are engaged! Danged if I can see why they don't just tie the knot and get it over with.

While in Oklahoma, I drove on down to Dallas, Texas for their Coronation Ball. As I crossed the Red River from OK to TX, the sun shone out! That was the first time I had seen the sun in so long, I was almost afraid. Dallas weather was terrific. I did not have any summer clothing with me so

I perspired...a lot! I almost felt like putting on a jock strap and sun bathing. However, I doubt Dallas is ready to see me that undressed.

The Coronation Ball was lavish and everyone seemed to have a good time. The theme was "a Roman Toga Party." I have seen several togas in my time, but nothing like those some "girls" spent mega-bucks on and many hours putting those beautiful things together. I felt like a crow in my pinstripes and Baron's sash.

Underneath all the fun and frivolity there was the shadow of the Fundamentalist-Right Wing nuts (hereafter referred to as:F.R.W.N's). They are trying to get Texas under their thumbs, also. There was much questioning whether we should go to the Coronation Balls in Colorado Springs and Denver, or, just boycott everything. The Emperor of Colorado Springs was there. He asked us all to please come and show our strength. He convinced me. I AM GOING! However, I shall not spend one more cent than is absolutely necessary in Colorado. I will fill my gasoline tank in Kansas and if at all possible, spend the nights in a motel in Kansas.

I have had no feedback on my January column. Guess no one reads it. No one cares. No one loves me. I will never write another newsletter column, etc., etc..

Hell, no! I will not shut up!! I will never go into another closet. I am a human being and will die fighting for my rights. I am a decent person, I have no control of my genes. I am not ashamed of what I am. Practically everyone over 40 in our group and in the gay community has had to fight in some war to put down dictators and other despots. Are we going to sit on our fannies and let them push us back from the ground we have already gained? I don't think so! There is a job to be finished and I'm sure many of us will "pitch in" and help. I will not believe that everyone reading this will not do something to help in this war, and I do mean war. The F.R.W.N.'s are out to do away with us.

Now girls, control yourselves.

I am not suggesting for a microsecond that you throw away your lifestyle and get out of your closets to go down the street screaming, "I am a crossdresser, a gay," or whatever. Some of the things you CAN do are: quit listening to those radio and tv stations that are always "bashing" one group or another; do not tell or listen to ethnic jokes of any kind and if forced to listen, just show no emotion. I have found this a very good way to silence those jokes in my presence.

The easiest and most effective job you can do is to just write letters to your elected officials. Phone calls are also very effective. I write and call ALL of Kentucky's legislators. I recently called Senator Ford about the "gays in the military" hullabaloo. They really do listen!

And concerning money: the organized groups must have financing for the printing, traveling, and all the other little things which come up. These "little things" quickly add up to "big things." None of us, so far as I know, are rich, but we can all spare a buck or two for the right thing. Why don't YOU, yes, I do mean YOU, individually give something to one of the groups who are out front fighting the F.R.W.N.'s?

Enough for now...Girls, I love you all and want only the best for each and every one of you.

Oh yes, please do not forget the Barony Ball Saturday March 13, at the Travel Lodge Motel (3rd and York streets in Newport, KY). Cocktails from 6 to 7 pm. The ball starts promptly at 7 pm and will be over before midnight. See you there!

The Baron,

Von Munzhausen



## GOOD NEWS /BAD NEWS...

by: Bobbi L.

I thought I'd try something different this month. In the past I've covered the pages with so much "fluff" that I figured you girls could use some "hard" news! (Of course, I really don't think anybody but those of us who put this thing together actually reads what's in the newsletter, or else we'd get more bitching from all of you).

Anyway, before I add the fluff here's a really sad & somewhat frustrating piece of news:

Have y'all heard of the scumbag in New Bedford, MA who strangled his wife with a wire and THEN decided to shave his beard (and his legs, too), put on make-up, grow his nails and claim that he is a "transsexual in transition" who has no real memory of the incident, but believes it was in self-defense? 43 year-old Robert Kosilek has been dressing as a woman since twisting strands of wire together, strangling his wife, pulling her jogging suit over her body to make it look like a sexual assault, then leaving her body in a mall parking lot in North Attleboro, MA in May of 1990.

Well, now he's in the slammer living as "Michelle," has shed 60 pounds, and has grown his hair below his shoulders. According to the AP article, Kosilek was arrested after he fled the state and was stopped for drunken driving in New Rochelle (read that "New Michelle") New York.

Last week, a jury found him guilty of murder and he was sentenced to the maximum term.

I don't know about the rest of you, but this ridiculous attempt to justify a brutal act by "blaming" it on transsexualism burns my butt. It certainly is NOT the kind of press needed by our community. I'm terribly frustrated by this kind of thing. How can I fight back? What can I do to

erase this extremely ugly image of the transgendered? What a blow!!

Now, for the good news! (Whew!) A few weeks ago, Beverly and I rented a delightful film, HIGH HEELS. (No, it's NOT a documentary about that lovely style of ladies' footwear!)

This is a murder mystery by the Spanish film-maker, Almodovar (A WOMAN ON THE VERGE). This plot has several interesting twists, but THE MOST interesting curve for me, and probably for most of you, is that one of the seminal characters is a very attractive transvestite. This crossdresser is involved with the primary female character in the film and, get this, performs in a cabaret, impersonating his girlfriend's famous mother. It gets even better, but I'm not going to give away any more and possibly ruin the ending.

Jennifer has told me that this TV character is a recurring one in Almodovar's films, however I'm too parochial to have seen any other of his films (but you can bet I WILL, soon).

Another aspect of the film which I think is worth mentioning deals with those sexy heels. The title refers to a vivid image from childhood which lingers to affect and color adult life. Kind of like women's fashions for some of us, I'm betting.

Yea, it's in Spanish, with English subtitles, but, hey...that makes it kind of fun and sophisticated: something all ladies enjoy. We rented it from BlockBuster, so I'm sure other big outlets must have it, too.

Happy Ground Hog Day!  
Happy Valentine's Day! Bien Mardi Gras! And don't give up ANY "girl" things for Lent!

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### Dear Abbey

Reprinted from The Cincinnati Enquirer, "Dear Abby", Thursday January 21, 1993:

Dear Abby: I am a large woman: 5' 11", and weigh 152 lbs. I am well proportioned. My problem is that a lot of people have mistaken me for a man.

I was in the ladies' room a few weeks ago, and a woman asked me why I didn't use the men's room!

My problem is not just with women; men also mistake me for a man. I have tried wearing feminine-looking clothes, but I look ridiculous. I have always worn tailored clothes, and am more comfortable in a pantsuit than in a dress. I was never one for long, fluffy hairdos, but I don't have a mannish haircut, either.

I am at the end of my rope. Next time a salesperson asks, "May I help you, sir?" -- I am going to punch him out!

BIG

### PROBLEM

Dear Big: From your own description of yourself--your size and the mannish clothes you prefer--you should not blame anyone for mistaking you for a man.

A professional makeup artist can teach you how to artfully apply makeup that will make your appearance less masculine. You can "soften" your style of dress by learning to accessorize with silk scarves and/or colorful printed blouses under those tailored suits. Large-scale pieces of costume jewelry (earrings, brooches, and bracelets) can also make your appearance more feminine without being too "fussy." Think about it, and candidly discuss the investment with a fashion coordinator at one of the larger department stores.

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## Gender Identification

Reprinted from The Cincinnati Enquirer, Dr. T. Berry Brazelton: "Families Today", Tuesday January 19, 1993.

QUESTION: At what age is it

appropriate for a boy to play with dolls and other "girlish" toys?

I am concerned about a 7 year-old boy who tends to reject contact sports and other aggressive activities in favor of playing with dolls or playing "house" or "school."

He spends many happy hours with his younger sister playing these games. (He also has an older, competitive brother and an infant brother.)

I would appreciate hearing your opinion about this.

ANSWER: By 7 or 8 years of age, I would expect a boy to be more interested in his peers and not so much in his little sister or her activities.

Do his peers like him and seek him out? That is often the best bellwether for determining whether or not he's a well-adjusted child.

It sounds as if this boy may be using his sister to shield himself from feelings of inadequacy. He may feel as if he is in the shadow of his aggressive older brother and will never be able to measure up.

I would not criticize this boy for what he does. That's the surest way to increase his sense of inadequacy.

Instead, he may need more encouragement to live up to his competencies. Adults around him should be subtle, not too unrealistic, with this encouragement.

In order to help him with his peers, his parents could invite a friend his age -- who is like him in temperament -- over to his house. They could take the two children out together and let them get close. That will help the boy learn to make it into the crowd.

But it's important that no one push him.

The boy's father should be sure to have a special time with him alone, so the son can learn to identify with his father. The father shouldn't push him to do things he feels uncertain about on these excursions. They can do whatever the child wants.

I hope he'll be able to share his feelings of inadequacy with his

father, who, during these excursions, can back him up for his competencies.

*EDITOR'S NOTE: I do not subscribe to this line of indoctrination...and by a Doctor, yet. This type of mentality may be the very reason society feels the way they do about the crossdressing community. Comments, Please?*

## CHAUVINIST TO FEMINIST

Having been born a male and having lived most of my life as such, I developed many male traits commonly referred to as "chauvinistic." I don't think I was ever really aware that this was the case. Being considered male by my parents and society, I had instilled in my unconscious mind that fact. Like everyone these days, I have HEARD of women's rights and equality; But not until I came to grips with crossdressing and who I really was, did I begin to realize what women were talking about and why the "Feminist Movement" came about.

The other day something occurred that made the point quite clear. I had gone to the Art Museum and spent the whole afternoon there. On the way home, I decided, since it was getting late, I would dine out. Typical of Friday evenings, the restaurant I chose was packed and had a waiting list. I asked, and was told, that it would be a 45 minute or less wait. I found a place to stand without being too conspicuous. Well, people were being seated in, what seemed like, an orderly fashion. Before long, I became aware that people who had arrived after me were being seated. My first thoughts were, because I was a lone female, I had been passed over and I would just leave. On second thought, I said "No! I have the same rights as anyone else, SO STAND UP FOR THEM!!" I approached the hostess and made my feelings known. Sure enough, my name was on a separate list...off to the side. The hostess could not even find it. I had to point it out to her. I returned to my

seat. However, after several more parties of two were called, I reapproached the hostess. She said, "Lady, we have a couple more ahead of you. We will seat you shortly." To this I gave no answer, but remained standing there. This action finally got results, and I was called immediately.

This had never happened to me while in my male persona and I feel certain would NOT have occurred had I not been Joyce. This was not an earth-shattering situation but does illustrate, at least to my way of thinking, the difference.

While this one incident may not qualify Joyce as a dyed-in-the-wool feminist, it has been an enlightening experience. Little situations such as this tend to add up and become "mountains" to be overcome. I feel that this is what the "feminist movement" is all about. I stood up for my rights as a woman and, Gals, I'm darn proud of it.

Love,  
Joyce

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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.

# Be My Valentine



“  
 When you  
 dress like a  
 woman . . .  
 You've gotta  
 take it like a  
 man  
 ”

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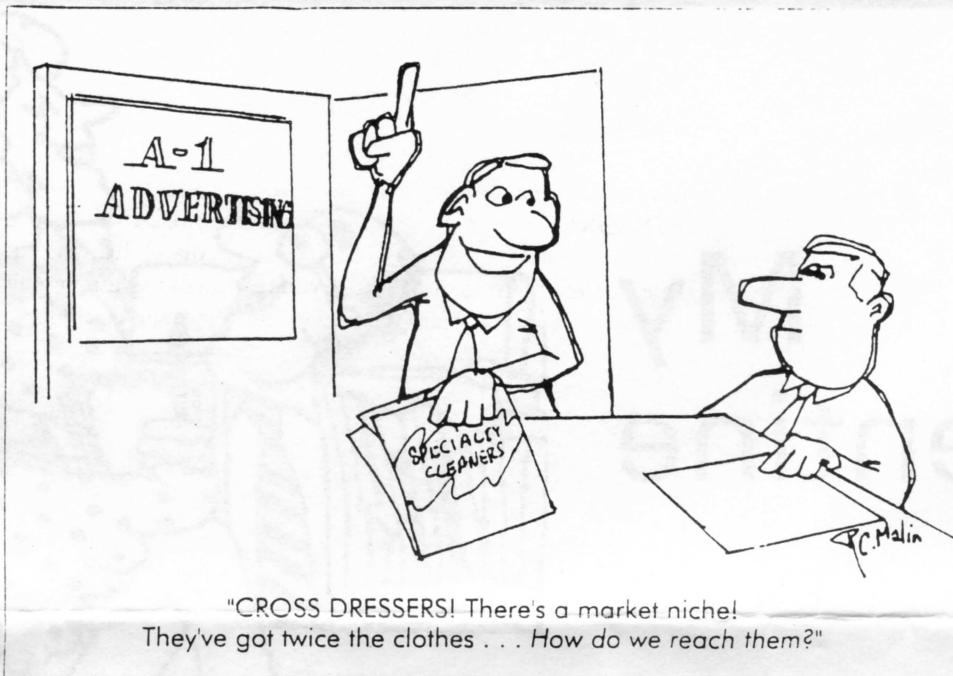
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from Drycleaning News  
Oct 1992 issue

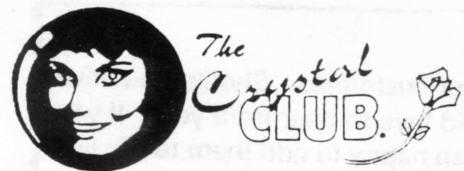


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transsexuals, and those with gender dysphoria.