Cross-Port InnerView

P.O. Box 54657, Cincinnati, OH 45254

The next meeting is August 19 at 8:00pm

A New View

by Elaine

Hello, There were approximately 27 ladies and S.O.'s at this meeting.

We had a business meeting for Cross-Port and we discussed the future and direction of Cross-Port. We are wanting to get into more and different get togethers such as the dinner before the Cross-Port meeting and going out and doing things as a group.

Well we have a rumor that somebody has bought Christopher's and that it will probably open up in September. We will keep you posted as to what we find out.

Shopping for Shoes

by Kristine Jones

For the best reasons, fit and comfort, it is optimal to try on the shoes you are buying at the store. And I would be willing to guarantee you it won't be the first time a crossdresser has shopped in whatever store you go to. But, if

you prefer mail order, below are the companies that mail order. There are more large-size shoe mail order firms all the time: Reason #1- Women's feet are getting larger. In 1970 the average size was Today, it's 6. approximately an 8. Reason #2-Lots of "you people" are ordering. Getting shoes that fit is not easy, but here are twelve guidelines: it is possible to purchase and wear women's shoes that comfortable.

Rule #1- Sizes vary depending on the shoe brand and style. Don't just select shoes on the size marked inside the shoe or the box. Look at the shoe by how it fits on your foot. You will be wearing it.

Rule #2- Select a shoe that conforms as nearly as possible to the shape of your foot.

Rule #3- Have your feet measured and do it regularly. The size of your foot changes as you age. Usually, your woman's shoe size is one size larger than your male shoe size. But, there is no substitute for an accurate measurement.

Rule #4- Measure both feet. Most people have one foot larger than the other. Fit the largest foot first Rule #5- If possible, fit shoes at the end of the day, when your feet are at their largest.

Rule #6- Stand during the fitting process to ensure that there is adequate room for your longest toe at the end of each shoe. Try for at least #1 inch. If the toe box is too narrow, it will cut off circulation. Rule #7- Make sure that the ball of your foot fits snugly into the widest

Rule #8- Don't purchase shoes that are too tight, and expect them to stretch to fit. They will only be uncomfortable, especially in the case of plastic uppers. Even sling-back pumps need to fit to look right.

part of the shoe.

Rule #9- Your heel should fit into the shoe comfortably, with a minimum of slippage. If the heel is too tight, it will gradually push your foot forward.

Rule #10- Walk in the shoe to ensure fit, feel and comfort. Take your time. If you've ever been with a GG when they try shoes, she doesn't rush, remember?

Rule #11- Remember to look at the quality components of the shoe: strength, flexibility, even/smooth stitching, and how the shoe is finished. Check if there is cushioning on the insole. Padded insoles are now offered by some companies-Liz Claiborne's Applaud pump, Nine West's Calico Lites and Spa lines, and Easy Spirit.

Also, look for a firm shank from the ball of the foot back to the heel to stiffen the sole and support your longitudinal foot arch.

Rule #12- Any heel higher than 1¹¹ inches is not good for you. High heels look great, but they strain your instep, cramp your toes and wreck your posture. If you must wear them, change to a lower heel or flats if you are on your feet or are walking very far at all.

The Mail Order Companies are listed below. If I have missed one of your favorites, let me know and I will add it in a later article.

Coward, Palo Verde at 34th Street, P.O. Box 27800, Tucson, AZ 85726-7800, 1-602-747-5000 has shoes in a nice catalog, with many styles in sizes to 12 and 13. Styles include Selby, Easy Spirit, Dexter, Naturalizer, Hush Puppies, Keds and many others. Nancy's choice is the same selection at the same address.

Cook and Love, 114 South Main Street, Memphis, TN 38103, 1-800-858-3364 specializes in the most fashionable shoes in hard-to-find sizes and widths. Coordinated handbags, too. Many contemporary and sophisticated styles. Free Catalog.

Magnifete, 31 West Fourth Street, Second Floor, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202, 1-800-776-SHOE or locally at (513) 241-4646 order from or visit this classy store right here in Cincy. I'd be ashamed to admit how many pairs of shoes I've bought here. Owner Shelagh Watson specializes in sizes 6-13, with many lovely styles. Nice catalog is free.

Shoe Express, P.O. Box 31537, Lafayette, La 70593-1537, 1-800-874-0469 also specializes in large sizes, with fashionable, functional styles. Some very high (5") heels,

100.

StatShoeEsque, Promenade West, 2319 S. University Drive, Davie, FL 33324, 1-305-452-9816 has high fashion shoes for "women" in Sizes 9¹¹ to 14 super slim to double wide. Some of the most stylish you can mail order. Free Catalog. Shoecraft, P.O. Box 129, Accord, MA 02018-0129, 1-800-225-5848 has sizes 10-14 only. A thousand pairs in stock, more styles and colors than any other shoe store in the country (or so they say). Mostly casual styles.

Yorke Fashion Conform Centre, 140 E. 55th Street, New York, NY 10022, 1-212-753-5151 specializes in styles for sizes 3-13 for sensitive or hard to fit feet. Some surprisingly stylish shoes.

Pierre Silber, P.O. Box 265, Saratoga, CA 95071-0265, 1-408-735-7605 Leather, patent and satin shoes in high, high heel styles, up to 6 inches in heel height. High Prices

Sexy Shoes, Leslie shoe co. 480 N. Second Street, P.O. Box 48, Rogers City, MI 49779-0048, 1-517-734-4030 this is the place for the best selection of tall-heeled women's shoes in medium and wide widths. Silletto, spike and other high heels with a great choice of styles and colors to match any outfit. Average price \$44.88. Will mail in plain wrapper.

Rangoni & Huggins Shoes, 7646 Girard Ave., LaJolla, CA 92037, 1-619-459-4469 has very sophisticated styles in sizes, some to size 12, has free catalog.

INSIGHT #43

by:Barbara Jean

Hi girls this is Barbara back with the insight.

In a letter to the Ms Cotton Belle (newsletter of the MUSIGMA chapter of TRI ESS) Linda Phillips reflected on a statement made to her and Cynthia by the wife of another crossdresser. The wife said, "I do not mind his dressing, really I don't, they are only clothes to me. What I CANNOT stand are the lies and the deceit."

The two most important ingredients to any relationship are HONESTY AND TRUST. When we attempt to hide our femside from our wives we in effect say that we do not trust them with that knowledge. Because we do not trust them we are not honest with In an attempt to deceive them. them of our activities whereabouts we use (what we feel to be) little white lies in an attempt to cover up for our crossdressing activities.

But when the wife discovers that deceit, when she discovers those lies, when she discovers our crossdressing, we discover that it is WE who cannot be trusted.

I have heard all of the excuses that you girls can muster up for not telling your wife. "She is a straight laced school marm", "She is a devote Catholic", "She will fly off the handle", "She will divorce me and take the kids", etc etc. As far as I am concerned, they are JUST

A BUNCH OF EXCUSES and nothing else. The only reason that we really have for not telling our wives is F E A R!! We perceive and fear the worst. Our fear may be based on a bad experience in the past, or a horror story we have heard. We really do not know what she will do, we only perceive the worst.

You think your bases are covered huh, that she will never discover; How many sister I know who's wife came home unexpectedly early because a meeting was canceled or they forgot something. A very close sister of mine had an unfortunate auto accident where she was wearing feminine underclothes beneath her male garments.

When the foundation of a relationship is strong and solid - then no matter how earthshattering the news, the house will still stand. But lies and deceit, mistrust and dishonesty do nothing but to inject a huge crack into the foundation of that relationship, a crack that may be severe enough to cause the house to fall. In the end it will not be your crossdressing that caused the house to fall, rather it will be the lies and the deceit. It will be because your wife can no longer trust you.

There is another advantage to telling our wives over her discovering, and that is that WE take control. WE decide how we will tell them, WE decide what we will say. We are as Boy Scouts, Prepared. We will have gathered material to aid us in what to say and to help her to understand. When she discovers our crossdressing thou she is the one in

control. I Can visualize our sister shaking in her heels and stammering in an attempt to explain to her wife. How much easier would it have been both for both of them had our sister been straight forward in the beginning.

No doubt there will be shock and hurt in hearing that you are one of those kind of guys, but how much more will the shock and hurt be if she discovered by accident, or heard from a third party? How much easier will it be for her to hear you say that you want to be honest with her, that you want her to know that you trust her, that you want to stop the lies and the deceit, that you are a crossdresser.

I admit that the job was fairly easy for me as I had the foresight to tell my wife right in the very beginning when we first became acquainted, before that acquaintance developed into a relationship. That is the easiest time for both of you, but it is never too late. Many a crossdresser had made decision to come clean after 15 or 20 years of marriage. If you and your wife have a good relationship with no real problems, then you only need to put your fear aside and tell her that you want to be honest with her.

A few weeks ago I received a letter from a girl by the name of Joannie in Ohio. Joannie wrote to me about a year ago, she too feared telling her wife about her need to crossdress. In my letter to her I essentially told her the same thing I am writing to you girls, to be honest, and have trust in your wife. In Joannie last letter she wrote "I finally got up the courage to discuss my desires with my wife.

Instead of rejection I received love and understanding. We openly discussed my true feelings and desires. She immediately went out and purchased clothing for me. She is really very supportive about this. Along with a loving wife, I have found my best and truest friend in her."

Like a lot of you, Joannie perceived the worst. She was afraid that telling her wife would mean rejection. Perhaps ten or twenty years ago it might have, but today things are different, things are better. A number of our sisters have gone on the talk shows and the college lecture circuits. educating others about crossdressing. It is because of their efforts that we today see less prejudice and hostility towards us than in years gone bye. People are becoming more understanding, more accepting of us. Because of their work, we are eliminating many of the myths that people, including our wives have had about us. Ten or twenty years ago, they might not have understood, they might not have accepted, but today more and more wives are opening up and learning that all men are not the same.

If you have not told your wife about your crossdressing, how can you be so sure that she is still one of those who are thinking as people did back in the sixties? How do you know that she will not accept you? Yes I admit there are some wives who know and totally reject, but they do know and that is a start. If you have one of those wives, I do promise to address that issue in a column in the near future.

But for those of you who have not yet told your wife, you are the one I am writing to this month. As I said the only real reason is pure fear, and I will address that issue next month and how to overcome that fear.

Do think about what I have written. If you need help write to me, or to a sister who has a wife who knows. We are a sisterhood and we are all her to help one another. Despite all that you may fear, it is just possible that your wife will say "I don't_mind your dressing, they are only clothes".

On one final note girls in the last line of Joannie letter she wrote "Thank you for helping me to fulfill my dreams and for strengthening the bond between my wife and myself." Just think, you too could someday be writing that same letter, you too could find that by telling your wife you will find love and acceptance and a strengthening of the bond of love between you and your wife.

Well that is all for this month. Do take care and be good to yourself. You are worth it. I love each and everyone of you.

THE BARON SPEAKS

Hi Girls, this is the Baron speaking. Sorry I had to miss the last meeting. Once again I was visiting my mother in Oklahoma. I really do not have too much to write about as I have Been staying home a lot in this hot muggy weather. OKLA had temps of 100+

7 of my 10 days there. It was also very humid which is not normal for this time of year.

I spent July 16, 17, & 18 at the Fort Worth, Texas Coronation Ball. We all enjoyed ourselves. The Court—showed—us—real—Texas hospitality with guided tours and a bang up pub crawl. I gave up about 1:00 AM and took a taxi back to the hotel. Hey! I won the trophy for the best out-of town entrance in theme! We have now won 4 of these trophies. Anyone care to join us in winning at the Cincinnati Coronation August 21st? I'm also planning to win in London, Ont. August 28th.

Now few random thoughts: I enjoyed Kristine Jones "Shopping for Wigs and Wig Care" in the July Innerview. Some things I would like to add. Be very careful when buying any wig, cheap or expensive. Check this wig in bright light...sun light if possible. Some fibers look like a metal helmet in bright light (yes, I've spotted some of these metal helmets at Cross-Port meetings). I owned a wig store in the 70's and 80's and still handle a few wigs now.

Ms. Jones, the price of styling and cutting are NOT included in the good wig stores' prices. Good stores have a stylist, usually state certified, who will cut and style your wig to suit you. He/she is paid and tipped by you--the customer--as is any stylist. I do not know anything about Cincinnati's wig stores. However, if they were affiliated with the 2 that used to be in N. Ky., they are rip-off artists. Watch yourselves. One especially comes to mind that was owned and operated by an oriental woman. Her prices were extremely high and quality extremely low. I have found Elura fibers to be easiest to work with and also more natural looking and long lasting. Cheap hair spray works as well as the more expensive brands on wigs. At one time I had 7 full time stylists in the store. Surely hated to see women quit wearing wigs...HA!

Well, our President has broken another promise--Gays in the military. What next, Mr. Clinton?

Are you all aware of what is going on in Ohio with the "Colorado thing?" Remember, cross-dressers are tossed in with gays in the Fundamentalist thinking and acting.

Well girls, that is it for now. See you at the August meeting.
Baron Bob

From Joyce

Well, Joyce is finally back! Sorry for not having contributed for so long a time. I have some good news and some bad.

Might as well get rid of the bad first. As you know, I attended the first North Coast Gender Alliance (N.C.G.A.) conference on April 17th, in Pittsburgh. I had great expectations afterwards that the goals of N.C.G.A. would be accomplished for the benefit of all of us. However, just as I was about to attend the second conference on July 10th, I learned that it had been canceled. I did not receive any official notice to the effect, but from a sister in Erie, PA. According to her, Cheryl (who had

accepted the leadership role at the first meeting) had simply quit without any explanation. This same sister informs me that there is a possibility that N.C.G.A. may yet be revived later this Fall. I sure hope so!

Now for some pleasant news. Crystal Club will have their monthly meeting August 28th, at which they intend to hold a Wedding Reception! You are all invited to attend: as brides, bride's maids, maids of honor, or even as grooms (however, I don't expect to see too many of those). You may also attend in normal attire. Sounds like a good time to men and I intend on being there. Then in September, they will once again have their picnic in a local park. Time and date to be announced. Just something to keep in mind. I attended last year and we had a great time.

The Barony of Northern Kentucky will conduct a social meeting at the Golden Lions from 7:30 to 8:30 PM just prior to Cross-Port's regular meeting. They intend showing videos of past Coronation Balls we have attended and distributing literature on the Court System. You are cordially invited to become acquainted with the Barony. Incidently, we hope to be a "Court" by next year.

I and several Cross-Port attended the "Be-All" convention in Chicago this year. As you probably have already heard, we had a great time. For all of you who missed it, you have another golden opportunity to attend such and event: Southern Comfort in Atlanta, GA is coming September 29th through October 3rd. It is a seven hour drive and well worth it. I attended in '91. If the drive is too long, you might

consider the "Riverside Weekend Gala" in Cambridge Springs which is put on by the Erie Sisters the weekend of November 19th through 21st. While it is a much smaller convention, I do highly recommend it. It is only about a five hour drive.

See you at the next meeting!

Love, Joyce

FLYING SOLO

by: Bobbi L.

As I type this I remain en-femme having just returned home from my first "solo flight." Now I'm not talking about aviation here, rather my first shopping trip ALONE as Bobbi! True, in the past 18 months I've "done" the Windy City, shopped at Middletown Mall, celebrated the New Year at the



"House of Prime", and TWICE strutted down Ludlow Ave on the way to Golden Lions, but....and this is a BIG BUT (no, Jennifer, not a "Baby got Back" Butt) I've always been secure in the knowledge that Beverly was by my side. Today, however, I felt that the time had arrived for Bobbi to venture forth on her own.

After waiting week after week for the temperatures and humidity to slacken, I heard a favorable forecast this morning: mid-80's, lower humidity. Thank you, Mother Nature! At last I could don make-up and wig and not fear looking like a faceful of Silly Putty. I showered, shaved, and self-tanned. Then I applied my make-up, slipped into shell, skirt, and "skimmers," checked to make certain I had my driver's license and plenty of CASH in my girl wallet, then slid into the Baby Blazer and headed out (Robert had the good sense to pull the vehicle into the garage so Bobbi wouldn't run the risk of being spotted by neighbors...tough to explain).

Bobbi's first stop was to pick up some parts for the lawn mower. Last week Robert had ordered them from a small family-owned business and had, earlier in the day, called to confirm their arrival. His "wife" would be picking them up. Well, Bobbi pulled into the drive, parked across the small lot, and entered the shop. This seemed like the perfect time to resurrect my Elizabeth Ashley voice and it worked "puuurfffectly." I was convincing. The two guys in the front of business didn't even give me a second glance (should I be miffed that they didn't stare at my legs?).

Back in the Blazer, I

headed for Florence Mall. Penny's had advertised a summer clearance sale and I was PRIMED! Parked near Lazarus, entered through domestics (my short stacked heels "clicked" a little too loudly) then took the escalator to the first floor. I got the attention of the cosmetic girls, but I believed that it was because my make-up was "too perfect" for the average Florence shopper (I'd have been less noticed at the Kenwood Towne Center). On to Penny's. I was having a blast, window shopping, checking myself out in the shop windows (head up, hips slightly rolling, arms swinging loosely, naturally). This was a real thrill! The thrill was soon smothered however when I entered Penny's only to find that they were in the midst of "resetting" the store. The clearance merchandise was disappointing. Not reduced enough on what they DID have. Oh well, back to the mall. I walked around a bit more then, inexplicably losing my sense of security (paranoia???) I decided to return to my car.

I wasn't ready to quit yet, though. Having heard the TV commercials for the Shoe Carnival, and knowing that there was another Penny's near the one in Alexandria, I headed for Campbell County. What a beautiful day so far!

Thirty minutes later, I pulled into the new strip mall off U.S. 27 (just south of the AA highway) and parked in front of the Shoe Carnival. Beverly and I had been to the one in Lexington several times but had found nothing there that we couldn't live without. At this one however, Bobbi gave into her one true weakness. Like Michelle, I have a near fetish for high-heels. Unlike Michelle, Bobbi only has 19 or 20 pair. Now I have

one more pair: 31/2" pumps in bone...only \$10.88. What a joy to be able to try them on IN THE STORE, with other ladies around, and not be labeled PERVERT! I tried on several others but only purchased the one pair. The sales girl rang them up and thanked me without showing any indication of being aware of my "secret."

After placing my package back in the truck, I entered Penny's. This brand new store didn't need "resetting" so things were easier to find. And they had some decent things at decent prices. I found a pair of girl shorts and searched for a top. Nothing else screamed "Buy Me!" so I took the shorts to the cashier. Now, this girl might have read me. She was civil, but avoided eye contact. I suspect she had a bit of a problem with me. However, I didn't feel at all uneasy. Instead, I "read" her as a poor salesperson.

By the time I got back on the road, it was time to head home and share my afternoon with Beverly. Earlier I had left a message on her voice-mail that "Bobbi was going shopping and would try to stay out of trouble." Somehow, I knew that information would cause Beverly some concern. So I pulled into the garage, gathered my packages, and entered the kitchen where I immediately called Beverly to let her know that Bobbi's first solo excursion had ended with a very satisfying landing.

Stay Healthy. Stay Beautiful. Avoid Runners.

Book Review

by :Julie Roberts

This month I thought I would tell everyone about a book that has just published called Crossdressing, Sex and Gender, written by Vern and Bonnie Bullough. This is the best book that I have found that gives a complete historical background for crossdressing from Ancient times, through the Middle Ages, present day and includes biographies of many Gay, Lesbian, Crosssdressing historical figures. There are also references to drag and crossdressing in the theater, movies and television.

One of the more interesting parts of the book tells of the struggles that were faced in starting the first organized crossdressing groups in the early Sixties. But the most important part of the book deals with the latest thinking on what influences sexual preference and gender, and up-to-date information on the study of heredity and genetics.

This book should be available at all the major libraries around town, as well as by special order at the larger bookstores in the area.

I KNEW DIANE

by: Bob

Several weeks ago a pre-op T.S., Diane, was killed in a Walnut Hills hotel. The press reported a "Drag Queen" (gave her male name) was killed (see: "Potpourri" by Bobbi L. Cross-Port Innerview, June, '93).

I knew this person for about 20 years. She was very

young when she was thrown out of her home and disowned by her family. She made her living on the streets and also made many friends. When she was 17 years old she began working in the Newport, Ky night clubs as a go-go dancer and bar mixer (a.k.a. B-girl). She was quite successful and made a lot of money.

Diane was almost 6 feet tall. She looked and acted like a woman. I never heard any foul language from her, and she was extremely modest when being fitted for gowns and under-clothing in my store.

Those of you who buy gaffs from my store should know that Diane was the one who came up with the design for this very important under-garment worn by males who wish to completely hide those parts which ladies do not have.

When the Newport clubs were basically closed by the do-gooders (yes, including our 900-number mayor), Diane left our area. Form time to time people would say she was "turning tricks," using dope, etc. I do not know how Diane was living, nor do I care. I know she had breast implants and was planning other surgery this fall.

Diane's family cut her hair, flattened her chest, and buried her as a man. Those of us who were her friends were very saddened by this burial.

DIANE WAS A LADY!!

Afterthought: could we as a group have helped Diane and the many others like her?

As most of you know Christopher's Lounge has closed

LINDA'S CORNER

for good. For the past several meetings we've meet at the Golden Lions in the Clifton area. Although we are welcome, and for many of us it's more convenient, it's just not the same. The bar is certainly more public, and nearby parking can be at a premium. For some older members, they could care less. But when you remember back to your first time out, and if it was at Christopher's, I'm sure you appreciated the seclusion. Therefore this bar doesn't really work for us.

We've really been lucky over the past six years. While many groups change meeting places quite frequently, we have been able to call this place home for a long When this group first organized, we met in Heather's basement. The group was small and it suited our needs. When the time came to move on, we knew a hotel room or a cloistered church basement would not meet the needs of the more out going members. Thus the search was on. Sharon (now an x-TV, if you can believe it) found the "Hang Out". This little old bar in Monroe, was owned by this straight older man named Ed. It was a gay bar however. The other patrons were friendly and Ed really loved our company. We knew we had a home. 18 months later Ed got deathly sick and closed the bar.

Out in the cold, we tried 1470 in Dayton. It was big, loud, and a very far drive for many of us. Thank goodness that within a few

weeks we heard some good news. A guy named Christopher bought the Hang Out. He was remodeling and it would soon open, and we were welcome back. As so there we stayed up till a few months ago. Just a history repeats itself, Christopher has sold the contents of the bar to two men who wish to reopen it. I understand they have signed new leases with the owners of the building. They currently are remodeling. Excepting that this time the bar will have a western theme to it, everything else will be about the same. Rumor has it, that it will be opening the first part of September. Again it sounds like our old stomping grounds will be renewed. I have been trying to contact the new owners through Dee, so next month look for the results.

By the way, if you want to come early this month, we will again be meeting at GJ Gaslights for supper about 7:30. You can park in their lot, eat, and then just walk next store to Golden Lions. If that's too early, we usually go down to the steak-in-egg after the meeting for coffee or breakfast. Hope to see you all there.

Also this month, many of us plan to attend the Coronation on August 21 at the Omni Netherlands Hotel, downtown. We are renting a room in the hotel early, so if you want to dress in the hotel, that's ok. Make sure you contact Joyce

first for details. We will also be going out early evening for some light supper and drinks. Mark your calendars now, and I'll have more for you next month.

You may also want to mark you calendars for the first week in October for the Southern Comfort Weekend. I know of 5 people planning on going already from our group, so you won't be alone. We should have brochures at the next meeting, or call the hotline number. Atlanta is really pretty this time of year, and the southern hospitality can't be beat.

Publication Notice
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InnerView is a monthly publication of Cross-Port for its members and friends. Subscription dues are \$18.00 per year payable in January of each year. It is our goal to support the TV, TS and Gay communities and in return we need your support.

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Cross-Port

Here is the current status of the Cross-Port Treasury:

Balance as of the July was: \$1057.27

July Expenses:

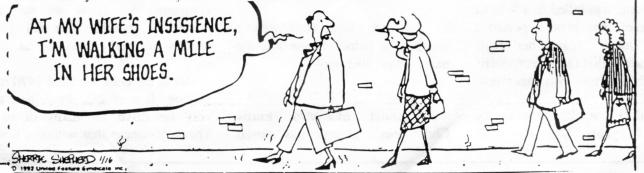
Phone Charges: \$20.65
Envelopes & Stamps: \$29.00
Printing June Newsletter: \$50.05
Bank Charges: \$3.60
Total Expenses: \$(103.30)

July Incomes:

Donations: \$61.50
Sale of Tapestries: \$12.00
Newsletter Subscriptions: \$6.50
Total Income: \$80.00

Profit/(Loss): \$(23.30)

Balance as of August 8: \$1033.97



Cross Dressers

Transgenderists

Transsexuals

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For Information: P. O. Box 33296, Decatur, GA 30033 or (404) 603-9426

*Quotes from previous Southern Comfort Convention Participants



"THAT'S WHAT'S BOTHERING ME, TOO. THE COSTUME PARTY ISN'T TONIGHT ... IT WAS LAST FRIDAY, "



'You look great, Mr. B. Now get rid of the cigar and go get 'em."



The only men allowed to wear dresses are Scotchmen, judges, and priests."



wedding dress."



