

Cross-Port InnerView

P.O. Box 54657, Cincinnati, OH 45254

The next meeting is November 18 at 8:00pm

A New View

by Elaine

Well Another meeting has come and gone we had approximately 40 ladies at this months meeting. It was a very good turn out. We wish to welcome the new members Ron, Tim, Bill, Jaeke with girl friend Jennifer, and Gary and the ladies from the **Crystal Club**, Denise and Victoria. Who came to the meeting we hope they had a good time.

We went out to dinner at a restaurant in Middletown called Pedro's. We all had a good meal and a lot of fun with these girls from Miami University who had to have there pictures taken with us. I had a fun time talking to them before dinner.

After dinner we then went on up to Dayton to the **Oregon District Halloween Party**. Once there we walked the six blocks from the parking garage to the bar where we decided to meet when we got there. I was wearing a white satin blouse, red spandex

mini-skirt, navy jacket and black patent pumps. I will let the others who were there describe what they wore. It was a good time needless to say.

SOUTHERN COMFORT THROUGH MY EYES

by Heather Phillips

This was my first convention and I didn't quite know what to expect. I had an agenda that I wanted to accomplish, but I didn't know if the information would be readily available. Was the convention all fun and games or was it informative and supporting? I didn't know, but something inside of me compelled me to Atlanta.

As the time of departure neared I started feeling pressure from my business associate and my family not to go. It wasn't spoken but the pressure was there. I let a lot of things go over my head Monday and Tuesday. I thought Wednesday morning would never get here, but it did. Candy and I met at my house and drove to Linda's. We joined Linda and Christa, all piled into Linda's van

and we were off to Atlanta!

The trip down was, for the most part uneventful. I used some of the time to look over the program schedule and revised my mental agenda. I was pleased that many of the seminars offered the information I wanted and more. My original agenda was expanded. I couldn't wait to get there. Even the construction traffic jam outside of Atlanta didn't dampen my spirits.

We arrived finally around five o'clock. We checked into our rooms and then registered with the convention. Then it was back to our rooms to change and off for supper. Candy and I dined with a group at Alfredo's. The food was excellent and the service good. Back to the hotel and the lounge.

Thursday, the first day of convention, started my rounds of seminars. As much as I hate labels, we in society need them in order to know what pigeonhole one belongs. So file me under transsexual. I proceeded to attend as many seminars each day as I could. I needed to gather as much information as I could and I did.

I could never begin to report on each seminar, so what I can do is tell you what I learned. I learned that I am not cut out for long nails.

I learned that my journey must be a slow one and I must evaluate it every step of the way. I learned that the emotional pain I feel is a big part of the journey. I learned that others around me are feeling their own pain and as I need their support, they need mine. I learned that friends and family may not be there. I learned that even my religion may turn its back on me. I learned that there are people that I can turn to for help and support. I learned that I gotta be me. The inner peace I had because I was free to be me and was accepted as me, that was the biggest lesson of all.

Would I go back next year? I am staring at the silk corsage that I was given for the Banquet Saturday night. I am remembering Atlanta. You bet your sweet Bippy I will. The fellowship alone was worth the price.

The End.

"It's the shoes"

by Julie R.

After many months of painstaking research and observation, all the data is in and now the big question can be answered. Yes, Elaine, it is the shoes!

The final piece of research was done Halloween weekend. I having borrowed the shortest dress Elaine had in order to prove its the shoes and not the skirt, we both traveled to the Oregon District where we walked together down the main drag (no pun intended). You could take a ratio of how many times Elaine was pinched on the butt and divide that by the height of her heels and that would

be 10 times the number of pinches I received in a shorter skirt but with 2 & 1/2 inch heels.

Well if we can require warning labels on race cars sponsored by tobacco companies, the we can certainly need warning labels on all high heeled shoes sold to crossdressers. Call your congressman and demand labels that state something like;" WARNING! These heels may cause dizziness, fatigue, and should not be worn within 50 feet of any men or pinching and/or lude comments may result. Your mileage and pool playing ability may vary, check with your dealer for details." If we act now we can avoid this tragedy next Halloween, don't just do it for yourself, but do it for the unfortunate victims like Elaine, who still can't sit down after two weeks. Won't you please help?

T.T.F.N.

Joyce's World

At this time there is still no confirmation as to the opening date for the Old Street Saloon (formerly Christopher's Lounge) in Monroe. Therefore we will continue to meet at the Golden Lions on the third Thursday of this month.

It has been suggested and discussed by several people that we consider having a second meeting on the second Thursday of the month at the **Old Street Saloon** when it does open. These second monthly meetings would be only until such time as to determine whether it will prosper and if it suits us. Eventually moving our

regular third Thursday meeting back to Monroe. In a poll taken during September's meeting, indications were that most people preferred Monroe for many reasons...better parking, security, etc.. Give this matter some thought and let us know how you feel about double meetings on a temporary basis.

There are only 46 more shopping days till Christmas. Time once again for Cross-Port to have its annual Christmas party. A time to dress in our prettiest gowns and have a gay time. So make plans now to set aside December 16th. There will be catered food for all. Anyone who wishes, is welcome to bring a specialty dish to share with your sisters. Snacks, cookies, and cakes are always welcome.

This is in response to the article in Linda's Corner which appeared in September's InnerView. After considerable thought, I am compelled to reply. I find her point of view on the human rights ordinance very hard to swallow.

The Human Rights Ordinance passed by the Cincinnati City Council is about just that - basic human rights - such as housing and jobs - nothing more. Not special rights as some would suggest. There are always a few who try and turn things around to suit their own greedy goals, be they the religious right or the gold diggers.

We in the transgendered community have a stake in this ordinance along with the gays and lesbians. We are not requesting special rights or protections as such, only those which are

guaranteed to all of us by the Constitution of the United States: Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.

The Religious Right and many others equate sexual orientation and sexual behavior as one and the same. Not True! One's behavior is a choice, orientation is not. To deny someone his or her rights under the Constitution based on that which one has no choice to control is - Discrimination!!! On the other hand, no one deserves special rights. Claiming the right to discriminate because one owns a small business or manages property assumes a special right in itself and is nowhere to be found in the Constitution.

The bottom line is this - there would be no need for such laws which spell out everything to the letter (including dotting i's and crossing t's) if businesses and people would do what is right for the sake of right instead of doing it because it's the law. In other words: treat everyone as you would like to be treated.

I might add that the September article was written by a person, who chairs the I.F.G.E. Board of Directors, and who expects to be accepted by society when dressing as she pleases and who wishes to go about in complete freedom. Yet, it seems, she would deny another person basic human rights, all for the sake of the Almighty Dollar. Her heart may go out to these people, as she states, but apparently stops short where the purse strings begin.

Thank you.

Love,
Joyce

Innerview Interview

by Bobbi L.

This month I'm trying something different. After numerous meetings in, usually, crowded, and, always, smoky bars, I have been able to get-to-know only a few of you. Because of our work schedules, Beverly and I arrive early and leave early, allowing us little time to circulate and speak with every one. We regret that. I am guessing that there are other girls who similarly fail to connect with those they always see across a crowded room but are not able to chat with.



So, I have decided to introduce to the InnerView an interview. In this and future columns I plan to feature as many Cross-Port ladies as possible (depending on your tolerance of such an article and your willingness to respond to the questions). I am definitely open to suggestions concerning whom you would like to know more about.

Here goes:

At nearly every meeting we've attended we've had the pleasure of speaking to the very charming, perfectly attired, and enthusiastic Kristine Jones. Kristine is a very active lady. In spite of her busy professional life and, in addition to attending many TV functions, she always finds time to help me with the Potpourri columns by providing volumes of articles on cross dressing which she culls from many sources. Thank you, Kristine.

This month I decided to christen this column, not with champagne, but with someone equally sophisticated and delightful: Ms. Kristine Jones.

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 May 10.

I'm 6' 1" tall and weigh 170. I wear a size 16 dress and 11 1/2 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 2 1/2 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 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 Duke &

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.

Lost in Space

by Bobbi L.

Ladies, I guess there are some evils that even the greatest of sorceresses can't undo. Last month I managed to conjure up such a source of evil when I saved my article to Elaine's computer...in short, I didn't. To this day it remains lost. My apologies. Oh well, y'all deserved a break from my drivel anyway. A new version of the lost article follows:

A TV WITH GREAT SOUND !!

by: Bobbi L.

RuPaul:

Supermodel of the World
1993, TommyBoy Music, Inc.

Hello Girls. Welcome back to Fall '93. I, for one, can't wait to snuggle back into some of my favorite outfits as the temperatures drop and shaving stops being the chore that it becomes when the heat and humidity are high. Who knows, I might even get back on the dance floor with a little coaxing (Jennifer's long awaited return to Cross-Port seems like the perfect occasion for dancing. Might we even see Cathy, Tammy, Cindy, or a plethora of Fall-weather maidens again at November's meeting?). One other inspiration to dance is listening to RuPaul's album, "Supermodel of the World." I've had the cassette for about two months now and have honestly enjoyed listening to it. The twelve selection album features eleven numbers written by Ms. Charles herself. It is an eminently danceable endeavor.

Of course, the song which has

received the most exposure is the cover, "Supermodel...(You Better Work)." But ALL of the songs are good, although many of them seem to have been trapped in a disco-era time-warp (rather like RuPaul's platform shoes and most of the fashions seen in the malls). The most SNF (Saturday Night Fever)-like songs are "Miss Lady DJ," whose driving beat is a fast-stepping-serenade to a sexy CD spinner, and "Free Your Mind," a rhythmic plea to "look inside yourself, ...and shine, shine, shine." The erotic "Supernatural" hypnotizes with its swaying beat and daring refrain: "very kinky...Baby, you make my nature rise." Hot Stuff! "House of Love" (which was the flip-side of the "Supermodel..." single) is a funky track quite reminiscent of works done by Earth, Wind, and Fire (without the horns and before they hooked up with Phil Collins). The last song on the A side is "Thinkin' 'Bout You." More SNF standard dance stuff. Side Two begins biographically with a tribute to RuPaul Charles' mother in "Back to My Roots" (a roll call of African-American coiffures). Although "Prisoner of Love" begins with a breathy, coitus-inspired "Uh-Huh, Uh-Huh", it quickly evolves into a rather pleasant R&B tune, ala Al Green, "I'm doin' time. I'm doin' fine..." The naughty-titled, "Stinky Dinky" turns out NOT to be about anything more than a paean to cigarette smokers, proclaiming that "...the future belongs to those who can SMELL it coming!" The song, "All of a Sudden" mistakenly begins with a "Ronnie Dale-esque" organ that prepares one for a seventh inning stretch which, thank goodness never materializes!

Instead, we once again are able to get up and shake a shimmy to a very danceable tune. And just as your high heels begin to smoke the bass line on the second to last cut encourages "Everybody Dance!" You'll want to. The finale, "A Shade Shady," offers no substance, no PC messages, nothing but a driving dance beat and the refrain, "Don't be throwin' no Shade...I just wanna get Paid! Now Prance, I say!"

The only real complaint I have with RuPaul is that, when she chooses to "talk" rather than sing, she sounds TOO much like Anthony on "Designing Women." Overall, I'd describe the album as having a good beat and being easy to dance to. I'd give it a "95" and would recommend that you buy it. If RuPaul is lucky enough to produce another album, I'll take a chance on that one too! See y'all on the dance floor!

Stay Healthy. Stay Beautiful.
Avoid Runners.

Linda's Corner

Here it is, November already. Which of course means Halloween is over. This year, as in the past, a group of girls from Crossport ventured up to Dayton to join in the festivities. Eight of us first stopped at a Mexican restaurant for supper in Middletown, before heading north.

As you know, it was near freezing out there. But that didn't stop the girls from all wearing short skirts and high heels. We just spent most of our time in the Trolley Stop Bar keeping warm.

They had live music that got everyone into a party mood early. As usual, everyone loved us, and everyone had a great time. The main bartender even came over to tell me how much they love us coming up every year, and they wished we could come up more often. Sounds good to me.

We left there about 2am and stopped off at good old Perkins for some breakfast. They of course miss us too.

I recently got back from Southern Comfort, where Heather, Candy, Christine, Jennifer, and myself spent four days getting educated, making friends, and exploring Atlanta's night life till wee hours of the morning. I had a few strange things happen to me I thought I would share with you.

First, Christine and I, hopped in my car to go downtown to a bar called "Backstreet". I was just a few miles down the road when I remembered that I left my drivers licence back at the room. Well I thought, I'll just be careful.

We got within a block of the place and hit a police road block checking drivers. Knowing that there's no escape, we knew we would have to bluff our way out of this. I stopped and of course they wanted my licence. I said I hopped I didn't leave it in my pants in my haste to dress like a girl. He wanted to know where I was from. So I just told him the truth. I was from Kentucky, and in town for the big transvestite convention, and now out to party. (This whole time I'm fumbling in my purse looking for my licence I knew I would never find.) The cop laughed and said that at least I'm honest. And that most of "you girls" try to convince them they are really

women, and of course their not stupid. So he says, "I'm sure your ok, just pull on through".

After parking, we went to the door of the bar. There was a cop checking IDs. Again we fake the long search in our purses as Christine says to the cop, "This is ridiculous, we're in the show, and we got to get up stairs right now." The cop says, Oh, I'm sorry, and let us right in..... How's that for one night.

The night before I was having dinner in a fancy seafood restaurant with the IFGE Board. Everything was going just great until some guy across the room looks over at us and gasps. Unfortunately, as he did, a bridge pops loose in his mouth, and he sucked it down his throat. Within seconds, he lets out this horrible choking noise. The restaurant manager rushed across the room and started giving this guy the Heimlick maneuver. As god awful sounds cried from this guy mouth, everyone in the restaurant came for a look. Dr. Sheila Kirk from our group ran over to help. After about a dozen tries, finally he coughs it up. Whew, that was really scary.

Soon everything settled down, and we went off to have a very find meal, and a lot of fun with the employees.

TV fast food alert! Remember how when you want to stay incognito, you use the drive-in window to order your food at McDonalds. Not so any more. We just got a new one by us, and they now offer friendly face service. That's right, it has three windows, and at the first one, you look the person in the eye and you give them your order, instead

of that old speaker box. So now by the time you get to the third window, about half the employees are fighting for a good view.

While in Atlanta, I spoke with Sandra Cole who is the current president of AASCET. (American Association of Sex Counselors, Educators, and Therapists) She confirmed with me that

they will be meeting next summer in Louisville for their annual meeting. She is very happy that Crossport will be setting up an information booth on behalf of IFGE during the duration of the conference and having an open house for those who wish to attend. I'm really looking forward to this, and I hope that some of you will want to come down to join in. I'll let you know more detail as I get them.

I told you so. The Human Rights ordinance was soundly repealed with a 62% yes vote. They always are. Lewiston, ME, and Portsmouth, N.H., also seen a similar defeat on the same issue. Now the Gay Coalition wants to take it to court. So now I must ask the question, why?

The two sides that just did battle over this issue spent over \$350,000 on this campaign. What a waste of money! Now opponents of Issue 3 believe they will win in court what they lost at the ballot box. Again I say pay attention to the history of the previous court cases. Don't spent allot of money until you know you have a chance of winning.

Maybe organizers should look hard to see if it's worth the

battle. The ordinance was in effect for almost one year. Only two or three times did anyone use it, and when they did, it was to file lawsuits by individuals for monetary gain.

Also let's get practical. People don't like to be told what to do. If civil rights had come up for a vote years ago, it wouldn't have passed either, in the hands of John Q. Public. The only way to pass a law protecting homosexuals from discrimination, would be through national legislation. The problem is, it's a little hard to show a need for such laws when the average homosexual has a better education, hold better jobs, and makes \$20,000 more a year the average heterosexual.

Don't read me wrong, if I were on city council, I would have also voted to pass the original ordinance. It is the politically correct thing to do. I just do not totally agree that it is the correct way to do it, or that the rewards are worth all the trouble.

Publication Notice
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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.



Cathy



Steppin' Out

▼ *Picks*



Photo by Todd Livingston

Aren't they gorgeous? Jerry Thomas as "Granny" each year leads the "beauties" who play softball in the Delhi Skirt Game to raise money for an ill Delhi resident needing help paying his or her medical bills. The players in last year's game dressed as beauty contestants in native costumes.

✓ The Miss Universe contest it ain't.

But the men who each year play softball in the *Delhi Skirt Game* probably get just as much attention as do the contestants in a beauty pageant.

The Skirt Game — in which men from the Delhi Athletic Association, the Price Hill Lions Club and the Delhi police and fire departments play softball while dressed in women's clothing — is an annual fund-raiser to help people from Delhi pay the medical bills of an ill or disabled family member.

This year's Skirt Game is Aug. 6 at 5 p.m. at Delhi Park. Special guests are radio personalities Jerry Thomas and Bobby Leach. Before the men's softball game, youngsters from Special Olympics will play their own game of softball.

The recipients of this year's

Skirt Game are Margie Witsken, who has cancer, and John Burke, who has amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (Lou Gehrig's disease).

✓ This year's *folk music festival* at Sharon Woods Village will star Silver Arm, a Celtic ensemble; Kyle Meadows, a dulcimer player; and Vernon McIntyre & the Appalachian Grass, which play old-time sounds.

The annual festival will be Aug. 8 from 1-5 p.m., presented by Historic Southwest Ohio. The buildings in the village will be open for touring. Aug. 8 is the last day to see the Ohio Valley Quilter's Guild exhibit.

Admission is free for members of Historic Southwest Ohio.

General admission is \$5 adults, \$3 senior citizens and \$2 children. For information, call 563-9484.

✓ Several programs on tropical rain forests and their inhabitants are featured this summer at the Cincinnati Zoo's *Jungle Trails* primate exhibit, which has already become its most popular exhibit.

"Peoples of the Ituri Forest" is a lecture by anthropologist Mark Jenike about about the Ituri forest in northwest Zaire, home of the Efe pygmy and Lese farmers.

The talk will be Aug. 5 at 7 p.m.

The San Jose Taiko Group, a dance company, create a fusion of Japanese, Latin, Brazilian and African rhythms Aug. 7 and 8 at 1 and 3 p.m. in the zoo amphitheater.

"A Taste of the Tropics" will be given Saturdays and Sundays in August at 9 a.m.

For information, fees or registration, call 559-7767.