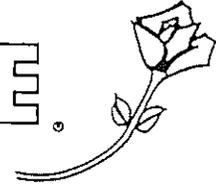


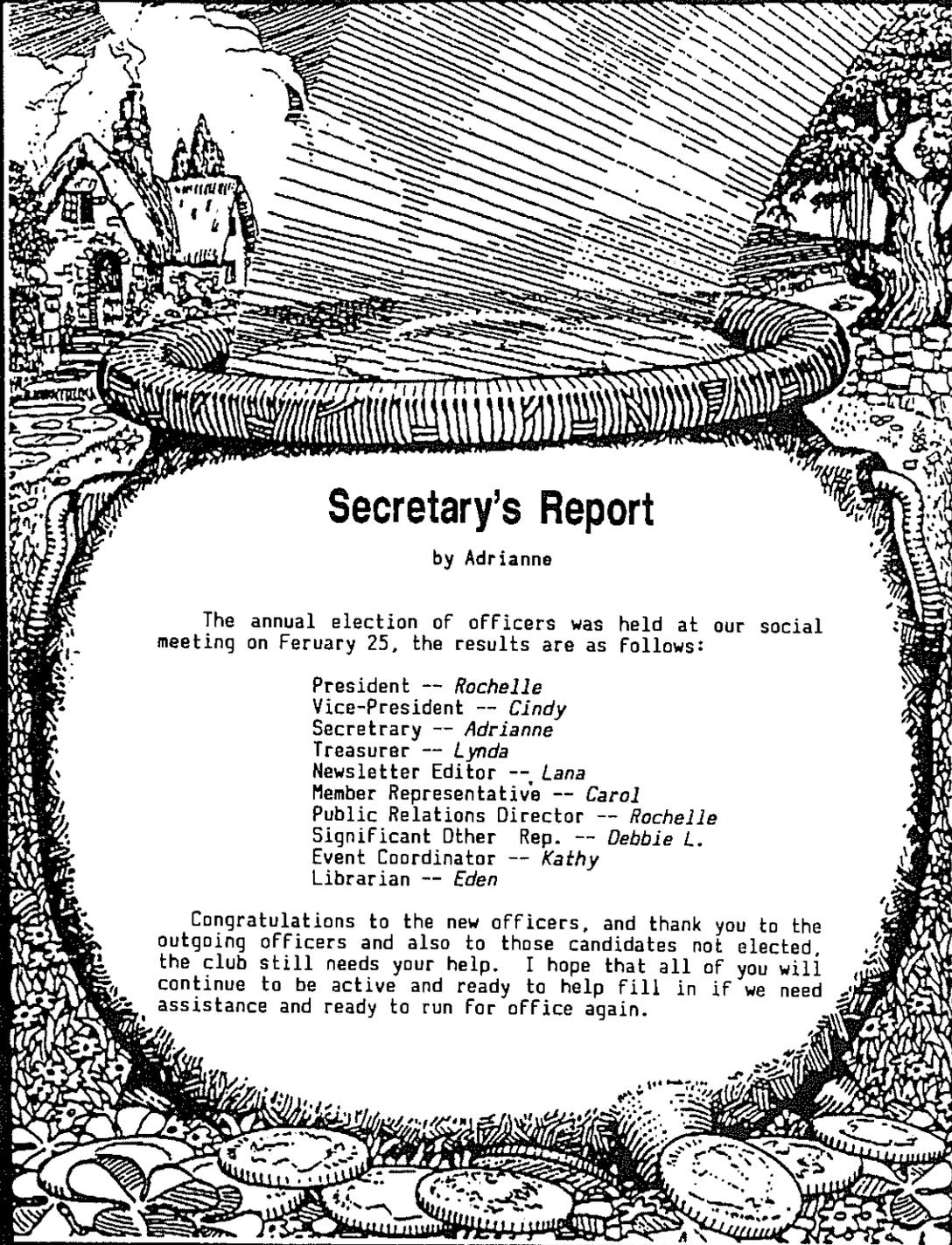


# The Crystal CHRONICLE.

March 1991



## CONGRATULATIONS!



### Secretary's Report

by Adrienne

The annual election of officers was held at our social meeting on February 25, the results are as follows:

President -- *Rochelle*  
Vice-President -- *Cindy*  
Secretary -- *Adrienne*  
Treasurer -- *Lynda*  
Newsletter Editor -- *Lana*  
Member Representative -- *Carol*  
Public Relations Director -- *Rochelle*  
Significant Other Rep. -- *Debbie L.*  
Event Coordinator -- *Kathy*  
Librarian -- *Eden*

Congratulations to the new officers, and thank you to the outgoing officers and also to those candidates not elected, the club still needs your help. I hope that all of you will continue to be active and ready to help fill in if we need assistance and ready to run for office again.

# Vol. 2 No. 1

## 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. 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.

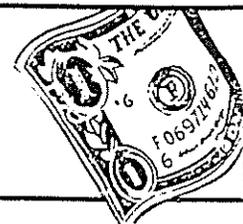
We do not care about the sexual orientation of the members and attendees. We do, however, require that all attendees behave like ladies or gentlemen at all times. Everyone has the right to feel secure, knowing they will not be ridiculed for their dressing or their appearance, and knowing they will not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

## Financial Report

by Lynda



Due to a transition taking place between the old treasurer and the new, a financial report is unavailable at this time. A complete report will be published next month.



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Medical & Mental Health Professionals, Friends & Allies  
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at the foot of the Rocky Mountains.

\*\*\*\*\* APRIL 8 through APRIL 14, 1991 \*\*\*\*\*

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>For Information and Registration:</u> The International Foundation for Gender Education P.O. Box 347, Wayland, MA 01778 1-617-894-8340 Office: 8 Cushing St, Waltham, MA</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Host Organization:</u> Gender Identity Center of Colorado Box 11563, 3715 32nd Ave. Denver, Colorado 80211 1-303-458-5378</p>
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## Thank You Letters

Roberta here, Crystal Clubsters, just to say we (my wife and I) have missed you and all the doings since the last time there, the much enjoyed Sept 22 meeting on make-up with Michelle and Connie from Mary Kay Cosmetics. ( That was an "eye-opener" or "eye-liner" on a new-to-me part of our gender existence. ) Each and every meeting has been great. "Age-related logistical considerations" would be my excuse for these reluctant absences. Hope to get back with it. In the meantime I am working on a new, improved Roberta ( weight reduction, medically supervised, nearly 60 pounds, feel great! ). Each issue of the Chronicle brings a helpful hint or two and is enjoyable through and through. Thanks for all the hard work and dedication.

Best to all, with Love, Roberta

P.S. I "found this in my mailbox," and it would appear to be from another CD in my neighborhood, still somewhat furtive about it all. From the way she signs it, you could call it:

### Opinions of Oliver/Olivia

"Why do I like to cross dress? Because that is as close as I can come to becoming in the body the woman that I feel I essentially am.

Electrolysis, hormones, SRS and so forth would all be nice but they too are only approaches to the ultimate goal, total woman, reproductive organs and all. ( Transplant technology is not there yet, but who knows? And it would be one way really to perpetuate another's life. ) SRS happens to be out of the question for me, and I ask myself, "What is a woman?" --strike that; better, "Who is a woman?" Everyone to some extent, including 100% red-blooded males ( just don't argue with them about that ). I think I read somewhere that we all start out, embryonically, as rudimentary females, but that around seven weeks into the pregnancy male chromosomes (XX) order certain bits of tissue to become testicles instead of ovaries. The budding testes are then supposed to throw male hormones around so as to blow out all the pink candles on your birthday cake and light all the blue ones, only sometime they don't get it nearly right. Result, we know all too well.. our particular developmental variations, so poorly understood, so badly handled all around, and heavily tabooed. This taboo is the root of all sexism. ( Great Theory, no? ) Tomboyism in GG's is DK, if amusing -- that's coming up in the world -- F to M. But M to F -- that's bad, sad, shameful, that's regressing, going down in the world and thumbing the nose at the main "value" in our social system ( 'Male and female created He them'; yet, when we procreate we are all rank apprentices ). Fact is, we don't go down, go up or thumb our nose -- we express outwardly what we are essentially, or that should be one's honest

intent, and if only of society would see it that way. For me, a woman is four "H's" -- Head, Heart, Hormones, Heels (dress) in about that order of importance, though these things intermix, intertwine, interplay. That gives me lots to work on. I love hearing about sisters who have done more 'homework' ( towards SRS, whatever ) out there in the real world.

Expectantly, Oliver/Olivia

What do you think of that? R.

2/14/91

Dear Rebecca and Lana,

I wanted to extend a special thanks from the students of health education 204 and myself for your informative and interesting class presentation. Last week I did a mid-quarter evaluation. A number of students mentioned your presentation as most helpful in their understanding of their own and other's sexuality.

I wish you both the very best.

Sincerely,  
Germane Tizzano

2/15/91

Dear Crystal Club Newsletter Staff,

I do enjoy receiving your newsletters and when I get calls from clients, I either send the original or a copy of an original newsletter and encourage these people to contact you.

I recently got contacted by a female to male T.S. who found out us through contact with Susan at *Crystal Club*, So the world goes round and round.

In your February issue, last page, I noted a listing of my name as an additional support group in the area. That is fine, but the "G.D.O." following my name does not make sense - it is probably a typo error. If you want to include credentials, M.A., L.P.C.C. would make better sense. I am enclosing the program stationary. Feel free to include the telephone number if you wish.

Good luck in all your work.

Sincerely,  
Meral G. Crane

## Another Fantastic Meeting

by Laura J. Walker

I feel I'm starting to catch on now. I don't have to be overtly glamorous or sexy to pass comfortably as a woman. I just have to look like a normal woman. My boobs don't have to stick out like two scud missiles and my waist does not have to be sucked into an hour glass shape to pass as that woman I want to be. One direct, but lovely lady said that she could tell that my heaving breasts were not real. The cleavage did get a few stares at *Wall Street* and at the restaurant we tried to get into after that, but I later thought that all that was accomplished was that I invited people to examine me more closely and challenge them more to read me. Next time, I'll be the more casually dressed girl without dagger fingernails, spike heels and legs up to there. My goal is to be able to pass as a very tall, Jewish, fashionable, carefree, professional woman. Tell me when you see me if I pass the test.

My second meeting was different than my first in a few ways. I still showed up after the speaker had spoke and probably most of the conversations had been conversed. but you see some of us take about three hours or more to get ready. It may have been worth it, because I got the ultimate CD compliment, and it came from a post-op TS: "You could easily pass for a woman." I also had more people to talk to and to get to know even better. I wish I could have talked with the two apparent TS's, who had driven all the way from Indianapolis and were going to return that night. They both had such beautiful hair and feminine faces and smiles; I hope we'll get to see them again.

[ Dana and Elaine visited us from IXE in Indianapolis. As far as I know, neither is a TS, but both are "Expert TV's" -- ED. ]

I am basically gregarious, but it has always taken longer than two meetings for me to feel at ease with any organization. It must be because I have been looking for so long for what this club gives it's members and guests...acceptance. I felt so much so that I plunked down my dues for membership. If any girls are out there wondering if they should attend their first CD meeting at the *Crystal Club*, I highly recommend it. I came alone, knocked on the door and a smiling face greeted me. I stood in the corner for only a few minutes until a very much uninhibited "Carol" started chatting with me. I was at ease already. Then I started to see others, who I had seen the last time, but did not get to talk directly with. I just joined in and felt right at home.

Nobody judged whether I had done myself up to their standards and everybody chimed in with support. I never really felt nervous after the first minute. It was that way at the first meeting too. I encourage anybody out there, who thinks they lack the necessary courage, to come to the next meeting.

Afterward, we went to *Wall Street*. That was a real treat too. I was the tallest thing they had ever seen there, I think, but I just kept smiling at anybody who looked at me. They probably thought that since I was comfortable with who I was, they would be too. Some came up and started talking with me right out of the blue. Fantastic! I was being accepted for what I was.

Maybe after the third meeting, I'll feel confident enough to take a walk in the mall or at least go window shopping in a shopping center. I hope one of you will go with me. So much for fantasy. See you on Saturday, March 23rd. I'll be testing my courage just to come to the door at 6 p.m., since it will still be daylight... but I'll do it if you will.

## Shouting Me Down

by Mary Ann Harris

It has been said that crossdressers still act like men in many ways, while transsexuals are truly women and act and feel the part. I've never given much thought to this view in the past, but I had an experience the other night that makes me wonder.

Beth deals with being a woman 24 hours a day. This includes a work environment where, supposedly, work is done based on your ability and not on your gender. Yet she has often noted the men dominating the conversation and ignoring the women. If a woman has something valuable to say, often nobody will hear her, or won't take her seriously. Later on, one of the men may say the same thing and suddenly it's a great idea. This is blatant sexism and I consider it unacceptable.

I was sitting with a group of crossdressers, discussing something about the club. It was a businesslike environment and we were all furiously debating what to do about something. I started to say something, and half way through the sentence, someone else started to talk. Next thing I knew, everybody was paying attention to her, and I didn't get to finish my sentence. The conversation continued between the person doing the interrupting and some of the other members.

At the time, I wondered if my newly formed make-up skills had suddenly turned me into a GG in the minds of some of the others present. Nah - Larry does a good job, but not that good, and besides, everybody there has known me for years.

I'd just like to remind everybody that, as a crossdresser, you will be seeing things from both sides. Society sometimes doesn't treat women as well as men. All people have a duty to avoid treating women as if they had no brains, to treat them fairly and as equals. We should also encourage others to treat women as equals.

We all need to work together to fight for women's rights. If we don't, who will be there for us when some macho jerk tries to walk all over us?

## Editor's Edict

by Lana Morris

Well, here it is, *The Crystal Cronical*, better late than never. As your newly elected newsletter editor and publisher, I have been frantically scrambling about to put everything together. The amount of work that goes into putting this publication together is not comprehensible unless you have been closely involved in it. I think there are few people who knew the enormous amount of hard work that *Mary Ann* diligently performed month after month to bring you all a quality newsletter. I hope that I can rise to the occasion and carry on in this fine tradition. You may have already noticed some changes in the way the newsletter looks. Due to different hardware considerations, I have made some changes in the way in which it is printed. There will probably be more changes before I get things "streamlined." Let me know what you like and what you don't like. The deadline for articles is ANYTIME! Your contributions are greatly appreciated and will be accepted anytime, however, I will need to receive any submissions on or before the weekend following the meeting date to insure inclusion in the current newsletter. Anything received after that will be saved for future use.

Hopefully, you have received this edition before the March 23rd meeting. Which brings me to my next topic. Please remember, our meetings are held on the 4th Saturday of each month. Not the last Saturday. On months with 5 Saturdays there always seems to be some confusion. Many members thought that this month's meeting was to be held on the 30th. I hope no one misses the meeting and I am looking forward to seeing you all on March 23rd!

## Thanks From New V.P.

Ladies,

I would like to take this time to thank you for my new office as Vice President.

As your new V.P. I am looking forward to working with you. Each and everyone of us have new and interesting ideals, so let's get together and make them work for us.

Congratulations to Rochelle! And all our new officers on their new offices. I know you will all do a fine job.

A special thanks to all the past officers, without their support we would not be where we are today. And to all who ran for these positions, also for everyone who voted, Thank you.

We must all stay together and support each other to make our club work, and I know we will.

Love, Cindy

## President's Column

Ladies!

I'd like to thank all of you that had enough faith in me to reelect me to this office.

I plan on seeing that many things happen this year. Some will be done along the the same lines as the newspaper outreach and special outreach of this kind. There will be many new things happening this year also. I hope that everyone with an idea on making this a better club will step forward and let us hear from them. We can only be as good as the members that make up the club.

We hope to restructure the monthly meetings to make them a little more interesting. This will be done by the type of speakers we can get, as well as special programs and panel discussions. We will be asking for your involvement from time to time.

We also continue our 50/50 drawing at the meetings, for this helps take care of special cost that would have to be past on to the members in the form of larger meeting fees. The money from the 50/50 drawings helped pay for the bartender at the Christmas party to keep from charging more for each person to attend the party. We are starting things out by having the first board meeting on March 14th at my place. This will get the program into gear, setting up programs, parties, and picnics. Feel free to let us know what you'd like to see happen in the next year.

We do have a fun night planned for the 23rd of March. This monthly meeting will find a local fashion designer *Lynda Sams* that did a fashion show for NOW in February eager to show her fashions to us. We will have a few of our own fashion models on the floor showing some of the many things that have been made to fit them. Afterwards there will be plenty time to roam through the fashions and try things on yourself if you like. Those of you that were at the meeting when *Gloria* came down last year know how much fun this can be. I hope to see you all there March 23rd.

Love, Rochelle Richards

## Hair Today Gone Tomarrow

Courtesy Crossport Inner View

According to the Cross-Talk newsletter, the company that markets the Epilady hair remover has filed for bankruptcy. A story printed from the L.A. Times which appeared in the newsletter explained that the device was supposed to be marketed to women who wax their legs (and are therefore known masochists). The marketing company instead went for the general market, and thousands of the hair removers were returned by consumers who found they couldn't deal with the pain. What do you expect from something that advised first time users to relax with a glass of wine before using? The future of the product is unknown.

Cathy

## Keeping Things In Perspective

Anonymous

Last week I had the enlightening opportunity to visit my son, who is recovering from the combat wounds he suffered in Panama a year ago Christmas. He was at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, along with other young men, who had already been injured in *The War In The Gulf*. One boy had had one leg and an arm blown off and the other leg shattered. I thought as I talked to his smiling face: My problem with gender confusion is only the most insignificant of human problems, when compared to what adjustment this boy is going to have for the rest of his life. He will never again be accepted as a complete man. Sound familiar? He'll try as hard as he can to live with what he now is, but he'll always be wondering how things would have been if he hadn't acquired this disability. He'll constantly fantasize about being normal or being accepted for what he is, but he'll always know that neither will happen. No normal woman will marry him or stay married to him. His mind will ever be altered, too.

These words are not to bid us to feel sorry for our own situation, but rather to have us notice just how lucky we have it. We can differ our exhibition of our disability until it is convenient to display it in friendly company. He will carry his disfigurement for all to see where ever he goes. So what? We don't have it so bad after all. If we really want to give our "hobby" up, we could. It would still be in our minds, just like the alcoholics constant desire to take a drink, even in recovery. But we could just say no. Think about this, when you feel compelled beyond control to dress, when it is unappropriate. Think about the fact that we have full control over what we do... especially when it comes to the avoiding of hurting a loved one.

I don't believe that crossdressing or even living in the gender or sex into which you were not born is a wrong or immoral thing to do. It is in my mind simply doing what is necessary to minimize the effects of a disability, which was not consciously chosen. We all became disabled with this gender dysphoria at an early age for some unidentifiable reason. But to deal with it in a way that hurts other people can be morally incorrect. We all have to be the judge of our own actions, according to our own needs and our own moral definitions. We can just say go or just say no. Think about it. Muster up the courage and then do the thing that is right for you. May God be with you.

Please keep the authorship of this article to yourself, because I don't want to be seen as judgemental, but I do think that some of these things should be said once in a while.

## Big Feet Now The Norm

By Patricia McLaughlin  
Universal Press Syndicate  
Courtesy Columbus Dispatch

Ladies are supposed to have small feet.

This is why Sir John Suckling was so taken with the young miss whose "feet beneath her petticoat like little mice, stole in and out..."

It's why aristocratic Chinese women used to brake their baby daughter's feet and bind them.

It's why Cinderella's wicked stepmother urged one of the ugly stepsisters to cut off her toes so her foot would fit into the glass sliper and, when that didn't work, advised the other to chop off her heel.

It's why women are least as likly to fudge on shoe size as age or weight. (Dolly Parton's character, asked her shoe size in *Steel Magnolias*, says, "Well, in a good shoe I wear a 6, but a 7 feels so good, I buy a size 8.")

But it's a losing battle. Because all the while women have been admiring and longing for and pretending to have smaller feet, they've producing daughters with bigger ones. Women's feet --- and men's, too --- have been getting bigger at least since the Revolutionary War. And, since the turn of the century, they've been getting even bigger.

People thought Susan B. Anthony's size 7 1/2 high-button shoes looked like canoes in 1875, because the popular size range in women's shoes was from size 1 to 6, with D and E the popular widths. Now, only three generations later, according to research by Sterling Last Corp., the poular range of women's sizes is 5 1/2 to 11. (Feet have narrowed as they've grown longer; now the popular width range is from AA to C, with B widths most in demand.)

Today, you see 11's --- and sometimes 12's --- offered in chain shoe stores, discout stores, catalogs, pretty much everywhere.

Can this keep up? By the end of the next century, will the average woman be clomping around in size 14's?

It is unlikely. The U.S. population in 1895 was heavily weighted with poor, poorly fed immigrants. Their children and their children's children, fed unprecedented amounts of meat and milk, grew to their full genetic potential.

But most of us are there now --- and, nutritionists tell us, we're eating more protein than is good for us. So maybe we won't grow anymore.

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7/87

**The Problem is Not in Your TV**

by Lana Morris

There I was, lounging around the house in a typical "sofa spud" posture with my TV remote securely in hand, zipping through all 42 channels as if I could watch them all at the same time. Suddenly my thumb came to rest when I saw her, oh that *Pretty Woman*, Julia Roberts! She was accepting some type of award for her work in *"Flatliners"*. She humbly expounded the usual words of gratitude and expressed what a pleasant experience it was to work with the other actors, Keefer Southerland and Kevin Bacon. Then she said something that struck me, "They were so great to work with, they treated me just like one of the guys!" It wasn't so much what she said, but the way she said it. Can you imagine Jack Nicholson saying how nice it was to work with Shirley McClaine and Debra Winger, "...Yeh, It was great, they treated me just like one of the gals!" Well, maybe, but it would be done for the laughs or he would be labled some sort of wierdo fag (look what happened to Pete Townsend.) When Julia said it, she held her head proud and it was received as a positive and healthy experience by a large round of applause.

I envy the open forum for expression that women enjoy in our society. It only seems natural that each gender would be curious about the other and enjoy a sneak peek of what it must be like to be in the opposite's shoes. However, only the females are allowed to openly express such a thought. A woman can, during a moment of frustration, say that she wished she was a man, but if a man said he wished he was a woman, even in jest, he could be publicly humiliated and ridiculed (remember how Phil Donahue was treated after he wore a skirt.)

Since society gives men such little leeway in how they are "suppose to" feel, many who crossdress or are trans-gendered to some degree feel a great deal of guilt and shame. I say, "The problem is not in your TV," rather it lies in society. This is not a new phenomenon. Transvestite behavior has been exhibited throughout history in all parts of the world. Some societies approved of or even revered such people. Next time you feel down about yourself, remember, you're not bad, you're just different from what most people expect or are willing to accept.



"It's really you" is not what I wanted to hear, doc."

Cartoon courtesy CrossTalk

"Life is learning to live with...  
... Plan B. "

## An IXE Christmas Tale

by Cathy

Courtesy Cross Port Inner View

Well, December was quite a month of travelling for me. Not only did I go to Louisville early in the month as I reported in the last InnerView, but on the 15th I went to Indianapolis for IXE's Christmas party. As with the trip to Louisville, I got up early, dressed "down" in jeans and a sweater and drove as Cathy to Indianapolis. No real problems, but there was one jerk in an old beat up firebird who would pull up next to me on the freeway at 65 mph, smile, then pull in front of me and slow down to about 45. It made me pretty nervous so I finally passed him at about 80 and didn't slow down again until I couldn't see him in my rear view mirror any more. Do girls have to put up with this crap all the time? (Laurie says "Yes, they do!")

When I got to Indy I checked out where the party was going to be so that I would be able to find it again in the dark, then checked into the local Motel 6. I signed in as Cathy and let them run Cathy's credit card through the machine for payment. No problems, strange looks or anything.

After dropping off my party stuff at the motel room, I decided to kill some time by going shopping. The party was held near the speedway, and there were a lot of "strip" malls less than a mile from the motel. I spent some time (and a little money) at a Stuart's, two shoe stores, and a Fashion Bug. The people who worked at these places were all courteous, and none of the other shoppers seemed to notice that I was anything out of the ordinary.

Emboldened by my apparent success, I decided to do some shopping at the local Drug Emporium. I was running low on some kinds of make-up, and I always feel real self-conscious shopping for make-up as a guy. I normally stay away from "discount" places when dressed because there really is a big difference in the way people treat you if you are "read" depending on their socio-economic background.

As I was walking down one of the aisles, one classic "little old lady" looked at me, then did a double-take. I was sure that I'd been read, but pretended not to notice. As I passed her, she reached out, touched my arm, and said "Young Lady, could you get that off the top shelf for me?" I was very happy to comply. The only thing she had really noticed about me was that I was tall enough to give her a hand.

The Drug Emporium turned out to be a really pleasant experience. I was able to spend as much time as I felt I needed to purchase the proper products, took time to compare different brands, etc. It was a lot different than the usual "walk in, grab it and go" I normally do.

Back at the motel I freshened up and changed for the Christmas party and headed out. I got there (I thought early) and already the parking lot for the meeting place was full. As it turned out there were more than forty people attending the function from Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky and Illinois. There were quite a lot of really marvelous outfits too. I think the girls from the Crystal Club had to take first prize for swank look, their outfits were simply spectacular.

[ Adrienne, Jennifer, and Lana attended the party from Crystal Club, thanks Cathy. Someone said I looked like we were ready for the prom. Also Adrienne won the prize for longest distance traveled from Newarr, Ohio --ED. ]

There was more than enough food for people to eat (a special thanks to Sharon who spent most of her day cooking turkey) and lots of pleasant conversation as people renewed acquaintances and made new ones. I was also glad to see that there were almost a dozen S.O.s in attendance as well.

After the food there was the "Gift Wars" which has become an annual event at the IXE Christmas parties. The way it works is that each person who brought a gift places it under the tree, then they each get a chance to pick a gift for themselves. The catch is that you have a choice of where you get your gift. You can either pick one from under the tree, or you can take one from someone who has already chosen. In the latter case, the person who lost their gift has another choice at picking a gift, and they also may take it from under the tree or from someone who has already chosen.

Needless to say, it took about thirty minutes for everyone to pick a gift. Most of the "warring" was between the IXE ladies, most of the rest of us were too tentative to take a gift from someone we didn't know very well.

After the party, a group of us headed for 3535 West, which is a gay bar just down the street from the speedway. They had an FI show which was DK. The thing that really made this place stand out from any other gay bar I'd been in was that there were several lesbians there who really seemed to enjoy crossdressers. They were really aggressive about it too. Linda and I practically had to beat them off with a stick.

All too soon (as it always happens), the night ended and the next day I changed back into "regular" mode for the drive home. It seemed a lot longer to drive home than it took to get there, but I had some new, good memories to keep me company.

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If there is anything in the *Chronical* that you don't like or there is an article that offends you, bring it to us and we'll be happy to snip the offensive material from your copy!

## Think For Yourself

by Elaine

*Courtesy IXE*

There is a sucker born every minute. People will believe almost anything they hear or read and never once ask for proof. Wake up out there! It is all bulldada! Ask for proof. Think for yourself. I set out to prove to myself that people would gladly believe anything that they read, no matter how ridiculous it was. The experiment went well and seemed to confirm several points:

- 1) People not only believe anything they read, but they *want* to believe certain things, if those things fit into their fantasies.
- 2) People don't challenge things in print; if something is in print it must be true.
- 3) Information that appears in gender (or any other) publications can not be trusted to be factual.

Here's a funny thought: People who try to pass as women are apparently unable to detect fiction passing as fact. Two fictitious items that originated in my imagination found their way into the gender publications. One was a piece about face transplants. No one is going to perform a face transplant. If there were to be tissue rejection, what would be done? No doubt there is someone out there trying to locate a surgeon and a donor -- they read it in the newsletter, so it must be true. Some comments could be made about the mental health of people who would seek this kind of thing, but that's another subject. The other item was a fictitious newsclip about a new law in Arkansas that forced crossdressers to have sex change surgery. I have not yet heard if there has been anyone who actually moved to Little Rock because of this. How many constitutional rights would such a law violate?

What else have we seen in the gender media that has gone unchallenged and has passed as factual information? One can only guess. My conclusion is that everything is bulldada until proven otherwise.

## Crossdressing For The Masses

by Cynthia Phillips

How many of you have experienced the joys of being a "tomboy"?

When my husband was confronted by his mother about his crossdressing, she asked "Don't you want to grow up to be a man?" He answered (since he loved his mother very much), "No, I want to be just like you." His mother was quite upset about this.

When, as little girls, we expressed a desire to be like our fathers when we grew up, we were patted on the head and our fathers were extremely pleased. Think about this: We, in this country, have a double standard for both female and male. The things that are available to you are not to your mate, and vice versa. Think about the restrictions put on males in our society, and not females. We may feel like a "second-class" citizen from time to time, because we are women, but remember, we can express ourselves as a "male" if we so desire. He has no such option.

Think of it this way. You have a lot in common with your man, as you are both crossdressers. All of us ladies have, at one time or another, worn jeans and men's shirts, and now boxer shorts are in vogue. We're still the same person, no matter what we have on. Our men are no different. He's still the same man in your life.

Haven't you ever had a hard day at work, and looked forward to getting home and jumping into a comfortable pair of jeans and a baggy (usually his) t-shirt? Our men are no different. They are often under a lot of pressure at work, and usually are the major decision-maker at home. They also need to relax, need a release, and this is the softest one I can think of.

You must also remember that while we are able to change our attitudes toward crossdressing, if we so desire, crossdressers do not have that luxury. No one makes a conscious decision to be a crossdresser. Would you choose to lead a life of guilt and fear that your "secret" would be found out?

We women also need to stop using terms such as transvestite, transgenderist, transsexual, etc. These are clinical words which make a crossdresser feel as if he were on display under glass, and that his mate thinks of him as a line in a textbook. Try to think of him as a "crossdresser", an innocent term for an innocent activity. So our man likes to dress at times, as we do. Is that really so bad? Aren't we, in this society, always asking men to get in touch with their feelings? When our men want to experience what we, as women, feel about things, it should be taken as a compliment, not an affront or insult.

[ Cynthia Phillips is the editor of the "Women Associated with Crossdressers" newsletter, from which this column is edited. She may be contacted at P.O. Box 17, Bulverde TX 78163. ]

*Courtesy CrossTalk*



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Licensed Clinical Counselor

THE CENTRAL OHIO GENDER DYSPHORIA PROGRAM

P.O. Box 02008 COLUMBUS, OHIO 43202 (614) 299-5042

Calendar of Events			
4/4	IXE	Meeting	Indianapolis
4/8-14	IFGE	Coming Together	Denver
4/11	Transpitt	Social	Pittsburgh
4/13	Transpitt	Meeting	Pittsburgh
4/13	Alpha Omega	Meeting	Lakewood, OH
4/17	Crystal Club	Business Meeting	Columbus
4/18	Cross-Port	Meeting	Cincinnati
4/19	Trans-WV	Meeting	Huntington
4/20	Paradise	Meeting	Lakewood, OH
4/27	Crystal Club	Meeting	Columbus
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



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 Addictions and Sexuality  
 For consultation/appointments  
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**Nearby Support Groups**

**National Conventions**

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

Alpha Omega  
 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

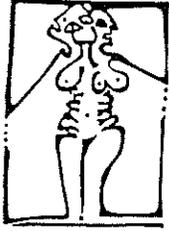
Trans West Virginia  
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Coming Together – Working Together  
 April 8-14, 1991; Denver, Colorado  
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 Box 367; Wayland, MA 01778  
 (617) 894-8340; (303) 458-5378

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  
 Be All Weekend  
 Box 5124; Willowick, OH 44095  
 (216) 463-4865

Southern Comfort Convention  
 October 3-6, 1991; Atlanta, Georgia  
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June 5 - 9, 1991

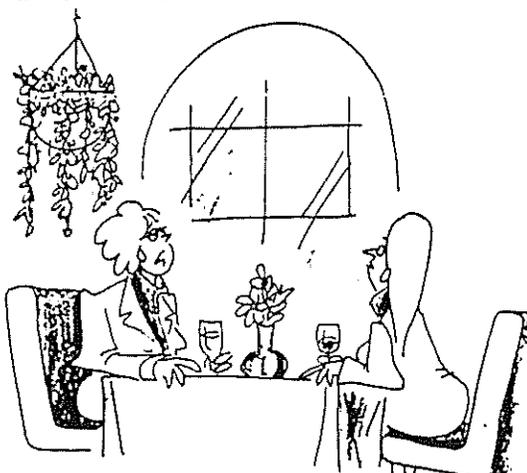


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