



The Crystal CHRONICLE.



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May 1991

Why We Do The Things We Do

Could The Concept of Reincarnation Provide
Answers to Unlock the Mysteries of Gender Dysphoria?

Editorial
by Pieranna DiMartini

The one question which has always plagued me, and probably all members of the crossdressing community, is "Why do we do it?" This is not a question which can easily be answered. The explanation for the enigma of crossdressing has been searched for in many areas. Many theories and ideas have been proposed and juggled back and forth for years, and while some of these can, and have, provided some insight into our condition -- which appears to be much more widespread than any of us would have surmised -- they ultimately fail in satisfying all the questions.

It is difficult for the individual to embrace theories which at best can only be taken in a general sense and apply them satisfactorily to him/herself. While some explanations may provide answers for some, others find them inadequate or at least incomplete. Each individual has his or her own motivations when it comes to the activity of crossdressing which may or may not be understandable to the crossdresser him/herself. Even if the motivations are understood, they usually are only to a certain extent. The crossdresser may accept his/her behavior by stating, "I crossdress because I have certain feminine/masculine qualities and feelings within me which need expression, and this is one way of expressing them." But once this has been affirmed, he/she may then ask, "Why do I possess these qualities when society says I should not, and why am I so compelled to express them?" This leads the individual in a virtual circle, and ultimately he/she gets nowhere. Some come to terms with their behavior, accept it, and reach a partial understanding of their condition. These are the lucky ones.



Continued on page 6...

Murphette's Laws

by Kerry Sorrell

from "LIFELines", Long Island Femme Expression

Here are a few sister laws to Murphy's Law ("Anything that can go wrong will go wrong") ...

1.) No matter how many times you relieve your bladder before you get dressed, you will always have to go to the bathroom after the last finishing touch is made.

2.) No matter how quiet your neighborhood or apartment building is when you are getting dressed, it will look like Grand Central Station the moment you choose to leave.

3.) Whenever you are getting out of your car (even at 3:00 AM on a cold winter night), there will be a guy walking his dog past you at the exact moment you choose to leave your car.

4.) Just as you are almost finished getting dressed, a cousin, friend, or Jehovah's Witness will unexpectedly ring your doorbell.

5.) The cable television will always go out just as *Geraldo* is about to introduce his first "Trapped In-Between The Sexes" guest.

6.) That bottle of perfume will always decide to burst while in your favorite and most expensive handbag.

7.) Although you have a history of passing police radar patrol cars doing 75 MPH and not getting caught, you will be pulled over while in drag and driving at 57 MPH.

8.) No matter how hard you try, the next car over (the one loaded with curious, drunk teenagers) will always find a way to line itself up with your car at a red light.

9.) The weather will always be unbearably hot, cold, windy, rainy, etc., on the night you choose to go out.

10.) If you think that there is a chance that an acquaintance or friend (who doesn't know about your crossdressing) will be at a place where you will be in drag, he or she WILL be there.

*** SPECIAL "PRESS-ON NAILS MURPHETTE'S LAWS: ***

11.) It will always work out that you have ten nails and only nine press-on nail tabs.

12.) When you drop a nail under the table you are sitting at, it will always go to the exact dead center of the table, difficult to reach from any side.

13.) That missing press-on nail will always show up in an embarrassing place Monday morning -- like stuck to the back of your suit.

14.) No matter how many different brands of press-on nails you buy, you never get a thumb that really fits.

courtesy CrossTalk

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(614) 237-4321

Publication Notice and Club Policies

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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

by Rochelle

I like the way we took a meeting night that nothing was planned and turned it into a success. With three new people and six visitors from other clubs we had a total of thirty one attend the April meeting. I hope that all of you will take the time to remember we have replaced all the old officers and it takes time for the new people to adjust. We have been a little late with the newsletter and hope that you will bare with us as we try to get it out a little soon in the future. It takes time to put out a good newsletter and we have one of the best and we will try different things to get it out faster.

We will be having Voshi Douglas a local fashion designer at the May 25th meeting. We'll be asking some of you that would be interested in modeling to help us out. This can be as much fun as the last one if we let it. Also we need to remember that it's up to every one of us to greet and make welcome any and all newcomers.

The gayfest will be held June 23rd and we will be looking for people to help set the booth up, work the booth, and take photo's. Set up is at ten that morning and will need to be worked from about eleven till six. Anyone able to help please contact me before then so we can make plans. We have also set a date and time for the first girls night out. This will take place on Friday June 14th about 8:00 . We will start at the Grapevine Cafe' on Gay Street. We'll Choose a spot to follow after that. So those of you that are looking to make that first night out mark the date and hope to see many of you old timers too. The June board meeting will be on June 13th at Adrienne's. You will have to get with her for directions and if you would like we can meet at my place and car pool. I have plenty of room in my car.

Cross-dressing shoplifters plague merchants in area

Cheryl Smith
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

FORT PIERCE — A tall, skinny black man in a green floral dress is believed to have stolen some clothes from a Sabal Palm Plaza shop on Wednesday, leaving behind eight lipstick-covered alarm sensors that he apparently bit off, the manager said.

The incident is just one in a recent rash of men in dresses ripping off businesses in St. Lucie and Martin counties.

Police say the cross-dressing shoplifters may have their origins in a 2-year-old West Palm transvestite burglary ring. Seven men linked to that same group were arrested here two and three years ago.

Several suspicious sightings of men dressed as women have been reported to local authorities lately, with some of the complaints coming from security guards at Orange Blossom Mall and at clothing stores elsewhere.

Last month, a Port St. Lucie pawn shop owner told sheriff's deputies he saw a tall, skinny black man with a five o'clock shadow slipping something under his pink-and-blue floral dress. Men in dresses are believed to be responsible for three shoplifting cases in the Jensen Beach Treasure Coast Square Mall, two at JC Penneys and one at Sears, officials say.

In the latest incident at Kick in the Pants, the same transvestite seen in the store on Friday is believed to have stolen at least four pairs of shorts and jeans, the store manager said.

Carol's Corner

Since last month's *Chronicle*, the *Crystal Club* has a new telephone number. It's (614) 237-4321 ! That's easy to remember. If you ever meet anyone with interest in the club, have them call for quick service.

Several of you asked me if I was going to the *Be-All* in Cleveland? business will be in the way of this convention, but I'll be going to the *Southe. Comfort* get together later this year. I look at it this way, in that everytime I'm out, I make it my "Be All." You get the picture.

If you are one of those members who gets the newsletter, but never makes the meetings, please accept a warm welcome to visit, and meet the rest of us. We're eager to meet you. If you can't make the meeting for some reason, give me a call, and I'll join you for a night out of fun. If you have anything to talk about personally, we can do it at the next meeting. Don't forget our new number, 237-4321... Don't leave home without it!

Until next month,

Carol Newlove

Wendy Carlos

In 1968, at age 29, Wendy (then Walter) Carlos revolutionized music with her groundbreaking album "*Switched-on Bach*." Working in conjunction with producer Rachel Elkind, Carlos combined multi-track taping and synthesizer equipment developed by Rodger Moog to create a new style of music. This album introduced millions of new listeners to the world of electronic music, and was followed by "*The Well-Tempered Synthesizer*" (using Bach, Monteverdi, Scarlatti, and Handel sources), "*Switched-On Bach II, By Request*" (using sources as varied as Bach, Tchaikovsky and the Beatles, as well as some original works), and "*Sonic Seasonings*." In addition, Carlos and Elkind scored Stanley Kubrick's 1971 film "*A Clockwork Orange*," a film whose plot hinged on music. Known as a reclusive composer, Carlos made few public appearances between 1972 and 1979. In 1979, an interview in *Playboy* magazine revealed that Walter Carlos was now Wendy Carlos. Since then, her output has continued, with the "*Brandenburg Concertos*" (more Bach), "*Digital Moonscapes*," "*The Beauty And The Beast*," "*The Secrets Of Synthesis*," the score for Kubrick's 1980 adaptation of "*The Shining*," the score for the 1982 film "*Tron*," and a version of "*Peter And The Wolf*" narrated by "Wierd Al" Yankovic.

Mary Ann

Odds & Ends

by Lana

First, I would like to apologize for being late with the newsletter last month. Second, I'd like to apologize for being late with the newsletter this month! What can I say? I could bore you with plenty of excuses, but instead I'll just say I'm sorry and promise to do better.

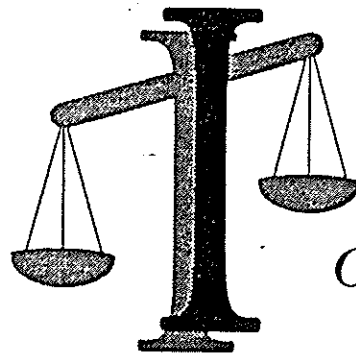
Our treasurer, Lynda, has been having an extremely difficult time getting together the former treasurer to get our financial records in order. She informed me that she did have a commitment to meet with her very soon. Hopefully, we can provide a financial report next month. Also, Lynda won't be able to make this month's meeting. She will be recovering from minor surgery, no not SRS, I said minor! Anyone wishing to send her a get well card can send it to the club's P.O. box and we'll be sure she gets it.

Last month's meeting was a fun one. I would personally like to thank Linda Buten for being our "guest speaker." It wasn't planned, but she was gracious enough to address the group when Rochelle asked her. Linda, as you may know, is on the board of directors of I.F.G.E. as well as being a member of *CrossPort* and was recently the *Tapestry* covergirl. She gave a super "off-the-cuff" talk and, as she usually does, livened things up. Thanks again, Linda and Ginger, for driving all the way up from Kentucky to be with us and com'on back soon. Speaking of driving a long way, Dana and Elaine drove all the way from Indianapolis again and they brought Shannon with them, actually I think they said they made Shannon drive.

A very special welcome to all the new members who attended in April. There were many new faces. I think we're gonna have to get serious about finding a bigger meeting place soon!

While on vacation in Florida recently, Adrienne came across a news article in the *Tampa Tribune* about crossdressing shoplifters. It's on page three. What's next... a movie titled "*CrossDressing Madness?*" If I didn't know better, I'd suspect it was one of Elaine's "press releases."

Don't forget to send in your registration for the "Be-All" if you are planning on going. It's only a few weeks away. I just got my registration packet in the mail today. This will be my first time to a major convention. I'm not sure how many of you are planning on going from *Crystal Club*, but Cathy from *CrossPort* reports that she and Laurie along with Linda, Elaine, Claudia, and Belinda are all planning on being there. And I'm sure some of our sisters from *IXE* will attend. Cathy says, "It's not too late to register and it's simply the best time you'll have in a long time!" I'm looking forward to it and I hope I see you there!



A Bill of Gender Rights

by JoAnn Roberts

It is time for the transgendered community to take a strong stand, against all gender based discrimination simply because some people are different and simply because some people do not fit into current social norms of gender roles. It is time the gender-based community articulate this stand in the words that clearly define exactly what their gender rights are. It is time to stand alongside other minority rights movements to declare these gender rights as follows:

The Right To Choose A Gender Role

Every human being has within themselves an idea of who they are and what they are capable of achieving. That identity and capability shall not be limited by a persons physical sex, nor by what any society may deem as "masculine" or "feminine" behavior. It is fundamental, then, that each individual has the right to chose a gender role that is comfortable for them, regardless of their genetic sex or sex role.

Therefore, no person shall be denied their Human and Civil Rights on the basis that their chosen gender role or perceived gender role is not congruent with their genetic sex or sex role.

The Right To Freely Express A Gender Role

Given that each individual has the right to chose a gender role, it then follows that each individual has the right to freely express that gender role in any manner that does not infringe on the freedom of another individual.

Therefore, no person shall be denied their Human rights and Civil Rights on the basis that a private or public expression of their chosen gender role or perceived gender role is not congruent with their genetic sex or sex role.

The Right To Make One's Body Congruent With Gender Role

Given that each individual has the right to chose a gender role, it then follows that each individual has the right to change their body or alter its physiology so it better fits their chosen gender role. These changes may be cosmetically, chemically or surgically induced, provided these

changes are supervised by the appropriate licensed professional and the individual accepts sole responsibility for their actions in this regard.

Therefore, no person shall be denied their Human or Civil Rights on the basis that they changed or wish to change their body, cosmetically, chemically, surgically or any combination of these, to better fit their chosen gender role.

The Right To Sexual Expression Congruent With Gender Role

Given that each individual has the right to chose a gender role, it then follows that each individual has the right to express their sexuality within their chosen role.

Therefore, no person shall be denied their Human and Civil Rights on the basis of sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation. Further, no individual shall be denied their Human and Civil Rights for expressing their chosen gender role through private sexual acts between consenting adults.

[You can contact JoAnn Roberts at P.O. Box 1263 King of Prussia, Pa. 19404. Or call (215) 640-9449]

Gender Alternatives League (GAL)

The Gender Alternatives league is now being formed. At present, it is a small organization indeed. We hope to change that - infact the gender community is ready for that change.

GAL consists of the seeds of your ideas. The time is now for the gender community to bring those needs into fruition. There has been talk and now there is action!

It is our goal to achieve freedom of gender expression for all persons in our community. It is our primary purpose to help and support the gender community as a whole in the area of educational and political activism. GAL will in no way usurp any of the programs, ideas or purposes of any other gender organization, but will instead channel and enhance the ability of all organizations to have the clout necessary to advance their best interests within the society at large. In working together, we can achieve what individuals only dream of. Whether you are a crossdresser, transvestite, transsexual, transgenderist, male to female or female to male, a helping professional, or a supportive other, it does not matter. As long as you are in the gender community or connected to the gender community in some way we are here to help and support you.

It is our intention to bring all members of the gender community together as one unified group, regardless of the labels or differences between us,

for the betterment of our community as a whole, and for the betterment of all individuals within it. We, acting together, can create a large enough force to make the difference. We intend to support and back women's liberation, gay rights, civil rights and the all encompassing human rights organizations and further to communicate with, cooperate with, collaborate with and form a coalition with any minority in it's endeavor for human rights, dignity, and justice for all on a national and international level. Basic human freedoms are for everyone.

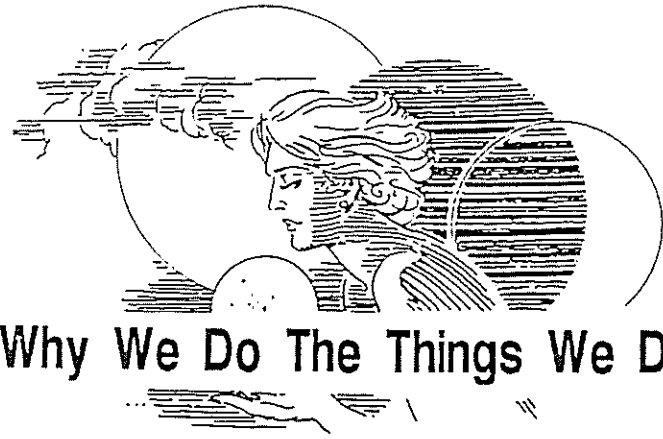
We would also like to become a watchdog for the community root out the notion that the gender community is a small group of individuals and organizations that through some "mental illness" are practicing something "abnormal." We do what we do because we have a predisposition towards transgenderism, we enjoy it because it is our "personal preference." There is nothing immoral or abnormal about it. We hurt no-one. The pain that those close to us feel because of our preference is not brought on by what we do, but by the stigma placed on us by the mental health organizations and those people in our society who will not tolerate freedom of expression.

Some of our other goals are to have transgenderism removed from future DSM and other psychiatric manuals as a "mental illness," which it is not, to suppress negative or bigoted misinformation and make positive information about us available to the public, and to take legal action when it is necessary.

I can't wait for the day we can all come out of the closet and enjoy life. Everyone else has rights in our society. Women gained the right to vote in 1920. Blacks and most other minorities gained their civil rights in 1964. In the seventies women gained the right to equal pay for equal work. We lose discrimination cases in the courts because we are not included in the laws. What have these other minorities done to gain their rights? In the 80's I heard rumors in our community about a gender movement in the future and here I am, still in the closet looking out. What can I do?...

Wake up, smell the coffee, it's the future! Freedom has never been gained by the good will of the majority. The freedoms gained by blacks, women, gays and others have been gained by activism and a unity of action. "No-one will do for us what we will not do for ourselves." The new transgenderist has become a freedom fighter - an activist - a free spirit. "Say no to bigotry and discrimination and say yes to freedom and gender expression." For more information, please contact us:

GENDER ALTERNATIVES LEAGUE
P.O. box 3392, Napa Ca. 94558
(707) 257-1973



Why We Do The Things We Do

by Pieranna DiMartini

...Continued from front cover

But there are those who do not come to terms with it, and who consequently torment themselves with fear and guilt and self-condemnation. These are the ones most in need of an answer, an explanation which can set their minds at ease and enable them to accept and understand their behavior and themselves.

It is difficult, and often useless, to try to construct one single all-encompassing theory and attempt to fit a wide variety of people into this one mold without running the risk of creating a stereotype. That is, unless there is one universal force at play which is endemic to all crossdressers regardless of each individual's conscious reasons and motivations. We all know that we enjoy doing it, and certainly there are sexual and fetishistic aspects attached to the practice. But have we forgotten that there was another reason, probably not consciously known, that compelled us the first time we delved in such behavior? We found that we enjoyed it, and continued to do so because of the enjoyment, but we didn't enjoy it until we did it, and something made us do it the first time. Since most of us began in early childhood, at a time when we were unaware of the sexual realities we were to discover later on, we cannot diagnose sexual feelings as being the original cause of our motivation. Whatever new reasons motivate us to repeat the activity now are secondary; something else, something intrinsic and deep-rooted, provided the initial stimulus and set the course we were to follow. I believe that stimulus is inherent in every crossdresser and is, in fact, a universal condition. And I believe it involves the theory of reincarnation.


I am treading on some very touchy territory here, as it has been my experience that religion is a subject most people take very personally, whether they hold a certain belief or none at all. In this article it is not my wish to impose my own personal convictions upon anyone else, but it is my wish to share with others who are in the same boat as I something which has helped put many things into perspective for me, and answered many of my

questions. If in sharing these insights and information I can help others find answers that may also bring them understanding and peace of mind, then the benefits of what I have learned will increase a millionfold.

I will not attempt to give here a complete discussion on the subject of reincarnation; that would take an entire book. Many volumes have been written on the subject, and for those interested in studying further, I will recommend three. They are "Many Mansions", "The World Within", and "Many Lives, Many Loves", all written by Gina Cerminara. These can be found at your local library. But in discussing some aspects of reincarnation and their possible link to crossdressing, I will explore a few basic tenets of the religion.

The theory of reincarnation has been with us since ancient times, and although most people familiar with the term believe it to be specifically a Hindu or Buddhist doctrine, it is in fact implied in many religions. But nowhere is it more spoken of or universally accepted than in Eastern faith, and it is interesting to note that from this philosophy also came the idea that the universe is a balance of masculine and feminine energies, and that these energies exist within all human beings regardless of their physical gender. The basic premise of reincarnation is one with which most Westerners are acquainted, whether or not they believe in the theory that human beings live not one life but many. Obviously, if such were the case, the reincarnating individual would not come back as the same person, but as a different person each time.

This is where most Westerners shake their heads and scoff at the very notion. Firmly rooted in their own identity, in the person they see in the mirror and in the here and now, they cannot accept the possibility of having been and of one day being someone else. But therein lies the fault of their reasoning, for the theory of reincarnation does not claim that an individual will die and come back as someone else. Rather, what is at the core of the individual, the soul, returns in a different body, just as an actor adopts a different role or character when beginning a new play. Just as the actor beneath the disguise is always and forever the same identity regardless of what is temporarily visible on the surface, the true identity of the human being, the soul, remains the same regardless of the physical bodies it may don in its many lives.



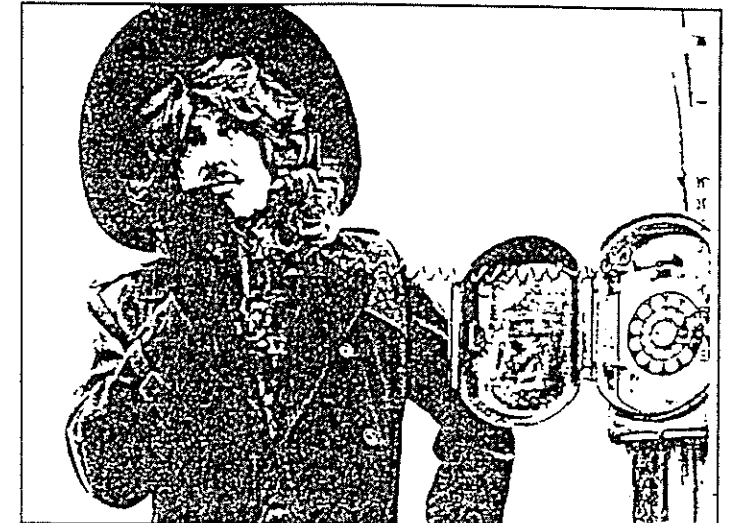
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Think of the human body as a vessel we climb into in order to journey through this condition we call life, just as an automobile is a vehicle we climb into to traverse physical distances in this life. You may be satisfied to drive a certain kind of car one year, then trade it in for a different model the next. Or you may be content to drive it until the engine simply won't run anymore, or until the car is wrecked irreparably, at which time you have to get another one. So you do. But does the switch change you in any way, are you a different person simply because the car round you is a different one? There may be some variations in how you drive the car, or in how and when you use it and what you use it for. And different cars may require a different approach, making it necessary for you to adapt accordingly. Certainly, there will be a noticeable difference in your attitude if at first you drive a conservative station wagon and then get behind the wheel of a sleek, exotic Ferrari. But whichever car you drive, the essential you will remain essentially the same. And so it is with different bodies. The manner in which the soul expresses itself will depend on the type of body through which it is functioning, but its basic personality and traits, its identity, will remain the same. It will simply be showing different aspects of its multi-faceted nature, just as people do in different circumstances.

The only other argument usually levelled against the prospect of reincarnation is that it seems absolutely ludicrous that a person could live more than one life at all. Our understanding is that we are born, we live, and then we die. But while most people think it absurd that a person could actually die only to be born again, it was Voltaire who put it perfectly, stating that it was more incredible to be born at all than to be born more than once. If it could be done once, then why not twice, or ten times, or ten thousand? If you accept this reasoning, you may then ask, "Why does a person need to be reborn so many times in the first place?" The doctrine of reincarnation answers that by stating that physical life as we know it is simply a classroom for the development and learning of souls, and to believe that any one soul could mature fully and reach its highest potential within the limitations of one specific lifetime and one specific life condition is ridiculous. In any one lifetime, each of us is limited in our range of choices: our interests and dislikes, our friends and enemies, our dedications and vocations. Some of our conditions seem already to have been made for us, such as our intelligence, our physical appearance, even our gender. When we compare ourselves to the many other people around us and the variety of life, we are hit hard with the realization that there are so many things which apparently we will never experience or understand, or even know of their existence.

But the purpose of life is to experience as many things as we can and to draw knowledge and growth from them. And this is impossible to do within the confines of just one lifetime, just as it is impossible for a student to obtain a fully rounded education by being removed from school after only the first grade. Each of us must come



Dabney Coleman as Aunt Bea in *Meet the Applegates*

back time and time again to the same school, like the student, and each time we will experience a new life condition toward the goal of rounding out our spiritual development. He who is poor in one life may be wealthy the next; he who is timid may come back and become president of a large corporation in order to develop strength of character and decisiveness; he who is a loner may come back and become a celebrity to obtain the personal growth that comes from interaction with many different people and situations. And he who is one gender, may come back as the other. From this we can deduce that the soul, regardless of the limitations imposed upon it by any one specific lifetime, is in itself limitless, possessing within it the possibility for everything that can be contained within an infinite universe. It is a chameleon.

Most people who are religious agree on one point, regardless of their denomination -- that each human being possesses a soul, some part of the personality which transcends the physical. In Eastern faith, this soul, or entity, being non-corporeal, cannot be defined in physical terms. It is neither male nor female, as these are physical characteristics, but it is androgynous, and as such is both masculine and feminine -- these being spiritual characteristics. When an entity is born, it does so within a physical body, and therefore must incarnate in either a male or female body. In the course of its many lives, it incarnates in bodies of both sexes. Thus, it is restricted, in a physical sense, to being either one or the other of the sexes in any one life but this does not affect its androgyny, its internal balance of masculine/feminine energies. At least, it should not. But somewhere along the line of human history, it was decided to equate masculinity with the male and femininity with the female. The words masculine and male were made synonymous, as was done with the words feminine and female. Consequently, physical and spiritual qualities were thrown together into one lump sum, when one didn't necessarily have anything to do with the other. Males were expected to display only those qualities that could be considered masculine, and the reverse situation was

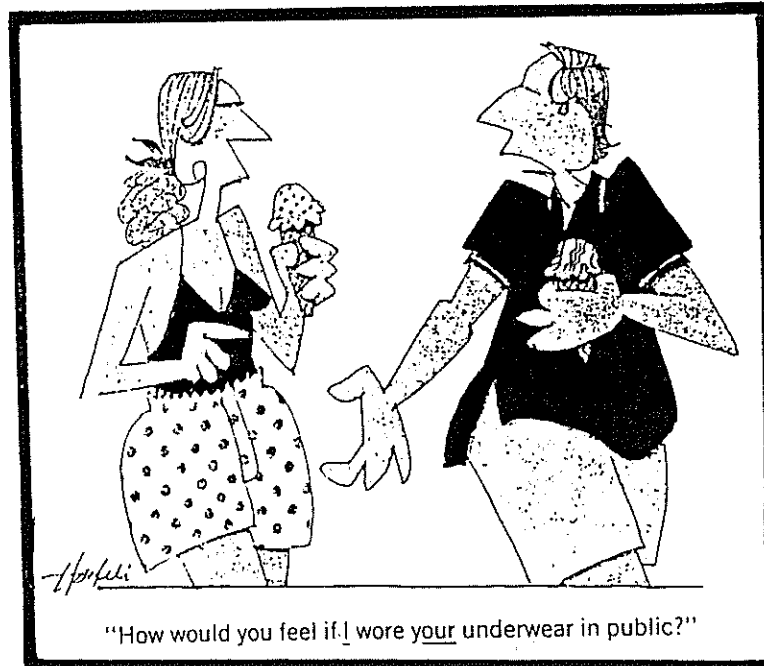
inflicted on females. The effect on the androgynous entity was unhealthy; it was forced to neglect half of its total being and was therefore crippled, resulting, on an individual basis, in the abandonment of the entity's inherent wholeness, and on a larger scale, in a schism between the physical sexes.

If one looks at nature, one realizes that this kind of segregation between the sexes occurs only in the human species. Most animals, apart from exhibiting certain sexual behavior and characteristics, do not present a discernable difference between males and females to the observer. In fact, in the case of certain animals, it is sometimes very difficult to ascertain their sexual identity without a glance at their genitalia.

Not so with men and women. It is not enough that they already have certain obvious and inherent physical differences. Their genitalia are used as a basis to prescribe their emotional and spiritual differences as well, when there shouldn't be any difference at all. The distinction between them must be made, literally enforced, to the point of absurdity. The male must have his own code of behavior and dress to make sure no one can possibly mistake him for a female, his life meticulously planned to the smallest details of expression and activities in which he can partake. The same is done with the female. And it is stretched to the point where the sexes are alienated from each other, as though they were two different species existing side by side but each living in its own specialized world. The only common ground they have is the bedroom, where the activity they share is in reality the only one in which their physical differences and characteristics come into play and have any relevancy at all. Thus we find that until recent times, men have been expected to live up to often impossible expectations, performing like puppets a kind of programming which has been instilled in them, and women have been relegated to little more than second-class citizens unable to compete in a man's world.

All of this has been said before, and to anyone who has even remotely done some thinking on the subject of gender related issues, none of it is new. To the crossdresser, it is old hat. The crossdresser has already discovered the reality that within him/her there are emotional and spiritual qualities which society has always maintained rightly belonged to the other sex. But having been conditioned by everything in the environment around him/her, he/she subconsciously suppresses those qualities in daily life, and then finds those neglected qualities yearning to be expressed in some manner. Adopting the clothes of the opposite sex somehow enables those qualities to reveal themselves freely, as though some block has been removed. The crossdresser temporarily suspends the surface disguise and all the excess and unnecessary baggage that goes along with it -- and only when the physical condition has been transcended and the handicap removed can the entity within the male or female body achieve its original and natural state of androgyny, of wholeness.

Thus, crossdressing may have its sexual motivations on the surface, but the main thrust behind it has nothing to do with physical sexual condition as we know it. And if dressing in the clothing of the opposite sex is wrong solely on a sexual basis, then those who judge it to be wrong are doing so with severely limited criteria. We say a man is dressing as a woman because he puts on a dress, but this statement falls apart when we realize that this is so only in the sense that the dress is the accepted garment assigned to women. It could have been the other way around; women could have worn the pants throughout history and men have worn the skirts. In some instances, this exactly has been the case. Clothes are merely an invention, another of society's many ways to segregate the sexes and assign methods of expression, and when a man puts on a dress, he is not dressing as a woman; he is simply putting on the type of clothing which allows a woman to freely express her femininity and can allow him to express his suppressed femininity as well.



"How would you feel if I wore your underwear in public?"

If the entity in fact lives many physical lives, as is held by the doctrine of reincarnation, we see that there is more to the concept of androgyny than Ying and Yang. Since the entity can and does incarnate sometimes in a male body and sometimes in a female body, we realize that being male or female is simply a temporary physical condition, and that our true nature has nothing to do with, and should not be limited or restricted by, such condition. Being male or female means being equipped to perform a specific sexual function, for that is the manner in which physical beings must reproduce on this planet. Being a human soul, on the other hand, means being equipped to be as spiritually and emotionally complete and whole a person as possible -- admittedly a difficult undertaking in a world in which we are so forced to adhere steadfastly to the physical and the material.

We have seen the damage that spiritual incompleteness and fracturing has inflicted on the individual, and on society as a whole. Men have had the propensity to be overly aggressive and women have been much too passive. Only now have we begun a trend toward spiritual oneness and sexual equality with the emergence of the "sensitive male" and the development of the secure female capable of taking charge of her life and being allowed to do so. But the imbalance has cost us dearly, and taught us some very hard lessons. To name just one consequence, most of the wars on this planet might have been avoided if excessive masculine aggression had been tempered by feminine reason and understanding.

I am reminded here of a science-fiction story in which a man was split into two people -- one embodying his "good" side, the other his "evil" side. The good side was gentle, compassionate and wise, but also weak and indecisive. The evil side was strong and resolute, but also brutal and animalistic. Separated from each other, neither of the halves could survive, and were in fact dying, as if some vital ingredient necessary for life had been removed from them. When they were rejoined, the man was saved and performed as a fully functional, cooperative unity. The same could have happened to a woman had she been the protagonist of the story.

I'd like to think of those two halves of the original man not so much as his good and evil sides, but as the masculine and feminine energies of the entity incarnated as that man. The feminine aspect of his soul was possessed of all the qualities we normally call "good", but without the strength of will of the masculine, it was ineffectual. Conversely, the masculine side, lacking the balancing effect of its feminine counterpart and complement, was aggressive to the point of behaving in a manner we traditionally regard as "evil". However, I tend to believe that in this universe there is no such thing as good and evil, not in the traditional sense. Rather, I see the universe as containing a polarity of masculine and feminine energies, which singly are incomplete and create chaos, and which together uphold the natural order of things and create proper unity.

Our only salvation and redemption as individuals and as a race is to successfully merge and utilize the masculine and feminine energies within each of us, and to realize that men and women are not opposites, but simply two variations of the same design. Rather than the traditional concept of good and evil as opposing forces forever battling each other, our eternal struggle has been the unnecessary war between the masculine and feminine aspects within each of us. These aspects need not be at odds with each other or conflict; indeed, they must cooperate with each other, each present to help the other when it needs a hand. And if it is true that human souls live many lives which are as varied as the roles on an actor's resume, then all of us have a joint heritage and common bond regardless of whatever physical characteristics we may possess at any one time. And only in reaffirming this bond and achieving this wholeness within can we come to understand ourselves, and each other. All the world's a stage in the truest sense, and as players we must each perform our part, but we must have at our command the others' lines if we are to know where we fit in. We are all part of an immense, rotating cast.

An interesting thought occurs here, and if true, it would further validate and explain the purpose for reincarnation and the juggling of physical identities. It is entirely possible that more and more entities are being reborn as the opposite sex as a means of developing that part of themselves which may have been neglected and suppressed during the previous lifetime as the other gender. As a direct result of the stereotyping imposed on an entity incarnated in one lifetime as a man, that entity may return by necessity as a woman in order to experience and develop that part of its nature it would have the chance to only as a woman. Should that entity return yet again later on as a man, it certainly would have no desire to be restricted by sexual stereotyping of any kind.

Perhaps some day in the future there will be true androgyny in the physical world. There will still be males and there will still be females, but that will remain the only distinction between them. They will dress alike, live as they wish, express themselves as they wish, and perform whichever services to society they are able and willing to do and not those imposed upon them, thus realizing their full potential. For now, crossdressing seems to be one of the methods we have unconsciously devised to repair the rift. The mistake I feel some crossdressers make is in creating a second persona, a new identity separate and apart from themselves. One danger of this split personality (and I speak from experience) is that a man will tap his buried femininity only while in feminine guise, but will behave in an overly aggressive manner when dressed in male clothing, widening the rift within himself. But if a man sees himself simply as being "me" regardless of what he is wearing, not as a man or as a woman, the clothing will lose its sexual and psychological connotations and become simply a means of emotional and spiritual expression. It should be realized that the second self is not a second self at all, but a manifestation of half of

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A Few Words On Voice

by Laura J. Walker

JoAnn Roberts takes an entire book to tell us that to talk as a woman, we need to use the motions, the expressions, the tilts of the head, the eye movements, the brow inclinations and the words and phrases that the type of woman we would like to emulate would use in her conversation. All girls learn how to express themselves mostly from the other women that they admire. We girls can do the same. JoAnn also talked to a lesser degree about pitch: Just use your male voice plus two notes up to start your female voice. It will be within the lower limits of most female speaking voices. Start with your normal voice "doe," then go to "re" and then to "me." Now start talking at the "me" voice pitch level. It's not hard and soon becomes natural. Speak a little more softly without being too breathy and you'll soon be talking in a passable, woman's voice. Try it... you'll love it.

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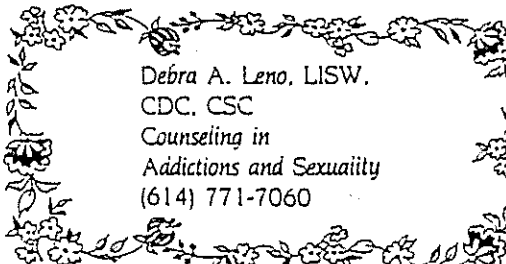


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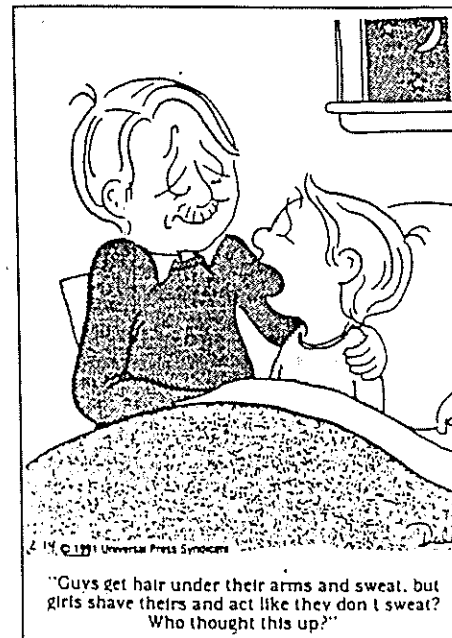
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Celebrity Quotes

"A real man doesn't need an excuse to wear a dress!" -- David Letterman to Michael J. Fox in an interview on November 23, promoting the movie "Back To The Future Part II". (Billie Hughes)

"I think the most interesting men I've met are the ones who are in touch with their femininity. They are the strongest men. I dislike men who totally suppress their femininity." -- Madonna "Kiara"

"Everyone has their unique path. Everybody was born to walk in a unique place -- it's so wonderful to look back at your life and realize that we aren't all supposed to think or dress the same way." -- Christian rock singer Amy Grant. (Northwest Gender Alliance newsletter)

"New York is fascinating. There's a transvestite bar that I go to sometimes, and sit at a table with four transvestites and we talk. They don't know who I am or why I'm there. I find it fascinating!" -- Diana Rigg (Emma Peel on "The Avengers"). "Outreach", Alpha Omega Chapter Tri-Ess

"I did my share of Tennessee Williams plays, and I never had any fun doing any of his guys. I love his women. Though nobody would ever let me play any of his women." -- Tom Selleck, talking about the start of his career. "L.A. Times"

"I had very long hair, which I refused to cut. When I first came to New York, it came down to my tits. I looked like Rita Hayworth." -- Richard Gere, reminiscing about his early days as an actor. "Fame"

"If I end up in tights, you'll know there was one hell of a battle." --- Kevin Costner, who will play Robin Hood in the upcoming movie "Prince of Thieves". Costner was talking about his uneasiness with the required wardrobe for the role. "People"

Nearby Support Groups

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

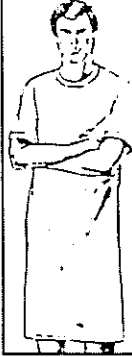
Paradise Club
P.O. Box 29564
Parma, OH 44129

IXE
Box 20710
Indianapolis, IN 46220

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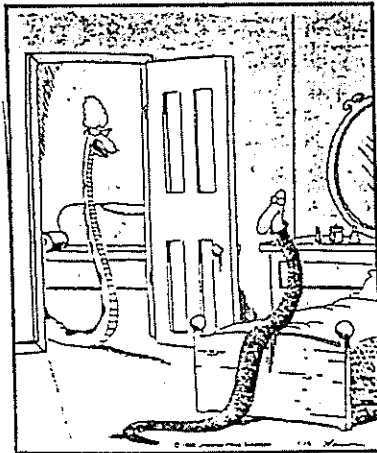
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Calendar Of Events

5/28 - 6/2	Tiffany Club	11th annual Outing	Provincetown Ma.
6/5-9	Paradise	"The Be-All"	Cleveland Oh.
6/8	Alpha Omega	Meeting	Lakewood Oh.
6/8	CrossPort	Weekenders Meeting	Cincinnati
6/13	IXE	Meeting	Indianapolis
6/13	Crystal Club	Business Meeting	Columbus
6/14	Crystal Club	Ladies Night Out	Columbus OH.
6/15	Paradise	Meeting	Lakewood Oh.
6/16	IXE	Reunion Picnic II	Indianapolis
6/20	CrossPort	Meeting	Cincinnati
6/21 - 23	C D C	"Take a Walk on The Wildside"	Toronto Canada
6/21	Trans-Wv.	Meeting	West Virginia
6/22	Crystal Club	Meeting	Columbus
6/23	Stonewall	Gayfest	Downtown Col's
7/11	IXE	Meeting	Indianapolis
7/12	Crystal Club	Ladies Night Out	Columbus
7/13	CrossPort	Weekenders	Cincinnati
7/18	CrossPort	Meeting	Cincinnati
7/19	Trans-Wv.	Meeting	West Virginia
7/20	Paradise	Social Meeting	Lakewood Oh.
7/20	Tri-Ess	Tau Chi Roast	Chicago
7/22-26	Cruise Ahoy	Dignity Cruise	Caribbean
7/27	Crystal Club	Meeting	Columbus
8/17	Paradise	Picnic	Cleveland
10/3-6	Kappa Beta	Southern Comfort	Atlanta
10/23-27	Outreach Institute	Fantasia Fair	Boston

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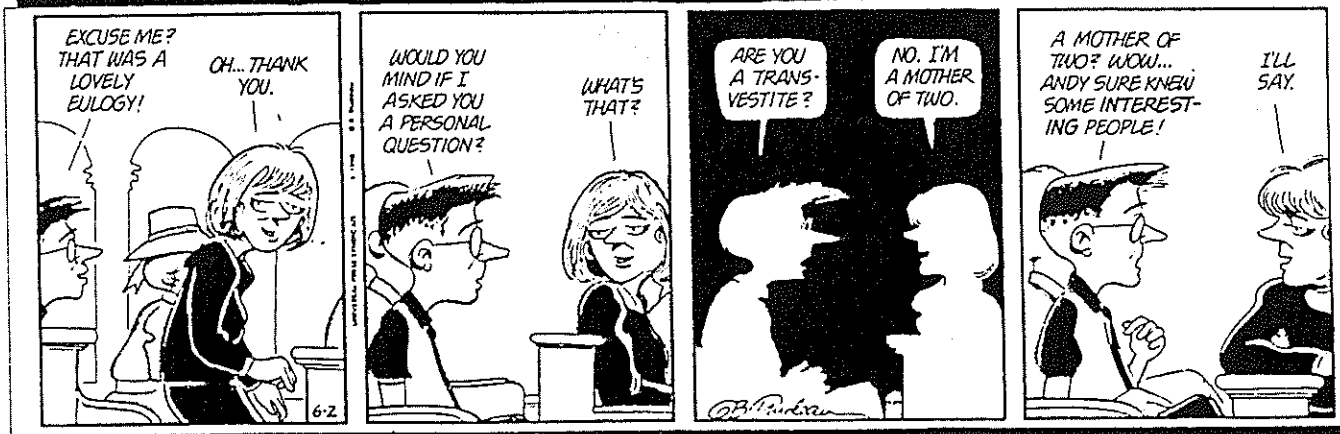
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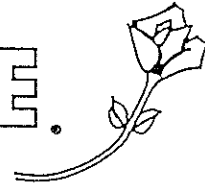
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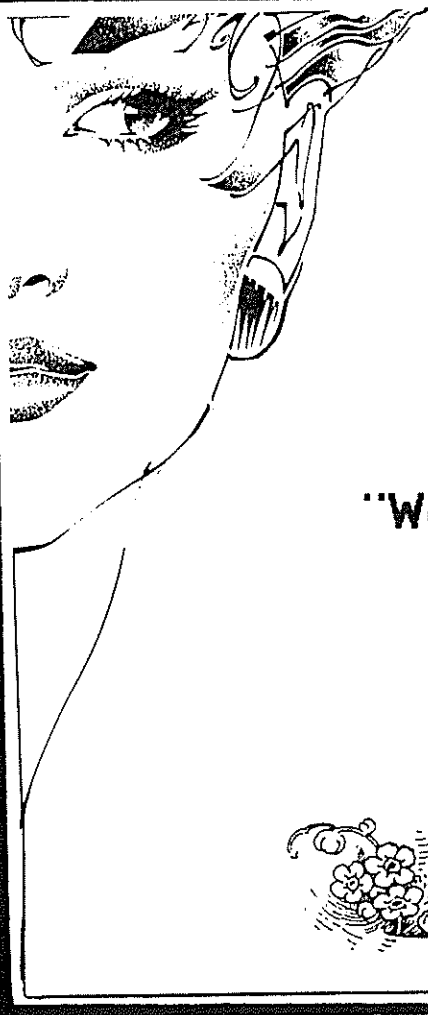


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Columbus, Ohio

July 1991

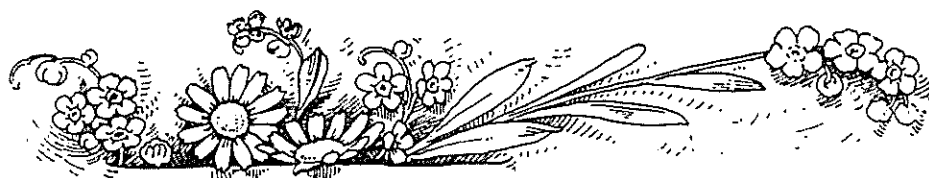
Relive The 1991
Be All You Want To Be Weekend



As Adrienne
and Mary Ann
Chronicle Their

"Wonderful "Be-All!"

part one on page 11



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Publication Notice and Club Policies

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The Crystal Club is a non-profit support group for TV, TS, TG, FI, and others who assume a complete transgendered 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 repetitive 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. 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 at the meeting site.

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

by Rochelle

Hello girls, I'm back. After several weeks of being ill I'm ready to get back to work. To start off with, I'd like to thank Renee' and Fred for speaking at our last meeting. We will be having a plain old social at the next meeting, July 27th. We could use the help of the membership in finding speakers of interest to the club. If there's anyone that you know please come to us so that we may get them to a meeting. We as a group make the meetings as well as the club what it is. If you think that the meetings are on the boring side then stop and ask yourself what you've done to change it. Let's move together and put live back into the group. I know that we have it us to do so.

We again had a great time at the Gayfest. Adrienne, Karen, Carol, Cindy, and Marilyn helped set up the booth early Sunday morning. Cindy, Mary Ann and I worked the booth. Many people came showing interest in the club. Some have called in the past and some just found out that we're here. Stonewall treated us just great as always. We had people drop in to tell how great of a newsletter we have. Thanks to the work Lana's done. Mary Ann had the honor of leading the march. Way to go girl, we'll get the word out one way or the other. Ladies night out will on the 12th about 8:30 starting at the Grapevine. Let's all get together and have some fun. The next Board meeting will take place on the 18th at my new apartment, so those of you that don't know where I live should contact me through the club line 237-4321 for information.

We'll be having ladies night out on the 9th of August, and the August board meeting will be held on the 15th at my house.

Secretary's Report

by Adrienne

Board Meeting Minutes from 5/14/91

The board meeting was held at Eden's home, those present were: Rochelle, Adrienne, Eden, Kathy, and Marilyn.

1.) Rochelle reported that we were unable to obtain a reservation for the Christmas party at the Ramada Inn East, there were no Saturdays in December available. We will have to locate another site, we decided that two officers will make the decision, one open and the other a

more discretionary individual. Rochelle will take charge of finding possible places, then obtain concurrence of another officer (or more if possible).

2.) Fees for the Gayfest have been paid. Help is needed to set up and run the booth June 23. We will also try to paint it before the date.

3.) Rochelle reminded all officers to write out their statements on goals for the club.

4.) We again discussed the need to be looking for a new location for meetings. Requirements for a location are: dressing room, large enough meeting room, parking at the location site, and of course within our financial abilities.

5.) Adrienne is gathering information and material to hopefully have at least a rough draft of a possible constitution or set of by-laws by the next board meeting.

6.) A "Ladies Night Out" (LNO) was proposed for the second Friday of every month, it was unanimously passed. The venue may change from month to month, but initially we will meet at the Grapevine between 7:00 & 8:00 pm.

* ----- *

Board Meeting Minutes from 6/13/91

Members present: Rochelle, Cindy, Kathy, and Adrienne.

1.) Gayfest on June 23. We need volunteers to help set up our booth between 8:00 & 11:00, and then to help take it down at 6:00. Rochelle and Cindy are going to work in the booth during the day, anyone who wants to help may join them.

2.) Christmas Party: a location has not been found yet. A motion was made by Adrienne to authorize the use of up to \$25.00 for a finders service, who will locate a banquet facility for us. There are several of these types of companies in the Columbus area. Cindy seconded the motion and it was approved by all those present. Rochelle will contact one of these services.

3.) Cindy will form a committee to prepare awards to be presented at the Christmas party.

4.) Adrienne will prepare and send a "thank you" letter to the Paradise Club, for their work and successful presentation of the BE-ALL convention. Several of our members were in attendance.

5.) We will be attempting to plan a picnic for our September meeting.

Marilyn's Miscellaneous

by Marilyn

A LITTLE RED HEN FOUND SOME WHEAT, PLANTED THE WHEAT, TENDED THE WHEAT, MADE BREAD FROM THE WHEAT. HER SISTERS WATCHED BUT DID NOT HELP. THE RED HEN FILLED UP ON GOOD BREAD. HER SISTERS STARVED!

Lana has been patiently waiting (2 months) for my newsletter article and at the rate I'm going this may not make the July Chronicle.

First priority is to welcome all the newcomers we've met over the last couple of meetings. All of us join in extending a sincere and heartfelt welcome to: Jack, Diana, Krista, Julie and Jo, Karen, Carol, Rochelle (#2), Kimberly, Jill, and Shelly. It was great meeting you all and we look forward to seeing you as regulars. **WELCOME!**

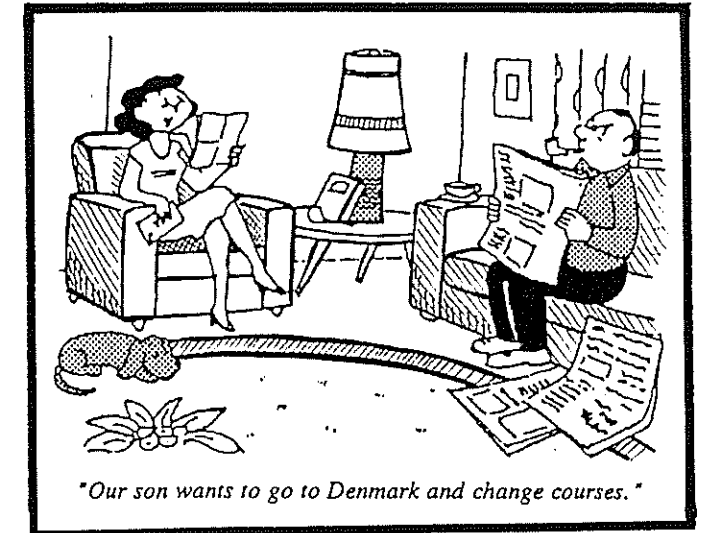
Besides the monthly social meeting, I've discovered another great opportunity to go somewhere crossdressed and be among friends. It's absolutely free! No \$15 fee and you get refreshments! Any dues paid up Crystal Club member may attend. It's great! This unique window of opportunity opens on a monthly basis on the Thursday a week before the monthly social meeting. If you come you will interact with a small group of other crossdressers in the cordial atmosphere of a private residence (Rochelle's place). Yes, I'm referring to our monthly Board meetings. I can't figure out why more members don't come. You don't have to be an officer to attend nor do you have to dress up if it's inconvenient. Most importantly, you can voice opinions, ideas and suggestions. I did and wasn't kicked out! I'm confident it's safe for the rest of you. Our officers do care about what we think and our input is valuable to them. So, if you can't make the monthly social meeting, back off a week and come to the Board meeting. Find out what's happening regarding issues such as: future club events, policy, ideas for the social meetings, new meeting locations, constitution and by-laws etc., etc. Our officers and some of the rest of us want the club to flourish and grow. Ladies come and do what you can!

If you can't make the social meeting or the business meeting, try taking advantage of another club sponsored activity, Ladies' Night Out (LNO). The next LNO is scheduled for August 9th the one for September will be announced, but we're aiming for the second Friday of every month. June was supposed to be the official kick-off for this and only four of us showed up at the *Grapevine*. We had dinner and relaxing fun. Sorry you all missed a most pleasant time. Although this activity is not free, cost will depend on what you want to spend for food and refreshments. The idea is to gather there and launch off together to some other place. The motive was to create an opportunity outside the business and social meetings where we could enjoy doing something together and enhance friendships.

All three activities represent excellent opportunities to get out, have fun and make friends within the club.

Many of us joined the club merely to have a place to go where we could dress as we wish and be who we want to be. Once in the club, some of us formed very close, meaningful, and supportive friendships. For me, seeing friends has become more of a motivator for coming to our functions than the crossdressing opportunity. I've commented before on the growing friendliness in our group. Among other things, fostering friendships builds cohesiveness. Cohesiveness makes for a stronger organization. A stronger club will survive. Some of us would like to see the club not only survive but also grow and flourish becoming an effective instrument for greater community awareness and acceptance of our lifestyle. We would like to be able to accommodate increased growth and expanded outreach in the community. We can't get out of the starting gate and progress beyond where we were a year ago! Why?

Growing up trying to cope with internal feelings and emotions regarding our identities may have caused some of us to become habitually introverted, or at least very introspective; essentially self-centered. Additionally, many people can't accept love and respect from others because they haven't come to love and respect themselves. Concern and confusion regarding sexual identity and expression thereof may cause some or all of this, so may other factors in life. It is difficult to focus on something besides self when some form of internal resolution has not occurred. We get stuck inside ourselves. Tons of money have been made by authors, therapists, talk show hosts, and others trying to get people unstuck, allowing further growth, development and more available energy to cope with other problems. It's easy to surrender responsibility to someone else for how we feel etc. We'll still be stuck but at least we can blame someone else. Personally, I got tired of carrying some of this stupid, useless baggage that seemed to be holding me in and focused only on myself. I wanted more than to just sit inside myself feeling lonely, hurt, confused, rotten, worthless, etc. I decided to move out and assumed responsibility for resolving some inner conflicts and improving my own self image and sense of self worth. Having gained some freedom, a little positive energy could be channelled toward new friends and a worthy organization. We are all human beings with very human strengths, weaknesses, needs, desires, and emotions. Outward expression of some of these aspects of our humanity are only parts of our total being. Crossdressing may solve some problems and create others. It may help you feel better in some ways and worse in others, but nothing will make you happier or get you unstuck if you don't take some responsibility for resolving yourself, and your feelings. Caring, supportive friends can help, but responsibility has to be taken to actively seek them out. Personally, I believe God in some way or other created human beings and that he does not create trash, I am not trash and neither are any of you. That's a good feeling! I like checking myself out in the mirror once in awhile, well... actually, more than that, but I'm learning from some of my *Crystal Club* sisters that crossdressing doesn't have to be a passive spectator sport. It can be a rewarding participatory experience among friends. Since I've taken some responsibility for my feelings about myself, I don't come to club functions expecting someone else to entertain me or to make me happier or even to feed me. I'm coming to be with my



friends and to reach out to others who need help and friendship, just as I received when I was lonely and searching. Do you understand the term "payback"?

Ok, this article has gone on long enough! Folks, wherever you're at in the various ages and stages of your life, if your stuck, take responsibility to get free and move a little beyond yourself toward others and the club. Start small and work up. Anyone can voice an opinion or put forth an idea. Any member can pick up pencil and paper and write something into the newsletter. Any of you can hostess a newcomer or meet with them to help them get started. Any of you can attend one of the club functions or come up with interesting-fun ideas for social meeting activities. We all have limitations, but within these we can be all that we can be and move away from self toward others and the general health and future of the *Crystal Club*. Our organization will never effectively move out into the community and enhance society's awareness and acceptance of our lifestyle if our group is not on solid footing internally. This will not occur if we as individuals are stuck inside ourselves! Let's move out, get together, bite off what we can chew, payback what we can and think about not only the potential of friendship, but also the lonely, frustrated people out there searching for someone, anyone, like we were. As has been said before, the *Crystal Club* was there for us; will we be there for them? Are we going to payback? The necessary choices and responsibility rest upon each of us. (1)



Confessions of an Irishman in a Dress

Telling Friends

by Renee O'Malley

A lot has been written about telling people about your crossdressing. I am no expert, but I have a bit of practical experience and I hope that someone will possibly gain something from my experience.

First of all, I have gone through three major purges in the last seven years. I have looked at my self many times and felt that I must be sick; I look stupid, silly, sad. I hated myself because I had a large portion of my personality that I had to hide from even my closest friends. They never really knew the full me. After the third major purge and there had been countless minor purges as well, but major purges are when you destroy or dispose of hundreds of dollars worth of clothes and other female type materials in the belief that it is going to go away.

Within a week or two I was purchasing things again. I decided that this was not going to go away. I had read all the books I could find and I had talked to a few professionals. I knew more about the conditions associated with crossdressing than any of the professionals that I talked with, so I knew enough to accept that it was time to accept me, enjoy it, and perfect it. I'm not going to bore you with how I did this, but I will bore you with the reasons why I told some people and how I told them.

The first person that I selected was an old girl friend. She is a very liberal person. She has an engineering degree and an MBA and she has had no family since she was a teenager. She has seen a big chunk of the real world as she has lived in New York City for two years and she has shared an apartment with a gay male for a year. (Some people might say she was a bit of a fag-hag.) We were really quite close and we both shared an absence of family in our lives. She had often used me as a solid shoulder when she needed one.

**"When I told her,
she decided that I
MUST be gay.
She was surprised,
she never would've
Suspected me,
of all people."**

When I told her, she immediately decided that I must be gay and then she just started talking about her money problems again. She was very surprised and would have never suspected me, of all the people. How often you will hear this, we are almost overly defensive and secretive

when we keep our ourselves in the closet.

The moral of this story is, you really can not predict the people who will accept it and the people who will never understand it. When we mention it these days, I tell her how I am enjoying my self by getting out and being me. She's very happy that I can do this, but she still can't understand how a man can crossdress and not be gay. Incidentally, she does not want to see me dressed.

The second victim that I selected was a mere male. I decided that, looking at a worst case scenario, if anything should ever happen me like a run in with the law, it would be a good idea to have one friend that could help me in times of crises and not have the shock of meeting Renee for the first time.

A lot of you will have a chance to meet this friend, he is the one that is going to give the Nu-Skin demonstration in Columbus and has given the demonstration in Cincinnati. Fred is a little bohemian any way so the news did not upset him. His only experience of this sort was with a personal friend who used to get beaten up by her husband and this same wife beater enjoyed wearing women's underwear.

I have a little bit of work to do in order to break the mind set of "hear

crossdresser, think pervert." It helped a lot when he met the wonderful people in Cincinnati. Thank you, for being yourselves. Mind you, a little incident in Perkins that involved the police and someone who comes to the meeting but refuses to wear a name tag, did nothing for the public relations. But up to that point, Fred was ready to hop into bed with her any way, he could not believe that she was anything but a girl that likes to show off and loves attention. (enough said)

Fred also said, of all the people that he knew, I would have been the last person he would have ever suspected to be a CD. Fred had the balls to take Renee down to the Grapevine for a beer before he met other CDs. He arrived, look me out, and acted as relaxed as he would if he had a rattle snake out on a date. But he did it and I know very few men that could do that. Fred is very comfortable with who he is and he is able to show some traits that may be considered feminine in our culture and he is not afraid to do it. A lot of us, when we are regular guys will not do this as we are acting macho and fitting in with society's rules.

Then I told my roommate. I had been sharing a house with a young couple, she was still a student, a very young 23 year old. I had a lock on the trusty closet and sometimes you could feel the tension in the house. It was a horrible place to live, the quality of life was very low and I had really got my self into a horrible rut. Then Pat got a job in Chicago, God is good, thank you God.

Sheryl and I sat down and agreed to work to make each other more comfortable and within a few days life was beautiful. Within a few weeks, it was like we had been

friends all of our lives. So I decided to truly enjoy myself and live the way I really wanted to. Telling Sheryl would either do one of two things, result in a reaction that would make me leave and move on, or she just might accept it and life would be even more beautiful.

One Saturday morning, I sat her down and handed her a piece of paper that said something like: I Sheryl promise to never reveal to any person other than Peter ... the secret that he shared with me on (date) at (address). He in return will always be willing to discuss this secret at any time I may wish, that is convenient to both parties. I understand that this agreement carries no legal liability (She loves money more than anything in the world and the thought that she might loose any amount of money for any reason would have blown the whole deal, so this escape clause was necessary.)

I had two copies and a place for her to sign and a place for me to sign. I told her that it would explain a lot about some of my mysterious movements and it would make life in the house even more comfortable. She was terrified, she said "your not going to tell me that you want to run around the house naked are you?" I assured her I was not and she very hesitantly signed the forms.

It was worth it, her reaction was really marvelous, she said that she thought it was a compliment to women that any man would want to look like a woman. She gave me clothes and she wants to take me shopping. It is our little secret to enjoy and she sees all the advantages of having a girl friend in the house. Of course, I hear all the problems. The first time she met Renee, she rushed up and

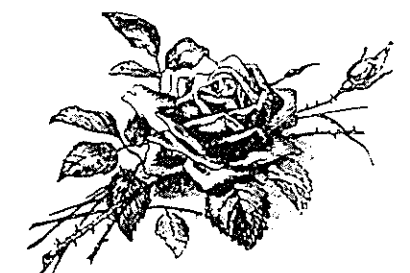
gave her a hug, she never gave Peter any hugs! She even gave me her good purse because she didn't like mine. She is a great critic and adviser.

It could have gone the other way, she is young and has not been out in the big bad world. She might have totally flipped, labelled me as pervert and made my life a hell. I took a calculated risk based on the knowledge that she had grown to trust me and used me as someone to tell her problems to in the past. Even when life in the house was uncomfortable, we often went for walks together and I would patiently listen to her. I don't think that anyone has ever taken the time to listen to her before, so I had earned some major brownie points for something I like to do and can do reasonably well. I listen, it's actually relatively easy, yet very few people ever try to do it.

So, to sum up, let me try and give my two cents worth of analysis.

*Continued on page 8....
see "Irishman"*

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...Continued from page 10

I tried for many years to affect a cure by my own trivial methods, that was the wrong approach for a result I didn't want anyway. I like who and what I am. My healing process is by no means complete, but I am at peace within. The acceptance and friendships I have received from *Crystal Club*, has been the answer to my prayers, my dreams to reality. My spirit is not defined by "male" or "female" terms, it is a combination of both, as I feel it must be for all of us, we will always have some portion of both genders present, to a different degree, as no two of us are alike.

My sincere hope for anyone who reads this letter and can identify with it, that they too, will be healed and find peace within themselves. To attain that peace, you may have to reach out for support, I couldn't have done it alone, it may have taken over twenty years, but my prayers were actually answered. There are people in and outside of our group that can help and I am thankful that I found the ones that I needed.

Normal is only a perception of the way we as a society, wish we could define people. Creation isn't like that, ambiguities exist everywhere, you and I are unique - isn't that wonderful ?!!!

Irishman

....Continued from page 7

- Our good friend Gina once said to me, "telling people gets easier and easier". Take a warning from this, it is true. Only tell someone if there is some identifiable advantage to be gained for either party. Like your wife is going to divorce you because she is sure that you are seeing another woman.

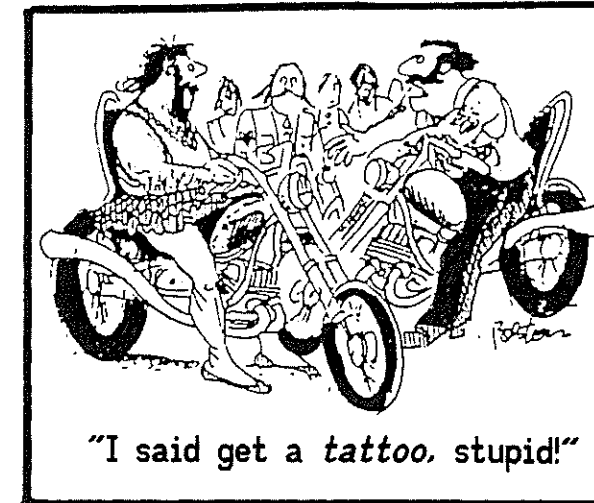
- Do not tell a female friend and expect that she will be delighted and want to take you shopping and dress you up. She likes you the boy, she is comfortable with you the boy and she has no desire to turn you into a girl. If she does, she is possibly kinky.

- Remember that you are trying to accept this for most of your life. If it has taken you this long, it is most likely going to take your friend a little while to understand what you are saying, never mind trying to accept you.

- Don't ever expect a good reaction, everybody carries around a bunch of problems. The last thing in the world they need are your problems, the last thing in the world they want are more problems.

- Be ready for that person to tell at least one person about this piece of NEWS in strictest confidence, be ready for that person to tell at least one other person and on and on. It's hot, it's different and it's seven got a touch of sex and scandal buried in it. People can't keep that sort of news in.... Thanks Yvonne for this point, I would have not seen it.

So, there you are, that's my two cents worth. It has certainly improved the quality of my life. I consider myself very lucky, it could have gone very sour on me. The one thing that drove me is the knowledge that the one constant in this ever changing world is Renee, she's here to stay, and I have to make room for her. She's not going anywhere accept out on Saturday nights. I better get used to it.



Acceptance

by Laurie

In San Francisco and in Cincinnati, I've been asked "how come" I accept cross-dressing as well as I do. I'm never quite sure what to say about why I'm one of the lucky ones. I almost start to laugh because I didn't handle it well at all when I found out. Time and life experience helped. Maybe I have a high tolerance for the differences in people because I'm a nurse and felt less threatened than some because I am younger and our relationship has never had strict role definitions along gender lines. Even given that, I have sadly seen couples younger than us break up over dressing.

So what words of wisdom do I have, somehow finding myself an unofficial authority, a position for which I never applied? Well, it's probably best to leave the rest of the world out of it at first. Of course you have learned attitudes, the should's and should-not's of your life, the 'how you thought things would be', and the 'what would the (neighbors, church, your mother, --- [fill in the blank]) say'. The key word here is 'learned' attitudes. Take a deep breath, swallow the fears for now, and remember the person you care for. Then, take the strength of that thought and use it to learn what you can about cross-dressing from informed, non-judgmental sources. Then, take that knowledge and apply it to the emotional aspects of the situation. As Cathy points out in her reply to the distressed letter elsewhere in this issue [The TV-TS Tapestry - Issue 55], they're still the same person with whom you fell in love. All relationships, with "dressers" or not, call for a certain amount of giving of yourself; it's this giving that makes you a better person when you are in love.

We get so caught up in being assertive about our own needs just at the time we most need to go with what is the most loving for the other person. Heather presented to me a devil's advocate point of view -- what if your husband or boyfriend asked you to never wear jeans or pants because he is only able to envision you as a woman in a skirt, hence that is the only way he could accept the whole person that is you? Most of us would scream "sexist!" in a hot half second.

Often the cross-dresser can assist acceptance in a "zen" sort of way by letting their loved ones not accept. It sounds contradictory, but think about it. It makes the life of the person who dresses easier if their significant other can deal with it, so getting their acceptance could become a selfish endeavor. Acceptance, like love, can't be forced or bought or any of those good things. It has to grow in its own time, if at all. That kind of patience is a scarce skill in our instant world of microwaves, fax, and Federal Express. I was never pushed. I did vacillate in my feelings. When I did come to the meetings it was because I was curious what Cathy was all excited about, not because she wanted me to or (worse yet) made me.

Part of my acceptance, too, is in my nature as a fairly practical soul. When I found out it wasn't something for which I was responsible, and that it wasn't going to go away even if I wanted it to, I actually felt a certain relief. It occurred to me that several things could happen:

Cathy could try to stop dressing and be a very unhappy person (and I found out that doesn't work over time anyway).

Or, she could continue and we could entertain ourselves forever by having rousing brawls interspersed with quiet snits.

Or, I could deal with it. Which is what I decided, tentatively, and waited to see how it would work out. I didn't want to waste the energy of the relationship living in constant conflict.

Basically acceptance is influenced by trust issues in the relationship, and the willingness of the partner to understand. Acceptance is complicated by fear of the unknown, intolerance of diversity, and past attitudes. Talking helps, but doing hateful things to each other doesn't. (Since talking with others, I've heard stories of unkindnesses that I wish were incredible.) A support group like *Cross-Port* helps too. Sometimes acceptance is difficult because you're too close to a situation to make sense of it, or perhaps the person who is explaining it isn't all that sure of him or herself to start with.

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A support group helps because you find out your loved one isn't the only person in the world who does this, and you meet others with varying degrees of self acceptance -- some with quite high self esteem, and most having a lot of fun at the meeting, which is contagious. Once I got to know some of the personalities involved (in Cross-Port's case I should say 'characters'), I've come to look forward to the meetings to see friends -- something I never ever imagined happening at the beginning of this journey of learning.

Actually, when I first found out, I didn't think it was the beginning of anything except the end. Good thing I'm not right about everything.

[Reprinted from The TV-TS Tapestry - Issue 55. This article was written by a very courageous person, Laurie is a member of CrossPort and a personal friend to many of us in the Crystal Club. Each cross-dresser hopes and prays for such acceptance from their Significant Other or their spouse. Change and diversity is the heart of the human race.]

We invite Significant Others and spouse to write articles for the Crystal Chronicle about their experiences with cross-dressing. Unfortunately, acceptance is difficult and your experiences and views might help a couple through the troubled waters of dealing with cross-dressing.

This column is dedicated to the ones we love so much, to the friends and members of the Crystal Club, and to helping others in our difficult situation.]

I Don't Need A Cure

by Adrienne

Healing services, 7:30 PM, Tuesday. Certainly there was no reason for her to attend. She wasn't sick or dying, nor were her family or friends. Yet she was suffering: a stressful schedule, concerns about what she should do with her life, a certain incomfortableness that had been there for a long, long time, a feeling that she wasn't whole.

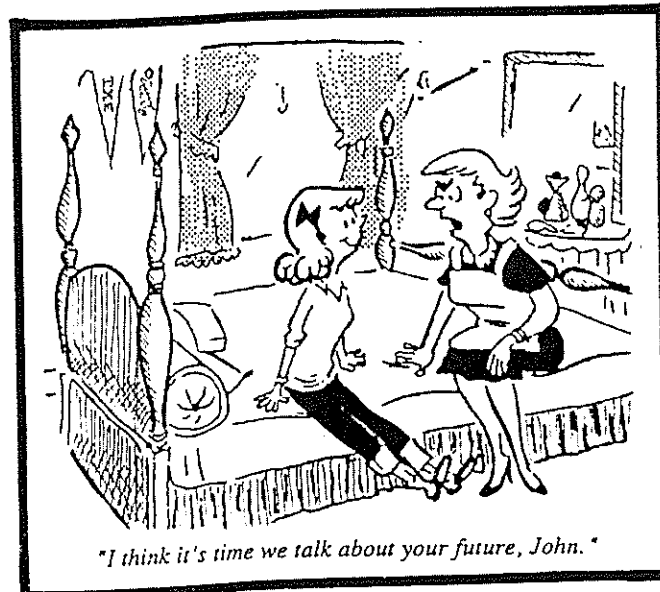
The people in her community, her friends and neighbors would probably never guess the pain of her "dis-ease with life". Certainly she acted like the rest of the community. She knew that when she looked around church on Sunday morning that she could see broken marriages that appeared whole, divorced people who were "over it" and parents who sat physically close to estranged children. She, too, must have appeared "normal" to them. How strange the word "normal" is in this context- normal-means to pretend.

Do those two paragraphs suggest anyone you know, they are paraphrased from church publication that Karen brought to my attention. This is a good description of how I have felt about my life until the past year when the healing process began. One of the definitions of the word heal is: to become whole or sound. I have not considered myself to have a great physical problem, my dis-ease is from an emotional and spiritual disunion of my identity. Half of my being had been suppressed for many years and only in the last year have I begun the healing process, the neurons now flow almost freely across the synapses between my male and female identities.

When we find that sense of wholeness, we become what we were created to be. We find congruency within ourselves, and a peace within as we cease the battle inside.

Continued on page 8....

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"I think it's time we talk about your future, John."

COURTESY: PARADISE



A Wonderful "Be-All!"

by Adrienne and Mary Ann

Part One



"Adrienne:" Wednesday morning dawned bright and glorious, the heat and humidity having evaporated a day earlier, and I was on my way to bring a new fairy tale to life. The "Be All" convention was my destination, my imagination.

I met Mary Ann at her house where she graciously allowed me to change, while she completed her finishing touches and packing. We loaded Mary Ann's car with two complete wardrobes that could have clothed eight or nine women, make-up cases, wig boxes, hats and more. Cleveland, here we come!

"Mary Ann:" I was planning to be all ready to go at 10 AM, when Adrienne would arrive to change. I had my nails reasonably shaped with a coat of clear polish, and was just starting with my makeup, when Adrienne knocked. You've never seen two people quite that nervous!

This was Adrienne's first time to my house, and she wasn't sure she had the right place. I was in my robe, with all the right curves already under it, and my male face with a coat of foundation, answering the door. Neither of us had met the other en homme yet.

Fortunately, we got over our nerves quickly. Once Adrienne was inside, it was like a couple of old girlfriends. But Adrienne was dressed and ready while I was still finishing the makeup.

Driving up en femme seemed like a perfect way to begin the trip. Adrienne had a gorgeous green dress suitable for rubbing elbows with high society. I figured I'd drive up more casually and change when I got there. I chose a pair of ladies jeans, a short sleeved sweater, and moccasins. Little did I know how important that choice would be.

We were cruising along in an orange-barrel section of I-71 about 40 miles from Columbus, when I heard a noise and we felt a vibration from the front of the car. It's a flat, of course. I am wearing my lovely green dress and very thankful that Mary Ann is in jeans, much more prepared to change a tire....

Yes, at least I was dressed for the job. I was teed off at the timing of this, and my adrenaline was getting worked up. glancing at the odometer, I realized I'd put 53,000 miles on new tires that were probably only good for 40 or 50 thousand miles.

Pulling the tiny spare tire out of the back took some effort, since it was covered with 100 pounds of dainty clothes. This was the first flat I've had in about 15 years, so it took awhile to figure out how operate the jack in this car. As we were pondering, a truck whizzed by an inch from the car and blasted us with its air horn. So much for chivalry - I moved the car further off the road.

As we jacked up the car, I wondered aloud were all the guys were that were supposed to help. I chipped a nail and my hands started to get pretty grimy. We just had the spare on and were tightening up the lug nuts when a trucker pulled off the road ahead of us. As he walked back, my emotions are a mixture of worrying about whether we'd pass, anger at the tire, and wondering what took him so long. He saw that we had the tire about changed, and said it looked like we had the situation pretty well in hand. I said, in my best feminine voice, that we sure could have used him 10 minutes ago. He walked back to his truck and took off.

I picked up the old tire to stuff it back in the trunk. A sharp edge made a small cut in my thumb. Great - I was dirty, had chipped 2 nails, and cut my thumb. I should have let him finish the job. We got back in the car and headed up the road. A quarter mile later, the construction ended and a nice, wide shoulder sat invitingly on the side of the road. Sigh.

We pulled off at the next exit and looked for a restroom. McDonald's beckoned to us, and I pulled in. Still teed off, into the ladies room I go to scrub up. Adrienne opted to remain in the car, having managed to keep clean and already eaten. A little old lady who was drying her hands glanced up at me, got a funny look on her face, finished and left. I got cleaned up and went out to get a sandwich.

The rest of the trip was uneventful, and we arrived at the hotel in mid-afternoon. So we wound our way around a snakey hallway to find the conference desk. We paid our balances (having that Visa card in my femme name is sure handy) and selected excellent seats for the dinner theater Thursday night, right up front. Then they directed us to the front desk to check in.

The front desk seemed to be having problems. I had asked the Be-All staff to select a roommate for me. They were very polite and nice, but their computer insisted that I was supposed to be there yesterday, the day before the convention started. Since I didn't show up yesterday, they had cancelled my reservation and

my pre-assigned roommate had been checked in with another roommate. They had rooms but a private room would have cost twice what I had planned to spend.

Fortunately, the conference desk had a request from another girl with the same problem. "She's in a wheelchair, is that a problem?" "Of course not." Good grief, if I was a bigot I wouldn't be there. My roommate was Pamela, who turned out to be the sweetest person you'd ever care to meet, and was really just like everybody else there. We got along famously and became good girlfriends over the week.

Mary Ann may have been having some difficulties with her reservation, but my room was ready, so I decided to start unloading. However, I decided to treat myself and called for a bell-hop, what a wonderful decision. He opened the car, wouldn't let me do any more than tell him which bags were mine. He showed me the way to the room, held all the doors for me, hung my garment bag, placed the others on stands or where I requested. Finally he filled the ice bucket

and handed me my room key. No lady could have asked for any better treatment. Of course he received an extravagant tip.

God, it's wonderful having a bellhop to haul all my thousands of bags, boxes of shoes, and other junk up to my room! I'm starting to get the hang of it now: let the men do it for me! After a generous tip, I went down the elevator, still in jeans, to move the car.

Sharing the elevator with two crossdressers, and looking very out of place in my pants, I listened to their conversation and didn't talk at first. After I opened my mouth, one of them looked at me and said "I didn't realize you were a crossdresser until you spoke!" Little things like that sure make me feel good! Besides, I knew I needed work on my voice, and I planned to take Allison Laing's course later in the week. Finally, I got a chance to change into my pink shirtdress and heels.

In spite of all the things going wrong, I realized that I was in a better mood than I had been in all week. Little things like tires blowing out and room reservation foulups don't matter - I'm en femme for four days and loving it!

I was finishing my unpacking when my roommate entered. She was surprised as she was expecting her roommate to be someone she knew from Syracuse. She introduced herself as Cheryl and it only required a few hours before we were good friends, and by the end of the week, real sisters. There are times when unexpected events are the best.

"Gone With the Wind" was the theme for dinner. I was making new acquaintances and finally caught up with Mary Ann.

The "Gone with the Wind" dinner was a chance for people to show off those hoop skirts and southern belle outfits they just don't get much of a chance to wear anywhere. I didn't have anything quite like that, but I didn't feel alone, because many of the people there wore regular street and evening clothes. Perhaps a dozen ladies entered the costume contest, which was won hands down by Linda Buten of CrossPort, with an amazing red southern belle hoop dress and matching parasol.

After dinner, many of us adjourned to the hotel bar. I don't think that bar knew what hit them - dozens of very large women, many in hoop skirts, suddenly in attendance. Adrienne and I joined with some others sitting at a table and minding our own business, when a gentleman came up to us and introduced himself as Bob, and offered to buy us a drink. He wanted to know what this was

all about, and guessed that it was a Southern Belles' convention. We explained to him that we were crossdressers and his jaw hit the floor. We educated him about ourselves, and he seemed both interested and wanting to get out of there as soon as he could. After we told him all about crossdressing, he excused himself. Half an hour later he reappeared with a drink for each of us! I'll bet Bob had quite a story to tell the people he went back to!

After awhile I got up and wandered around the bar. On the far side, a friendly woman said "Hello" and started to talk. She and her two friends wanted to know who all these people were and guessed that it was a Southern Belle's convention. When I explained to them what we were all about, they were very supportive. They said they had no idea I was a crossdresser, but they had noticed that I was very tall. (With 3 inch heels I towered at 6'2".) Part way through the conversation, one of the women stood up from her barstool. I found myself looking way up at her - she was 6'5" in flats! The conversation turned to issues like finding shoes and pantyhose that fit. (I wish I could remember where she said she bought her hose.)

As I lay down to sleep and tucked Wednesday into my memories, I knew the day had been almost perfect and Cheryl was going to be a true friend.

[Thursday]

Putting make-up on the first thing in the morning was a new and pleasant experience, especially since I knew this was going to be my first day ever, entirely en femme. I had a busy schedule planned: seminars, look for a new hair style, schedule a make-over with Jim Bridges. I had no idea that the afternoon and evening would be so enchanting.

When I woke up at 7 AM, I needed coffee. Since I need at least an hour to become presentable, I just phoned room service. They were very nice, but called me "sir" on the phone. Sigh.

Pamela hadn't slept much, she was pretty excited about the Be-All. She had gotten up early and was out of the bathroom when my alarm went off at 7. I was pretty excited, too, and was ready to get up before the alarm sounded. Sharing a bathroom with Pamela turned out to be no inconvenience at all, since she was an early person this week and I was later. I was ready to go down to breakfast by 8:30, where I had a nice chat with Dr. Docter and with Mariette Pathy Allen.

My first seminar was by JoAnn Roberts of Renaissance, on makeup. This is one area I'm

pretty comfortable with, since Larry showed me what to do. Nonetheless, from JoAnn's lecture and her book I learned many of the reasons why Larry had me put tan powder in certain places and blush in others, and got several tips for improvements that solve my "raccoon eyes" and look less like I'm wearing garish makeup. I took several pages of notes about different kinds of foundations and the like.

During lunch Chris Howie gave a very touching presentation about her life and how she came to accept herself. I feel that what she had to say could apply to many of us, and hope that sometime she can repeat this talk to our group. She told of her unhappy life as a male, and showed slides of flowers and a grim faced picture of herself 4 years ago when she first dressed at an Alpha Omega meeting near Cleveland. The joy and life in her current self is such a contrast to the solemn person in the photo that I cried tears of joy for her. Chris is one terrific lady.

After lunch I went to Paula Jordan Sinclair's seminar on deportment, one area where I needed work. My walk resembled Frankenstein's monster, and I knew I sat and stood wrong. Paula's class quickly showed me what I was doing wrong sitting and standing. Then it came time for the walk. She showed several things I was supposed to do all at once (walk from the hips, sway the shoulders, "lead with your breasts", etc.) Then we all lined up to have our walks critiqued. When my turn came, I tried doing everything at once for the first time. Then it came: "I don't mean to be cruel, but if you lived in a zoo they'd lock you up and feed you bananas." I was crushed. She was right. I had done everything wrong.

Fortunately, she stayed afterward with another lady having trouble, Karen, and myself, and worked with us. I had a lot of trouble, but eventually I got the hips and breasts parts down. The shoulders wanted to do the wrong thing and I found that by ignoring them I stayed out of trouble and could concentrate on the hips. Afterward, Paula and I chatted at length. She's actually a very nice person with a heart of gold and an eagerness to improve herself and the Renaissance Education Association she co-founded.

While Mary Ann was having her bananas peeled, I was on my way to Oz. After lunch I attended a rap session led by Dr. Docter (love that name) where a whole range of issues facing cross-dressers were discussed. Several prominent members of our gender community were present, including Virginia Prince. I left this session a little early, as I wanted to find a new hair style for the trip to the dinner theater. This was one of my best decisions that week!

After trying on several different colors and styles, Rachel placed a medium length, dark brown wig on me. Instantly I knew she had found the natural me. Then she tried another similar style, the same color. I was ecstatic, but now I had to make a decision! Rachel solved that for me, the cost for both was less than I was prepared to pay for one. By now it was 2:45 and I only had 15 minutes to remove my makeup, shave, and hasten to Jim Bridges Boutique.

I made it, now to see what magic Jim could perform. I sat, listened, and asked questions while he proceeded with the make-over. 75 minutes later, finished, I was allowed to go look in a mirror. WOW!!! I was stunned, the girl looking back at me could get hit on! My fairy god-mothers were serving me well, such magic, what a beautiful reality. However, dazed, I now had less than 40 minutes to finish dressing and not miss the bus.

I had to make three extra trips back to the fifth floor for earrings, polish, and perfume, but I made it on time and was able to finally relax a little during the bus ride. After being seated at our table, I went to the ladies room to finally see the full effect in my new evening dress, of the new woman... Adrienne, you're not in Kansas anymore, you are over the rainbow! I was all I could be that night.

The waiters were most gracious and everyone treated me rightfully as a lady that night. The food was wonderful, the musical was entertaining, the night was enchanting. I am sure that Mary Ann will echo my sentiments...

My, yes, the Dinner Theater was wonderful! I've attended many conferences that have one "reception" or similar event, but this tops everything. Excellent seats, delicious food, fine company, top notch mainstream entertainment - not an FI show.

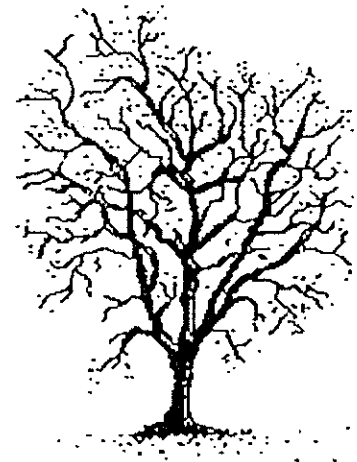
At our table, Adrienne and I had the chance to meet Matt Doutre and his wife Karen. Matt is a leader in the F-to-M TS community, and a bearded post-op himself. I was very impressed with both of them. Matt gave me some insight into what F-to-M's face, and gave me his card so that F-to-M's in the Crystal Club can call him for advice. Matt is clearly very much a man, and I had trouble imagining him as a female.

This was a very special and personal night for me. Cheryl and I talked for a time, while I glided down the rainbow and slipped into a wistful sleep.

to be continued...

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IFGE DINNER / CONCERT WEEKEND
Sponsored by
Southwest Gender Community Benefiting IFGE
6804 E HWY 6 South #334, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77083

The IFGE members of the Southwest Gender community will be sponsoring a dinner/concert as a fund raiser for the International Foundation for Gender Education annual convention to be held in April 1992 in Texas. This fundraiser will provide the initial seed money for the convention planning and promotional needs.

Plans have been made to host, on Saturday, August 3rd, 1991, a concert and dinner at the Hilton - Southwest Hotel, 6780 Southwest Freeway, Houston, TX. As part of this event there will be a taco - nacho buffet Friday night, August 2nd. Tickets for both meals and the concert will be available for \$ 39.00 per person. The hotel has provided us with a special room rate for the weekend of \$45.00 plus 15% tax, for one to four people in the room. Friday night will be an informal bar tour for those who wish to indulge. For those who are not into the bar scene, a hospitality suite will be available for socializing and renewing acquaintances with friends from previous

events. As always, the hotel bar is open for our patronage.

Saturday during the day, we will provide information on stores and service providers who are sympathetic and welcome our shopping in their establishments. A list of restaurants for your choice for the noon meal will also be provided. The whole idea is to provide a totally non-structured occasion with no pre-planned activities other than the dinner and concert.

The concert will be a first class production, under the supervision and direction of Da'Nelle Martin (song-writer, instrumentalist, record company owner, and all around nice person), with a laser light show, video presentations, staged and choreographed skits, and a selection of music that appeals to all tastes.

We will also be offering Patron's Tickets, priced at \$ 60.00 per person which will afford preferential assigned seating at special tables. The additional amount for the ticket will go to IFGE. This is being provided for those who wish to assist IFGE in their endeavors to

bring their convention to Texas.

Reservations can be made at the hotel by writing to them at the address shown or calling them at 713-977-7911. Be sure to mention the IFGE Dinner/Concert to receive the special room rate. The hotel is located on the northeast corner of the Southwest Freeway (US 59) and Savoy. Use the Hillcroft exit if you are driving in. Shuttle service is provided from both airports to the Post Oak terminal, from which you can call the hotel to dispatch a van to pick you up.

Ticket requests will be handled using the request form on reverse side. For additional information, write to the address above, or call Jackie Thorne at 713-780-3553.

Here's hoping we see you there. You will definitely have a wonderful time.

IFGE DINNER / CONCERT WEEKEND
Ticket Request Form: Complete and return with your payment to: IFGE - Houston, Box 441754, Houston, Texas 77244. Make checks payable to IFGE - Houston.

Name: _____ Femme Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State and Zip Code: _____

Telephone Number (For Emergency Contact Only): _____

Name to be used on your name tag: _____

Organization affiliation (if any) to be shown on name tag: _____

Estimated time and date of arrival: _____

Estimated time and date of departure: _____

Will you be staying at the Hilton - SW? Yes No Don't know yet

Will you have family members/significant others attending with you? Yes No

If yes, please provide their names: _____

All information you furnish on the registration form will be kept as private, confidential records and will be safeguarded by a member of the IFGE Dinner/Concert committee. It is against IFGE policy to give out names, addresses or phone numbers to anyone. Any contact or mailing will be handled by a committee member to prevent inadvertent disclosure of information. We will take every precaution to protect this information, but the IFGE or its Houston members can not be held responsible for misuse. Should we have to call you, we will use the male name above, and if we are not able to reach that person, we will not indicate who is calling or the reason for the call, but will try later to contact you. I hope you will be able to attend.

Amount enclosed for tickets \$ _____

Any questions, please call 713-780-3553 or write: Jackie Thorne, Box 441754, Houston, TX 77244

Benefit For IFGE 92 Convention

Presented by the
Southwest
Gender Communities

For Information
Contact
IFGE Dinner
6804-E HWY. 6 South #334
Houston, Texas 77083

Nearby Support Groups

Cross-Port P.O. Box 12701 Cincinnati, OH 45212 (513) 851-6174	IXE Box 20710 Indianapolis, IN 46220
Alpha Omega Ohio Tri-Ess Chapter P.O. Box 954 Elyria, OH 44036	Crossroads Box 1245 Royal Oak, MI 48068-1245
Transpitt P.O. Box 3214 Pittsburgh, PA 15230	Trans West Virginia P.O. Box 2322 Huntington, WV 25724-2322
Paradise Club P.O. Box 29564 Parma, OH 44129	

Calendar Of Events

8/8	IXE	Meeting	Indianapolis
8/9	Crystal Club	Ladies Night Out	Columbus
8/10	CrossPort	Weekenders	Cincinnati
8/15	CrossPort	Meeting	Cincinnati
8/16	Trans-Wv.	Meeting	West Virginia
8/17	Paradise	Social Meeting	Lakewood Oh.
8/24	Crystal Club	Meeting	Columbus
8/17	Paradise	Picnic	Cleveland
9/12	IXE	Meeting	Indianapolis
9/13	Crystal Club	Ladies Night Out	Columbus
9/14	CrossPort	Weekenders	Cincinnati
9/19	CrossPort	Meeting	Cincinnati
9/20	Trans-Wv.	Meeting	West Virginia
9/21	Paradise	Ms Paridise Contest	Lakewood Oh.
9/28	Crystal Club	Meeting	Columbus
10/3-6	Kappa Beta	Southern Comfort	Atlanta
10/23-27	Outreach Institute	Fantasia Fair	Boston

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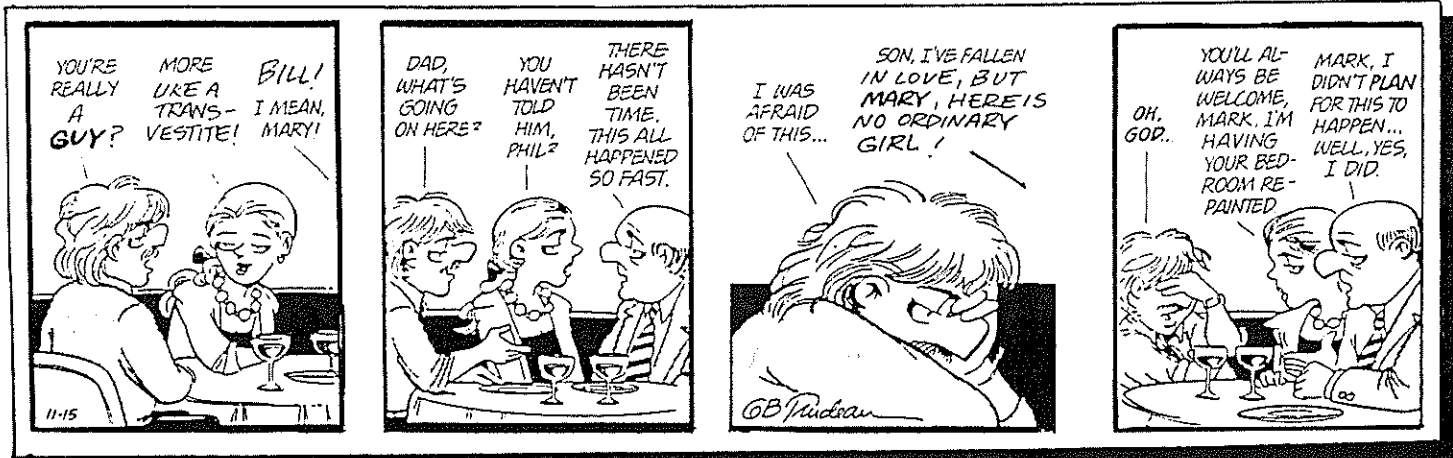
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YOU'RE MORE LIKE A TRANSVESTITE? GUY?

BILL!
I MEAN, MARY!

DAD, WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

YOU HAVEN'T TOLD HIM, PHIL?

THERE HASN'T BEEN TIME. THIS ALL HAPPENED SO FAST.

SON, I'VE FALLEN IN LOVE, BUT MARY, HERE IS NO ORDINARY GIRL!

I WAS AFRAID OF THIS...

OH, GOD..

YOU'LL ALWAYS BE WELCOME, MARK. I'M HAVING YOUR BED-ROOM RE-PAINTED

MARK, I DIDN'T PLAN FOR THIS TO HAPPEN...

WELL, YES, I DID.

G.B. Trudeau