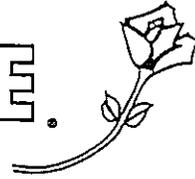




The Crystal CHRONICLE.



Vol. 2 No. 2

P.O. Box 287 Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068

April 1991

Mr. Jimmy James

*A LIVE Visual and Vocal Impressionist
Recreates Marilyn Monroe and Other Famous Legends*

by Lana



On Thursday, April 11, Mr. Jimmy James performed for a standing room only crowd. This was James' third appearance in *Columbus*. The first was on March 15, 1990. Really, all three *Jimmy James* shows at *Wall Street* have been to a "packed house." For those of you that haven't seen Jimmy on *Donahue*, *Oprah*, *Sally Jesse Raphael*, or *Geraldo*, he is a dead ringer for *Marilyn Monroe*. Not only does he look like her, but he can sing, dance, and emulate her movements in an uncanny tribute to the legendary Monroe. One tabloid even went as far to feature him on their cover, claiming he was her reincarnation. That's just the first half of the show. After a short break, Jimmy comes out on stage without the wig and gown, this time he is wearing a colorful suit coat over black leggings. James then puts on a wonderful and witty performance, showcasing wonderful impressions of many female stars. Though he doesn't look much like *Cher*, he can sound and act the part superbly, right down to a flip of some long imaginary hair. This review would not be complete without mentioning his recalling of the late *Betty Davis* which is tastefully and affectionately carried out. Jimmy quotes Betty in Character, "As long as there are drag queens to imitate me, I will never die." After the show, Jimmy comes out and sits by the bar to sign autographs and meet with fans.

This is no "lip-sinc" show, though they do mix in some recorded music, the voices are all Jimmy James'. If you haven't seen him live, don't miss him next time, hopefully he will be back to *Columbus*. Don't miss your chance to see one of the country's best *Female Impersonators*. I wouldn't be surprised to see *HBO* or one of the other cable channels feature him in his own special. In fact, what's taking so long!

Being Your Own Worst Enemy

*From Cross-Talk, Roger's Notebook #56
by Roger Peo, Ph.D.*

One of my readers wrote a letter describing insights he gained after a lifetime of struggling with his crossdressing. He described his formative years as a constant struggle to live up to his father's impossibly high standards. Failure brought condemnation. Achievements were barely acknowledged. In addition there were some implications that he could never succeed as a male. (He proved them quite wrong through many achievements in a very successful career.) During these impressionable years it seemed to him that being female would eliminate these problems and he "became" a crossdresser.

This brought with it another set of problems. Even though his escape into femininity gave him some relief, the guilt he felt was a constant companion. He saw himself as flawed. No matter how much he achieved it was never enough to "atone" for this terrible sin of being a crossdresser. Worse, there were times when he really wished to be a woman, so the guilt was intensified.

Much of his life was a struggle to deal with these feelings. He tried psychotherapy. He read extensively. He achieved brilliantly. Nothing worked. The guilt was still there and there seemed no way to make it disappear. As he grew older, he became more philosophical. He examined his life and found that in spite of (or perhaps because of) his crossdressing he was fundamentally a good person who had made many worthwhile contributions. (In an aside, he referred to studies that found that crossdressers are often above average in intelligence and achievements. He speculated that some of this might be attributed to their attempts to counteract the guilt crossdressing often brings.)

What happened was that he began to love himself. This is the most difficult thing that anyone can do. As we grow up most of us are constantly criticized. We get little praise and what praise we get is often inadequate to counterbalance what seems to be our low value in the eyes of other people. The result is often a person who has low self-esteem. When this person also has a socially unacceptable behavior, the burden is compounded. Then, regardless of what people tell us, we do not believe them. The thought goes, "If they really knew about me they would hate me!" What is true is that if you do not see yourself as being good (loving yourself) nothing anyone else says makes much difference. How we define ourselves is crucial and can overshadow whatever the world tells us about ourselves.

No one is perfect. We all have our "warts". These do not make us bad, only human. Somehow we have to be able to accept ourselves in spite of seemingly not living up to the world's definition for us. This is very hard (because of our early experiences) but it is possible. If you believe just one person who says you are good, you are on your way. So, we really can be our own worst enemy, especially if we filter life's experiences through the thought that we are not lovable. When this happens, we do not experience the love that is there.

[If you have something you would like Dr. Peo to write about or have a rebuttal send it to P.O. Box 4887, Poughkeepsie, NY 12602 or call (914) 452-8405. All communications are confidential. This column may be reprinted in any non-profit organization's newsletter so long as Dr. Peo's name and address appear in the reprinted version. All others must obtain written approval.]

Publication Notice and Club Policies

This newsletter is Copyright (C) 1991 by the Crystal Club, Lana Morris, editor. All rights reserved. Articles and information contained in The Crystal Chronicle may be reprinted by other non-profit organizations without advance permission, provided a copy of the issue containing the reprinted material is sent to Crystal Club within two months after the material is published. The opinions or statements contained in The Chronicle are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Crystal Club. Contributions of articles are welcomed, but may be altered, with the author's intent retained, or may be rejected, whether solicited or not. Absolutely no sexually explicit material will be accepted or printed.

The Crystal Club is a non-profit support group for TV, TS, TG, FI, and others who assume a complete trans-gendered identity. Spouses and significant others are welcome and are encouraged to participate. Both Male-to-Female and Female-to-Male are welcome. Also, members from related organizations, helping professionals, and approved guests are welcome when cleared through a Crystal Club elected officer.

Meetings are the fourth Saturday evening of each month unless a special event is scheduled that takes the place of the regular scheduled meeting. The location of the meeting or event(s) are only released to members or others with the approval of an officer.

New prospective members must be screened by the Member Representative or another delegated representative of the Crystal Club. We do not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation, race, creed, or age of the members and attendees.

We do, however, require that all attendees behave like ladies or gentlemen at all times. There is NO tolerance for ridicule or "hitting on" attendees. Everyone has the right to feel secure and anyone breaking these policies will be asked to leave. We are not a dating service or a therapy group.

We require that all attendees come completely dressed as a Male or a Female. Attendees are not permitted to arrive or change into a partially dressed status. With prior arrangement, an adjacent changing room should be available if you prefer to come in your complete natural gender and change to the gender in which you want to represent.

The Crystal Club membership fee is \$15 for a individual and \$20 for a couple (member and a significant other/spouse). The start of a new membership is pro-rated in coordination with the Crystal Club fiscal year end of 30 June, in quarter increments (4 months) to the nearest \$5, in advance. Additional consecutive years consist of the standard membership fee, in advance. Meeting fees are: \$15 for a single member, \$20 for a member couple and \$20 for a single non-member, \$25 for a non-member couple.

We will exchange newsletters with any other similar group. Feel free to include a disk version in ASCII format if possible either on 5.25 or 3.5 floppy. Send all correspondence to: The Crystal Club P.O. Box 287 Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068-0287 or call (614) 237-4321.

President's Column

Ladies! Last month's meeting turned out to be very interesting, thanks to *Lynda Sams* and our own fashion models. Lana, Cindy, Carol, and myself modeled the fashions brought to us by *Lynda*. After the fashion show portion, people were allowed to roam through things and try things on for themselves. Clothing seems to be the one thing that all crossdressers have in common, maybe not the same styles but at least the same desire. That always makes for a great meeting. Thank you, *Lynda* for putting up with us and giving us a good insight into the styles that you have.

I believe that the next board meeting will be held be 4-17-91 at 8:30 again at my house. Those of you that will be attending the board meeting will need to contact me a few days ahead of time at my home number or at the new club number 237-4321, as I'm planning on changing apartment buildings and don't know if this will happen before or after the 17th. So please call to find out.

Discretion is the a subject that I will address at this time. We have had a few complaints in the last few months and I'd like to take the time to solve them. They all seem to evolve around discretion. First, it is our responsibility to make sure that we keep a closed mouth to others about what we don't want known, male name, first and last, what type of work we do, where we live, phone number, and things like that. We know what of our personal lives we want known to what people. At the same time, others need to remember that if you're told these things by someone you must keep it to yourself no matter what. This is a trust that is being placed on you by that person. Say you meet Sally at a meeting, you go out, talk, and have a great time. Then, a few nights later, you see her again, but it's really Joe, but you don't know his male name. Don't walk up and call him by Sally, this will cause him problems as well as yourself. Plus, you lose a good friend! Never create a problem for another crossdresser, ever! This also applies to visiting the person's home as well. When you call a friend up and make plans to meet some place or they invite you over, please make sure that they have no problems with you coming over crossdressed. Plus, make sure that you try to pass the best that you can, because this person has to live with the people around them. You would expect the same from others, would you not? Just learn to treat others like you'd like them to treat you.

Take care and we hope to see you at the April 27th meeting, same place, same time.

Love,
Rochelle Richards

Secretary's Report

Business Meeting Minutes for 3/14/91
by *Adrienne*

Those present at the meeting: Rochelle, Cindy, Carol, Adrienne, Eden, Marilyn, Lynda, and Susan.

1.) First order of business was that a committee needs to be formed to draft a constitution and a set of by-laws. Contacting other clubs to get examples was suggested. Four people volunteered to work on this: Adrienne, Marilyn, Cindy, and Eden.

2.) Budget needs to be prepared; we are locked in with the same meeting place through October, else before then. Items that have to be included are: phone, food, newsletter, printing, mailing, and funds for guest speakers. Plus each department needs to submit a budget. Lynda is attempting to obtain the financial records and I will work on the budget committee.

3.) Susan will coordinate with Carol on switching the club phone to her home and also go over screening procedures. We will try to keep the same phone number.

4.) Rochelle is working with Mary Ann to obtain the copies of all polices voted on in the last two years so that they can be included as part of the by-laws.

5.) We would like to have a club picnic this summer, Carol has offered us the use of her place in the country. Suggestions are that it be an all day affair, and the club would furnish the meat and each person just bring a side dish to share. This would be done instead of a meeting fee. We also need to decide on our Christmas Party location, majority of those present are in favor of having it at the same place as last year, Rochelle will bring it up at the next club meeting.

6.) We will need volunteers to work the booth at the gayfest this year.

7.) The welcome packet for prospective members is nearing completion.

8.) A proposal was made that the volunteer hostess at each meeting collect the money for the night and would not be charged a meeting fee for that night. This will be randomly selected from a pool of volunteers. An individual could only act as hostess with no meeting fee charged once in a calendar year. Once an individual has acted as hostess her name will be pulled from the pool. The proposal was voted on and past unanimously by those present.

9.) Rochelle requested that each officer prepare a short, written statement on what they view the goals and direction of the club should be for this year.

Carol's Corner

Hi, my name is Carol Newlove. I am your club's new *Member Representative*. While some of you who attend the meetings know me, I feel you should know some of my background. While I have been "out" for 16 years now, up until a few months ago, I never knew there was a group like the *Crystal Club*. In the short time I have been a member, I have made more new friends than in all the previous 16 years. Why is that? Well it's because we all have something in common. That unspoken instinct that makes us all sisters under the skin. I have asked myself what I could do to help the individual members, and the club as a whole. Getting elected to this office gives my dreams a vehicle to reality.

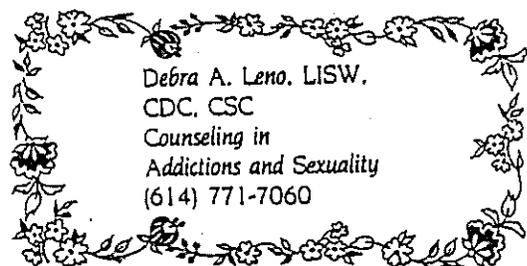
I feel that there are three most important areas to focus on, as *Member Representative*, they are:

1.) Do as much as I can to attract new members.

2.) Do all I can to help members with questions about the club, and on a personal and private basis create a comfortable and open access to our members in bringing your questions and concerns to our board meetings, and after discussion, reply to you the answers to your questions, and inquiries.

3.) Make our members *Active Members*. By this I mean getting those of you that haven't been coming to meetings to do so. If you feel uncomfortable going to the Saturday night meetings, then several of the girls have talked about a "Girls Night Out" as an alternative for those who can't make the regular meetings, and for those who want the companionship of going out with their friends. An evening with dinner, dancing, and hopping the night spots should make for a great night of fun. There's more time to talk about this in future newsletters. I did want to add though, for the past few month's I've attended some *CrossPort* meetings in Cincinnati which are held on the third Thursday of each month. It's only a half hour away, with a lovely drive, meeting super people, and a swell hotel and restaurant all add up to a cheap, enjoyable excursion. If you would like to contact *CrossPort* for more information, their new telephone number is 513-771-4933. Don't just think about it, do it. No excuses! Until next month...

Love, Carol



LUCAS PHARMACY

Specializing in Fitting
Breast Protheses
(By Appointment Only)
NANCY LUCAS

(Certified Fitting Consultant)

577 S. YEARLING RD.
Columbus, Ohio 43209
237-7636

3595 SULLIVANT AVE
Columbus, Ohio 43228
276-8098

He Called Me "Miss"

by Adrienne

Am I really...? I can't believe my courage? Audacity? Crazy? Or just stupidity? Oh, whichever, I've gone and done it, left the safety of my car and here I am, tottering through the parking garage on my way into the *City Center Mall*. New dress, new hair style, new shoes, and the most meticulous I have ever been with my make-up, already to show-off, no that's not right, I don't want that much attention.

Just proceed into the crowd - good lord look at them all! Just milling around the entrance, they know I'm here, waiting to laugh, to point and hassle me. I'll end up on the front page of the *Enquirer*, anyone who goes through the checkout lane at *Meijers* will see me revealed. Calm down you are pass the entrance, still walking - are those kids staring at me? What about that group of high school girls? No wonder dummy, you still have sunglasses on, and you won't pass for Sophia Loren!

Keep cool, as long as I believe what I am, feminine, I know I can pass. I know that I am walking correct, everything I am wearing is right for me, the best I have ever looked (would 12 mirrors lie?). I may pull this off yet - OH MY GOD! someone is tapping me on the shoulder. Maybe if I just continue walking he will go away, I know it's a man. Oh no, only this time he's saying "Mam." I'm caught, only 48 seconds into the mall and the dreaded "*Cross-Dress Police*" have found me, and now I'll be on the front page of *The Dispatch* too! I guess I'll have to stop... "Excuse me miss, but did you drop this?" A man in his mid 20s, handing me an earring, it's not mine, but he called me "Miss," looking right straight at me, four feet from my face! "Thank you," as sweet as I can and holding out my hand, he smiled and walked on.

I made it, I passed the test with flying colors, he called me "Miss." On to *Marshall Fields* and some other stores, just to walk. I am so excited and still a little nervous. There's a guy with his girlfriend, he just checked me out, a double-take. I know that head move, I have used it myself. I feel so good, so complete, and I still have the club meeting tonight. I wish everyone of the girls could have a like experience, so far beyond description, he called me "Miss!"

Marilyn's Miscellaneous

by Marilyn

My contributions to the *Chronicle* have been sparse lately, so I decided to share my thoughts on a couple of things.

As most of you know, we've put a sponsorship program in place and used it at the last two meetings. It was my privilege to have sponsored four ladies during the last two meetings. I'd like to formally welcome *Jamie, Allison, Lisa, and Linda G.* to the club. It was great meeting all of you and I hope we'll see all of you regularly. There may have been other newcomers that slipped by me, if so, welcome ladies and we look forward to seeing you again!

It was during sponsorship of newcomers that I noticed some wonderful things from the club members. As I introduced newcomers around, you engaged them in conversation and friendly discussion. This certainly made the newcomers feel welcome. I have to say though, that it's my feeling that the club members have become friendlier and more interactive with each other socially. I didn't sense this my first couple of meetings or so. Of course, I was new, but it seemed at the time there would always be a number of quiet ladies sitting around and five or six others would know each other and would be chatting in their own group. Now I feel as though everyone gets around and talks to everyone else. Maybe we're starting to come together as individual persons and as a more cohesive group. It now seems like members are really liking each other and enjoying the company of the club members. I'm becoming more aware of club members getting together in small groups and going out! This is great! We've been discussing a "Ladies' Night Out." It may not be that hard to do. Find a date, consolidate the several smaller groups that are going out now, and presto! We can make this happen.

DUNAGIN'S PEOPLE

By Ralph Dunagin



I think everyone is looking better everyday. *The Crystal Club* is a class act with classy people and again, my compliments to all of you for all that you are and what you are becoming. A special thanks to those who arranged and participated in the fashion show. This was a great program, and was loads of fun.

Mary Ann's comments in the last newsletter ring sad but true. My perspective has been the other way around from hers. Every woman in my family (eg. Mother, Sisters, Aunt, Wife, Mother-in-law) are all horrible interrupters. Rarely do I get to finish a sentence in a conversation. It is even worse in a group setting than in one on one conversation, because in a group they even interrupt each other. My answers to their questions usually devolve down to simple, concise, "yes," "no," "maybe." I learned to do alot of nodding. In "Marilyn mode," I talk alot, and I have to constantly be on guard to use good listening skills or I'll end up like other significant females in my life. Mary Ann's comments should serve to remind all of us, male and female, that we need to take turns speaking and listening, and convey that we do care what others have to offer.

I've been enjoying the Board meetings and hope more club members will come to them.

We have a great slate of new officers and they will lead the club in an excellent manner, but we members must bite off small chunks of responsibility to help them out. It's better if many people each do a little than if a few people do alot. Congratulations to Lana on an excellent newsletter her first time out. The cover was fantastic. Well thats all for now. Hope to see you all whenever possible.

Crystal Club Officers

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

T Be Or Not T Be

by Elaine Edwards

It is fun to be mentioned in newsletters, particularly when the remarks are as flattering as they were in the March issue of *The Crystal Chronicle*. There is one thing I take minor issue to, though. I am not fond of being called a TS or a TV or a "T-anything".

For a variety of reasons I don't like being labeled. I consider labels to be potentially dangerous things. Perhaps my greatest dislike is due to the fact that labels mean something; they are defining. I have known people to model their behavior to satisfy their label. This is not a healthy life style. Can a person actually become something simply by acting like what they desire to become? I don't think so, but this is exactly the approach many people take when selecting a lifestyle. Consider this line of thought:

I am not really thrilled being a boy, and I would like to be a girl, so I must be transsexual. If I am transsexual, then I have to start acting like one, so I will make an appointment to get a prescription for hormones...

It may sound silly, but people do think and act this way. They become influenced by a label and then trapped by it. Soon they have no free will and

their behavior is governed by how they think people expect them to behave. Skeptical? How many of you behave as men because people expect you to? Why do attorneys act the way they do? If you accept a label you are apt to sacrifice a bit of freedom in your range of acceptable behaviors. Yet acting the part can not change who you are -- it merely obscures who you are. Only when the labels are gone can one have the freedom to truly be who they are. Who knows, maybe you will discover you are not transsexual after all. You might be a transspeciesist and really want to be a manatee (I understand that because manatees are an endangered species you can get free species change surgery in Florida).

"Nice to meet you. I'm Elaine."

"Are you TV or TS?"

"I'm Elaine."

"Yes, I know, but I was wondering if you were a TS."

"No. I'm just Elaine."

"Then you're a TV?"

"No. I'm just Elaine."

"If you're not TS or TV then what are you? TG, CD, FI, DQ, GG?"

"I'm just Elaine. I yam what I yam and that's all what I yam." (Pause) "OK. If I have you totally confused and you must pin a label on me call me an eclectic individualist (but I think Elaine is easier to remember)."

17th Annual Outreach Institute

Fantasia Fair

In beautiful Provincetown, Mass.
Live the Fantasy!

October 18-27, 1991

For information write: Fantasia Fair, Kenmore Station, Box 368, Boston, MA 02215



FASHION
designer
Lynda
sams
614 • 861 • 2611

"You know, being a woman, It's not half bad... It's being both That's a bitch!"

--Steven/Amanda Brooks
in "Switch"

If you contact Fantasia Fair, please enclose a copy of this ad and The Crystal Club will receive a rebate, thank-you.

In The Media

by Lana

Recently, *Ladies Home Journal* advertised for celebrity look-alikes for various women such as Barbara Bush, Madonna, Connie Chung, Michelle Pfeifer, and Oprah Winfrey, the winners to appear on a future episode of *Oprah*. Jecquin Stitt, of Flint Michigan, sent in a photo and essay and was picked as the Oprah look-alike. Controversy reared it's ugly head when a local television station discovered that Jecquin is actually a man! Jecquin said he didn't deceive anyone, because he is currently undergoing "some changes." Beverly Keller, Jecquin's boss at the Flint Water Department said co-workers were partially to blame for pushing him into it, because of people always saying, "Hey you look so much like Oprah!" There were reports that *Ladies Home Journal* initially attempted to disqualify Jecquin, but they deny that. Editor-in-chief, Myrna Blyth, stated, "The rules did not say that you had to be a woman and after thinking it over, we decided we don't believe in sexual discrimination at *Ladies Home Journal* and Oprah felt very comfortable with it, so he's going to be on the show with Oprah, his look-alike." Oprah's production Company issued a statement saying Oprah's look-alike, man or woman, will be welcome to appear on the show scheduled for May 16th. Jecquin plans to say "Hey girlfriend, they keep telling me you look like me!"

Coming soon, *"Switch"*, a cynical satire from Blake Edwards. *"Switch"* starring Ellen Barkin, Jimmy Smits, Jo Beth Williams and Perry King, is a gender bender comedy film about a male chauvinist pig who learns the error of his ways after he is dead. Barkin has some funny moments playing a male ghost (Steven Brooks) who finds himself stuck in a woman's body. Steve's dead, but not quite eligible for heaven, so God gives him one last chance to redeem himself, but he has to do it in the body of a gorgeous blond! Actor, Jimmy Smits plays Walter, a man who confronts the mind of his best buddy wrapped in the body of Amanda Brooks. "I've always wanted to do a 'buddy-movie', who else better to do a 'buddy-movie' with than Ellen Barkin?", said Smits during an interview on *Entertainment Tonight*. Smits also admired the way Barkin researched her role as a guy. "Ellen was watching every male on the set, there were things in there where I said woo that's scary... she got it!" Barkin states, "I had to learn how to become a man and once I became a man, That's who I was. I even thought I was Steve Brooks!" Jo Beth Williams was also impressed with Barkin's performance, "Ellen was so into the behavior of a man and practicing all of that and everything, that I began to find myself looking at her as if she was a man trapped in this woman's body."

This all sounds very similar to the 1967 movie, *"Goodbye Charlie"*, which starred Debbie Reynolds and Tony Curtis. More recently, a low-budget film,

"Cleo/Leo" also had the same plot. Both movies were enjoyable, so I'm guessing that *"Switch"* will be entertaining as well. During an interview on *VH-1 Flix*, Ellen Barkin stated, "I like to see both sexes evolved in one person. It just makes for a more interesting... um... and I think that's how we were meant to be." Blake Edwards who also brought us Victor/Victoria, it would seem maybe agrees with Ellen. *"Switch"* will open in theaters around the country on May 10th.

According to *QFM 96 Rock Notes*, on April 1st, during a concert being held by Rod Stewart, A voluptuous blond strutted out on stage in high heels and tried to convince the crowd that she was Rod's wife. Turns out, it was an *April Fool* and the "woman" was none other than Elton John in drag!

THE FAR SIDE



In a barbarian faux pas that quickly cost him his life, Garth is caught drinking gruel with his pinky fingers extended.

Thank You

Kelly and Debbie would like to thank those responsible for the flowers the club sent to them last month after the meeting. I had the pleasure of spending a few hours with them on the 28th of March.

These again are two very important members. Kelly is one of our founders and the club owes her a round of thanks. We'll be glad to see them at the meetings again. I want to thank all of you that took the time to remember them in their time of need.

Thank you, Rochelle Richards

A "Be All You Want To Be" Scrapbook

by Belinda

Reprinted from the June '90 *Cross Port Inner View*

It's Tuesday afternoon, as in the Moody Blues song, and the feeling has returned to the big toes on both of my feet. I have just returned from the *Be-All-You-Want-To-Be* weekend in Pittsburgh. My feet suffered just a little from four straight days on heels. The little indentations on my earlobes, from clip-on earrings, have also disappeared. While I have vowed that I will convert to pierced ears, I will stay on high heels.

Where to start, to chronicle the glorious weekend? How about a description of the hotel lobby, which was actually a wide open mall in an atrium setting, with plants, a waterfall, and tables under canopies from both the bar and the restaurant. It was impossible to check in for the weekend without walking the length of this mall at least twice. I did it in black shorts, suspenders, and a zipped-down performance wear top, teetering with apprehension on my low heels. Whether or not this was an actual reality, I imagined all the eyes of the wool-suited corporate types on me as I walked here and there to get all signed in. A matronly looking woman wearing glasses on a chain (who turned out to be a hotel staffer) said "My Lord, just look at those legs! Just beautiful!" My nervousness evaporated like a fog.

I arrived Thursday afternoon and was to meet up with Cathy and Laurie and Candy Lee from our group along with Claudia and Dana from *IXE*. After a welcome seminar, all of us ladies boarded school buses to trek to downtown Pittsburgh and climb aboard a riverboat for a dinner cruise. For those of you unfamiliar with Pittsburgh, the city busted out of its status as a smoke-bound, rust belt sloth years ago. While on the first leg of riverboat tour, parapetted townhouses on the river bluffs, plus spanking new art deco architecture pleased the eye from every direction. We were all graciously and enthusiastically received by the riverboat staff. Such dignified treatment would continue on throughout the weekend.

Friday I awakened early to attend a ballroom dance session taught by my father. Actually, my father spells his last name differently, but this was a neat coincidence anyway. As many of you know, I have extensive dance experience but kept quiet about this fact while enjoying the class. Still it became obvious to the instructor that I knew what I was doing, and he kept using me for foxtrot and swing demonstrations.

Candy Lee found me after the dance lesson and excitedly told me about the fashion show scheduled for lunch. "You won't believe the gorgeous clothes you get to model," she said. Gloria, from the *Lavender and Lace Boutique* had set up a nifty little shop in one of the hotel suites, and she was providing clothes for the show. Eve from Chicago organized all the models. Word got out, or maybe I just admitted to Gloria that I adore spandex. She gave me a drop dead Zebra minidress to wear, along with a Body Glove top and pants aerobics outfit, also a powder-blue T-shirt dress. Candy Sue wore, at one point, a stunning bright green evening gown of satin and chiffon, which she was able to take home with her at a reasonable price.

Just when I was about to enter the luncheon in the zebra dress and 5" heels, Linda appeared from around a corner. As in previous years, she brought her whole family along, and they would enjoy the pool and the nearby Pittsburgh sights while she frolicked at the conference. All the vendors present for the *Be-All* kept booths near the dining room entrance. They included *Wigs by Rachel*, *Pretty Nails by Terri*, and the *Just For Me Boutique* which specializes in making custom clothes for us.

The night before, on the riverboat, Kay Gould took me by the arm and introduced me to Jim Bridges. She swore that I should do everything to get into one of his workshops, as he would enlighten me to all sorts of new makeup tricks. Cathy and I attended this workshop and we both agreed it was extremely helpful. Just a sample of the advice from this master, who served as the *Rolling Stones* makeup man from 1972 to 1984: put on all eye makeup first so that you can clear up the fallout which inevitably occurs, also do not put foundation on your neck (shave close instead -- he recommended using baby oil and shaving inside the hot shower). While teaching us all about shadows and foundation Jim kept the atmosphere lively with his anecdotes about experiences such as performing stunts for Barbara Stanwyck during the Big Valley filmings. They would put him in a dress and wig and topple him off Conestoga wagons or horses.

Along with my stunning new makeup I threw caution to the wind and became a blonde, as I've always wanted to do but never tried because I felt sure my coloring was all wrong. In his shop Jim had an ash blonde wig that was long and straight. For some reason that particular shade works with my

fair coloring and when I saw the results in the mirror I was hooked. I may never go back to being a brunette!

An all male chorus entitled the *Renaissance Group* sang for us after Friday's dinner. By the way all the dinners consisted of health conscious fare, turkey with stuffing, chicken with sauce, poached fish and the like. The chorus sang love songs such as "Begin the Beguine" and a few classic selections. At breakfast the next day we all kidded around that it would have been very funny if the group had sung The Lumberjack Song by *Monty Python*. That certainly would have broken up the classy atmosphere, which was the best thing about the conference.

Fast forward to Saturday, which consisted of an entire day of seminars. I had signed up for the Transsexual seminars and enjoyed discussions with Sister Mary Elizabeth and Christina Young about some highly charged topics such as telling family and friends (about your situation) and maintaining good professional relations with your employer through the transition. Sisters from all over the northeast and Chicago offered their input and made themselves available for in-between conversations. Many of the girls from D.C., in particular, were friendly to me.

Saturday night we all wowed to the Strut your Stuff talent show. Candy Lee composed the theme song to the event which she sang and played on guitar. Wendy Parker accompanied her and several other acts on the piano. Wendy turned out to be quite an amazing lady. She organized the talent show and in between numbers kept everyone doubled over at her brand of gender-related humor. I enjoyed the impressions, given in historical contexts, for example if Paul Lynde had taken Betsy Ross' place and designed the flag. She mimed holding the flag as if it was an afghan and wailed "Do you think it's too busy?" For the talent show itself, the acts consisted of diverse numbers -- one lady from Virginia played an expert flute while another from West Virginia sang and played guitar. Of course there were the lip sync performances and our own Valerie Johnson came from nowhere to perform a Taylor Dayne number.

Space prohibits me from rambling through a tour-de-force about this event, and I expect to bore many of you in *CrossPort* and elsewhere with all the details about it for many months to come. Yvonne Cook had tried to take me along to a Be-All conference way back in June 1987, just after I came out and joined *CrossPort* and she was there when I made it for the first time this year. Every night after the festivities concluded we would invade the *Expressions* lounge, a typical hotel bistro with loud music and absorb stares, questions, and a few well-placed whistles during our time at the convention. While I drove home I replayed all the events of the weekend and basked in the glow of all the support and strength I found through all the seminars and related conversations and smiled at the barrage of compliments I heard. I will see you there in Cleveland this year!



We Want Everyone in 91!

Come to Cleveland and...

BE ALL YOU WANT TO BE

June 5 - 9, 1991




Cleveland Airport Marriott
Cleveland, Ohio

Send your registration form,
payments, or requests for more information to:

BE ALL WEEKEND
P.O. Box 5124
Willowick, OH 44095

Or call the BE ALL Hotline: (216) 463-4865.

There will be something great for everyone in the CD/TS community. So, plan now to treat yourself to the freshest "Be All" of them all!

- Unique "cluster group" seminar schedule featuring new seminar topics, new speakers, information, and motivation.
- Entertainment & Enjoyment
- Sisterhood & Brotherhood

Sponsors: Paradise Club/Cleveland, Chi Chapter/Chicago, Transpitt/Pittsburgh, Crossroads/Detroit.



LAVENDER & LACE
Lingerie, Apparel, Makeovers
Leather, Wigs, TV/TS
21823 Van Dyke, Warren
Mon 11-5 Tues - Sat 11-7
Gloria or Jeanne 754-4570

The Goodbye Girl

I'd like to say good-bye to a good friend and member of *Crystal Club*. *Gina* is leaving us this month and I know I'll miss her. She helped me take that first step into the public's eye and look at me now. She always makes a person feel good about themself and the club needs all these type of people we can find. I wish her all the best in the world and hope that she will stay in touch. I know that what ever club she joins, they will be getting a real gem. *Gina*, you take our love and best wishes with you.

Love, Rochelle

I would also like to wish *Gina* a fond farewell! Last month, *Gina* attended her last *Crystal Club* meeting, however she plans to remain a member and visit us when she is in town. Two of the really great things about belonging to a club such as ours is that you meet some of the finest people, and you also belong to a larger network of clubs around the world. *Gina* has informed me that she has already made some contacts with the local club in her new city and they were able to assist her in finding a good place to move to. It's like automatically having *family* in just about every city! On behalf of all us in *The Crystal Club*, I want to tell *Gina* that she will be missed and thank her for all the wonderful memories and good times we have all shared with her. That's enough mush. Now get out of here, you crazy ol' bag!

Lana

Calendar of Events

5/3-5	GCTC	Weekend EnFemme	Houston
5/2	IXE	Meeting	Indianapolis
5/11	Alpha Omega	Meeting	Lakewood Oh.
5/11	Crossport	Weekenders Meeting	Cincinnati
5/15-19		"Esprit 91"	Port Angeles Wa
5/15	Crystal Club	Business Meeting	Columbus
5/16	Crossport	Meeting	Cincinnati
5/18	Paradise	Meeting	Cleveland
5/25	Crystal Club	Meeting	Columbus
6/5-9	Paradise	"The Be-All"	Cleveland
10/3-6	Kappa Beta	Southern Comfort	Atlanta
10/18-27	Outreach Institute	Fantasia Fair	Boston

Poetry Page

Who I Am

*I think I'll take some time today
To step into some hose
And yes, before you've time to say
I'll admit... I'm one of those.*

*The time has come for you, my friend
To meet the other me
I'll try to help you comprehend
What it's like to be a TV.*

*I'll tell you of the ups and downs
The buying sprees and purges
I'll mention all the shoes and gowns
And coping with strong urges.*

*I'll try to make you understand
A life of constant stress
And even though I am a man
The thrill of a new silk dress.*

*And now you look at me with doubt
For keeping others guessing
But girls are still what it's all about
Even though I'm into "dressing."*

*So please don't shake your head and sigh
and put me down among the damn
Or wish for a cure that I won't try
'Cause I'm quite content with who I am.*

-- *Gina Thompson*

Door Of Dreams

*I often passed the Door Of Dreams
But never stepped inside,
Though sometimes, with surprise, I saw
The door was open wide.*

*I might have gone forever by,
As I had done before,
But one day, when I passed, I saw
You standing in the door.*

-- *Jessie Rittenhouse*
1918