



# The Crystal CHRONICLE.



January 1991

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## President's Column

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Ladies, another year is behind us. I hope that in some way I've helped to make it a somewhat successful year. As we head off into the new year we need to stop and look to see what has worked and what we need to change. We also have plenty of offices that need to be filled and only have one more meeting in which to do so. If you feel that you'd like to take on one of these places on the board please feel free to sign up. If you know of a member that you feel would be in good at one of the spots, talk them into running. Remember if we want to remain an active and successful club we have to have officers to do it. Also remember that it's just as important to vote come election day so please make sure that you're heard; come out and vote.

In the past we had the chance to bring in speakers that were able to help us in one way or another. Also we've been able to help ourselves while helping other groups of which Stonewall Union is one. Some of us had a great time with the booth we had at the Gay-fest. I had a great time working with some really great people as I helped work the Stonewall booth at the State Fair. During these times and others we were able to educate the public a little bit on who we really are. I truly hope we continue this in the future.

At our Jan. 26th meeting I have the pleasure of presenting Russ Stalk the president of Stonewall Union as our guest speaker. I've had the chance to speak with him many times in the past year and hope that you come out to see what he has to say. I believe that if we look at each group the same way that we look at one person we'd find that **friendship is like a boomerang. When we throw it out, it usually comes back.** I consider Russ as a friend of mine as I do Stonewall being a friend of Crystal Club. So come out on the 26th and greet a friend.

We've also been asked to speak at the February Stonewall meeting. I plan on speaking at that meeting and wondered if anyone else would like to join me. If so please contact me for further details.

*Rochelle Richards*

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## Vice President's Column

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As the time for elections approaches, I sit here wondering if the membership gained something from this last year. Oh sure, there was a lot of socializing and new friends made. There was lessons learned and ideas conveyed from the many speakers. Helpful tips and tricks were learned and taught by and for each other. And OK, a wonderful Christmas party was enjoyed by many.

But, what will next year be like? Will we improve upon the areas that need improvement? Will we reach out to find the other sisters and significant others that need the support of our wonderful club? Will we establish relationships with others that will help us

with acceptance and dignity?

This has me puzzled. So many talk of and experience the family atmosphere that the club provides. I still sit here wondering, have I done what was necessary for the club and has the club benefited. I guess each one of you, if you take a minute, wonders if you have also. Sure, it takes time and patience to volunteer to be an officer or an assistant or to be involved in a committee or a special project. But I feel good inside because I have tried and will continue to try. As one reflects on what is important to them, they must measure their feelings in so much as what they did to help maintain and contribute to their personal and to the others enjoyments and benefits. You know, I wonder if each person donated as much as they received, what positive things could be generated and created for the good of the club and its membership?

It'll soon be election time again. I will be volunteering my time for what I feel is an important aspect of my life. But I still wonder, how many others feel the same way. How many others have the courage to stand up and say "I want to help. This club means a lot to me also, and I want to get involved." Well, I guess I'll have to wait until February to see how many.

Enough with the wondering of the club's future, you say. Perhaps you're right for now. So, let's get to the next meeting stuff. The next meeting will be the 26th of January at the usual meeting place and time. We will have a wonderful speaker from the Stonewall Union. He is the president and very influential person. Lets show the Stonewall, who has been very supportive of us, our support and interest.

I hope each any every one of you had a very merry and safe Christmas and New Years. Let's have the biggest turn out in January and an even bigger turn out in February. The club is for each of us, let's show our support!

Love,  
*Jennifer*

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## Editorial

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*From: Caryn Kristen Roberts*

*I don't see them much now, they moved back to Tennessee after my SRS and live with their other parent. But we do talk. And write. And I send them money and presents and lotsa love. They call me Caryn, and sometimes even "Mom" when their other parent is not around. My 13 year old son (he was 11 at the time) said,*

*"Can I come live with you?"*

*"Kevin," I said, "I am sorry, but you know the court and your mother won't let you. Why do you want to?"*

*"To see what it is like."*

*"But son, you know what it is like to live with me. You have lived with me all your life."*

*"Yeah, I know. But I want to see what it like to live with you now that you are happy."*

*Outa the mouths of babes, huh?*

*Maybe someday he will. Maybe not. But he knows I love him. And they all know I am happy and at peace.*

What was that again?

*"I am sorry, but you know the court and your mother won't let you."*

How many times have you heard this? A married couple, with children, breaks up, and the father is TV or TS. The court takes steps to ensure that the mother gets custody, and more often than not the father loses all contact with the child. There is some kind of presumption on the part of the court that exposure to gender issues would be harmful to the child.

I've met a lot of people over the past few years with gender issues. Many of them are divorced. In a society where it is very rare for a "normal male" to have custody of his children, I am amazed to find a large percentage of the divorced crossdressers I know that have custody of their children.

But on second thought, why should this be so amazing? After all, why is it that most often custody goes to the mother? Why do so many men refuse to have anything to do with their children? Why do so many older judges make comments like Judge Stillwell of Logan County, Ohio: "I can't see why any man would want visitation with his young child, anyway."

I think it's because so many men are "macho". They see child-rearing as "woman's work" and refuse to "lower" themselves to that level. After all, they earn the money, they rule the roost, and they would rather sit on the couch, get drunk, and watch football, and let their wife take care of messy little details like changing diapers. Getting married in the first place may not have been their idea, and if they can get out with their wallet intact they may be able to chase anything in a skirt again and hope to avoid the consequences.

Can you imagine such a man with custody of his child? Most such men will not even consider custody, and will seek to avoid child support. Must be testosterone poisoning.

Of course, not all men are like this. Many modern men have been involved with their children since they assisted in the delivery room. Got up at night for that 3 AM feeding. Changed messy diapers. Many of these men would make perfectly good single parents, and many of them want custody when divorce ensues.

You can guess which group TVs and TSs fit into.

Yet when we go to court, we find that if the judge knows about our crossdressing background, we are at an even bigger disadvantage than typical men. Not only are we representatives of that macho group that only wants to leave town and abandon their wife and children, but we are weird, too. Two strikes against us from the start. Caryn no doubt ran into this same thing - I'm sure many of us did.

But what about that 5% of the male population that actually manages to get custody of their children? What is so special about them that they can beat out a "normal woman"?

The typical custodial father is very involved with his children. He takes loads of time to spend with them. Nurtures them. Changes dirty diapers and kisses boo-boos to make them better. Stays home with them when they get sick. Tells them he loves them several times a day, and hugs them when they need a hug, or when he needs one. Gripes to his friends about all the trouble they get in, but is

always there getting them out of trouble. In short, this man is a good mother. He has all the feminine nurturing qualities that are important in a parent.

Being a crossdresser isn't something we turn on and off with a change of clothing. Whether TV or TS, we are essentially the same person in both masculine and feminine roles. If we have feminine qualities as a woman, we have those as a man. It should be no surprise that a crossdresser is actually a very good candidate to be the best parent for a child. Those nurturing qualities will show through in their male parenting role. No wonder so many crossdressers are winning custody. I'll bet some of those macho types might even call you a sissy if you have custody.

So why is crossdressing such a handicap in the courtroom? Why does the law list transvestism and transsexualism as grounds for divorce? Why can't we wear our dresses proudly into the courtroom and announce to the judge that we are good mothers too?

If you think about it, the logic of the court is nonsensical:

Women are better parents than men because they are more nurturing and less macho.

Transsexuals are not real men, they are different and weird, more like women.

Therefore, transsexuals are unfit parents because they are too much like women.

Pretty warped logic, but it's going on in front of us all the time. Not only are TS's afraid to ask for custody, but they are being totally cut off from their children by the embittered mothers who could not handle their husband's gender dysphoria, and by conservative judges who do not understand them and want to get home to be served dinner by their faithful wife who has stayed home all day cooking, cleaning, and taking care of the children.

Things are changing, but they are changing slowly. Younger judges are being elected to the bench who are not so wedded to the concept of a male breadwinner and female homemaker. Female judges are becoming more common and are less likely to believe in stereotypes. Laws have been rewritten to be less sexist. The "tender years doctrine" stating that very young children should always be in the care of their mother has been repealed. There is progress on all of these fronts except one.

The typical court has no idea that TVs and TSs are anything other than freaks. They do not realize that we are probably better parents than the average male. They need to be educated.

Folks, that education isn't going to happen unless we make it happen. People in academia need to conduct studies to show that TVs and TSs are good parents, that their gender issues do not impact on parenting ability, and that they are probably better parents than typical men. They need to show that a higher percentage of divorced crossdressers have custody of their children than of the general divorced male population. Does some graduate student need a thesis topic?

Those of us going into a divorce should not blindly concede custody to the ex-wife. If you want it, (and what card-carrying woman wouldn't want her children?) you have to fight for it. Get a psychologist to testify on your behalf. Fight for lots of visitation. The current thinking is that children benefit from lots of contact with \*both\* parents, and joint custody is becoming more and more common. Don't let them use your gender dysphoria as an excuse to separate you from your children. Your children need you: fight for them and be there for them!

I hope to soon see the day when being a crossdresser will be seen for what it is: an asset, not a perversion.

Mary Ann Harris

[Quote courtesy Caryn Kristen Roberts, Executive Director of the Ingersoll Gender Center; 1812 E. Madison, Suite 106; Seattle, WA 98122-2843, <71570.402@CompuServe.COM> (206) 329-6651 BBS (206)228-7734 (8-N-1)]

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## Rebecca & Lana go Back To School

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On January 11th 1990, Rebecca Fast and Lana Morris went back to school on the OSU campus, not as students, but as guest speakers for a Health Education class on Human Sexuality.

As you may know, Rebecca is a post-op transsexual. Earlier this week, Rebecca received a call from her friend Mike Tizzano. Rebecca and Mike used to work together on a sports racing crew and have known each other for years. Mike's wife, Germaine Boswell Tizzano, is a Ph.D. and is currently conducting the class at Ohio state. Mike asked Rebecca if she would be interested in speaking before the students. Rebecca said yes and suggested maybe including a crossdresser as well, that's where I came in.

We didn't have much time to prepare, as this Thursday's class was to deal with gender issues. Germaine made arrangements to meet with us on Wednesday the night before. She wanted to meet us and discuss any particulars that might need to be addressed. She supplied us with a syllabus for the course. This looked like a complete study program. It encompassed everything from gender-role expectations to abortion and pregnancy issues, to AIDS prevention and just about everything in-between! Since parking is always a problem on campus, we decided to all meet at Wendy's on High street and Dr. Tizzano would drive us to her parking area near Ives Hall.

I must admit that I was very nervous at the thought of appearing fully crossdressed in broad daylight on, of all places, the OSU campus. I have always been extremely apprehensive about speaking in front of large, or even moderate, groups of people. Somehow, it seemed that it might be easier in "disguise". Knowing that my good friend Rebecca would also be there, I decided to "Take the Plunge" and do it!

Thursday afternoon Becky and I went together to Wendy's. I was scared at first, since I'm not used to being out in public as "Lana", but Rebecca encouraged me and all went well. It was a good confidence booster before the lecture. Once at Ives Hall Room 100, Becky and I each took a seat at the rear of the room. This was a large room, sort of a half-circle amphitheater type deal, and was filled with between 150 to 200 freshmen thru seniors. Dr. Tizzano lectured for a while then conducted an exercise where she asked the students to move about the room and introduce themselves to three people of the same sex, then three people of the opposite sex, they then discussed the differences they experienced. After that it was our turn. As our hearts pounded with anticipation of what we were going to say (I still wasn't sure what "words of wisdom" were going to come out of my mouth), Dr. Tizzano explained how difficult it is to publicly speak about personal issues such as ours and that respect and courtesy should be extended to such speakers. This was comforting to us, however, may have been unnecessary since this proved to be an exceptionally mature and understanding assembly of students. Next she explained the to the class what a transsexual and a transvestite was. After our introduction, Rebecca went first and relayed her life's experiences and hardships over her long journey towards womanhood. I then told the group about my situation. At this point they were all quite somber. After a little humor and openness, they lightened up and we all had an interesting question and answer session. We were both impressed with the quality of questions asked by

the class. Our only regret is that we ran short on time and when class was over there were still many hands in the air with questions unanswered. Several (female) students approached us afterwards and thanked us for coming and stated they admired our courage. I'm just thankful that we had the opportunity to help others to understand us a little better. All in all, it was a very positive experience!

Lana

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## Overheard at the Christmas Party

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About 1 AM, four of us went into the hotel bar for a drink and to listen to the band. Unfortunately, as we went in, the band was done for the night and packing up.

You can imagine the sight that four very tall women made as we entered the bar in our Christmas Party dresses! As a group, we were quickly read.

As we walked in, we overheard a group sitting at the bar read us en mass. One member of that group said: "Yeah, but they're snappy dressers." End of discussion.

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## December Board Meeting Minutes

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There was no board meeting in December, so there are no minutes to report.

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## January Meetings

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The January business meeting will be held on January 16th at 8:30 at Jennifer's residence. Any interested member is welcome to attend - phone 777-0648 for directions.

The regular January meeting will be held on January 26 in the same old location. As usual, the doors will be open by 6:00 PM for early comers and those needing to dress; most people will arrive between 7:00 and 8:00 and leave by midnight. The speaker for the evening will be Russ Stalk from Stonewall Union.

Mary Ann

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## TV Show

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A reliable source says there will be a TV program about gender issues soon. It will be on PBS (WOSU) on January 18, the 3rd Friday of January, 1990. It might last 2 hours.

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## Statistics

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Statistics is the art of proving that a human has one breast and one ball.

Marion Zimmer Bradley

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## Corrected Treasurer's Report November 1990

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Starting Balance	809.90
Christmas Party Fees	476.00
Membership Dues	15.00
Total	491.00
Christmas Party:	
Meals, Tax, Gratuity	-513.37
Dressing Room	-55.74
Setup	-25.00
Bar	-65.00
January Meeting Rooms	-275.72
Printing	-33.71
Phone	-54.63
Supplies	-4.62
Total Expenses	-1027.79
Apparent Balance	273.11
Audit Correction	187.69
Actual Balance	460.80
Ending Balance 1/1/91	460.80
Checking Balance	345.56
Petty Cash	115.24

Explanatory note: In January 1991, Rochelle and Mary Ann counted the Petty Cash and Checking balances and determined the actual amount of funds the Crystal Club has. We cannot explain the difference other than to rejoice that the error is in our favor. We have resolved to improve our accounting methods to balance the account with the checking balance and cash on hand each month.

*Mary Ann*

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## Treasurer's Report December 1990

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Starting Balance 1/1/91	460.80
Christmas Party Fee	38.00
Meeting Fees	256.00
Total Income	294.00
Christmas Party Decorations	-57.84
Christmas Party Door Prizes	-62.82
Food	-70.88
Hall Listing Service	-10.00
Printing	-51.56
Postage	-55.00
Supplies	-1.99
Total Expenses	-310.09
Ending Balance 1/10/91	444.71
Checking Balance	347.25
Petty Cash	97.46

*Rochelle*

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## Floppy Disks

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Special thanks to IXE for providing the last several newsletters on floppy disk, and for updating the format. The "asc" files are now directly readable. Thanks also for sending along the Cross Port InnerView on the same floppy disk, and for sending them ours! This month I'm sending floppy disks to IXE, Cross Port, and Cross-Talk. If anybody else wants the newsletter on floppy, let me know.

I encourage all organizations to reprint articles from the Chronicle, within the guidelines in the copyright. If those other than gender organizations are interested in reprinting anything from the Chronicle, just ask.

*Mary Ann*

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## The Christmas Gift

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My loving SO Beth stuck a nice Christmas card under the tree for Mary Ann. I snapped it up today before the kids come back home. "May your holidays be filled with beautiful things and lovely moments to treasure always. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Hope you'll enjoy this - Beth." Inserted was a gift certificate for Make-up, Hair style, and Beauty lesson at her hairdresser's shop, and an appointment for the day of the club's New Year's party! It's with an excellent and experienced FI in the shop, I knew so this would be a real treat. Couldn't wait to find out what brand of spackle to put on my chin!

I'll tell you, it's the most wonderful feeling in the world to have your SO be so supporting that she goes out of her way to do nice things for you. Sometimes I think I'm the luckiest TV in the world!

Well, the big day came. There was other stuff going on, and I wasn't so much in the mood after tearing down the old dead dry Christmas tree and getting poked with seven thousand needles that promptly fell all over the floor. But I'd really been looking forward to this, so I got all shaved (one one major wound on my face) and got ready to go. Since my wig had made the trip ahead of me, I had to go in as a male and come out as a female. It was OK to change there, but the room is small and I wanted to go as completely dressed as I could get away with while still appearing male.

I settled for the appropriate underwear, pads, and forms, women's jeans, men's sneakers, the red blouse I was to wear that night, and my men's leather jacket over it. Well, the breasts don't show through too much! Off we went.

Had to make two stops before: Jacobson's to get a hat box to store the wig (once it's been styled and sprayed, I want to protect it so it won't get attacked by the rest of my closet) and a beauty supply store for a wig head. All Jacobson's had was a very wide six-sided cardboard box that was too short to be useful. The beauty supply store was pleasant, and we arrived at the beauty shop.

The place was being remodeled, and we were immediately treated to the smell of fresh paint. The good news was there were no other customers in there, just Beth and I, Larry, and two of his friends that were helping paint the place. All from the gay community and all very friendly and accepting.

Larry is an FI that often performs at Wall Street. He showed

us a photo of himself, and looked really good. He was wearing jeans and had a Don Johnson growth of beard, but then he wasn't performing tonight. He says when performing he wears *seven pairs of nylons* which allows him to wear carpet pads ala Tanya Brown and still wear the short skirts and such that an FI needs. He doesn't even have to shave his legs.

Larry had me try on the wig and teased it until there was three times as much hair as before. He gave me a mirror to watch in as he worked. I'll tell you, this guy is *good*, and he's friendly and lively. (Beth said he was calmer than usual, too.)

I excused myself to change, and came back in my skirt and heels. It felt a lot better to be in the feminine role, and it was nice to hear people referring to me as Mary Ann and using the feminine pronouns. Larry started in on the makeup, and I learned a lot.

He didn't use any concealer for my beard, just some under the eyes. Instead, there was an amazing foundation: Max Factor Pan Stick, in a shade darker than my normal skin tone. ("Olive".) Smear enough of that stuff on and it looked like I was ready to be shoved in the oven! But it really covered the beard, even the gashes in my face. (Larry recommends shaving three times: once down, once toward the front, and a third time up. I had just shaved up and this foundation did the job.) A coating of pressed powder, pressed in with a puff, did a good job of lightening up the foundation and making my skin tone look reasonably normal. I no longer looked like I had heavy makeup on.

He did blush, used some darker skin tone powder to narrow my face, shorten my nose, and soften the corners of my jaw, shaped my lips using darker lip pencil around the outside and lighter on the inside (making my mouth, which normally makes small children think they're about to be swallowed, look nice and small.)

Some eye liner (both under the lashes and along the top ledge of the lower eyelid) on the outside halves of the eye, skin tone eye shadow on the outside, and a brown eye pencil drawn as a single line along the tops of my eyebrows, arched, and extended down and out on each end, and he was done.

The effect was amazing. I looked in the mirror and was completely confident that I passed. A little smile and I didn't look all that bad, either! [Larry points out that smiling does help you pass, but the reason isn't obvious. Smiling, like blush, raises the cheekbones to a more feminine location.] He made a few suggestions about my outfit, and off we went.

We went home for a while, changed shoes and put on Givenchy nylons with the satin bow and dingle balls that I'd just bought at Jacobson's, and tried to take some pictures. Wouldn't you know it, the camera is 13 months old with a 12 month warranty, so it refused to cooperate. I did dig out the camcorder and got a minute or so of my standing there, but it's not quite the same.

We went to the New Year's party at the Crystal Club, and it felt really good! Got a lot of really nice comments about the new look: Thanks, ladies! (Now I wonder if I can do it again myself!)

We had a 9:30 reservation at Bexley's Monk, so off we went for a nice dinner between the girls. Beth did most of the talking, although I did speak to the waitress several times, using my best feminine voice. It was really wonderful, knowing that I really passed, and having the confidence to walk with my head held high. As the evening went on, I felt better and better.

Back home that night, I didn't want to wash off the makeup and take off the wig. But I wanted to save the wig, and the makeup had to come off. I still felt really up, a feeling that hasn't worn off yet as I write this, the next evening.

I can't say enough to this lovely, special lady, Beth. Many

women refuse to stay with a husband who crossdresses. Many others tolerate it but don't encourage it. Still others are very supportive, help their SO shop, and participate in a support group. But Beth is one in a million. She sees the calming effect that dressing has on me, and goes out of her way to help me. Beth, a big hug and a special *thank you!*

The shop is called Ken's Pacemont Salon, on Pacemont at N. High St. Ken is Beth's hairdresser, and my appointment was with Larry. I'm sure others can make appointments for a similar treatment.

Mary Ann

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## Sylvia Brooks on the Front Page.

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Columbus Dispatch Human Services Reporter and Crystal Club friend Sylvia Brooks, who normally writes for the Local section, landed an article on the front page of the main news section of the January 3 Dispatch. She's probably had lots of articles appear there before, but this particular article caught our attention.

It shows, on page 1, the language from the Americans with Disabilities Act that passed in Congress last year:

**Special note:** *'An individual shall not be considered to have a handicap solely because that individual is a transvestite.'*

The article deals with a new bureaucratic dictionary produced by the Columbus Coalition for the Homeless, and the level of detail used to define when a person is actually homeless. The dictionary also defines when a person is handicapped, and uses the ADA language for this, specifically stating that crossdressing is not a handicap. This language was in response to a crossdresser who successfully sued his employer for discriminating against a handicapped person, claiming that crossdressing was a handicap. Congress doesn't think it is, and frankly neither do we.

Congratulations, Sylvia, and Happy New Year!

Mary Ann

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## National Convention

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[If you've never been to a national convention, you don't know what you're missing. I am reprinting this article from Alpha Omega about the Tri-Ess national convention to give the flavor. - MAH]

November 19, 1990 was a really tough day for me. It was the day Jennifer and I flew home from the Holiday En Femme in Houston. The best week of my life had come to an end.

I'm not going to bore you with my personal "first convention" narrative. I will simply say that, if I had my way, attendance at a Holiday would be *mandatory* for membership in Tri-Ess. Every member should get the chance to live that ultimate experience. I am, however, going to pass on some thoughts and impressions.

Around eighty people attended the 1990 Holiday, second only to the 1988 Holiday in Chicago. Ladies came from as far away as Maui and Wales to be with their sisters. For one girl, Amanda, the Holiday was not only her first convention, it was her first time fully en femme! Watching that flower blossom over five days was an awesome experience!

Jane Ellen and the girls of Tau Chi did an excellent job

organizing the Holiday. Were there "glitches"? Sure, there are always at a function of this size! But all were handled behind the scenes with competence and elan, allowing the convention to sail on with barely a ripple. Bravo ladies! (Texas translation: "Ya done good!")

Sunday afternoon, Jenny, Donna Mobley and I had coffee in the hotel restaurant with our two favorite waitresses, Eileen & Meaza, and the Ass't Manager of the Hilton Southwest. All agreed that the Tri-Ess Holiday En Femme was, bar none, the best convention the Hilton had ever hosted. That same sentiment was expressed by many of the Hilton employees. In a period of five days one could see attitudes change from "What the Hell did management get us into, booking these weirdos?" to honest, heartfelt depression at the thought that they would likely never see us again. Now *that*, ladies, is "outreach" in the truest form of the word! As Jennifer said one evening, when people see us on Donahue, Oprah, etc., they are still only seeing images on their TV screens. It takes meeting us in person to really discover what kind of people we are. There are now a number of people in Houston who, if they hear someone make a disparaging remark about crossdressers, are willing and able to set the record straight. Why? Because they met us, talked to us and got to know us. (And I pity the poor slob who cuts us down in front of Marge. He'll never know what hit him!) Getting our message across on television reaches the largest audience but it's face-to-face communication - "in the trenches". as it were - that fosters true understanding and acceptance.

The Holiday is a place of meeting. I finally met one girl, Eileen McCleary, I had corresponded with for years. Thirty seconds afterward, no one would know that we weren't next door neighbors. I had corresponded/talked on the phone with Donna Mobley for a year. Moments after we met, we were in her room going over the script of the Holiday video as if all those long distance calls had been local. (Donna had never seen a photo of me. It was great fun at first, watching her try to figure out why she knew that voice so well!)

I met and spent time with ladies too innumerable to be mentioned. I also met ladies whose names are known to us all: Virginia Prince, Jane Ellen Fairfax, Dr. Peggy Rudd, Mariette Pathy Allen, and last, but not least, Merissa Sherrill Lynn. Merissa, of course, is the founder and head of IFGE and was the keynote speaker at the Saturday banquet. We had a chance to spend a few hours together on a couple of occasions and I was *most* impressed with this lady!

There was one other meeting at the Holiday that made all of us that attended feel a tremendous amount of satisfaction. Thursday evening we all went to a quite unique dinner theater. After an outstanding meal, we filed into the theater area. Needless to say, we became a show in our own right for the other people attending that evening. We were first amazed by a magician whose specialty was working with fire - most entertaining. Then came a comedian who can only be described as hilarious. His routine progressed into a series of "drag" jokes. At first, the rest of the audience didn't know whether to laugh or not because they knew we were there. When we laughed, they did. Later on, they began laughing *too* hard, to the point that he said, "What is this? It was only a joke!" He then confessed his foreknowledge and welcomed the sisters of Tri-Ess. A few more "one-liners" were dropped, including one that left some of us quite curious.

After the show, a number of the girls sought out the comic and spoke with him. The next night he came to the Hilton after his last show to meet with us. He told us of how he almost choked on his dinner when the stage manager told him there would be a group of crossdressers in the audience Thursday evening. Yes ladies, he too is a lifelong crossdresser! Prior to our chance encounter, he had not known of Tri-Ess. His wife knows of his crossdressing and is quite

accepting. The president of the chapter where he lives was with us that evening and made arrangements with him to join. Tri-Ess is one member (and a funny one) stronger!

The Holiday En Femme is also a place of infinite sadness. The Sunday "Hail and Farewell" brunch is a bittersweet experience. I have never hugged so many guys in my life. And it has never meant so much as it did then. Even though, in most cases, skirts and heels were traded in for slacks and brogans, we were still Sue, Jane and Mary - not Stan, John, and Mark. What was important was the "people inside", not those that Society demands. It's heart-rending to say goodbye to people you had come to know so well in such a short period of time.

The only thing that made Sunday easier was the requisite "Who the heck is that?" brought on by all those *men* standing around in the banquet room. Some were easy to recognize; others were impossible. I'm happy to say that more than one are still trying to figure out who that gray-haired galoot with aviator glasses was!

These are just a few of my thoughts, comments and observations. Being the verbose wench that I am, I could easily go on for pages. Prior to this November, I had probably been told a hundred times that one cannot truly understand the emotional impact of a crossdresser's convention until she experiences it herself. The sisters that told me this were right. I can only say to you that the 1991 "Be All That You Can Be" convention will be right here in Cleveland this June. The 1991 "Holiday En Femme" will be within easy driving distance in Chicago. Your "He" has many years worth of experiences, both good and bad. But at a convention, your "She" is alive 24 hours a day and, in those few days, lives the experiences of a lifetime, both happy and sad. "Tanya" deserved to have such a chance at life. The lady inside you does too!

Love,  
Tanya

[Courtesy Alpha Omega Outreach.]

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## Revenge

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Not content with waiting for a response from the law, a Swedish surgeon allegedly took matters into his own hands and changed the man who stole away his wife into a woman. But the surgeon was acquitted on the charge.

Dr. Lars Lindgren was accused of a plot that involved tricking his wife's boyfriend into entering the hospital and then switching patient's records so that a scheduled sex change was performed on the boyfriend instead of the intended transsexual patient.

The former boyfriend testified that she first learned of the error when she woke up in the recover room and the nurse called her "Miss Engman."

"I told her, 'I'm Kurt Stern. She said, 'No, you were Mr. Engman. The surgery went well and now you are a woman.'"

The judge acquitted Lindgren, saying that he was not present when the sex change was performed on Stern and that there was no evidence that he had a hand in switching the medical charts.

Stern has been under psychiatric care since the surgery.

[Courtesy Renaissance News.]

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## Earrings

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Tip from Larry: There is a large selection of clip earrings in Gantos in the City Center Mall.

If clip earrings hurt your ears, you can buy a set of six clip pads in the earring department at Meijer's that slip over the round flat part on the back. You can also buy adapters to (destructively) turn pierced earrings into clips at Meijer's, and it is possible (although tricky) to glue a set of pads to a set of adapters. Total cost: about \$1.50 for pads and \$2.50 for adapters.

Personally I like the clip style that resemble's a C-clamp. They are comfortable, the tension is adjustable, and they stay on pretty well.

Mary Ann

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## A New View

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For the last couple of months, thanks to the helpful prodding of Dana from IXE, we have been exchanging newsletters on diskette with IXE, and most recently (also through Dana), the Crystal Club. I have always been very reluctant to reprint articles from groups that are close by because I worry that there may be a sizable number of you who get newsletters from more than one of these groups and I don't want things to get repetitive. As things are going, you will probably see more articles culled from other newsletters in these hallowed pages, especially if I don't have to type them in by hand.

Wait -- that strikes me a grand idea -- maybe Cross-Port, IXE and the Crystal Club could synchronize their newsletter publishing schedule and put out one really GRAND regional issue each month. That might allow savings on postage by giving us enough a large enough of a mailing list to get printing cost breaks, to use bulk mail, to eliminate a lot of duplicated effort and articles, etc. Or maybe, as Theodoric of York, Medieval Barber was known to say -- Naaaaaaah.

[by Cathy, courtesy Cross-Port]

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## From Cross-Port's Readers

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Dear Cross-Port:

I noticed an advertisement in the Columbus Dispatch recently that was from a transvestite who offered either a TV show or help with make up and general advice to other TV and TS members of the community. Out of curiosity I called the number and talked to Jennifer. We talked on many occasions but we never got to meet face to face.

Jennifer is in her mid-thirties and had never gotten in touch with either the Crystal Club or Cross-Port. I came all the way from Ireland and managed to contact both, but she seemed to be very concerned that her job (which appeared to be sensitive) would be in jeopardy if any suspicion about her would arise, so had never gotten in touch with others.

She told me about how she had worked on her body and how she had long, sexy legs. She did not sound like any sort of queen, rather, she sounded like a girl who suddenly wanted to be admired. She sounded like a really nice person. She explained in detail how

men needed a totally different approach to make up, that he would always look like a man in make-up if he did not understand what was important to make him look like a girl. Once he understood this, he could pass with ease. Jennifer and I talked a lot, at least twice a week. I had convinced her to attend a Cross-Port meeting in October, but her advertisement in the Dispatch had proven a total success and she had two appointments on that Thursday night, so she never got to meet you girls.

Then just before the November meeting, I really wanted to meet the good people at Cross-Port again, so I called her number in the hope that she would travel with me. As you can imagine, I was just a little curious to meet her, but I got a recorded message telling me that "The number you have dialed has been disconnected". Jennifer was gone and I had never met her.

A lot of the conversations that Jennifer and I had frightened me. She talked with some of the people that had called her. We have a lot of sick people out there and a few of them had been calling Jennifer. She had not gotten a can of Mace nor did she know any self defense, other than what a woman might do if she is attacked, but that can be of little use if a bad situation should arise. She was a smart person and told me of a number of instances where she had not gone to an address where she was meant to perform because it appeared wrong or her instincts told her to get out.

I really hope that nothing happened to her. I read in the November InnerView about the liberal attitude that the Gay Pride week met in West Virginia, and I really hope that Jennifer did not meet with this sort of person. If anyone can tell me any more, I would appreciate any information about her. She is a nice person and she could do with some understanding friends. I hope she will get in touch with either Cross-Port or the Crystal Club, but most of all I hope she did not get hurt. If anyone else wants to do something like this, make sure that you have a friend who will call for help if you need it.

- Renee

Dear Renee -

Your letter does remind us that caution, above all is necessary when you don't know the territory. If anyone knows anything about this girl, they can write us here at Cross-Port and we will pass the word along to you.

It may be reassuring to you about your friend's personal safety to recognize that some of her behavior doesn't add up. Attending a support group is much safer to your job security than running your home phone number in the newspaper. People don't just turn up at a support group, they almost always have a personal interest in being there.

Eds.

[Courtesy Cross-Port InnerView.]

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## Video School

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Rumor has it that there are four videotapes on the subject of "How to Impersonate a Woman" at North Campus Video. They are said to be in with the adult tapes, near the she-male stuff.

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## Philip Salem Resurfaces

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After several months of inactivity, Philip Salem's "North Atlantic Transvestite Transsexual Society" has resurfaced.

Salem has apparently completely abandoned his "Ida Ruben" alter ego in favor of using the name "Tanya Ray". A personal ad was placed under that name in the most recent edition of *Femaline*, using a different photograph than the one submitted with that ad in other publications. "Cross-Talk" attempted to alert Tania Volen, publisher of "Femaline", of Salem's previous use of the name. Volen refused to comment specifically, but accused "Cross-Talk" of carrying on a "vendetta" against Salem, and demanded proof of Salem's misdeeds. As much of the documentation in our files has been given to us with the understanding that it would not be released other than to law enforcement agencies, we have respectfully declined to comply with Volen's request, and have indicated that our long-standing reciprocal promotion agreement will be suspended so long as she defends Salem and continues to do business with him.

More suspect is a new publication, "T.V. Guy", using a Las Vegas post office box as a mailing address. A copy mailed to "The Valley Girls" (but not requested) featured two "advice" columns written by Salem, an ad coordinator, and 14 personal ads using Salem's Seattle address. The magazine also featured two "feature" articles with Salem's address, and the "Tahny Ray" ad with a different photograph than the one accompanying the "Femaline" ad.

IN a series of articles in "Cross-Talk" between February and June of this year, it was revealed that Salem is not a doctor, and that "Ina Rubin" is an alias he has used to deceive potential "members" that there is a genetic female involved in his "society". There have also been complaints filed with the Postal Inspector by individuals who have sent Salem money for his "TV-TS Directory" but received nothing in return. In at least one case, Salem's reply to the complaint revealed the complainant as a crossdresser, in that case, the "directory" ultimately consisted of five outdated issues of TV publications.

As in the past, "Cross-Talk" urges members of the gender community to avoid contact with Salem and his organizations, and to boycott those publications that accept his advertising.

[Courtesy Kimberleigh Richards of Cross-Talk.]

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## Policies

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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. Both Male-to-Female and Female-to-Male individuals are welcome. We welcome their spouses and significant others (SO's.) We welcome guests from related 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 interview.

There is a monthly meeting fee (see schedule below) to cover the cost of the room, food, soft drinks and coffee, and general operating expenses of the group. This fee is above and in addition to annual membership dues. If you wish beer or wine, BYOB (many people do.)

Nonmembers may attend as many as three meetings before joining. Usually a new member will join at their first meeting, paying a total of \$30 (\$35 for couples) at that meeting.

We do not care about the sexual orientation 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, i.e. 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. After the first complementary copy of the newsletter, additional newsletters are sent only to members who have paid their dues. 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, rounded to the nearest \$5 (4 months.) Additional years will be from July 1 to June 30.

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## Meeting Reservations

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The monthly meeting fee is \$15 for an individual (crossdresser, transsexual, etc) or \$20 for a couple (CD/TS plus Significant Other.) A \$3 discount will apply for those making reservations at least 2 days in advance.

For the January 26 meeting, reservations must be received by telephone at 777-0648, by January 24, to qualify for the \$3 "early bird" discount. You can also pay at the previous meeting if you wish.

Even if you don't make a reservation by thursday, please leave a message at 777-0648 to let us know if you're coming to the meeting. A message as late as noon Saturday can still help us make sure we have enough food.

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## The Magic Tunnel

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[Conclusion.] By Terri Davis

The rest of the day went by quickly with lots and lots to do without those long day dreaming moments that Billy seemed to feel in school. It was different being a girl, Beth actually looked forward to school work and adored working on the art project that Mr. Wilkins had suggested for the class. It was an exciting day and fun project despite the protests of the boys, and Beth decided that she really liked being a girl.

The final school bell rang and the children all formed into safety patrols for the walk home. Beth had known her patrol leader as Billy as a red headed boy named Carl, who was in the sixth grade and very grown up. But, now the red head was a girl called Carol.

Under Carol's watchful eye they had walked about four blocks from school when Billy's mind had a very frightening thought. Everybody at home would be different too! He didn't want to see that, even if Beth seemed confused, oh no!

Suddenly Billy-Beth turned around, thinking that if he crawled through the tunnel things would return back to the way they were before, and he-she started running back towards the school in a swirl of flying skirts and petticoats realizing that soon the doors would be locked and there might not be any way back!

Hearing someone running behind Billy-Beth saw that Carol was chasing her demanding that she rejoin the Patrol. She knew that Carol was older and could run faster, but Billy-Beth had to get back to the school before it was too late! Billy-Beth just had to!

A block behind was patrol #4, the one that always turned into Maple Street. Billy-Beth ran around the cheering kids up into someone's lawn fearing that Carol was getting closer and that in any second she would feel Carol's hands about her waist stopping her!

But, it didn't happen. Billy-Beth turned her head to look back only to see that Carol had ran smack into an old man, who was scolding the embarrassed young lady, who usually tried to be so grown up.

Billy-Beth ran the last three blocks to school. Would anybody still be there. Would the door still be open? She headed down the flight of outside steps that led to the girl's basement only to find the fire doors firmly locked! So was the girls' entrance!

She would have to go into the main front entrance to the school past Mr. Moraski's office to get to the inside stairs to the girl's basement where the tunnel might still be. And Mr. Moraski was the school principal! How could Billy-Beth explain why she had returned to school? Trying the front door Billy-Beth could see the Principal returning to his office, only it was Ms. Moraski! But just as frightening!

Fortunately the Principal hadn't seen Billy-Beth's entry into the school lobby causing Billy-Beth to realize that she still had to sneak past the Principal's office to make the girl's stairway. Deciding that her lunch box made too much noise she placed it just outside on the front entry landing and walked very softly down the hallway, almost on tippy toes, towards the office. As Billy-Beth neared the office door she paused by it.

Her heart was beating so fast! She knew that she would have to run past the frosted door window! She could hear voices from inside the Principal's office. She waited just a second, and ran hearing the slapping sound of her leather soles upon the tile floor!

"A little girl just ran past the door!" a voice exclaimed...

But, by then Billy-Beth was taking the steps almost two at a time as she half ran and half jumped down them boy fashion ignoring her untended skirts and petticoats. When she reached the bottom she turned left, remembering how everything was opposite, and before she reached the girls' locker room she found in the darkness the narrow passage. She quickly moved the mops and broom aside hearing the sound of people coming down the girls' stairwell in search of her. Pushing the mirror and pegboard away she opened the door only to pause at the thought of getting her pretty clothes dirty!

But, Billy's mind seemed clearer as she accepted his will and entered the tunnel remembering to leave the little door almost shut to just a little crack. As she crawled through the tunnel she hoped that her pursuers would not notice the tunnel door. She felt very strange and frightened by the near total darkness as her hands felt the hard packed dirt and she wondered if there might be spiders and 'things' in the passage way towards the faint crack of light ahead caused by the fact that like the door behind her the door ahead was nearly closed.

When Billy-Beth reached the other end she pushed the door opened and crawled out to stand up and brush her skirts before the mirror only to discover that she was Billy again!

"I don't see him here. We'd better check the locker room," Mr. Moraski's voice sounded from beyond the narrow passage.

Billy knew that he wasn't out of trouble yet as he realized that poor Beth was probably trying to sneak out of the school in the opposite world, just as he was. He waited in the narrow passageway for a minute or two; and, after hearing the Principal and the others talking together as they went up the boy's staircase, he decided to make his way down the narrow hallway to the junction of the main corridor.

Just as he stepped out into the corridor he saw coming toward him, Mr. Jakubauskas, who seemed startled by Billy as if he had stepped out of nowhere!

"Billy," the kindly janitor whispered as he came closer, "What are you doing down here so late. Did you leave something in the boys' locker room?"

"I... I...," a very confused Billy started to say sticking his hand into his pocket to feel his rock as he wondered how it was that he could now see the door to the janitor's storage room nearby and the tunnel hallway was gone, where just before he... Removing his hand he now saw both the storage room door and the tunnel hallway nearby...

"Never mind," the janitor sighed holding his finger to his lips as if to end the boy's confused words noticing that the boy seemed totally lost in his own thoughts. Smiling as if he were in on a secret he urged, "We have to get you out of here, Billy, so that Mr. Moraski won't find you. He takes things too seriously."

Quickly he led the way to the fire doors at the base of the boys' staircase and unlocked them for the boy. "Now, you get out of here you little rascal. And be careful of the traffic!"

Billy paused in the school yard at the top of the outside steps to consider the fact that the new rock was a kind of key to the tunnel and if he wanted to he could probably return to that other world where he was a girl. And she could come to his world causing him to be suddenly hurled into hers'. For they both could not be in the same world at the same time. He wondered if there were other "tunnels". Where did they lead to: Beth's world, or others?

Billy ran about the outside of the school building, remembering where Beth had left her lunch box and there upon the top of the front steps he saw his own just as his mother's car pulled up in front of the school and she got out to run towards him.

"Billy?!" she exclaimed with concern as she approached. "Are you all right? Carl came by and told me you ran away from his patrol back towards the school. Did you leave something behind?"

"Uh... Yes, mom!"

"Well then what could have been so important?"

"I...sort of...left...myself!...I think!..." And then he started laughing so hard that his mother couldn't be upset any more over his silly behavior and all she could say was, "Well, don't do that again."

Billy climbed into the front seat and stared at the old school building wondering if the magic tunnel would still be there tomorrow. Would he go back again and have the nerve to go home to see Beth's turnabout parents? What was Beth going to do? His thoughtful change in mood caused his mother to look at him in wonder as she smiled saying, "You are a strange little boy."

If she only knew how strange...

[Courtesy *Our Sorority*. Subscriptions are \$10 for 3 or more issues per year, to Our Sorority, Lincolnia Station, POB 11254, Alexandria VA 22312.]

**Calendar of Events**

1/16	Crystal Club	Business Meeting	Jennifer
1/17	Cross-Port	Meeting	Cincinnati
1/18	Trans-WV	Meeting	Huntington
1/19	Paradise	Social	Lakewood, OH
1/26	Crystal Club	Meeting	Old Location
2/7	IXE	Meeting	Indianapolis
2/9	Transpitt	Meeting	Pittsburgh
2/9	Alpha Omega	Meeting	Lakewood, OH
2/14	Crystal Club	Business Meeting	Columbus
2/14	Transpitt	Social	Pittsburgh
2/15	Trans-WV	Meeting	Huntington
2/16	Paradise	Meeting	Lakewood, OH
2/21	Cross-Port	Meeting	Cincinnati
2/22-24	Boulton & Park	Texas T Party	San Antonio
2/24	Crystal Club	Meeting-Elections	Columbus
3/7	IXE	Meeting	Indianapolis
3/9	Transpitt	Meeting	Pittsburgh
3/9	Alpha Omega	Meeting	Lakewood, OH
3/14	Crystal Club	Business Meeting	Columbus
3/14	Transpitt	Social	Pittsburgh
3/15	Trans-WV	Meeting	Huntington
3/16	Paradise	Meeting	Lakewood, OH
3/21	Cross-Port	Meeting	Cincinnati
3/24	Crystal Club	Meeting	Columbus
4/8-14	IFGE	Coming Together	Denver
5/1-5	PPOC	California Dreamin'	Anaheim, CA
6/5-9	Paradise	Be All You Can Be	Cleveland
10/3-6	Kappa Beta	Southern Comfort	Atlanta

**Related Organizations**

**Local Support Groups**

Crystal Club  
P.O. Box 287  
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068  
(614) 777-0648

Meral Crane, GDO  
Central Ohio Gender Dysphoria  
P.O. Box 02008  
Columbus, OH 43202

**Nearby Clubs**

Cross-Port  
P.O. Box 12701  
Cincinnati, OH 45212  
(513) 851-6174

Alpha Omega  
Northern Ohio Tri-Ess Chapter  
P.O. Box 954  
Elyria, OH 44036

Transpitt  
P.O. Box 3214  
Pittsburgh, PA 15230

Paradise Club  
P.O. Box 29564  
Parma, OH 44129

IXE  
Box 20710  
Indianapolis, IN 46220

Crossroads  
Box 1245  
Royal Oak, MI 48068-1245

Trans West Virginia  
P.O. Box 2322  
Huntington, WV 25724-2322

**National Organizations**

IFGE  
P.O. Box 367  
Wayland, MA 01778  
(617) 894-2212

Renaissance Education Assn  
Box 1263  
King of Prussia, PA 19406  
(215) 640-9449

Tri-Ess  
Box 194  
Tulare, CA 93275

Our Sorority  
P.O. Box 11254  
Lincolnia Station  
Alexandria, VA 22312



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**National Conventions**

Texas T Party  
Feb 22-24, 1991; San Antonio, TX.  
Sponsor: Boulton & Park Society  
P. O. Box 169652  
San Antonio, TX 78280  
(512) 657-2540, (512) 438-7604

Coming Together - Working Together  
April 8-14, 1991; Denver, Colorado  
Sponsor: IFGE  
Box 367; Wayland, MA 01778  
(617) 894-8340; (303) 458-5378

California Dreamin'  
May 1-5, 1991; Anaheim, CA  
Sponsor: PPOC  
Box 9091; Anaheim, CA 92812

Be All You Can Be  
June 5-9 1991; Cleveland, Ohio  
Sponsor: Paradise Club  
Box 29564; Parma, OH 44129

Southern Comfort Convention  
October 3-6, 1991; Atlanta, Georgia  
Sponsor: Kappa Beta Tri-Ess  
Box 12101; Charlotte, NC, 28220-2101



# The Crystal CHRONICLE

T.M.



Vol.2 No.10

Columbus, Ohio

February 1992

## February Meeting

Elections

Department Lessons

- Speech
- Gestures
- Manners
- Etc...

Socializing

