# Cross-Port InnerView

P.O. Box 12701, Cincinnati, OH 45212

The next meeting is October 15 at 8:00pm

## A New View

By Elaine

There were 40 Ladies and S.O.'s at the meeting. Welcome to the new ladies Jessica and Monica. We hope you had as good a time as we did. As you probably were aware or maybe you weren't I was traveling incognito as the person you saw with the Elaine label on. It is the disguise I use at work so as to make a living. I am sure many of you use similar disguises. Well I just happened to be using the disguise this time to take a Unix class at work. So as you saw there was no time to change to my real self. Sometimes it makes me feel like an alien being who takes on this persona to blend in with the *"NORMAL ?"* populace of the planet Earth. I am looking forward to the Halloween party at the Oregon District this month as I am sure many are. After all where else can you strut your stuff in front of 5 to 10 thousand people. Well I will see you at Chrisopher's and maybe at the Oregon District.

## Park Picnic

I am sure everyone has attended a picnic at one time or another with family and friends. What a fun time they are, plenty of good food, drinks and friends to have a great time. There are all sorts of activities to entertain ones self, such as hiking, games or just observing nature. To enjoy the beautiful sunshine and fresh air. These are usually all day affairs lasting well into the evening. A time just to get away from all the stress of work and every day life, time to relax and be happy.

Now you may agree whole heartedly, but contend, this does not include me. I am a crossdresser. Crossdressers just don't do things like that. Well you're wrong. I attended just such an enent Saturday September 26th. This was the first of what Crytal Club hopes becomes an annual event. They had reserved the Sumac Shelter area at the Black like Metro Park in Reynoldsburg for the day.

For a first time event, it was a great sucess. The weather was gorgeous.. People began drifting in throughout the early afternoon. By grilling time, 6pm, more than twenty crossdressers and wives were present. And while it was true that the group right across the road in the next shelter area from us was considerably larger, we had just as much fun. We along with them were fasinated by a young deer which came out into the open field to graze. It was quite tame, as several people were able to approch within a few feet to offer food, before it would retreat into the woods only to return again and again.

As envening approched, the grill was lit and the food prepared and consumned in the true picnic tradition. There was plenty for everyone, each person having brought something to share with thier sisters. By then it was getting onto dusk and time for girl talk and socializing. We had a great time. Now that I think of it, I do believe that we crossdressers had a far more enjoyable time than the so called straight people. I noticed that they had left by 7:30pm. Our group remained a couple of more hours and then reluctantly left mainly because the park closed at 10:00pm.

It was great to be out of doors all day and to enjoy life to the fullest like everyone else. I would

would hope that more events similar to this will take place next yearand thereafter. I, for one, am already looking forward to next year's picnic.

Love Joyce

## QUICK-CHANGE ARTISTRY

by Bobbi L.

At last, you have found the perfect moment to slip into that new outfit which you have been dying to wear. You have the entire evening to "strut your stuff" and, by gawd, you're going to do it right! Everything is perfect: the make-up, the dress, the shoes, the hair, the jewelry. You take a glance at the girl in the full-length mirror thinking that you are ready to enjoy the evening when, "Oh My! My nails are a masculine mess! I hate those 'press-ons!' Every time I wear them they end up trapped in my pantyhose. I LOVE my Revlon polish, but it stains my nails and I get the STRANGEST looks at work the next day. Why doesn't someone make a temporary nail polish that really looks good? And I certainly DON'T mean that 'Bonnie Belle' water-based crap that I got at TOYS-R-US!"

Well, Ladies, someone does. Within the past year AVON introduced, and continues to market, "QUICK CHANGE" nail color, an easily removed, good-looking, real lady's nail polish.

QUICK-CHANGE nail color is a polyurethane-acrylic copolymer based (ask a chemical engineer to explain that one) polish which permits a girl to "...change...nail color as easily as you change your clothes." It is applied as is any "normal" nail color, but the wonder of this product is that it can be PEELED off from within 3 - 24 hours after application. It DOES require at least two coats to look rich and colorful, but it dries in about the same time as a regular polish and stands up to a fair amount of abuse.

The instructions suggest that one prepare by washing her hands with soap and warm water. A few caveats: the polish is NOT to be applied over base coats, previous polishes, sculptured, or artificial nails. Two to three thick coats are recommended (however, Beverly and I have found that thinner coats permit faster drying and more uniform layers...the thick coats tended to "run"). If you are in a hurry to attend a Cross-Port meeting or make that door opening at a McAlpin's sale, the thinner coats will assure that you don't smear or "crease" your lovely nails. And be assured, they WILL look lovely!

Another caution from AVON is to "remove extra traces of nail color from cuticle area before drying." A cotton swab has proven handy for this. However, even if the color does dry on your cuticle, it may be removed rather efficiently with a toothpick (just don't pop it into your mouth when finished...pink-flecked teeth are SO gauche!).

Finally, one is directed to avoid "...warm soapy water within 1/2 hour of applying." Follow these steps and your nails will provide the "finishing touch" to your feminine facade. Also, make sure you have already put on your rings and necklaces BEFORE applying the polish. Beverly gets SO upset with me when I start to fidget with my earring or attempt to get in my handbag before my nails are completely dry...and sure enough, I often "dent" my color, requiring an "OH OH! Better get MAACO" repair job.

After your night out, the next morning before going to work, or even just before you have to be at "Mom's" for Sunday dinner, merely lift the edge of the polish layer and smoothly strip off all trace of your perfect manicure. No stain, no mess, NO PROBLEM!

AVON "QUICK-CHANGE" nail color is available in eight shades:
Brief Mulberry, Changeable Pink, Change-It-Red (My current favorite), No-Mess Wine (cute names, no?), Convenient Rose, Easy Going Azalea, Effortless Salmon, and Quick Peach. All are available in .5 fluid ounce bottles. The cost at the time of this writing is $2.99 each.

Contact your AVON representative (Cross-port DOES have its own) if you are interested in trying this amazing and convenient nail color.

## BARONY INFO

By The Baron

Hi girls, this is the Baron Speaking!
Instead of answering questions about the court system, I'm sending

this pamplet that is much more lucid than I.

## THE IMPERIAL COURT SYSTEM

It has been said that among gay organizations, the Court System is "the most controversial, the most misunderstood, and the most disliked." This brochure is designed to answer questions commonly asked about the Imperial Court and hopefully will clarify some of the misunderstandings.

## WHERE DID THE COURT SYSTEM BEGIN?

The Imperial Court System began in San Francisco, California. San Franciso has long been known for its outrageous personalities and colorful figures. It was in The City that Empress I, Jose, declared himself the Dowager Widow of the Emperor Norton - Empress of San Francisco and Protestress of Mexico.

## WHO WAS EMPEROR NORTON?

Emperor Norton is a historical figure of the 1800"s, a participant in the first great wave of gold miners to the Barbary Coast. An eccentric, he made a fortune in gold, lost a fortune in rice, and finally declared himself Emperor of San Franciso.

## WHO WAS THE FIRST EMPRESS?

Jose Sarria was already notorious in 1965. Having been a regular at the Black Cat Cafe during the early sixties, he was perhaps the first openly gay political candidate when he ran for San Francisco City Supervisor in 1961. In that election, he received 6,000 votes. At about the same time, a group of gay bar owners were organizing the Tavern Guild. This organization was designed to provide support in coping with an anti-gay political machine operating in san Francico during this time period. Maintaining a sense of humor about themselves, the Tavern Guild members sought out a hostess for their functions. Jose was the logical choice. He agreed to serve for a year, declard himself Empress of San Francisco and Dowager (pronouncing it Do-Wagger) Widow of Norton. Jose embodied the individuality, freedom and fun of the gay/lesbian community. The office of Empress therefore, has its roots in the budding gay liberation movement of the sixites.

## WHAT ABOUT TODAY?

The standard of fun, glamour,and irreverence that Jose set attracted many camp followers. The Tavern Guild appointed a second Empress, then a third. Soon the visibility of the "office" grew. The Tavern Guild threw the selection process open to the public. Anyone with an interest (and an ID to establish residency) could vote for the Empress.

It was decided that the Empress needed an escort, and the office of Emperor was established, the first being Marcus I, A.N. (for "after-Norton"). Since the, the Court System has evolved and spread far and wide. Empresses and Emperors can be found from San Diego to Anchrage, Honolulu to New York. While the Court System remains largely an informal organization, and no exact membership figures can be tallied, more than fifty different regions currently elect Emperors and Empresses annually. Addiitionally, some Empires elect a Grand Duke and Duchess, upper Northern California is a "federal Empire" (CGNIE), and the Court of Connecticut covers the New England states as its Empire. Both upper Northern California and Connecticut hold additional elections for Czar and Czarina who acknowledge sovereignty to the Emperior and Empress ofthose Empires.

## WHY DO THEY DRESS UP LIKE WOMEN?

Everyone has his/her own reasons. For some, it is a kind of "street theatre." The fun comes from creating an illusion. They ar "male actors" playing out a part. For others, it provides an opportunity to express their feminine side," allowing them to play with new ideas and experiment with an alternate persona. For some, it is a political statement. For still others, it is an attention getting device - and for getting attention, it is hard to beat.

In general, members of the Court System have "real lives" as men. They hold responsible and civic-minded positions in the community at large. The issue of cross-dressing has always been a hot potato, even within the gay and lesbian community. Some feel it is demeaning to women, or politically incorrect. Those within the Court feel that the freedom to express one's own views in word, deed, or dress is essential to fulfilling and maintaining the human spirit.

## WHAT DO MONARCHS DO?

The duties of office include representing their Imperial Court, both locally and nationally. The Monarchs are requird to travel out-of-town frequently to maintain support of the Court System. In spirit and practice, the Court System operates much like many other organizations, such as the Elks, Masons, and Shriners. It is also like a theatre group in that it provides a creative outlet for its members. Talented individuals have the opportunity to design elaborate costumes, sets, and acts, and then have a venue to present them.

The Monarchs primarily network, organize and support events within the gay and lesbian community, in a entertaining way, for the social purposes of having fun and raising funds for charitable causes.

## WHAT CAUSES?

The causes vary. Not all are gay-related, though many are. Some causes are political, some humanitarian. During the campaign for elections (usually about six weeks or more), each candidate works to raise funds for a variety of causes, thereby indicating their ability to help the community. After the election, each individually elected Monarch selects his/her own standards and selects causes he/she feels are important, and all funds generated during their Imperial Reigns are dispersed to the selcted causes.

To a child in San Diego, the Court System is a new pair of shoes from that Court's Children's Shoe Drive. To a person with AIDS in Idaho, it is the AIDS Foundations, which was initiated by the Boise Court. To the Gay National Rights Lobby in Washington D.C., the Courts are an effective fund raiser in the community at large.

No one within the Court System personally receives monetary gain from monies raised at Court functions. The money goes directly back into the community.

Brochure provided as a public service by:

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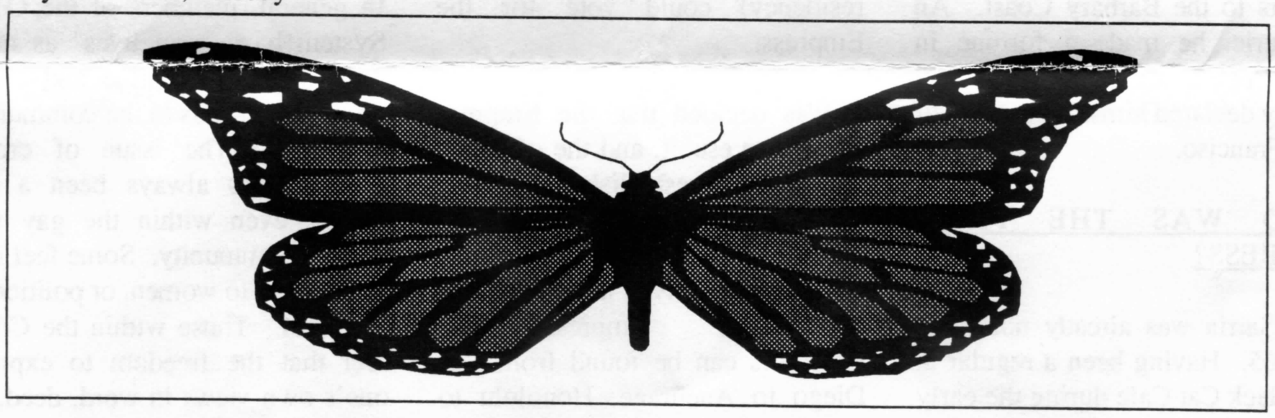

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Cross-Port is a not-for-profit support group which meets solely for the support of cross-dressers, trans-sexuals and their family and friends.