

Cross-Port InnerView

P.O. Box 54657, Cincinnati, OH 45254

The next meeting is May 19 at 8:00pm

A New View

By Elaine

Hello, well we had a very good turn out at last month's meeting. There were 48 ladies at the meeting. We wish to thank the new people for coming Charlene, Kala, Crystal, Tracey, Leena, Gary And Debby. We also wish to thank the people from the **Crystal Club** who came down for the meeting Denise and Victoria. We hope everyone had a good time.

I personally am looking forward to going to the Conference in Louisville this week. It is Thursday, Friday And Saturday at the Galt Hotel in Louisville. I hope to see you there.

INSIGHT #52

by: Barbara Jean

Hi girls this is Barbara back with insight.

A few months ago my sister Maureen in Iowa sent me a copy of an article that was in her local newspaper about skirts for men. OK now we have gone thru this whole ball of wax in the past, pantyhose for men, makeup for men, and yes about 10 years ago they even did try skirts for men. None of the above went over very good with the buying public. But today they are showing up in the fashion collection of Jean-Paul Gaultier and Donna Karan, and critics are applauding. They have

been seen on men in the trendi'st of watering holes in London, in New York, and Baltimore. Buyers for Macy's west coast stores and Barney's Charivari are taking them seriously. There is a good chance that in the next couple of years we may well see them on the racks of the local men's store and even in the men's section of K-Mart.

A few weeks ago I received a letter from my sister Linda in East Tennessee. On "Live with Kathy Lee and Regis" Regis and four other men were modeling skirts for men. From the above it is quite apparent that very soon they will become part of fashion for men. There is little doubt in my mind that once they do become part of the man's fashion wardrobe, things like pantyhose, makeup and other items that currently are only a part of the women's fashion wardrobe will soon follow.

As crossdressers this really should make us esthetic, especially since one of the in looks is the grunge look, not some special design skirt for men, but rather skirts that come off the racks of Goodwill and Salvation Army stores. Very soon we will be able to wear our favorite skirt anyplace we want with no fear of our wives or the general public.

Now for years women's fashion has been adopting almost every article of men's wear; pants, suitcoats, shoes,

crew cut hair styles, even to underwear that looks like men's boxer shorts. In reality women have been crossdresser for many years now.

But Linda posed us a new question that we really do need to look at; if things like skirt/dresses, heels, makeup and hose all became a part of the men's fashion, and if women's fashion was the pants and suitcoats, would we continue to crossdress?

OK girls, picture coming home, slipping out of that beautiful dress scrubbing off that makeup, and slipping into a pair of pants and some old clodhoppers. Arrrrh! NO WAY you say, "I enjoy these pretty things too much. I enjoy being a girl." But you won't be a girl in a dress anymore, you will only be a girl in pants, so would you still crossdress?

I think the answer is YES, we would gladly slip from our heels and dresses to the suit and pants simply to be a girl.

Now I admit that I, like most of you, will say that I like the clothes, I like the feel of the material, but as I have said before I think they are only a tool that is used by God and our girl within to bring out the feminine qualities that we have within us. We as crossdressers do not wish to BE women, but rather we wish to gain the qualities that we admire in her, we

wish to be WOMANLIKE. As crossdressers and femmiphile's we have high admiration for the woman and her qualities, so much that we wish to incorporate them into our own lives. When we cross from the masculine to the feminine we cross from our world of reality to our world of fantasy. In our world of fantasy we are a different person that we are in our world of reality. But when we return we do not want to leave our fantasy world and so that person of fantasy returns with us to our world of reality, incorporating herself in with our masculine self. This is how crossdressing acts as a tool to make a better more well rounded and complete person out of us.

If Men and women simply switch clothing styles, where will the escape from reality be? I don't think that a switch in clothing style will cause us to discontinue crossdressing. We would switch with the styles and gladly go to putting on our pants and suits. However if the personalities of men and women were to switch, well then that would be a horse of a different color. While I am sure that those of you who have been regulars to this column are by now well familiar with the list of masculine and feminine traits compiled by Virginia Prince and which I seem to love so well, let's look at that list of traits once again.

MASCULINE	FEMININE
Aggressive	Passive
Dominant	Receptive
Blunt & Forceful	Indirect & Yielding
Dependable	Dependent
Protective	Seeks Protection
Leader	Follower
Active	Patient
Stubborn	Accommodating
Detached	Compassionate
Logical	Emotional
Rough	Gentle

OK, now lets swap the masculine and the feminine. If we did that then I don't care what the clothes of the

opposite sex were, we would not cross dress, rather I think we would find crossdressing referring to women who wore skirts and heels.

Fashion may change, but in the end no matter if we are wearing a dress or a pair of pants, femininity is something that we have inside of us. The feminine clothes are simply a tool that is used to bring out and to develop that feminine personality that we have for so many years been forced to suppressed. As that femininity is brought out and developed, we will find that we are more and more feminine even while in our male persona. We as crossdressers desire the traits of the feminine far more than we do the clothes. The feminine clothes make us feel feminine, and that feeling of femininity is what we really seek.

Enjoy the fashion trend girls, but in the end do not lose sight of your true femininity. Whether in pants or skirts, be as feminine as you can be.

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

PRIORITIES

by: Diane Torrance

The dream has become a reality. On February 2, 1994, I went to work for the first time as a woman, As I look back on the last year and a half, I am truly awestruck by what has occurred. In the belief that what I have been through may help someone else, I would like to share my story.

I spent over forty years in the closet, doing what society expected. I had been a machine gun carrying paratrooper in Vietnam. I'd had two marriages, two children and two divorces. I owned tools! Of course none of these addressed the real problem, the discrepancy between my anatomic sex (male) and my psychological gender (female).

I had, however, achieved the career I'd dreamed of since childhood. I have a passionate, on-going love affair with my job. I was prepared to work until retirement as a male. My career is my priority; I was and still am unwilling to give it up. I am a pilot. When not at work, I was living as a woman, with some success. I started sharing who I am with some of my female co-workers. As I expected, they were sympathetic and non-judgmental. One of them however, told someone in whom I would not have confided. Within weeks most of my co-workers, 2,500 of them, knew about me. I became the butt of a lot of jokes. People who I had believe were my friends began to avoid me. I suppose they were afraid of guilt by association. I felt piercing stares as I walked by. Fortunately these attitudes were not universal, Enough people supported me that I never felt ostracized. There were never any direct confrontations. When I realized attempting the transition couldn't be any worse than continuing as I was, I decided to go for it. However, the bottom line was never trade my job for surgery. My profession is male-dominated and in the public mind "macho" (John Wayne portrayed my job in more than one movie). The truth is most of my co-workers are well educated and although we live and work in a self-proclaimed "conservative" mid-western city, most of us are from other parts of the country. A few of my male co-workers did ask me about the rumors. My first really good decision was to be open and honest with them I began seeking opportunities to explain myself and eventually many people realized I have an identity-related birth defect; gender dysphoria syndrome is not an indicator of sexual preference or mental instability. Many put aside their prejudices long enough to listen with an open mind, When I received the public support of an arch-conservative from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, I knew I could convince

almost anyone.

I also sought opportunities where my co-workers would see me dressed female. I made sure what they saw was conservative and "ladylike." This helped eliminate some of the stereotypical images they may have had. I wanted them to know that although the wrapping might change, the contents of the package were the same.

I must hold a license issued by the federal government in order to work. I contacted my professional association (union), which has medical and legal departments, to interface with the government on my behalf. Their assistance and support have been invaluable. At the association's direction, I sought a psychologist and endocrinologist who, after thorough examinations, stated that I was mentally stable and that the hormone treatments I had been undergoing for five years would not harm me physically or emotionally. Folks, the federal government just doesn't care. When I had my name legally changed, they issued me all the required certificates with my new and "female" in the appropriate boxes after I provided documentation, hassle-free. The day came when I had to confront management with my situation. They, of course, had heard the rumors. There are literally thousands of qualified people who want my job. Had I felt my career was in jeopardy, I would have backed off. I first went to my immediate supervisor, who is the finest person I have ever worked for. He had announced his retirement and, not knowing who his replacement would be, I felt a sense of urgency to accomplish as much as possible before he left. Again, openness and honesty proved to be the correct strategy. I gave him a brief history of my gender dysphoria and explained what it was and was not. He established guidelines for my actions within the workplace, gave me his support and said he would discuss my situation with his superiors. At that point I believe the company hoped it

would all just go away.

December 6, 1993: I went to court for my legal name change. Afterwards, court order in hand, I presented myself to the company for the purpose of revising my employment records. Before this could be completed a meeting with middle management was required. The meeting began with the question. "What are your plans?" I detailed the requirement that I live and work full time as a woman for at least one year prior to gender reassignment surgery. Management stated that they were not prepared to go along with that. After further discussion, they gave me their objections and reasons for them. Their two main concerns were restroom usage (of course) and co-worker acceptance.

Because of my discomfort in male restrooms and my inability to use female facilities I had already devised a solution for my physiological needs. I had not used a public restroom at work for over a year. This became a non-issue.

My co-workers, aware of my situation for over a year by that time, had shown no reluctance working with me. I cannot overstate the importance of openness and honesty. I suggested management do an informal survey to determine if there was a problem. I don't know if they ever did.

Although middle management had been directed to deal with me, the final decision had to be made "upstairs." I had no direct contact with upper management.

In retrospect, I did some things that helped my position. I voluntarily provided copies of letters from doctors with whom I had dealt, despite objections from my professional association. At all meetings where it was appropriate, I presented myself as a conservative woman (navy skirted suits, low heels, minimal makeup, etc.). And in management's words, I had been "...an exemplary employee for over six years...." The company always treated

me fairly and at no time did I feel that my job was in jeopardy.

In the end I believe the prospect of dueling attorneys and a costly no-win situation for both of us, convinced the company to deal with me positively. On January 30, 1994, I was told I could come to work as a woman.

As of this writing, I am (several months) into this. Acceptance at work has been better than I had expected. Some days are still difficult; but the prognosis is positive. Although I have very little direct customer contact, I am in a high profile position - public trust is an inviolable absolute. To date, my "pass" rate is one hundred percent.

Please allow me to give credit where it is due. First and foremost, God had blessed my life. Through His Word, I have great inner joy and I know that all things are possible by believing. Without God's love I would not have been able to get through this.

I have had the unconditional love and support of my family and many friends. Thanks are due to my friends at Cross-Port, especially Joyce and Kristine who acted as sounding boards for my concerns and provided encouragement.

My minister, to my knowledge the only person at church who knows I was born with a male body, continues to provide positive spiritual guidance during my transition.

For my part, I brought a positive mental attitude, a determination to succeed, and patience. I rarely tried to force things (when I did, I got "slapped down" quickly - I learned from my mistakes). I had earned the respect of the people I work for and with, before they learned of my gender dysphoria. As a result, the worst anyone has said of me is "I disagree with what he's doing, but he does his job well and that's all I really care about."

So now I have achieved two of my three childhood dreams. I'm still waiting for George Steinbrenner to call saying he needs a third baseman.

Who's Fooling Who?

by Paula Harmston

I recently told my sister about my cross-dressing. One of her questions was "When you go out in public do you try to fool people into thinking that you are a woman?" I thought about it for a moment and replied, "No, I only try to look my best. The only people I've tried to fool have been my life-long acquaintances. I tried to fool them into believing that I was John Wayne, when in fact, I had a much softer side within me that needs to get out."

Fooling acquaintances is accomplished in many ways. We often play sports even sports we don't like. I hate football, yet I remember distinctly yelling at the television set when the home team made an inexcusable blunder...just to make an impression on my "jock" friends.

We fool our friends by joining male-dominated clubs. In my case, I joined a college fraternity which allowed me to perfect my skills in taking advantage of women, in trashing people in general, and in total insensitivity.

"Big talk" is another popular device used to fool our friends. We curse like sailors, tell dirty jokes, and use domineering voices. Then, to complete the image we grow beards, mustaches, and sideburns in an attempt to complete the "Marlboro Man" image.

Lastly, we align ourselves with those we perceive to be "cool." In high school and college I spent countless hours trying to be part of the "in" crowd. The time and energy would have been better spent helping my fellow man.

My sister did me a favor with her question. She made me reflect on who was fooling whom all of these years. For me, the charade is over.

A NEW WIG

by: Roberta

When I entered the Sun Wig Shop on Race street downtown, the lady manager was busy with a lady customer. When she got free, I pointed out the wig I wanted. It was then I noticed there was no closed off area to try on the wig. there is a wall mirror towards the back part of the store. Just as I was about to put it on, another woman came back toward that area to look at the display of wigs. When she headed back towards the front of the store I went down between two aisles of shelving and put the wig on. I was so far away from the mirror that the only thing I could say it looked reasonably "O.K.." By the time I was paying for it my blood pressure had returned to normal.

Upon returning to my car, I acknowledged to myself this could be a very good day. I put in the key and got started heading to visit Joyce. When I arrived at Joyce's I was very eager to try on my new wig with the outfits I had with me. When I got my makeup on, and finally able to see the wig on me close up, I was very pleased with how I looked. By the time I got downstairs, to have Joyce take some pictures, I was really feeling very good as Roberta.

Before I realized it, we had used up 14 of the 24 shots inside and outside on the driveway. as I went upstairs to change into my other outfit, I was almost floating, I felt so good! I changed into my royal blue blouse and gray skirt. Joyce used up the remaining shots as I drank my cup of coffee. As I sat at the kitchen table, I had a chance to relax and savor that special sensation of being dressed.

I asked Joyce if she cared to go to lunch as I still had a couple of hours of free time. It was on the cool side so Joyce loaned me a coat. We were ready to go. We went to Friendly's

Restaurant nearby where I was on the nervous side as I gave my order to the waitress. She smiled, but did not say anything to offend us. Joyce and I had an enjoyable conversation as we ate.

As I walked back to the car, I realized that I wanted to hold onto being Roberta more than ever before. It is such a wonderful feeling to me. Once I got settled back at Joyce's, I realized that it was time to let Roberta go and get washed up. While putting my new wig away, I had to admit that I had a very nice day. When I got the pictures back the special happiness of that day came through in the sparkle in my eyes and the joyful smile on the photos.

Shopping for Accessories by Mail

by Kristine Jones

While it is best to shop for size and style in person, many of us cannot. So for those cannot, here is a list of a few mail order firms and a short summary of what they offer. If I have missed one of your favorites, let me know and I will add it in a later article.

Lingerie:

Daringly Bare, P O. Box 15627, Beverly Hills, CA 90209-1627, 1-310-364-0401 has an attractive catalog of lingerie, but stocks few large sizes.

UndercoverWear, Inc., 007 UndercoverWear Way, Wilmington, MA 01887, 1-617-938-0007 has a exciting collection of lingerie and daywear full figure and tall sizes

Hosiery Showcase of Savings/L'eggs Brands, Inc., P.O. Box 843, Rural Hall, NC 27098, 1-919-744-1170 pantyhose and stockings in all sizes, styles, and colors in either slightly imperfect or first quality delivered by Fedex or USPS. Also, great selection

of bras, camis, slips and panties.

National Wholesale Co., Inc., 400 National Blvd., Lexington, NC 27294 has an extensive selection of first quality hosiery for reasonable prices. Plus a selection of foundations and casual wear. Check out the "hosiery helper"- lightweight nylon gloves to wear when slipping on stockings.

Gloves:

Maitresse, P.O. Box 384, Fairport, NY 14450, 1-800-456-8464 has a selection of gloves in any length, and sizes to 10 1/2, with a rainbow of colors that may be able to match your formal dress. Also, seductive lingerie in a lovely catalog.

Transgender Catalogs:

Fantasies in Lace, Inc. Hosiery Catalog, P.O. Box 100279, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33310, 1-305-581-2366 big selection of bras, panties, petticoats, shoes, wigs and other various items to cater to TV's. They charge for the Catalog.

Especially For Me, 113 N. First Avenue, Upland, CA 91785, 1-714-946-6251 is a boutique for CDs in California which also does a mail order business. They have shoes in large sizes, breast forms, lingerie and hosiery in large sizes, clothing in large sizes, wigs, jewelry, cosmetics, beard cover and many other items. There is a charge for the catalog.

Jewelry:

Diamond Essence, 6 Saddle Road, Cedar Knolls, NJ 07927, 1-800-642-4367 is a big catalog of jewelry, featuring simulated diamonds set in 14K solid gold, with a huge selection of designs, styles and settings.

S.A. Peck and Co., 55 E. Washington St. Chicago, IL 60602, 1-312-977-0300 has the real thing in diamond jewelry with the real high prices.

Fortunoff, 681 Fifth Avenue at 54th Street, New York, NY 10022, 1-800-937-4376 more of the real thing at high prices, also.

Ross-Simons, 9 Ross-Simons Drive, Cranston, RI 02920, 1-800-556-7376 has diamond and precious stone jewelry, watches and gifts at high prices.

Merlite Industries, Inc., 114 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10011, 1-212-924-1306 is a wholesaler of jewelry with cubic zirconia, crystal, diamond, semi-precious jewelry in rings, bracelets and earrings with fairly reasonable prices. Free Catalog.

Adco earrings plus, Altid Park, P.O. Box 6531, Chelmsford, MA 01824-093 1-800-933-0260 is a great source for fashion earrings, bracelets, watches and rings at the best prices I have seen. Big catalog.

Nature's Jewelry, 27 Industrial Avenue, Chelmsford, Ma 01824-3692, 1-800-333-3235 is a collection of nature inspired and natural material jewelry and accessories. Lots of animals earrings in the large catalog.

Simply Whispers, Roman Research, Inc., 33 Riverside Drive, Pembroke, MA 02359-1910, 1-800-451-5700 has a full line of hypoallergenic pierced and clip-on earrings. If regular pierced earring bother your ears, these have surgical grade stainless steel on the front, post and clasp. These come in a variety of attractive, popular styles. Good variety of clip earrings at good prices.

Starbeam Fine Jewel[^]ly, Kirdar, Inc. P.O. Box 741 Dover, MA 02030-0741, 1-800-866-2120 Fine rings, earrings and bracelets at higher prices. Nice catalog.

C.B.L Distributing, Inc., Claire's Catalog Center, 1501 North Michael Drive, Wood Dale, IL 60191-1095, 1-800-444-7117. Claire's has the same selection as the Topkapi accessory stores you see at the mall. Very nice

values in necklaces, bracelets, earrings and hair barrettes. Prices are worth a look.

Ciro, 6340 N.W. 5th Way, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309, 1-800-547-8700 has some really unique and attractive jewelry for not outrageous prices considering the quality. The watch/ring is unusual, but attractive, as is the five dial bracelet watch, with five watch faces around the band. The gold jewelry is especially attractive.

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.

May 17-22
Port Angeles Oregon
Esprit
PO Box 873
Kirkland, WA 98083



May 31-June 1
14th Annual Tiffany Club Spring Outing
Provincetown, MA
TCNE,
PO Box 2283
Woburn, MA 01888-0483

June 8th-12th, 1994
12th Annual Be-All
Pittsburgh, PA
Be-All Weekend
PO Box 23442
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

July 6-10
Spouses Partners International Conference for Education
(SPICE)
Chicago, IL
Linda Peacock
PO Box 24031
Little Rock, AR 72221

Dignity Cruise V
October 4-7, 1994
from Pittsburgh, PA
for info:
Anne of Cruise Ahoy
11211 Katy Frwy. Suite #300
Houston TX 77079



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