



BILLIE JEAN - CROWNING GLORY AT ETVC COTILLION '92



The three finalists in the 1992 Miss ETVC Cotillion: Leslie, Billie Jean and Lauren

Our Cotillion continues to prove there is exceptional talent and panache amongst the ranks and friends of ETVC. Seven contestants, Pamela Sousa, Deirdre MacBean, Leslie Regier, Lauren Hotchkiss, Shawna Ladd, Evette Roquelaurie and Billie Jean Jones formed the core of the evening's entertainment, with each doing an outstanding job displaying her talents and all providing proper form for their elaborate gowns and other outfits.

These girls, along with producer, Rusty, and director, Stephanie, and a host of important support troops, spent weeks preparing, consulting, shopping, and rehearsing to perfect this show. The results were well worth it for the contestants and the audience as well.

Miss Tommi Rose not only hosted the show as emcee, but also led a significant faction of followers from our brothers and sisters in the gay/drag queen community. She found ample opportunity to introduce outstanding personalities from both camps and a keynote visit from Senator and Mrs. Milton Marks, jousting with her audience as well, whether fitting or not. How easily this unusual mix could play and party together proved a fascinating and titillating diversion from the familiar and slightly more homogeneous regular club meetings.

All were treated to an elegant and appropriate buffet provided by

our hostess, Barbara, whose exceptional display deserves our highest praise.

To give the contestants a chance to catch their breath and change clothes, female impersonators, Eva Davis, and Miss Gay San Francisco, Amber Glass, provided moving and upbeat numbers that still tantalize the memory. The show opened with a tight number by the Star Ring Dance Troup and peaked again with our own Fabulous Foxes who each dazzled us with individual numbers, while backed by her group. Joann, Diahanna and Zia: Don't leave home without us!

In this age of commercialization, even our very Cotillion was subject to advertisement as the Nancy Ann McAnn School of Gender Transformation showed off two of their graduates, Julie and Jim, displaying successful metamorphoses. The school's only complaints stem from injuries sustained during their tongue in cheek presentations. Mama said never talk with a pun in your mouth.

Still loyal, Miss ETVC '90, Tiffany and outgoing Miss ETVC '91, Teri, each performed moving numbers to round out the show. The accompanying pictures best exemplify the flavor of the event.

Thank you, one and all; we already look forward to next year's show!

ETVC is a non-sexual, membership based organization with the purpose of serving the educational, social, and recreational needs of gender-challenged people, their spouses, significant others, family members, friends, and professionals in the helping services.

For details about ETVC programs, membership, newsletter subscriptions, and classified ads, please write to: ETVC Secretary, PO Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486.

O F F I C E R S

- President Martina
- Vice President Rusty
- Secretary Jane
- Treasurer Nancy Ann
- Education Evette & Paulette
- Outreach Lauren & Telzey
- Social Zia & Vanessa

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Membership (as of 1/31/92)	395
1991 Membership	393
New members this year	80

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance on 12/1/91	\$4,515.81
December income	3,395.00
December expenses	2,848.26

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Balance on 12/31/91	5,062.55
January income	6,518.95
January expenses	5,495.19

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Balance on 1/31/92	6,086.31

The ETVC Newsletter is published the last week of February, April, June, August, October and December. Materials for publication should be sent to ETVC by the first weekend of each of those months. Newsletter contents reflect the opinions of the contributors and the editor, and are not necessarily those of ETVC.

Other organizations may reprint or reproduce portions of the newsletter for their members, provided ETVC is acknowledged.

NEWSLETTER STAFF

- Editor Roxanne de Lyon
- Copy Editors Donna & Julie
- Design, Layout & Printing Print Wise
- Photographer David Swanson
- Production Roxanne de Lyon

A D R A T E S

	per issue	per year
Business Card	\$20	\$100
4" x 5"	\$50	\$250

P E R S O N A L A D S

ETVC will accept personal ads from ETVC members at the rate of \$1 per 3 lines. We will not accept ads with a purely sexual objective.

Send ad copy and a check for the appropriate amount to: ETVC, PO Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486.

Ad deadlines are the first day of the month of publication (June, August, October, December, February and April).

HOTLINE 510-549-2665

With my fourth issue, the romance is over and I have settled into the bump and grind of editing; although I'm still driving only on a learner's permit.

Last month's editorial generated some feedback, enclosed herein, and a few eyebrows raised even without the use of Herman's tape. It has caused me to ponder and discuss the issues with many of you, and I can only conclude that communication is a very tough thing to accomplish.

What's In A Name?

At Martina's request, I am digging deep into the considerable creativity and wisdom allowed me as a holder of an editor's learner's permit (eat your heart out, Billie Jean!) to comment on a request to the community by Virginia Prince to publish her open letter suggesting a new name for crossdressers. Virginia started the first clubs and publications billions of years ago, like in the fifties, and is acknowledged by many as, at the very least, a Grand Dame.

She found the term *transvestite* to have medical, and thus abnormal, connotations with a pejorative flavor to it. The substitute, *crossdresser*, tells what we do but not what we are. She tried *femmiphile* which was too technical to catch on. She seeks a term which inherently describes who we are and provides a comfortable handle for others to use. It should not require education nor be too technical or medical, so people can relate to it practically the first time they hear it.

She finds "femmemen, girl-guys, he-shes, fememales and she-males" to be too "cutesy" as descriptive terms. She-males in particular are often displayed sexually in transvestite and TV magazines tarnishing those latter two names with an undesirable connotation as well.

She proposes *bi-genderist* or *bi-genderal* for individuals, and *bi-gendered* for the community at large, citing many common words prefixed with bi. She notes that transgenderist and transsexual remain valid terms since they describe someone who has "crossed over" to the other side of either gender, or sexual identity, distinguishing them from crossdressers who exist occasionally in either of two distinct states, thus giving rise to the term bi-gendered, as distinct from bi-sexual.

Another term which circulates that Virginia did not mention is *gender-challenged*. If we are to have a new name, it should certainly be positive and flattering rather than carrying a negative connotation. For this reason I would immediately reject gender-challenged, as it says: **I HAVE A PROBLEM.**

When you explain to someone that you are a genderist, or bi-gendered and they say, "What's that?" since the definition of these words is not yet commonly known, invariably, unless you have a lot of time, you end up saying, "It's a TV, or transvestite or crossdresser." They say, "Oh, I see, but I don't understand why you do that?" Then comes the need for the two hour seminar.

We barely have glimpses of who we are, even though we question it and live with it night and day. This month's letters to the editor show even TVs and TSs have a hard time understanding each other. Why should we expect the general public to "get it" with one hyphenated word?

Bi-gendered continues to support the dichotomy of genders and fails to address the possibility of a *gender spectrum*, which appears more like the truth and to me the direction we should be educating. I don't mind a new word and a clean slate yet public "opinion" already "knows" what transvestites are thanks to the sensationalistic media. We have the formidable task of attempting to change that opinion in 250 million people in this country alone! One word just ain't gonna do it; generations of education may - maybe. Though Virginia's ideals are laudable, I believe they should be implemented only after WE have a clearer insight into who we really are, which I don't think is so far away once you abandon the beliefs in a gender dichotomy in favor of a multi-dimensional gender spectrum. By waiting we avoid being sidetracked, on our quest for understanding and unity, into the alluring trap of words, names and labels. Should the gender spectrum prove a reality, the term *gender enhanced* carries both a positive connotation and an indication of the scout-like nature of our voyages into the gender frontier.

For a complete copy of Miss Prince's letter, send a SASE and a note indicating your request to the ETVC P.O. box, *which you will note has changed.*

A Letter From the Secretary

Dear Members,

As secretary of ETVC and officer responsible for production of our newsletter, I offer my apology to those who felt slighted and offended by the views expressed in last issue's editorial. I had hoped that Roxanne, talented and skilled as she is, could see our March/April edition through to completion and remain editor for many more to come. Unfortunately, she and I did not concur on editorial policy regarding the controversy she had stirred, and so I have taken over the final stages of production, starting with the rewriting of this page and ending with a mailing which is not, I trust, excessively late.

Not unexpectedly, last issue's editorial spurred many transsexuals to write and phone, taking us rightfully to task. Here are excerpts from a few letters:

Editor:

I am increasingly of the opinion that transvestites should not write about transsexual issues. I do not believe my life to be a lose-lose situation, nor do I believe it to be ANY kind of a lie.

Psychologically, hormonally, and socially I am a woman. The only thing I can't change is my chromosomes. So what? (There are people out there with chromosomal abnormalities that keep even that category from being as cut and dried as you think).

I never forget my TS status, but I am quite proud to just call myself a woman without the qualifier. I think you had ought to consider your words very carefully when you write about transsexuals, because you have the editorial power to bring the gender community together, or to give TS's a new reason to flee the ranks of ETVC.

Christine Beatty

Director, S.F.G.I.

Editor:

Being an editor requires a responsibility to understand the extensive literature on transsexualism and its clinical relationship to transvestism. Rationalizing your ignorant remarks only further marginalizes transsexuals and perpetuates the prejudicial, patriarchal and sexist beliefs that keep us TS's "invisible." Please apologize to your transsexual readership.

Sincerely,

Cacy L.

Editor:

I, too, envision a world where each individual can be free to express himself or herself in any clothing or gender model she or he wishes. I, too, am uninterested in living a lie. That is precisely why I began taking male hormones and submitted to surgical sex reassignment (or, should I say, gender confirmation) surgery.

I believe you do transsexuals a disservice by applying your own perception of our situation over our experience. You say you know you are male. I, too, know I am male. I knew it before hormones and surgery, and in my female body, I was living a lie. To call my transformation mutilation is to assume that the female form was natural to me. I am not ashamed of my transsexual experience, though it is not something I discuss out of context.

I, too, wish to catalyze necessary cultural change. I, too, wish that "radical surgeries, procedures, chemicals, time and money...[were] not...required." But when it was a choice between surgery or the negation of personal spirit (death of the soul, if you will), I chose to take the physical risk rather than the spiritual one.

In the "gender community" we must not tolerate or accommodate diversity, we must welcome it. I trust we will continue to work together to further human understanding. Thank you for raising these issues.

Sincerely,

James Green

Editor, FTM Newsletter

I thank Christine, Cacy, James and others for their concern and pledge my best efforts to assure that all sectors of our diverse community are heard and respected in ETVC as we seek to serve, "the educational, social, and recreational needs of gender-challenged people, their spouses, significant others, family members, friends, and professionals in the helping services." That's a big mission, which we've only begun to realize in small ways, and from which controversy for its own sake diverts. When we covet our avowed loving purpose with far more earnestness than we now invest, we will find, as loving people from Jesus Christ to Eleanor Roosevelt found, controversy aplenty; or rather, it will find us.

Lastly, because our newsletter is not the voice or property of any one person, each of us connected with it must ultimately come under review either by the editor, secretary, executive committee, or you, the members. Please continue to let us know how we are doing.

Jane Bentley

Editor:

The Cotillion was superb! I had a wonderful time - it was so good to see everyone truly enjoying their second self or primary identity. Keep up the good work and let me know if there's anything I can do.

Lin Fraser

ETVC offers the following informational listings:

Video Library	\$1.00
Article Library	\$1.00
Lending Library List	\$1.00

To order please send a check or money order with your name and address to:

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PO Box 426486
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SPECIAL EVENTS

GenderLingo!

March 16

Ariadne Kane, Director of the Human Outreach and Achievement Institute in Maine, will talk with us about various gender issues at Lily's on Valencia and Market in San Francisco. Monday, March 16 - 8 P.M. Donation \$3

Leather and Lace

March 26

It's not what you wear, it is always how you wear it. Get out your leather miniskirt, shoes or belt and mix it with the frilly femme blouse and lace gloves. There will also be some very interesting surprises. Members \$3 and Guests \$5. March 26 - 8 P.M. Chez Mollet, 527 Bryant St., San Francisco.

How's Your Image?

April 11

Wilhemina M. Beins, Fashion Image Consultant in San Rafael, will help us with our feminine image at Lily's on Valencia and Market in San Francisco. Saturday, April 11 - 2 P.M. Donation \$3

April in Paris Is Burning

April 30



What is your best look? Do you have "realness?" We're all going to find out at the Chez on April 30. In this most unusual event, which is adapted from the famed documentary "Paris is Burning," everyone gets a chance to show her best, most convincing look. Passing doesn't count; expensive clothes don't matter. A pulled together appearance does.

The open contest categories are very broad and include best "Business/Professional" (a conservative category), best "Night on the Town" (think dinner date, a show), and best "South of Market" (funk, jeans, minis, leather). We will definitely have at least one category strictly for our sexy seniors. We are also going to have a best "Out of the Closet" category for members who have not been out in public more than six months. Like the senior category, our ex-closet queens can wear what they like and can participate in the open events, too. There will be a prize for Best Makeup and an overall title for Most Realistic who will be selected by a distinguished panel of judges from the open category winners. Finally, if possible, Most Versatile will go to the outfit that can qualify for the three major open categories without a change of clothes although accessories and removal of clothes are permitted. Plan to stay in the back room for this titillating and challenging show!

This is going to be a very hot show, with great music. It is designed to reflect what people typically wear to our socials because we want everyone to join in. And there is more: just before the event, well-known fashion consultant Wilhemina Beins will give a brief demonstration of feminine movement and walk. Members \$3, Guests \$5

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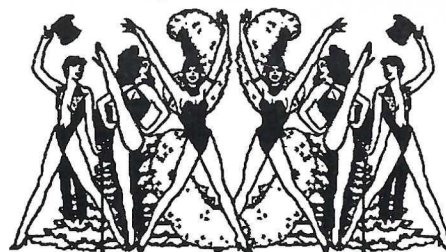
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TV/TS/TQ GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

A Calendar of Events for March & April



MARCH

2	ETVC	Outreach Committee	Starts at 8 PM	San Leandro	(510) 849-4112
3	Foxy Lady Social	7:30 - 10:30 PM	San Francisco	(415) 285-4980
3	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 849-4112
4	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
6	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
7	ETVC	Executive Committee	Starts at 8 PM	San Francisco	(408) 984-5619
9	RGA	Rap Group	Meets 8-10 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-5619
12	ETVC	Significant Others Support	Meets 8-10 PM	Pleasant Hill	(415) 664-1499
13	ETVC	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
14	ETVC	Education Committee	Meets at 12:00	Lily's	(408) 984-5619
16	ETVC	GenderLingo	Starts at 8 PM	Lily's	(408) 984-5619
16	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 849-4112
18	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
19	ETVC	Couples Social	Starts at 8 PM	Oakland	(415) 664-1499
20	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
26	ETVC	Leather and Lace	Starts at 8 PM	Chez Mollet	(415) 641-9002
27	RGA	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	Sunnyvale	(408) 732-7406
27	Pac Ctr	Open Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
28	SGA	Dinner/Social	Starts at 8 PM	Sacramento	(916) 441-8379

APRIL

1	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
2	ETVC	Outreach Committee	Starts at 8 PM	Berkeley	(510) 849-4112
3	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
4	ETVC	Executive Committee	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-5619
7	Foxy Lady Social	7:30 - 10:30 PM	San Francisco	(415) 285-4980
7	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 849-4112
9	ETVC	Significant Others Support	Meets 8-10 PM	Los Gatos	(415) 664-1499
10	ETVC	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
11	ETVC	Education Committee	Meets at 12:00	Lily's	(408) 984-5619
11	ETVC	How's Your Image?	Starts at 2 PM	Lily's	(408) 984-5619
13	RGA	Rap Group	Meets 8-10 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-5619
15	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
17	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
20	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 849-4112
23	ETVC	Couples Social	Starts at 8 PM	Antioch	(415) 664-1499
24	RGA	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	Sunnyvale	(408) 732-7406
24	Pac Ctr	Open Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
25	SGA	Dinner/Social	Starts at 8 PM	Sacramento	(916) 441-8379
30	ETVC	April in Paris is Burning	Starts at 8 PM	Chez Mollet	(415) 641-9002

OTHER GROUPS

Pacific Center for Human Growth, a counseling-oriented growth center, sponsors all-inclusive gender support groups on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, and last Friday of the month at 8:00 PM. The Center is located at 2712 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley. Call (510) 841-6224 for more information.

Rainbow Gender Association (RGA) meets on the 1st and 3rd Friday of the month at 8:00 PM at the New Community of Faith Church, 6350 Rainbow Drive, San Jose. RGA can be contacted by writing: Rainbow Gender Association, PO Box 700730, San Jose, CA 95170.

Sacramento Gender Association (SGA) Blue Rose Chapter meets at 8PM on the fourth Saturday of each month at the Town & Country Inn's restaurant 2060 Auburn Blvd. Sacramento; call (916) 441-8379 for directions. Write Blue Rose Chapter, PO Box 215456, Sacramento, CA 95821-1456 for more information.

Diablo Valley Girls (DVG) meets on the 1st Tuesday and 3rd Monday of every month at 8:00 PM at Just Rewards nightclub, 2520 Camino Diablo in Walnut Creek. For more information, write: DVG, PO Box 272885, Concord, CA 94527-2885, or call (510) 849-4112.

Any woman who loves a male crossdresser faces a challenge no one ever prepared her to deal with, a challenge that can be lonely, confusing and even frightening. Discovering tell-tale evidence of her man's crossdressing, a woman may at first assume it is proof he is seeing someone else. After all, why would she think that pink brassiere is HIS? Sooner or later though, when she can no longer deny to herself what he is really up to, her shock may be even worse than had he been involved with another woman.

Suddenly, her tense but normal-seeming hubby appears more like a weirdo sneaking around her bedroom, often in HER underwear. She may respond with anger at his having lived a lie: "He's not really the man I thought he was!" She may rebuke herself for not being woman enough for him. Or she may wonder if he isn't really gay. A gulf opens between them. What should she do? Run home to Mom and Dad? Make him see a therapist about his "problem?" Give him an ultimatum, me or "her?"

Men crossdress to ritualistically express their own repressed anima energy. (See ETVC Newsletter Jan-Feb for a discussion of the anima. Ed.) But if a woman trusts her own womanhood and her loving bond with her man, she can find the strength and requisite faith to assist his anima in its task of guiding him towards inner balance, creativity and spirituality.

But his own shame, guilt and confusion about crossdressing block this process. So her first step is to set aside her own anxieties, homophobia, and distaste for the awkward, even grotesque sight of him en femme. She can then serve their relationship by helping him accept what isn't going to disappear anyway, namely, his previously disowned, seemingly paradoxical anima.

Every woman understands all too well the fearsome pain of abandonment. This can aid her in empathizing with the man's struggle to feel the pain of his own rejected, abandoned yin/female anima. Repressing this tenderest, most vulnerable aspect of his psyche leaves him bitter, frustrated and joyless. If she can gently and respectfully encourage him to explore the anima as a vehicle for integrated wholeness, it usually brings a new depth and realness to their relationship. By dealing openly and empathetically with what is really there, she helps demystify and transform it.

After all, she is a lifelong, fulltime expert in the female world to which her man aspires. She can lead him beyond this culture's obsession with female appearance when she teaches him more satisfying, if less glamorous, feminine traits such as sensitivity, gentleness, intuition, cooperation and listening.

Our culture forbids men expression of feelings other than anger, and so they lose touch with their own voices. Their need to reintegrate after decades of neglect is as touching as it is appalling. The degree of numbing self-separation in most men is utterly incredible, but with her coaching, the part-time, would-be woman can reconnect to his body and feelings. Some men can only learn these quintessential human traits by ritualistically donning women's clothing and mimicking their behavior.

The key lies in receiving as a gift his eccentric craving for externalizing the feminine. It is indeed an opportunity, a hopeful breakthrough out of the gender doldrums of patriarchal stereotypes. Instead of a calamity, his transvestism can provide the opening gambit into a new period of intense growth, fun and shared intimacy.

Her man might even be modeling the sort of risk-taking she herself needs in confronting her own shadow. Girls learn early in life to split off and repress whatever threatens men: their own open assertiveness, decisiveness and tomboyishness, as well as any interest in such traditionally male pursuits as politics or engineering. Although it is less true nowadays, during the fifties and sixties women were coerced into the nurturer/co-dependent role model as ruthlessly as men were forced to conform to the competitive/succeed-at-any-price model. If HE can explore his

softer, sweeter anima side, SHE can finally stop playing Snow White, Jewish Mother or Supermom and get real about her own slumbering animus energies.

What most often complicates this interpersonal dynamic is sex. What if he wants to wear lingerie to bed? Or insists she call him by his femme name? Not many women are going to find his silky nightgown particularly arousing. A voice within her may well be murmuring, "This is ridiculous/kinky/silly/etc." etc. Perhaps it is, but so is her moodiness during PMS; her chocoholism; her sudden grief, years after a pet disappears; her obsession with a movie star, or having to drive a certain color car. We ALL have our addictions, quirks, idiosyncrasies, and Walter Mitty fantasies that rise like little bubbles out of the depths of our unconscious.

So what if he wants her to pretend he is Jane Fonda/Marilyn Monroe/Cheryl Tiegs, when all she sees is the same old scruffy, paunchy panting lovable lunkhead she's been sleeping with for umpteen years? He wants to *play*, he's like a kid, pretending, but also reaching towards something lovely and shimmering down in that pool of unconsciousness, the way people do in dreams.

If she has ever wanted to be 20 pounds lighter, 20 years younger, or 20 times more beautiful, she might understand his need to occasionally approach his own legitimate, if invisible, feminine side. The form his yearnings may take matters less than the immediacy and depth of his craving for growth and integration. Once she stops resisting, she can even play "dress up" with him, or try out some of her own secret parasexual fantasies.

In return for her sympathetic understanding, she might ask for a new kitchen, support in returning to school, help with the household, or even an end to football Sundays. She can now ally herself with his anima, addressing herself to this womanly part of him, when the male lughead in him just doesn't seem to understand her. The "other woman" in him can become a friend, a sister, helping to balance him where he probably most needs it; learning to listen, spending more quality time with her and the kids, seeking more mutually interesting friends, and finding more meaningful and creative work.

If a relationship does not grow and evolve, it stagnates. Crossdressing is a surefire sign that a man is unconsciously seeking balance and joy in his life. Like Dustin Hoffman in Tootsie, a crossdresser grows as a man by exploring his inner woman. The trick is to help him see crossdressing as a means to this end, not as the end in itself. The relationship enhancing questions to ask are: What can his anima teach him? How can it enrich his life? And what will eventually happen after the fetishistic thrill disappears? Denial and threats cannot coerce his anima back into the closet, but respecting and enjoying it can immeasurably deepen a relationship.

Renee Chinquapin has a MA in Psychology, and welcomes gender clients in her Berkeley counseling practice. She specializes in working with couples, and in-depth Jungian, feminist exploration of Self through dream work and owning projections.



"Jane, curtain's up in an hour. Why aren't you ready?"

"Come on in, Sadie. I don't think I'm going to get dressed tonight."

"Why?"

"I dunno. Call it an identity crisis."

"Don't tell me you're giving up crossdressing again. Or are you just scared of getting read?"

"No, not really. It's just — sure, getting read can be a good way of starting conversation and doing outreach — but, what if people ask what I call myself, I won't know what to say."

"I've always liked the name *Jane*."

"No not what to name myself. But how to identify myself. *transvestite* conjures up images of—"

"Oh, you want a kind of badge, like a guy on convention. 'Hi, I'm Elwood the Grand Brassiere.'"

"You're playing with me, Sadie."

"Well, I'm trying to. But it sounds as if you're taken with what appears to be a burgeoning CAUSE CELEBRE: How do we define ourselves in a word that tells clearly and concisely who we are?"

"In a dignified manner."

"May I give you my thoughts while you get ready? Good. First, if this is a big deal for many folks in our community, who am I to say it ain't? For me, though, it ain't. If none of the names for us fits or seems quite adequate, I say, good. Why give others a comfy box to drop us in? I prefer confusion. It's a perfect tool for loosening up tongues and prying open ears, minds and hearts."

"Wait a minute, Sadie. You must have *some* definition of yourself."

"If I did (Are you going to wear that? Lovely!) it would be different today from yesterday, or tomorrow, and gender

wouldn't necessarily be a major part of it, if only because all gender terms I've ever heard are static, and people aren't. Since I grow flowers and vegetables, play guitar and dance, I'd rather that you call me the dancing guitardener."

"C'mon, get serious (How's my lipstick?)."

"I am. Like Alan Watts, though, I'm just not solemn. Sweetie, look how silly this definition business can get if we apply it — well, to your life, for example. During the past year you've changed labels like a coat on clearance: Crossdresser, transgenderist, transsexual. Each was real but transitory. What I want to know is what do you call the journey? How about destination unknown?"

"Well, the ultimate destination is death."

"Hmm, are you sure you're not seeing your life in terms of its limits rather than its possibilities? If you want a new, here's my advice: Don't look to define but to evoke. Whoever thought of dropping homosexual for gay had the right idea. The former is cold, scientific and dismissive. The latter is a state of mind."

"If I were conjuring up a new name for us, I would use the French word for potato, *Pomme de Terre*, for inspiration. It means, earth apple. With a deft stroke of poetic imagination the French exalted the humble potato into gastronomic buried treasure. And how much more important are WE to Divine Mother than potatoes of the field?"

"Hey, I'm buried treasure!"

"And a heck of a cute tomato, too. Ready?"

"Ready! *Pomme de Terre!*"

"*Pomme de Terre!*"

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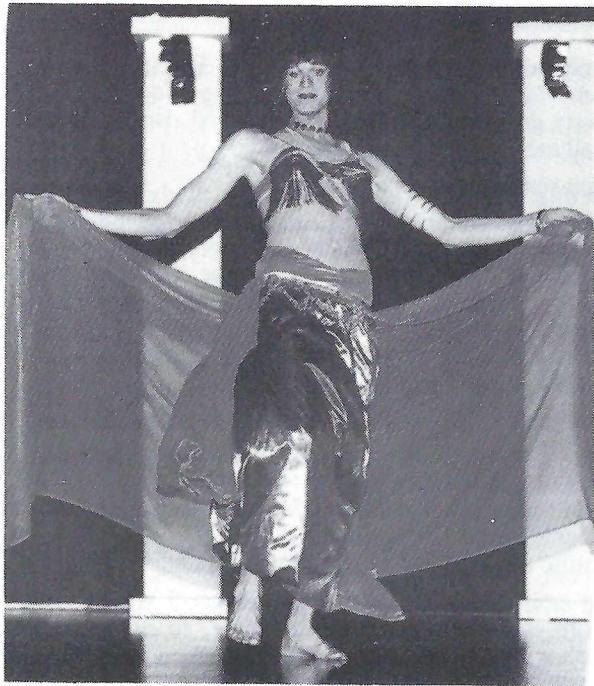
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Deirdre

A Note Of Thanks

Another Cotillion has come and gone, another magical evening of lasting memories and special moments. My congratulations to Teri. I'm very proud of you. Congratulations are also in order for our new Miss ETVC, Billie Jean. I look forward to seeing you at various events. Please let me know if there is anything I can do for you. To all of the contestants, simply put, you were fabulous. You have represented ETVC with class, beauty, and pride and we all applaud your efforts.

A cotillion is made possible only through the hard work and many hours put in by those who work behind the scenes to put on the best show possible. These special people deserve our thanks and applause.

Stephanie Wong, the director: You did it again and better. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of the show. Rusty, you produced a good one. The entire stage crew who do a lot of things nobody wants to do, and the Cotillion crew, whose names are numerous, yet each important and special.

To Tommi Rose, who did another fabulous job as emcee, good luck at La Cage. With performers such as Eva Davis, The Fabulous Foxes, and Amber Glass, how could the Cotillion be anything but the Cotillion. I'm sure I speak for the entire club in offering our heartfelt condolences and sympathies.

A special thanks to the audience and club members who come and support the Cotillion. For there would be no show without an audience to appreciate it.

special. My special thanks to Diahanna, Zia, Joanne, Gerry, and Roxanne for lending me their time and talent in my last song.

Thank you, Ginny, who takes care of the judges from start to finish. A special thank you

to our very prestigious judges, Bill Jones, Debbie Neal, and Miss Timmi Ryan. I am very grateful to Miss Timmi for giving ETVC her time and talent during this difficult time in her personal life. Her father passed away before Christmas, yet she found time to be with us at the Cotillion. I'm sure I speak for the entire club in offering our heartfelt condolences and sympathies.



Transsexual Clearing House – Nancy Ann, Julie & Jim



Teri



Emcee



The Fabulus Foxes - Joanne, Diahanna and Zia

I have been a part of the Cotillion the last three years as a contestant and a performer. It is a very unique experience, an event to look forward to each year, an event to attend at least once in your life. Please join us next year.

All my love,
Tiffany,
Miss ETVC 1990



Lauren

Dear Siblings,

By the powers granted me as the reigning Miss ETVC, I wish you a long and happy life - may you realize all your dreams.

Well, actually, I can't recall anyone granting me any powers, but we don't care about that, do we? Heck no. In fact, I never bother

with those minor details - I just take my right to be. I don't take my rights from any-

one else, though. I was born with 'em. Just like you were.

Okay, First I want to thank and congratulate ETVC for putting on the Cotillion, and the individual members of ETVC who sacrificed their time and energy in order to accomplish all the details of the Cotillion (like setting everything up, taking it all down, and cleaning the residue away). **THANK YOU! CONGRATULATIONS!**

Second, from my perspective as a "contestant-participant," and I hope I speak for the others, Stephanie Wong did an outstanding job as Cotillion Director. She was constantly "on her toes" with myriad details, encouraging words, helpful suggestions, and she kept our little circle infused with non-competitive spirit and sisterhood. **Thank you, Stephanie** - long may you run, and may the Bird of

Paradise guard your hose (should I go to the 'pun'tentiary now?).

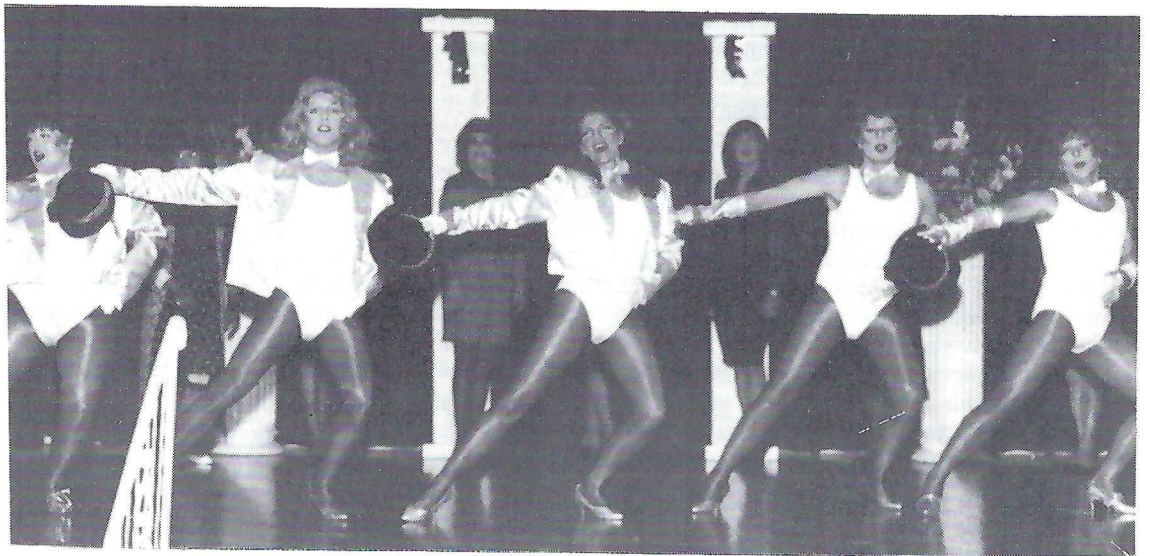
Third, to all the other ETVC members and non-members who support ETVC, attended, contributed or participated in the Cotillion - you did the "right thing." **Thank you!**

So, what's it like to be Miss ETVC 1992? It's a wonderful mid-step between just trying and just trying. The experience of putting out the effort as a "contestant" was its own reward; fulfilling this opportunity is a big challenge.

Speaking of challenges, Miss ETVC would like to participate with as many of you as possible on three specific fund raisers: one for a women's group; one for a men's group; and one for a homeless/hungry group. I hope these can be done as social/educational/outreach events with lots of fun and good spirits. Persons with energy and ideas are invited to come forward.

And, if anyone has any ideas as to how Miss ETVC can benefit ETVC, and further advance the enhancement of gender alternative persons, kindly advise by letter to the club's address.

Luv,
Billie Jean



The Star Ring Dance Troup



- Tommi Rose



Rusty & Evette

Shawna



Pamela

Transvestites are not a third sex, but we are a third possibility, one with unlimited options and combinations. That is one reason why people can find transvestites both appealing and appalling, according to the book, *Vested Interests*, by Marjorie Garber.

Published in early January, Garber says that we both fascinate and frighten because we are the living proof that gender roles are mere artifices. From this launching pad, Garber takes off into an exploration of the ancient relationship between crossdressing and theater, the role of crossdressing in popular culture, fashion and the arts as well as examining how crossdressing men and women "deconstruct" the hard and fast notions of gender. The book will receive a full review in the next newsletter as I have not quite completed it. What I can say now is that Garber, an English professor at Harvard, has written a deeply scholarly work that examines the influences of our community on culture and society in a highly original and entertaining way.

One of the most memorable, and moving, sections of the book shows how the story of Peter Pan may be the ultimate transvestite tale. Peter Pan, of course, is a boy who is always played by a woman. He is the child in us all, a translucent spirit who is told that he will forever be "a-Betwixt-and-Between." Even his great enemy, Captain Hook, has "a touch of the feminine, as in all great pirates."

Like fictional stars Peter and Hook, many great artists also have projected personas that are "betwixt and between." Obvious people like David Bowie and Michael Jackson, are mentioned, but Garber also ascribes a transvestite style and persona to such disparate figures as Valentino and Elvis, both of whom derived "star quality" by exploiting personal beauty and extravagant costuming to reach the top of the heap. Jackson, by the way, would be the perfect person to play "the boy who never grows up," Garber says. And where does this real life Peter Pan actually live? On a ranch called "Neverland."

I'll have more on all this next time.

COTILLION 1992 was the best I've ever seen. It was fast-paced, funny, exciting, even suspenseful. Excellent job by director Stephanie Wong and the entire cast and crew (see Roxanne's story for the whole lowdown).

My congrats to Miss ETVC 1992, Billie Jean Jones. As BJ would say: Way Cool! A true original, Billie Jean is a prolific writer who publishes her own newsletter and writes for a couple of community mags.

I really like her newsletter "TV Guise." Like most people, I *need* to know what Billie Jean has been wearing, who she's been talking to and where she's been for the last 30 days or so. And this is the indispensable source for that valuable info. I have to say that I was a little ticked about the Dec/Jan issue: there were *only* four pictures of Billie Jean in it. Bogus. (Sorry BJ, couldn't resist).

Didn't you just love that astounding gown Billie Jean wore for the Cotillion's evening wear competition? It was gorgeous, but get this: she rented it from a drag queen. Excellent depression-era thinking, dudette!

This reminds me of my friend, Alexandra, formerly known as Randi, a transsexual who competed a couple years back. She wore this incredible gown she had purchased from Macy's. Then, naughty girl, she returned it. To this day, I blame her for the Macy's no return policy for social occasion dresses, the only clothing item with such a rule to my knowledge. (By the way, Alexandra turned up late at this year's show and is doing very well in her new life and in her career.)

It was also really great to see that Sen. Milton Marks and his wife attended the show. Many thanks also to our friends from the court system and the gay and lesbian community in general for their outstanding support. Thank you also to Mr. Marcus for your nice write-up and photos in the Bay Area Reporter.

One small complaint: only two people from ETVC and one RGA member were publicly introduced at the Cotillion. This annoyed me (and quite a few others) because a lot of other people were introduced, including a person from New York who was just visiting town. I have spoken to president Martina Bloom about this, since she gathered the names of those who were presented. I know that there was no deliberate slight intended but both Martina and I agreed that this won't happen again next year.

Lotsa noise in some of the better newsletters lately about whether or not the Gender Alternatives League should or should not press to have transvestism and transsexualism removed from the new editions of the DSM, which is the basic psychiatric reference manual. GAL wants TV/TS out because we are stigmatized as mentally ill by inclusion in the manual, while the opposition, which seems to be centered around Philadelphia's JoAnn Roberts, apparently feels this is not a central issue to the community, that political energy could be better spent on other issues and that transsexuals could lose some of the few remaining insured benefits some companies offer (therapy for example) if transsexualism is removed.

The aforementioned TV Guise newsletter has taken a particularly major shot at GAL. After stating that "I express no ill will" to GAL people, editor Billie Jean Jones calls its founder "a totalitarian dictator" who has been "alienating a large number of individuals." Yow.

Make-up tips in this community are like you-know-whats: everyone has one. Here's mine. I don't know about you, but I've always wanted a foundation that would perfectly match my skin tones and would not crack, grease up or cake up.

Well I still haven't found the perfection, but I have found "Prescriptives." If you've got a foundation that works perfectly already, don't switch, 'cause this stuff isn't cheap at \$30 a fluid ounce. But with 115 shades in stock, and the option of custom blending, you will get that elusive color match you've always wanted. The product is light and long lasting. Cracking is minimal and easily repaired with matching compact powders. A major downside (besides the price) is that you will still probably need some kind of beard cover if you are really hairy. The product is available at Macy's and other department stores.


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Ginny Knuth and Nancy Ann Martine may be the best known people in ETVC. Many a newcomer has found their way into ETVC through Nancy Ann and Ginny, who have opened their hearts and home to hundreds of us. Through thick and a lot of thin, Ginny and Nancy Ann have been there for our community. For many years they handled most of the club correspondence and the "hotline," which was their home phone, taking late night calls from frightened gender people. Ginny concocted the idea of the club's now nationally famous Cotillion and it was Nancy Ann who first got us into the Gay Freedom Day Parade. Nancy Ann is currently a member of the board of the International Foundation for Gender Education, our national umbrella group and has been ETVC's treasurer for seven years. Ginny is our minister without portfolio, as she holds no official title, but many of us consider her the solid foundation that has kept the club together through good times and bad.

Q: You two are really famous for being so amazingly supportive of newcomers and people in need. Why do you continue to do so much work for the club?

Ginny: We had the hotline for six years... and it was an amazing experience. I would talk to people and later they would tell me that I'd saved their life, they had felt that alone and isolated. You can imagine how hearing that makes you feel.

This is a very big deal for a lot of people; we sometimes forget that. There are just so many people in need, who really need to hear someone say it's okay, no matter how strung out you are about this, it is okay. For a lot of people just hearing that, just hearing that they are accepted is a revelation.

And every week, it was somebody else.

After a while you start to realize that what this group is doing is a pretty important thing. That's why I get protective about this club. It is important to keep it functioning and making sure that things get done. A lot of people count on us.

Nancy Ann: We still get people who come to the Chez and have sat out at the front bar for months quaking in their boots. We should never forget that part of what we are about is helping people become a part of this community. It isn't just about socials.

Q: You folks go back so far with the group it's hard to believe that you were once newcomers to the community, too. What was that like?

Ginny: That was back in 1983 and I had been Don's lover for a year when he told me. I was almost 50 and I thought I'd seen everything, but I hadn't! When he told me he was a transvestite I knew all the myths, like that it was kinky. But from what he told me it was clear that a lot of what I thought was true wasn't. My thing was I wanted to know what it was about...So I called the Library of Congress to find out what information was available and they were very helpful. Like a lot of women, I needed to

know why. He just wanted to have fun with it. I admit I was surprised when he told me about it because he was and is a very masculine man.

Nancy Ann: You know the thing is that I had to unlearn a lot myself about all this. I knew gay people, and I knew some crossdressed, but I also knew I wasn't a drag queen. Ginny and I really did learn a lot together.

Ginny: TVs should try to understand that it is not easy to live in a relationship with a transvestite. There needs to be a lot of understanding on both sides. It can be very tough for a woman because in his enthusiasm she may feel like she is being put over on the side.

Q: Is there any difference between the people you see now at our socials and the people who you first met?

Ginny: People are so much more outgoing now and they are getting younger. In the beginning most of the people were at least 45, but people are getting less and less afraid.

Nancy Ann: But we are really still seeing just the tip of the iceberg.

Q: I've always remembered one of our first conversations when you (Nancy Ann) told me that a lot of crossdressers belong to Paranoids Anonymous. Were you always brave?

Nancy Ann: I remember the first time I went out. I had parked the car in an alley and had to walk past three cars. I was a basket case by the time I got to the door.

Q: Why do so many people come and go through this group, are we doing something wrong?

Ginny: Just the opposite. I think that a lot of people, once they feel good about who they are, do go on to other things. They don't need us anymore and that's okay, we still have great parties!

Q: In recent years, you two have been instrumental in creating connections between our group and the gay community. How did that come about?

Nancy Ann: I guess it started when we decided we wanted to go to a coronation...Ginny had some contacts and we got the tickets through Tina Tanner. We really enjoyed ourselves so I asked her to come to one of our socials. She came down and was enthralled and the following year she ran and became Empress of San Francisco (1986).

Ginny: Being connected to the gay community made sense to me. People always want places to go and there is no bar that is just for us. The gay community has the facilities and the events...once we made contact, they welcomed us and gave our members more opportunities to go out, have fun and be safe...You have a lot of places you can go now, too, because the Tavern Guild (an organization of gay-owned bars) has a non-discriminatory policy about crossdressers. Any bar that

cont. on pg. 12



violates that policy is kicked out.

Q: And of course now, too, we are able to march in the Gay Freedom Day Parade, which a lot of people have found to be an exhilarating experience.

Nancy Ann: That was my idea. I had gone down to the parade myself hoping to meet people and it just seemed like a good way to show people who we are as well as to do some outreach...I have to say though that early on I was a little naive. I presumed that most gay people understood that many transvestites, probably most, are heterosexuals, but they can be just as uniformed. I have had gay men ask me more than once why I put on a dress if I'm straight.

Q: We couldn't leave this subject without mentioning that there are some people in our community who think we should not be so closely linked to the gay community. Does that bother you?

Ginny: I know that and I don't understand it at all. Why should anyone fear gay people? We are pleased and privileged that THEY allow us to use so much that is their community. We only win by having these connections because it allows us all to go into a bigger yard to play.

Q: What comes next for ETVC and for our community?

Nancy Ann: I really believe that we need to have our own facility. The Chez is great, but we need to have our own place. At one time we thought we had a building and we had some people who said they might invest in it. The concept was that we would rent rooms for changing, have a social area and so one, but the place had major foundation problems.

Ginny: I believe that the 1990s could be to transvestism what the late 1960s was to the gay movement...I really believe that by the end of this decade people will be ready to accept this community, but it won't happen on its own. This is when we have to get serious, to work together to present the community in such a way that it will be looked upon positively. We cannot go wrong if we present ourselves with dignity and class.

But this community needs to be proud of itself first, and that shouldn't be that hard: you are beautiful and special. ♡

The Significant Other Support Group wants to invite all Significant Others to attend our SOS group meetings. Group members define Significant Others as wives, lovers, friends, children and others close to TV/TS persons but are themselves not TV/TS. We encourage you to ask the SO in your own life to come to these meetings, particularly if the SO feels they need support from their peers in dealing with their feelings about the TV/TS in their lives. It is important to emphasize that all meetings are kept STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL. This is to help insure that a safe, supportive environment is created in which all attendees will feel secure enough to really be able to share and talk about their feelings. We are frequently assisted by a helping professional with a specialty in our area of concern.

The SOS group meets the second Thursday of each month from 8 to 10 p.m. Our next meetings are scheduled for March 12 and April 9. You are all welcome with open arms. For more information call Ginny at 664-1499.

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As I am planning to complete my transition into full-time living within the next year or so, it seemed that this was the time to announce to my family that they will no longer be seeing me in male presentation.

I knew that I was taking a risk. Though my mother had seen pictures of me, and had read some of my articles and other materials I had sent her, I was not sure she was ready for her son to become her daughter, especially when showing up to a family gathering.

I made the announcement while discussing Thanksgiving plans that I would not be attending as a male, but said that I could certainly understand if she was not ready to have me come to her home as a woman. After thinking about it for a few days, she called back to tell me that she didn't feel she was ready for that. I told her that that was fine, and though it was a difficult decision to make, and meant that I would be spending Thanksgiving alone, I decided to stand by it.

I assumed as Christmas time rolled around that the situation would be the same. I was very surprised, therefore, when Mom invited me to lunch with her and a friend of hers who had had some experience with the gender community and who had helped her in her adjustment to my gender status.

I met her in Berkeley and we drove over to the city together to meet her friend for lunch at Nieman Marcus. She did not appear particularly shocked at my appearance, or at least she covered it well. It was clear to me that she had really been trying very hard to come to terms with the situation.

We got to town, and having parked, found that we still had some time yet before our luncheon date. We decided to do a little window shopping and take a stroll through Macy's.

I expected her to be uncomfortable at first about being in public with me, but as passersby seemed to pay no attention and several saleswomen referred to us both as ladies she may have realized that there was no reason for concern. By the time we got to Nieman Marcus, we were discussing our colors, makeup preferences, and pointing out gowns in the shop windows we passed. Progress was definitely being made.

After entering the store and making our way up the escalator to the rotunda, we had but a short wait before we were joined by my mother's friend, Judy, who surprised us by bringing both of us flowers. I was touched. She proved to be such a warm and gracious lady that before long the three of us were chatting away like old friends.

Though we discussed many topics, there were, as I expected, several occasions during our luncheon conversation when the subject of my transition came up. My mother voiced some of her concerns, but as we discussed things openly and honestly, I think

much was done to diffuse the fears she had. Lunch actually ended with my mom tentatively considering going to the Cotillion (with active persuasion by Judy). This was great and far more than I expected.

As we parted, Judy to go to an appointment, and Mom and I to head back across the bay, I felt that we had accomplished a lot toward creating understanding and acceptance.

Several days later it was Christmas Day and time for the next challenge: The annual Christmas brunch at Mom's house. As our lunch date had gone well, she said she did not feel too uncomfortable with my coming in female presentation. After all, this would be her third time seeing the female me; she was getting to be an old hand. It would, however, be the first time that my stepfather, my stepbrother and his wife, and their seven year old daughter had seen the new me (though apparently, as I learned later, the subject of "Auntie Lauren" had been discussed with her.)

I was the first to arrive at my mother and step-father's home. My mom greeted me at the door and said that I looked very pretty, also mentioning that seeing me as a woman didn't bother her as much as it had at first. I guess she's gradually getting used to the idea. After a few minutes, my stepbrother and his wife arrived. I was relieved that no one seemed to have an adverse reaction, nor did the subject come under discussion.

After opening presents, having brunch, and chatting over coffee, my stepbrother and his wife left to return home to prepare Christmas dinner for her family, while my mother and stepfather prepared to leave to go down to have Christmas dinner with my brother; a gathering to which I was expressly NOT invited if I chose to wear a dress. I did. I therefore chose not to go. Instead, I decided to write a letter to him and his wife, that I hope will be helpful in their understanding of my gender status.

Although my brother was not ready to meet his new sister, I realize that there is a right time and place for everything. It would have been nice for everything to have worked out perfectly this year; however, it may be something that is just going to need to take more time. ♡

NOTICE

Someone was given books from the education library while at Lily's. Unfortunately, no one got the name of this person, so Education has lost the location of these books. Whoever you are, please contact Paulette, by message, at (415) 872-1888, Martina (408) 984-5619, or Ginny (415) 664-1499.

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Here's a problem often encountered on the club hotline. The caller will be from a small, distant town, Santa Cruz, Eureka, Bakersfield, Sonoma, etc. He wants to learn about ETVC, but really wants to know about activities in his own area. And usually there aren't any. The population base is too small, and people are afraid to meet strangers who might turn out to know their relatives or employers. They could put an ad in our newsletter asking for contacts with local readers. But that would mean giving an address or phone number, impossible for most, and certainly for a person new to public activities. It is possible to start new clubs. Donna and Janet already knew a lot of people in that area. All I can do for the caller from Arcata or Monterey is suggest ways to find others in his area, to make friends, and hold on to them, to try to set up a regular activity and not become an exclusive clique. Experienced people in these areas could help, or is it enough to come to San Francisco a few times a year, and keep one's secrets in that small town?

Has anyone else noticed the peculiar, and very funny, new television show, "Herman's Head?" (Sunday, 9:30 PM, Channel 2) Herman is a young man whose life—love and otherwise—is full of moral dilemmas. At each such point, the action stops and four people representing aspects of his personality debate proper conduct. These four are: snotty intellect, wimpy anxiety, totally gross lust and charming woman who speaks for his sensitivity. Is this sexist, or is it impossible to use a male character who would convincingly appear sensitive without becoming a caricature like the other three? Because the woman, sometimes called "Angel," is really the most sensible and influential of the group, often having the final word on Herman's actions, he suffers. But still, how nice to have a show about a man whose personality is partly, and visibly, feminine.


There are some new things among the newsletters, of which Ginny handed me some 45 odd pieces last Thursday. Glory to chauvinism, to accompany *The American Crossdresser* (1 issue so far), we now have *The Canadian Crossdresser*, 24 pages monthly, lots of pictures. Readers in the Great White North, enquire to Wildside, Inc., 429C Dundas St. East, Toronto, Ont., Canada M5A 2A9. The 1992 Crossdressers International Shopping Guide is now available from JMPG, P.O. Box 7217, Burbank, CA 91510. Very well done, hundreds of listings cross-indexed by product and location. Everyone who sees it, and the "Crossdresser's Quarterly" from the same people, wants to borrow them. A company called NSS Seminars has sent the "Not Naughty News," a quarterly, 42 pages, \$20/yr, "promoting a positive view of sexuality." ETVC member Bill Henkin has an

article on the "Myth of Sexual Addiction." Write NSS Seminars, P.O. Box 630123, Woodside, CA 94062 or call (415) 851-4751 and ask about their parties. The "Glad Rag" #58 from the London TV/TS group has a fascinating article on voice therapy for the male TS, on isolating the exact elements of speech that cause a voice to be perceived as masculine or feminine. "Transcare" from New Zealand has the text of Dr. John Money's speech on the occasion of the inauguration of a Professor of Transsexology at a Medical University in Amsterdam. He tells of his early studies in the medical causes of hermaphroditism, and then of his years at Johns Hopkins and the rise and fall of its gender dysphoria program. See me at any ETVC Social to check out any of these publications. Easily available on newsstands is the ultimate makeup and fashion magazine, *Allure*. Great graphics, always info you can try right now, even a plastic-surgery-of-the-month article that always goes into detail on gory side effects to be expected of such things as brow lifts and cheek implants.

If you can't make it to the IFGE Convention in Houston, or "Esprit '92" in Washington, or "California Dreamin'" in L.A., both in May, give some consideration to the Dignity Cruise II, up the Alaska Coast with Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines, crossdressing optional. Those who sailed last year from Florida reported having a great time, usually just dressing for the evening. Definitely now scheduled for September 6 to 13. Contact: PM Publishers, Cruise Ahoy, 11211 Katy Freeway, #300, Houston, TX 77079, or call (713) 556-1513.

Next Outreach Committee meetings, March 2 at the San Leandro Lyon's restaurant, April 2 in Berkeley.

Finally we have a flyer from Hansen Fontana Wigs, which has sold to generations of TVs from their Powell St. store. As of December 17, they have moved to a new studio at 536 Bryant just across the street from the Chez Mollet. How appropriate! For hours and details, call them at (415) 495-8888.


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Congratulations are in order for our new Miss ETVC, Billie Jean. I did not believe she could win when she positively said she would. Well done, Billie Jean. My own favorite, Lauren, was first runner up, and Leslie, everyone's darling, was second runner up. My prayer is that all the candidates will use the time they had been devoting to rehearsals to good use by devoting half as much time to their local organization (ETVC).

Nominations

At the February Executive Committee meeting, we named our 1992 Nominations Committee. They will advance their nominees for office for the new membership year in March, at the social. NOW is the time to make your desires known. Drop me your name and phone number, and I will forward it to Donna, the nominations committee chair. Remember, self nominations are always accepted, but last year was a learning experience and its problems will be avoided; that is, we wish to avoid a frenzy of unprequalified floor nominations at the meeting, though nominations for those truly interested will be open until voting time at the social. *So, tell us now who you want.* Call me at (408) 984-5619; please tell me your name and phone number followed with their name and phone number (contact names are very important). I will forward this information to the Nominations Committee. After nominations have been advanced at the March social, the Nominations Committee will help the nominees write a bio/campaign brief for inclusion with the ballots. The Nominations Committee may also aid the Executive Committee in filling any vacant offices.

Listen, Pete

In a letter to the Chronicle, a Mr. Corcoran wrote that he had advised our Governor he knew how to correct the state's budget problems. In the letter, he raised at least two points that we can learn from. At times what the establishment needs is "a shrewd, analytical outsider or a maverick insider who is not wedded to the establishment order, to lead it. ... the person who helped

create the mess won't easily take to the idea of selling off cherished assets." If "merit needs to re-enter the promotion process," it certainly needs consideration in our election process as does the analytical outsider idea.

Recently someone told me that people do not want to step on (my) toes by running for office (the presidency). Ha! They may actually be walking all over someone who has been down in the mud or at burnout for a long time. Do us a favor! Run for Office! *Allow no one a free ride into office!!*

Event Information

Do you have a special event in mind? Let me know in advance and I will try to include it on my outgoing message tape. Events in the Santa Clara Valley will be favored but what goes on the tape is my prerogative. The tape is updated every week, usually twice, sometimes daily. Please do not be surprised if I pick up the phone, 6-7 P.M. "Thank You's" appreciated.

More Labels, Why Not?

Virginia Prince is once again introducing new labels in her continuing quest to find a set that is acceptable to all. Once again she will not satisfy everyone. We are a community of *gender challenged* and/or *gender enhanced* people. And then there is the *genderist*, the general term which was coined by Cynthia Howard, Executive Director of the Gender Alternatives League.

Now look elsewhere within this edition of the *ETVC Newsletter* for information on *bi-genderist*, *bi-genderal* and *bi-gendered*. Initially, I found the terms unacceptable, especially for the transsexual and even the transgender community. But then Roxanne reminded me of *her* preferred term, *gender enhanced*, and things fell into place. Let us push for acceptance of these new terms: *gender enhanced* - one who has the ability to express both their masculine and their feminine personalities; *bi-genderist* - one who is gender enhanced; *bi-genderal* - the act of being gender enhanced; and *bi-gendered* - the community of people who are gender enhanced. Virginia may not agree with this as her idea was - "The term [bi-genderist, bi-genderal, and bi-gendered] means that we can express two genders, the masculine and the feminine." But is not this what we want gender enhanced to mean? ♡



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3/92

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How did you learn about ETVC? _____

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