

Cross-Port Inner View

2020 BEECHMONT AVE BOX 150
CINCINNATI OHIO 45230

Vol. 4 No. 9

The Next Meeting Is
September 15 at 7:30

September 1988

CAN WE TALK

by Heather

This month's column is being written shortly after the August meeting. Even has you read this, Alice and I should be in California. If things seem a little jumbled you will know why.

About a year and a half ago, the Sally Jessy Raphael Show came to Cincinnati. One of the subjects they covered while here was crossdressing. Doctor Richard Doctor was one of the guest that day and he told of a book he had written that would be out "soon". Since that time he was with us at the 1988 Convention and the "Be All" weekend held this past June. He has affectionately become known as Doctor Doctor and we have all been waiting for "soon" to arrive. Well "soon" has finally come. "Transvestites And Transsexuals" is available through I.F.G.E. for \$29.50 plus \$2.50 postage and handling. They also have a number of other books and publications available. See the enclosed order form for more information.

The August Cross-Port meeting set a new record, not for the number of people present but for the number of transsexuals present at one meeting. During the evening we welcomed 9 of our TS sisters.

I doubt that anyone who goes to meetings ever gets everything out of them that they would hope to get. It is nice to know however that both the transsexuals and the crossdressers seem to be getting something out of the Cross-Port meetings.

As for my job, I am still without one. I wish to thank everyone for the support you have offered and shown.

I am constantly amazed at how many people feel I have a case of discrimination against the company. I have been to the Civil

Rights Commission, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the A.C.L.U. and the Labor Relations Board and I keep hearing the same thing, transsexualism is not covered by the law in Ohio. I did manage to draw unemployment compensation which will last until the end of the year but that is all.

I guess that the most difficult thing for me to understand is who IS covered. I believed that laws were originally written to cover everyone, both men and women. Then it was discovered that discrimination still existed so specific groups were added to make the law more clear. Now however, the law only covers those groups which are mentioned in the law.

In any case, everyone employed in Ohio should know that without a contract, you can be fired from a job by a private employer for any reason they wish to give. They do not need to have just cause. Isn't this a great state?

A reminder that you still have until September 4th to see "Simply Stunning" at the Art Museum. Also, Lesbian and Gay Day at the Zoo is September 11. You can get more information about the Zoo Day by tuning into "Alternating Currents" on WAIF radio FM 88.3 every Saturday from 3 pm until 5 pm.

I wish to apologize to Wendy Martin for the typing error in her last name in the last issue. She may be a little spacie but she is not a martian.

Since Fall is just around the corner, it is time for all of our non-summer dressing girls to pull out the clothes (where ever they are hidden) press them off and get out to the meeting. There is a chance that I won't be back for the September meeting. If I am not I will see everyone in October.

Heather



The Copa



by Cathy

There are not many bars which seem to have an open door policy to cross-dressers, but there are a few in the area where a person can go out dressed and not be made to feel out of place even if they don't "pass". Of course, the best known to Crossport members is Christopher's Lounge for the obvious reasons. Two others which may not be as well known are 1470 West in Dayton and The Copa in Cincinnati.

In last month's newsletter Heather mentioned that a group from Cross-Port went to the Copa to see one of their weekend drag shows. 1470 is probably the better known of the two because it has been open far longer.

Both of these bars have at least one night a month where the cross-dresser seems to reign supreme for the simple reason that each one sponsors a talent night where the majority of acts are male or female impersonators. On these nights it is not unusual to see a dozen or more cross-dressers on the stage as well as an equal number in the audience.

This month I'll deal with the Copa because that is the bar with which I am most familiar. The Copa is a gay bar in the University Village part of Clifton which has a high percentage of female patrons. Perhaps this is part of the reason that I have not been "hit on" as often as I have been in other, male dominated gay bars. It is a small bar located in the basement below another "straight" bar called Chicago Joe's. It has one bar, a pool table, about twenty tables and a dance floor which also acts as stage for the performers. Several of the tables can be reserved but be prepared to sit at the edge of the stage if you do this. Reservations are held until 10PM then you are on your own.

The talent shows are held on the first and third Wednesdays of the month. If you are not recognized at the door (a \$2.00 cover is normally charged), be prepared to show some identification. The show starts between 10:30 and 11PM depending on the number of acts that have checked in. Each act does two sets, one number each set, and the winner is announced

between 2 and 2:30AM. Be prepared for a late night if you stay until the end. There are usually ten to fifteen acts so you will see a mixed group and God help you if you don't like Whitney Houston. On talent night there are usually about a dozen cross-dressers on stage and almost that many in the audience as well.

The Copa has professional female impersonators on Fridays and Saturdays and they book other acts as well. On these nights there are usually four or five cross-dressers in the audience but not always. The curious also tend to come to the Copa on weekends to see what the "drag scene" is all about and there are also more people out "on the make" so the atmosphere is less relaxed. It is an after hours bar on the weekend so if you do not wish to go home after the show you can stay and dance until 5AM.

Drink prices at the Copa are not bad as most bars go. Simple mixed drinks are less than two dollars and they won't even attempt to make the more exotic types. All beer is sold by the bottle and the wine selection is pretty limited but they are priced reasonably as well. A couple of points that you need to be aware of are that since the Copa is small, it gets very loud if you are near one of the speakers and you are always near one of the speakers. Also, if cigarette smoke bothers you; stay home. By the end of the night the air is very thick. More importantly, they are very strict on who uses which bathroom. Unfortunately, as seems to be the custom in all the gay bars I've ever been (except Christopher's) there are no doors on any of the stalls in the men's room. I've heard (but haven't seen for myself) that there are doors on the stalls in the ladies' room. Is there a case for sex discrimination there?

If you want to perform at a talent night, simply be there in person and sign up by 10PM. It is not unusual to see someone you have met at a Cross-port meeting performing. (Talk to Belinda at the next meeting, she's performed at the Copa several times, and also at 1470.) See you there.



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Linda's Corner



Telling the children

(A few years ago I wrote a story about telling my children about crossdressing. Because I feel this is a very important subject, I have revised it for those who missed it.)

When my children were born, I had to make the decision when, if, and how they should be told. I have a boy 11, a girl 8, and a girl 3 years old. They all have always known, and I feel I have made the right choice. Obviously, many of you will not agree with me, but my way works for our family at the present.

Before the first child got old enough to know what was going on, I was quite an active crossdresser around the house. I dressed for bed every night in a bra, panties and nightgown. I could freely dress around the house in whatever and however I wanted. I really had it made. I had found true peace of mind between my two selves and I wasn't sure if I wanted or could give it up.

I spoke with my wife intelligently on the subject. She knows I love dressing, and because it makes me happy, she would put up with me. But now we would be dealing with the very influential minds of small children, and my self-centered attitude on the subject would have to be reconsidered.

We both felt they should have it explained to them as soon as they could understand it. We didn't believe I could have kept everything secret and hidden well enough, that sooner or later inquisitive minds wouldn't find out about. We also considered what if they found things that didn't seem right. And if so, what conclusion would they come to, perhaps years before we found out they already knew.

We also realize that truth and honesty are the stepping stones to a good relationship in both a marriage and a close family. We wanted our children to grow up knowing that we keep no secrets from them, and we hope they will never feel the need to keep one from us. That we love them, and they can count on us if they ever need us.

We really had it easy for the most part. As our first child got older, we told him that most fathers don't dress this way. We emphasized the fact that this was a family secret and that no one should be told. We explained to them there were other fathers who also did this, but they also kept it to themselves. We showed them pictures (my Tri-S literature) to substantiate what we told them. They all seemed to take that so-what attitude.

Reasoning with them when they are so young is really simple. They have not been exposed to society, and their minds are still virgin to original thinking. They love you regardless, and are only concerned in receiving love back. If only we could stay that way.

Well time has passed, and it's not unusual to see me dressed in one way or another. My family sees me as dad regardless of how I am dressed. That so-what attitude is still there but, the why questions seem to come up more often.

I believe it probably bothers my son to a degree. After all, he's in junior high and it's very important to have a manly father to brag about. He's just at that age when everyone wants to look and act like the other guy. I hope this doesn't last too long.

My girls on the other hand are getting into clothes and like makeup. They are always trying to get me to play dress up ladies with them. They constantly get into my high heels and wigs. I'm always painting somebody's fingernails or helping them get pretty. I feel I have a closeness with them which most fathers will never know.

I also want to say, that I don't usually dress completely around the house unless I am going out for the evening. I don't really need all that stuff on to feel feminine, and I try not to rub their noses into the dressing any more than possible.

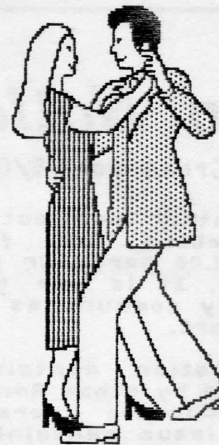
I have not altered my body in any permanent fashion. It's not that I don't want to, it's because of the image I want to portray as a man. And I certainly don't want to put any of my family on the spot. After all, it's hard enough for them growing up with out me making it worse.

Some men keep their feeling all bottled up inside, never letting the girl all the way out. I'm sure everyone has good reasons, for doing so, its just that I believe one can never be truly happy until this is done. I think one's happiness is reflected in everything one does and every person he meets. Therefore I justify my dressing around my family. I feel good about me, and it shows.

In the past years, I've met hundreds of crossdressers. Yet, in all this time, I have not met anyone I can say really is in the same position that I am in. I would love to meet someone who has gone through this & can give me an inside of what is to come.

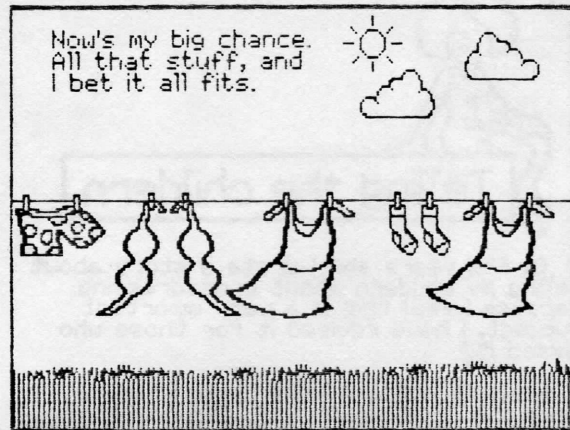
I wonder if he suspects anything

I wonder if she suspects anything



Perfect Crime

by Linda



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