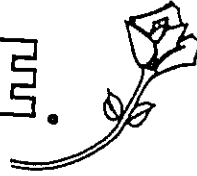




The Crystal CHRONICLE.



March 1990

Calendar of Events			
3/8	Transpitt	Social	Pittsburgh
3/10	Transpitt	Meeting	Pittsburgh
3/10	Alpha Omega	Meeting	Lakewood, OH
3/15	Cross-Port	Meeting	Cincinnati
3/17	Paradise	Social	Lakewood, OH
3/20-25	IFGE	Coming Together Convention	Natick, MA
3/24	Crystal	Meeting	Columbus
4/12	Transpitt	Social	Pittsburgh
4/14	Transpitt	Meeting	Pittsburgh
4/14	Alpha Omega	Meeting	Lakewood, OH
4/19	Cross-Port	Meeting	Cincinnati
4/21	Paradise	Meeting	Lakewood, OH
4/26-29	Emerald City	90 in 90 Weekend	Port Angeles, WA
4/28	Crystal	Meeting	Columbus
5/4-6	Gulf Coast	2nd Fantasy Adventure Weekend	Houston, TX
5/10	Transpitt	Social	Pittsburgh
5/12	Transpitt	Meeting	Pittsburgh
5/12	Alpha Omega	Meeting	Lakewood, OH
5/17-20	CDS	Paradise in the Poconos	PA
5/17	Cross-Port	Meeting	Cincinnati
5/19	Paradise	Social	Lakewood, OH
5/26	Crystal	Meeting	Columbus
6/6-10	Several Clubs	Be All	Pittsburgh, PA

March Meeting

Our March meeting will be on March 24 in the usual place. The doors will be open by 7:00 PM unless advance arrangements are made. Please bring a can of food with you to the meeting as a donation to the needy.

We are fortunate to have Nancy Lucas of Lucas Pharmacies speaking at our meeting. Nancy carries a full line of breast prostheses, and fits mastectomy patients with them regularly. She wrote to us after the Dispatch article, and offered to serve our members.

I happened to be in the market for a pair of forms, and was having some trouble figuring out what size to get. Tanya is great, but the opportunity for a personal fitting by an expert in town was like a dream come true! I phoned Nancy and made an appointment for later that day. The fitting was very private, confidential, and very professional. She really made me feel like "one of the girls." I came away with a sore Visa card (the forms I bought aren't cheap) but when they came in a few days later, I couldn't believe how good they felt. It was like they were part of me!

Nancy carries forms ranging from \$8 temporary forms all the way up to the fancy silicon forms at over \$300 per pair. I also got a bra that fits me far better than anything I already own. If you've been stuffing yourself with old socks, come and hear what she has to offer. She'll be talking starting at 9:00.

The Interview

Well, gals, we're finally out of the closet! Susan got a call from Meral Crane letting us know that she had had an inquiry about an interview for the Columbus Dispatch, and she was referring the reporter to us. Susan, Rochelle, and Mary Ann got together and talked it over. We thought it would be a great idea, and we got together with a few more members to set it up. Sunday February 4 was agreed on as a good day, so Rochelle called the reporter, Sylvia Brooks.

We were nervous. There were stories circulating about various things the Dispatch has done in the past to crossdressers and transsexuals that weren't very nice. Contact addresses of Tri-Ess in Ann Landers were deleted; persons who happened to be TS, looking for a roommate in the personals section, were refused the ad on the grounds of their gender identity.

We've also heard stories of reporters taking an interview and twisting it all around to make people look bad. (For example, The Transgender Phenomenon, You and Your Dual Gender by Marlene Knoetze and Joy Wellbeloved is apparently full of misinformation such as "[Transsexuals] can usually be differentiated from [fetishists, TVs, and TG's] by being sexually motivated.")

When Rochelle talked with Sylvia, her feeling was very good. Sylvia wanted to set the record straight and do a positive story. We set a date for February 7, and several of us made arrangements to meet. The day before, Sylvia had to cancel, due to a "more pressing assignment". Having made child care arrangements, I wasn't terribly happy about this. When the interview was rescheduled for February 14, I was furious. I had plans for Valentine's Day, and child care was already going to be a problem.

Fortunately, it was possible to work all this out. On the evening of Valentines Day, we got the kids to the babysitter and got to the meeting at 7 PM. Rochelle, Susan, Stephanie Leigh, Mary Ann, and Beth were there, as well as a helping professional named Larry. He was very friendly but made it clear this was all new to him and he was there to learn. (It's nice to hear people be honest about this. My hat's off

to you, Larry! You're quite welcome to come to the meetings.)

Sylvia got lost and arrived a bit late. Fortunately, she's an incredibly nice lady, and we quickly found out it was all worth it. She broke the ice by telling us about a friend of hers who is a female impersonator. She was very open to the differences between a TV, TS, FI, and so on, and took the time to get a proper set of definitions from Meral Crane. While the definitions weren't all that flattering, I have to admit they are pretty accurate.

We had to leave before we were done, to get the kids to bed at a reasonable hour. I wish we could have stayed longer, it was a lot of fun. (But I'm not used to being accused of being a lawyer! I'd only tell her I was a "professional", but I made her get the pronouns and terms right, because I'm a writer at heart.) She arranged for a super photographer to take a picture, and even though at the time nobody was willing to be photographed, he took the excellent photo you'll see with the article in this newsletter.

I was really impressed with the entire article. When she misspelled my name, I knew I should have spelled it for her when I gave it to her. Sigh. I guess her editor made her use the masculine pronouns, because it sure makes the article sound funny to see Linda referred to as "he". Overall, however, I was amazed at how accurate the article was. It gets exactly the right message to the public, that we're here, there's nothing wrong with us, and people with similar interests can write to us.

The mailbox has been overflowing since the article was printed. We've gotten about 25 responses so far. Many responses are from prospective members, and I'm ashamed to admit we fell behind in answering them until we could get a form letter together. We've also heard from some businesses who want to do business with us, and from several people wanting pen pals. We can thank Sylvia, and her super article, for our being able to help all these people! (PS, Sylvia, can you get us listed in the Sunday Accent support groups?)

I'd also like to thank Stonewall Union for all its coverage. Their newspaper came out between the publication of our last newsletter and the Dispatch article, and they did a very nice story on us.



Dispatch photo by Jeff Hinckley

Cross-dressers Rochelle, left, Susan discuss hair styles

'Susan,' 'Linda' are male cross-dressers

Year-old support group helps make members' lifestyles less complicated

By Sylvia Brooks
Dispatch Human Services Reporter

They love women. They are sexually attracted to them. They may marry them and have children with them.

They even dress like them. They are the heterosexual male cross-dressers who go to the office every day wearing ties, sweaters, pants, suits and sometimes women's underwear.

They are construction workers, doctors, lawyers, engineers, the men-next-door who happen — secretly — to call themselves Rochelle, Mary Anne, Susan, Linda or Stephanie.

In Columbus, they began dealing with their complicated world a year ago by forming a support group called the Crystal Club. Those who are married take their wives, and they socialize and have speakers, including psychologists.

When dressed as women, they take on a female identity, said Susan, a skilled tradesman.

Meral Crane, a family and sex therapist, said why some men cross-dress "is not absolutely known."

There is a theory that during their fetal development some alteration in brain structure may create a predisposition to cross-dressing, she said.

"Three-fourths of the men are straight, not gay. The people who do this aren't poor or uneducated."

Crane said there are degrees of cross-dressing. Some live for

Halloween so they can dress up. Others become secretly enamored of one item, such as pantyhose, silk panties, bras or high heels.

"The public will have to think of this as a fetish. These men want female partners. They adore women. There is an addictive quality to it, but I do not think of it as an addiction," Crane said.

"As a therapist, my goal is to take the power of it out of their lives. They can still do it, but my goal is to remove it as the center of their lives."

When Mary Anne, a 35-year-old professional man, was 10, he noticed his mother's "pretty clothes."

"For me, makeup and wigs are only a necessary evil. If I could just wear women's clothing and be as I am without makeup or wigs, I would do so," he said.

Linda, an engineer in his 40s, was dressed conservatively in a black skirt and emerald green jacket. If he could, Linda would dress as a woman all the time.

"My wife is supportive. She knew it before we were married," Linda said.

Like some cross-dressers, Linda has had electrolysis. His facial hair has been removed, and he no longer has to shave. This makes it easier to put on makeup and softens his skin.

"I like a lot of activities you don't associate with women. I ride a motorcycle, do white-water canoeing. My sex life is perfectly

Who's who

There are disagreements about terminology, but these terms appear to be generally accepted by cross-dressers and therapists who deal with them.

CROSS-DRESSER — A general term used to describe people who dress up in clothing usually associated with the opposite sex.

TRANSVESTITE — A cross-dresser who dresses up only periodically and is comfortable with his or her original sexual identity. Most are heterosexual males who dislike the word transvestite, preferring to call themselves cross-dressers. Only 25 percent are thought to be gay.

TRANSSEXUAL — A person who wants to dress up as the opposite sex constantly, and who usually has a sex-change operation.

TRANSGENDERIST — A person who constantly dresses up like the opposite sex and never seeks a sex-change operation.

DRAG QUEEN — A homosexual transvestite, usually dressing in flashier clothing, whose purpose for dressing up is to attract other men. They sometimes gain attention by performing lip-sync shows of popular songs at gay bars. They are the most visible of the cross-dressers.

FEMALE IMPERSONATOR — A professional entertainer or impressionist, either heterosexual or homosexual, who uses his own vocal and dance skills to put on a legitimate stage show.

Sources: Crystal Club, therapists

Dispatch graphic by J. Barry Bell

normal. I am not attracted to men," Linda said.

Stephanie, a professional man in his 30s, said his sex life improved after he began cross-dressing.

"It has not hurt it at all. It has enhanced it immensely. My wife is very understanding. I wouldn't want to have electrolysis or change my male body."

The men are quick to distinguish between themselves and drag queens.

"A drag queen is a male homosexual who dresses up like a woman to attract people of the same sex," Susan said. "They tend to be more flashy. The heterosexual cross-dresser dresses conservatively and in good taste."

Most of the cross-dressers are not transsexuals, those who want sex change operations, although some eventually decide on surgery.

"I did not choose this," Linda said. "It is a lot of fun, but it complicates your life immensely."

Several Crystal Club members were divorced by wives who didn't understand.

And buying clothes can be a problem. Some pretend they are buying for their wives.

Linda, dressed as a man on a business trip, entered a discount shoe store, intending to slip his foot quickly into a woman's shoe to get the right size without attracting attention.

"There was this farmer in bib overalls who was hanging around the shoes. I waited for him to leave. I waited and I waited. Finally I gave up, and I was going out, and I turned around and saw him trying on a shoe just like I wanted to," Linda said.

To contact the Crystal Club, write P.O. Box 287, Reynoldsburg 43068-0287.

Pen Pals

Four people, three of whom are in prison, saw the article and wrote to us looking for pen pals. If anyone out there would like a pen pal, let me know and I'll give you the initial letter. (Anyone from other organizations should write and I'll pass you the details, but I don't feel it would be right to publish these people's identities in the newsletter without their advance permission.) We've heard from:

"KR". MTF TS, Yakima Washington, raised as a girl, very unusual letter.

"TE". Straight male in prison, not CD, open minded and wants pen pals.

"JP", prisoner, gender dysphoric, interested in joining Crystal.

"TB", prisoner, romantic gay black male, not CD, wants pen-pals who are drag queens, gay, or TS. (Stonewall Union, should we refer this person to you?)

February Meeting

Hello everyone, these are the things that were discussed and passed at the Feb. 24th meeting.

- To welcome professional counselors to come and observe, learn and interact with the group.
- GGs and SOs are voting members. (I can't imagine why not.)
- We should try to get the Crystal Club listed in the Accent section of the Columbus Dispatch under the support group listings on Sunday.
- The doors will be open at 7:00 PM for meetings except for people who need to dress there, in which case the doors can be open at 6:00 by pre-arrangement.
- Hours of the meeting will be from 7:00 to whenever, provided that somebody is responsible to clean up and return the keys.
- Business meetings and planned presentations should start at 6:00.
- We should send Sylvia Brooks a thank-you note for the fine job she did on the Dispatch article about

crossdressing.

- We should try to find somebody to do a make-up presentation. [Several people who have attended Crystal Club meetings do make-up professionally. We'd sure like it if one of them, or anyone else that can be arranged, would do this.]
- The Crystal Club will get business-size cards made up to give to crossdressers encountered on the outside in a discreet manner.
- The club will purchase 30 Crossdresser Calendars to sell to its members at cost. (I looked at the calendar myself and it's very nice.)
- We clarified the GG officer positions. There are two. Beth was elected as GG Outreach officer. A GG Representative position will remain vacant until a need is evident.
- The club will have board meetings to minimize business at the social meeting. (All members are welcome.)
- We will try to be more of an educational group, to the club and the public and helping professionals.
- We would like to have an attorney give a talk about our rights in the TG community.
- Hair and Wig care is on our list of desired speakers.
- We will celebrate the Crystal Club 1 year anniversary at the April 28 meeting.
- We will have one event (meeting) away from the standard conference room during the year, like a picnic.
- We should look into being part of the 1991 Be All convention.
- We should try to visit other groups.
- The Crystal Club should, to be more involved with the community at large, have members and visitors bring at least one can of food to be given to the homeless and needy.

Elections

Elections were held at the February meeting. The following people were all unanimously elected:

1. President: Rochelle
2. Vice President: Jennifer
3. Treasurer: Stephanie Hall
4. Secretary: Susan
5. Meeting Coordinator: Linda
6. Newsletter Editor: Mary Ann, with help from Lana
7. Screening Officer: Susan
8. Public Relations: Stephanie Leigh
9. Club Representative: deferred until next meeting, since only one of the two candidates nominated was present.
10. GG Outreach: Beth, with help from Jennifer
11. GG Representative: vacant until the GGs feel there is a need.

Treasurer's Report Feb. 1990

Starting Balance	248.79
Meeting Fees	140.00
Total	388.79
Food and Beverages	-36.17
Meeting Rooms	-93.50
Newsletter	-30.45
Postage	-7.00
Total Expenses	-167.12
Ending Balance	221.67

Susan

Let's Hear from You!

People are encouraged to make suggestions for topics for discussion for the following month's meeting. You can either bring it up during the meeting, or write it down or mention it to an officer before or after the meeting. Ideas can be for speakers, or for subjects to discuss informally. It's fine to ask things, such as where to buy shoes, or how to cover 5 o'clock shadow, or the old nature vs. nurture argument, or whatever, too. Many of us have lots of good ideas.



Members of the Crystal Club, seen here as they rubber stamp elections with their usual affirmative votes.

President's Column

Ladies!

I'd like to thank everybody for their support in the elections. As the newly appointed president I'll do my utmost to help make Crystal Club all it can be. I'd like to start by asking all the officers to check their schedules to see what day of the week would be the best for them to have a monthly meeting, other than the regular meeting date each month. This meeting will help plan monthly meetings as well as shorten the business part of the meeting. This will be the first thing I will address at the next meeting.

I'd like to start a search committee to locate a few places that we may use for things like a Christmas Party, anniversary party, and also someplace that we could even have an annual picnic in the future so that we're not stuck in the motel room for life.

As most of you know we had an article in the Columbus Dispatch last month. The public has been given another side of us to study. It's up to us to make this side stand out above the other muchly believed side. We can only do this by showing those who want to help the community while at the same time we educate them about our need to exist in society. This needs to be done in the most careful and positive way possible. I'm doing some research on the best possible ways of doing this. As I locate a few routes to take, I'll be bringing them to the officers and membership for comments and approval.

I hope to also help us achieve better things for ourselves. With the help of the officers and membership I hope to see different speakers come in. Make-up artist, wig and hair specialist, color analyst, attorneys, and therapist to start. These people can help us with our own personal needs. So if anyone out there knows of such a person please let us know so that we may contact them.

I want to be a working president and do my best to serve you so please let me know how I can do this best. I promise to listen to everyone and everything. Thank you again for the chance to serve you.

Rochelle Richards

Equal Protection

Dear GIC Members:

"From the beginning, civil rights has been the unfinished business of America . . . "For a generation, a long line of landmark decisions has kept the nation true to the standard of the Constitution and principle of equal justice under law . . . "Significant gaps have been opened in the existing laws that prohibit racism and other types of bias in our society."

Do these words sound familiar? They should, for they are the words of Senator Edward M. Kennedy as he announced the introduction of the Civil Rights Act of 1990. But, sadly, he made no mention of Smith v. Liberty Mutual Insurance Co., "The word sex in Title VII does not forbid employment discrimination based upon a person's (not characterized as homosexual) effeminate mannerisms, or Voyles v. Ralph K Davies Medical Center and other rulings, "The word sex in Title VII does not forbid employment discrimination based upon a person being homosexual, transsexual, or transvestite."

Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was intended and recognized as a remedial statute to be liberally construed in removing artificial, arbitrary, and unnecessary barriers to employment, Griess v. Duke Power Co yet the above decisions deny equal protection to homosexuals, transsexuals, and transvestites.

We have an opportunity through the Civil Rights Act of 1990 to restore equal protection under law not only to those Americans excluded by the above decisions, but to all members of our society. I realize that this will not be a simple task since we are a diverse people in color, size, gender, race, language, age, sexual orientation, and value systems. I believe, however, that with your leadership, we can work together to obtain justice and peace among all people, and respect for the dignity of every human being. Let us join and work together to extend civil rights protection to every human being, without regard to age; color; class or caste; creed; economic status; education; ethnic or cultural background; gender; handicap or disability; medical diagnosis, illness, or condition; nationality; religion; race, sex; or upbringing.

I ask your support in urging your membership to write their elected representatives to not only overrule the above cases and restore the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to that originally intended - the removal of artificial, arbitrary, and unnecessary barriers to employment, but to extend its protection to every human being who exists as part of our beautifully complex and diverse country.

Sincerely,
Sr. Mary Elizabeth, SSE
Executive Director, J2CP Information Services

[Courtesy GICenter Newsletter, Denver]

FI Pageant in Louisville

This year's Miss Gay U.S.A. Pageant will be held in Louisville, according to Cross-Port's Jeannine, at a relatively new and nice nightclub named The Connection. It's at Floyd and Market Streets downtown. It's said to be a five day event from April 3 to April 8, but not including Saturday the 7th. The show starts around 10 or 11 PM, and seating is first-come, first-seated, no reservations. The phone is (502) 585-5752, and crossdressers are very welcome at the club. The downtown Holiday Inn on Broadway is offering a \$40 rate.

Femininity-1, Masculinity-0

I was watching a most fascinating show on public television the other evening, A Gathering of Men. Bill Moyers was talking with Nobel laureate and poet Robert Bly. The subject was men and their feelings.

Bly has been traveling the country conducting "masculinity" workshops for men. In these workshops, he helps men come to grips with their inner feelings, particularly about their fathers, through lecture and poetry.

"Women," says Bly, "have learned to deal with pain. Like the pain of being a 'devalued' person, as women have been in our culture for over 2000 years. But men don't learn to deal with pain. Men don't show emotion."

His comment really caught at me. Bly said that around age 0-35 men learn that all the "macho" images they cherished in their youth are unrealistic. It is a crushing blow to lose our heroes.

It was struck me because so many transvestites knock down the closet door during that same time period. Do we recognize

the truth of Bly's words and in response decide to create "heroines" for ourselves?

For transvestites, what often follows the exit from the closet is a period of unbridled fantasy; dress, dress, dress, every spare moment. There is a period of rejection of all things masculine. The ultimate goal is to go "full time." In the process they abandon part of their masculinity. For many it is only begrudgingly restored for work. For some it's never fully recovered.

It is a shame, really, to deny part of what we are. We should try to find the balance point between masculine and feminine. We should integrate the best qualities of both into the person we are everyday of our lives. The old Chinese philosophers knew the truth: There can be no Yin without a Yang.

JoAnn Roberts
[Courtesy Renaissance News]

Shopping Guide

The second annual issue of the Crossdresser's International Shopping Guide is out. According to Renaissance, it is a nice mixture of ads, vendor listings, and articles put together by Danielle Alexis, and includes an article on bargain shopping by Paula Jordan Sinclair. It costs \$10.50 postpaid from John Moran Photo-Graphix, PO Box 7217, Burbank, CA 91510. [Let's order one for the club! MAH]

Photographic Book

A new book, called TRANSFORMATIONS: Crossdressers and Those Who Love Them by Mariette Pathy Allen, is out. The cost is about \$25, and it's available from IFGE at (617) 894-8340, or the EP Dutton warehouse: 800-526-0275. The ISBN is 0-525-24820. We've heard good things about it, but haven't really seen the book or a review yet.

Crystal Club Cancellation And Refund Policy

Cancellation up to two days before an event: 100% refund.
From two days until noon of the event day: 50% refund. After
noon on the day of the event: no refund.

Policies

The Crystal Club is an open support group for cross dressers.
We welcome TV, TS, TG, FI, and others who assume a complete
trans-gendered identity. We welcome their spouses and
significant others (SO's.) We welcome guests from other
cross dressing organizations, when cleared through an
officer.

Meetings are the fourth Saturday evening of each month.
Meetings are open only to cross dressers who have been
screened or approved by an officer, and to cross dresser's
spouses/SO's, helping professionals, and approved guests.
The location of the hotel is given out after the screening
process.

We do not care about the sexual preference of the members and
attendees. We do, however, require that all attendees behave
like ladies or gentlemen at all times. Everyone has the
right to feel secure, knowing they will not be ridiculed for
their dressing or their appearance, and knowing they will not
be "hit on" by anyone present.

We require that all attendees come completely dressed as the
gender they are presenting, e.g. entirely as a woman or
entirely as a man. Members will usually dress, but this is
not required. Persons are not permitted to arrive partially
dressed, for example, a dress and male hair, or a dress and
an unshaven face, as this may draw unwanted attention to the
rest of the group. Ladies' pants and casual wear are fine.
An adjacent changing room is available if you prefer to come
in male clothing and dress at the meeting site.

Membership is \$15 per year in advance. First year membership
will run for 12 months from the date of payment. Second year
membership will be pro-rated to run out at the end of the
Crystal Club fiscal year, June 30. Additional years will be
from July 1 to June 30.

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Reservation Form

For March 24 meeting, reservations must be received in the
mail by March 20, at Box 287, with payment, to qualify for
the "early bird" rates. You can also pay at the previous
meeting if you wish. Include your femme name, mailing name
and address.

Before March 20:


Members	\$12.00
Member couples	\$17.00
Non-members	\$15.00
Non-member couples	\$20.00

After March 20:

Members	\$15.00
Member couples	\$20.00
Non-members	\$15.00
Non-member couples	\$20.00

Mail To:

Crystal Club
P.O. Box 287
Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068-0287



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"COMING TOGETHER CONVENTION"
Our Community's Convention

at the beautiful Crowne Plaza Hotel
in Natick, Massachusetts

MARCH 27 - APRIL 1, 1990

<p>For Information and Reservations: The International Foundation for Gender Education P.O. Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778 (617) 894-8340 Office: 6 Cushing St, Waltham, MA</p>	<p>Host Organizations: Tiffany Club of New England, and the TCNE Wives Support Group P.O. Box 2283, Woburn, MA 01898 (508) 358-2306</p>
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