



Ginny Gets A Ginny

by Lauren Rene Hotchkiss

Election night '92 was a surprise, but not because of the election.

It began with the presentation of this year's Executive committee, followed by the awards ceremony.

Outreach (Lauren and Telzey) honored Melissa and Thalia for their dedication and hard work with the Speakers Bureau.

Social (Zia and Vanessa) named Geri Handa, Cheryl and Diahanna recipients of the coveted butterfly award.

Education (Paulette and Evette) honored Susan and Margo. There was an emotional moment as Margo, in ill health and unable to attend for six months, wheeled herself toward the stage.

Treasurer Nancy Ann named Ginny for her help with...well, with everything.

Secretary Jane selected Donna for her unflagging help with membership and maintenance of the mailing list.

Hard-working Vice-President Rusty honored Stephanie, Directorial Wunderkind of the Cotillion and gave honorable mention to Joanne and—once again—Diahanna, for their help with same.

President Martina gave the top officer's award to Julie, one of our hardest working, hitherto lesser recognized members.

Then the surprise. The microphone was handed to Jane, who said, "We have a problem." Inviting Ginny to the stage, she said that usually Ginny was our problem solver, but this was one that Ginny could not help us solve: how to express the appreciation due to Ginny after so many years of service. "We've made a start of it by naming you this year's Member of the Year, but there's a little bit more..From now on, whoever receives the Member of the Year is going to receive the *Ginny Knuth* Member of the Year Award."

Ginny received her plaque to a prolonged standing ovation. With tears in her eyes she said "I'm really surprised and quite touched...I'm so happy and privileged to be a part of this community; for you to have allowed me to be—for after all, I'm a significant other—and yet I feel very close to all of you. Many of you are my best friends, and many of you will become my best friends I hope, and I really couldn't ask for nicer people in my life. It was the biggest surprise to me ever to know that in this community are the finest people that I have ever known. The cream of the crop. You're all very special. You have so much to offer, and so much creativity and beauty within you. I just got better because of you. It's been my pleasure to be a part of you and to try to help in whatever way I can, and I'll continue to do the best I can for you. And I thank you for this acknowledgement very much."

The room was rocked by heartfelt applause.

And—oh, yes—election results. President: Cindy Martin; Vice-President: Rusty; Secretary: Jane Bentley; Treasurer: Nancy Ann Martine; Education: Martina Bloom, with Evette as co-chair; Outreach: Lauren Hotchkiss, with Telzey Adams as co-chair; Social: Cheryl, with Pam as co-chair. No surprises.



ETVC 1992 Ginny Knuth Member of the Year Ginny herself and her significant other, Nancy Ann

Photo: Jessica Stang



ETVC'S 1992-93 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Back Row: Lauren (Outreach), Jane (Secretary), Cindy (President), Rusty (Vice-President), Evette (Education), Telzey (Outreach), Nancy Ann (Treasurer). Front Row: Cheryl and Pam (Social) Martina (Education)

Photo: Jessica Stang

Just a reminder...

The correct address for all ETVC correspondence

is: ETVC
PO Box 426486
San Francisco, CA 94142-6486

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 Cindy
 Vice President Rusty
 Secretary Jane
 Treasurer Nancy Ann
 Education Martina & Evette
 Outreach Lauren & Telzey
 Social Cheryl & Pam

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Membership (as of 5/31/92) 433
 1991 Membership 455
 New members this year 115

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance on 3/31/92 \$3,591.60
 April income 2,080.90
 April expenses 3,078.88

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Balance on 4/30/92 2,593.62
 May income 2,452.00
 May expenses 441.27

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Balance on 5/31/92 4,604.35

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 Jane Kamper Bentley
 Copy Editors Donna & Julie
 Design, Layout & Printing Print Wise
 Photographer David Swanson

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

One of Ginny's essential qualities that went unmentioned awards night is her vision. Perhaps better than anyone else, she has an informed, experienced sense of who, what and where we are and how to map our future. Last March at the IFGE Convention in Houston, she slipped away from the crowd to attend a meeting of the Winslow Street Fund to ask of its trustees a simple question. "If we, as individuals give money to your endowment fund, what will this fund do for the gender community?"—Ed.

A few months ago, I was asked what I thought the future would bring to ETVC and the gender community in general. My response, was in part, that I believed this can be the decade of acceptance for transgendered individuals IF we get serious and work together to present the gender community in a positive, dignified manner.

Nice words, but they mean nothing without a plan of action and a road to travel to the enlightenment of the greater society.

For several years, we have been attending IFGE Conventions held around the country looking for new ideas and ways to work together for the betterment of ETVC and the gender community as a whole. This year, I was introduced to the Winslow Street Fund, which is the permanent endowment fund of IFGE and whose primary purpose is to ensure the long term financial stability of our community and IFGE. The Winslow Street Fund is managed and governed by an *independent* Board of Trustees approved by the IFGE Board of Directors. The Trustees are responsible for all policy and investment decisions, the allocation of fund income and principal, as well as grant making decisions.

Why should we care about the Winslow Street Fund? What will it do for you and me and ETVC and the gender community? This year at the Convention, small grants were awarded to the following on-going projects:

\$500 to GCTC (Gulf Coast Transgender Community) and Phyllis Frye, JD to support the First Annual Conference on Transgender Law.

\$300 to IFGE to upgrade accounting and fund raising software.

\$300 to J2CP (Sister Mary Elizabeth) to support their Genderline Computer bulletin board.

\$200 to Dr. Sheila Kirk to support her teenage research project.

\$200 to Dr. Richard F. Docter to support his gender research project.

Laura Smiley, Chairman of the Fund Raising Committee of IFGE and member of the Board of Trustees of the Winslow Street Fund stated, "The beauty of this fund is that it is a living fund. Since only income earned by the fund is used for grants, donations will benefit the CD/TS community forever. The fund will only get larger, and as it grows, the grants we provide will increase."

Contributions to the fund are tax deductible and may be sent directly to:

Winslow Street Fund
c/o Laura Smiley
3551 South Monaco Street, #220
Denver, CO 80237

The fund accepts gifts and donations of cash, property, stocks, bonds, life insurance policies, etc. Donations may be made currently or through a will, or through the creation of a trust or other estate planning documents.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, this opportunity to participate in meaningful action has excited me so that I can say I believe in the people who are involved with the Winslow Street Fund. It can make a difference for all of us if we all join together to make it work.

Let us take that first step down the road that reaches out to the greater society by contributing to the Winslow Street Fund. What we give will in turn become grants to our community and help us find gender freedom at the end of the road.

Trust me, though—if we don't individually make the first move, there will be no movement.

Addendum: So impressed were Winslow Street Trustees with Ginny, they invited her to join them. She accepted. My contribution is in the mail—Ed.

Letters to the Editor

Editor-

It was one year ago that the ETVC Executive Committee named me Member of the Year for 1991. I was stunned. It amazed me, because most of what I do is of little direct benefit to the membership.

When I began doing this work, it was more as a lark than a conscious decision to be a public figure or to gain status. To be honest, it is pretty easy for me and I like doing it. Those of us who have the time and desire to spend a few hours in front of a class learn more about ourselves doing "stand-up therapy" than we can teach the students.

I wouldn't have done it, though, without the support and encouragement of Ken Pool and others, who felt that we would only advance as a community when we had some respect and understanding. No one was going to hand that to us, especially if they couldn't even find us or talk to us.

After four years, I'm not always convinced that we change minds, but we do make our presence known and give the people we speak to some idea that we are real, approachable like themselves, not stereotypes.

I feel privileged that the bit that I do has been recognized as valuable. Thanks to all my wonderful speakers and thank you all very much.

Thalia Gravel

ETVC Speaker's Bureau

Editor-

I am diminished by the unfortunate and untimely passing of Cameron Tanner. Hate crimes are a problem for all of us. Three transgendered persons were murdered last year here in Atlanta. As I write this, there has been racial violence in the streets of your city and mine in the wake of the Rodney King verdict. Am I back in the 60's again?

Sincerely,

Dallas Denny

Executive Director, AEGIS

Editor-

Your "two worlds" para (dinosaur/mammal) in the May-June newsletter is good. Agree with you about presidential candidates.

Genderella by Lauren is a delight!

Thanks,

Millicent



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Happy Birthday, Diablo Valley (Party) Girls! by Donna Freeman



Janet Nichols & Donna Freeman Diablo Valley Girls co-founders.

Diablo Valley Girls (DVG), a gender support group in Contra Costa County, celebrated its first birthday on May 18 at Just Rewards in Walnut Creek. Present were founders Janet Nichols and myself, and over 25 members from around the Bay Area.

DVG started as a dream. That dream was to have a gender support group in Contra Costa County. Janet shared her dream with me about 18 months ago. Our search for a meeting place ended when we found JR's, a delightful gay/lesbian nightclub. The owners, Marisa and Karen, have been extremely supportive from the very beginning.

We chose the third Monday of each month for our meetings to fit an already crowded Bay Area gender calendar. Last November, we added a second social on the first Tuesday. From a starting group of 24, we now have over fifty members in three states. Our socials are open to everyone and we welcome visitors with open arms.

Significant events of our first year included our two limo entourage to the Cotillion, a photo shoot with Joe and a garden party the day before our birthday celebration. Our monthly newsletter is becoming widely recognized.

For those interested in more information about DVG, please write to PO Box 272885, Concord, CA 94527-2885, or see Janet or me at an ETVC function.



Oh, go ahead!

Recluse?

Want to be a chanteuse?

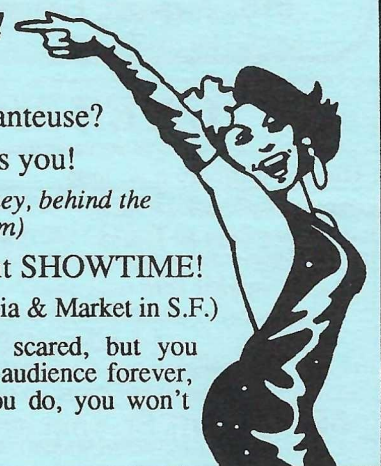
Aunt Sissy wants you!

(I'm talkin' to YOU, honey, behind the potted palm)

for her Saturday Night SHOWTIME!

10 p.m. at Lily's (Valencia & Market in S.F.)

Scared? Hell, we're all scared, but you don't wanna' live in the audience forever, do you? Try it. Once you do, you won't want to stop.



SPECIAL EVENTS

Violence & Safety
Saturday, July 11

This will be very important for all who go out in public en femme. Greg Merrill, from the Community United Against Violence and Loretta Whitehead, from Safety Awareness for Everyone (SAFE), will speak about safety and give us helpful pointers and things to think about. Lily's at Valencia and Market in San Francisco. 2 p.m. Donation \$3.

Friendship Party
Thursday, July 30

We're all mistresses of transformation, but tonight we'll be making the biggest one of all. Through the magic of Friendship Bingo we'll be changing from wall flowers into social butterflies. Discover some of the unique and fascinating people who are part of ETVC. Fun prizes and a memorable evening. Members \$3. Guests \$5.

**A Better Way
to Look Better**
Saturday, August 15

Bill Jones, a makeup artist at San Francisco State, will show us how to look better by applying his expertise to our faces—individually. To be held in the Drama Department's makeup room at SFSU. There may be two groups: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Interested? Call Paulette at (408) 246-6525 and leave a message, including how to reach you.

Club Med Night
August 27

Pack your bags for a tropical cruise. Sarongs, thongs, muumuus and grass skirts are the right attire for tonight. It's going to be a vacation in tropical breezes with a beautiful legs contest and, to top it off, a wig fashion show brought to you by New Looks by Rosalie. The looks will range from mild to wild, so come prepared for fun. There may even be a Limbo contest. Members \$5. Guests \$8.

**Don't Forget Your Dues
Support ETVC
By Sending In Your
\$20 Renewal
to: ETVC
PO Box 426486
San Francisco, CA 94142-6486**

**New Support Group
Cross-Living Full Time**

"Cross-Living Full Time" is a support group for anyone living full-time in the gender opposite that of birth. To attend, you MUST be cross-living full-time. The group meets the first three Fridays of each month at the Pacific Center in Berkeley.

For more information, please call (510) 841-6224.

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HOUSTON, TEXAS**

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gctc

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Phyllis Randolph Frye, Attorney
5707 Firenza, Houston Texas 77035

18th Annual Outreach Institute
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For information write: Fantasia Fair, 405 Western Ave., Suite 345, So. Portland, ME 04106 *35*

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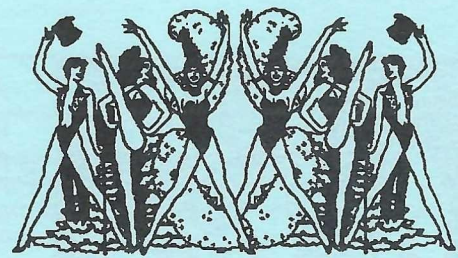
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TV/TG GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

A Calendar of Events for July & August



JULY					
1	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
3	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
6	ETVC	Outreach Committee	Starts at 8 PM	Albany	(510) 524-1304
7	....	Foxy Lady Social	7:30 - 9:30 PM	San Francisco	(415) 285-4980
7	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 849-4112
9	ETVC	Significant Others Support	Meets 7:30-10 PM	San Jose	(415) 664-1499
10	ETVC	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
10	RGA	Gender Discussion Group	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-5619
11	ETVC	Education Committee	Meets at 12:00	Lily's	(408) 246-6525
11	ETVC	Violence & Safety	Starts at 2 PM	Lily's	(408) 246-6525
11	ETVC	Executive Committee	Starts at 8 PM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
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	Sunnyvale	(415) 664-1499
24	RGA	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	Sunnyvale	(408) 732-7406
25	SGA	Dinner/Social	Starts at 8 PM	Sacramento	(916) 441-8379
30	ETVC	Friendship Night	Starts at 8 PM	Chez Mollet	(415) 641-9002
31	Pac Ctr	Open Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224

AUGUST					
3	ETVC	Outreach Committee	Starts at 8 PM	San Leandro	(510) 849-4112
4	....	Foxy Lady Social	7:30 - 9:30 PM	San Francisco	(415) 285-4980
4	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 849-4112
5	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
7	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
8	ETVC	Executive Committee	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-5619
13	ETVC	Significant Others Support	Meets 7:30-10 PM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
14	ETVC	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
14	RGA	Gender Discussion Group	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-5619
15	ETVC	Look Better	Starts at 10 AM	SF State Univ.	(408) 246-6525
15	ETVC	Education Committee	Meets at 12:00	SF State Univ.	(408) 246-6525
17	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 849-4112
19	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
20	ETVC	Couples Social	Starts at 8 PM	TBA	(415) 664-1499
21	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
22	....	Corset Lacing Table	7 - 11 PM	Romantasy	(415) 673-3137
22	SGA	Dinner/Social	Starts at 8 PM	Sacramento	(916) 441-8379
27	ETVC	Club Med Night	Starts at 8 PM	Chez Mollet	(415) 641-9002
28	RGA	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	Sunnyvale	(408) 732-7406
28	Pac Ctr	Open Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224

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.



OTHER VOICES...

If you are the spouse, lover, parent, child or friend of a transgendered person, this is your chance to offer your perspective on yourselves, us and the world. Send letters and articles to:

Other Voices
c/o ETVC
PO Box 426486
San Francisco, CA
94142-6486

Significant Other Support Group

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 7:30 to 10 p.m. Our next meetings are scheduled for July 9 in San Jose and August 13 in San Francisco. You are all welcome with open arms. For more information call Ginny at 664-1499.

An Invitation

by Ginny Knuth

It's time to celebrate! This July, our Couples Group will hold its seventh anniversary get together at Rose Ann and Dorothy's home in Sunnyvale. Yes, for seven years now we have enjoyed the hospitality of many of our loveliest couples, who have all made us feel so welcome and comfortable in their homes. Everyone contributes to a sumptuous buffet, and then we do some rapping, or play various games or just chat and get to know one another. It gives us the opportunity to see others in the same lifestyle in a most agreeable setting...the idea is for the crossdresser and his wife or partner to relax, socialize and have a little fun.

So, won't you join us on July 23 and help us devour the anniversary cake? The more the merrier—while no one is excluded, couples are especially encouraged to attend.

We meet the second to the last Thursday every month (except in November and December, when life is just too busy), so if you would like to receive notices advising where the meeting will be held each month, or if you would like information regarding the address of July's celebration meeting, please call Ginny at (415) 664-1499. We would love to see you there!

In The Wrong Place at the Wrong Time by Julie Freeman

As mothers and wives, by nature we are protective of our children and spouses. When our children first go off to school, we are "Nervous Nellies" about their walking alone. Concerns about kidnapping or being run over by a car go through our minds and we wonder if we are ever going to feel secure. Our fears only increase when children become teenagers, start to stay out late, drive their own cars, and tempt fate in a myriad of ways.

As wives of crossdressers, fears begin to emerge when husbands, constantly being urged to "come out of the closet," begin to attend public events in addition to more protected activities. Those who planned to attend a convention in Texas several years ago were warned by the late Paul Walker that they had better "pass" when out or risk being attacked. Texas, that very macho state, seemed very far away from us, therefore not to worry, *unless* the crossdressers in our lives happened to be going to Texas.

It appears though that hatred of those who are different is alive and well in even our most liberal of cities, San Francisco. First Lynn, beaten to death in the Tenderloin. Then Tina. Beaten, comatose, now dead after attending a play in San Francisco. Can we just say *they* were in the wrong place at the wrong time? That somehow it was their fault! It is always easy to blame the victim, because it makes us feel better to believe that the victim was responsible for his own fate.

As we know from the recent events in Los Angeles, it is possible, and probable nowadays, for any of us to be in the *wrong* place at the *wrong* time. Those who attended California Dreamin' in late April found instead California Screamin'!

I do know the value of outreach and the necessity to come out. Yet I now find myself in light of these incidents experiencing some anxiety. I am more cautious when attending gender activities; I am more hesitant than before to go out.

It is not easy to march down Main Street these days. How unfortunate for all of us!

A Major Concern

by Julie Freeman

Whenever I get together with wives and significant others, many concerns about the crossdressers in our lives emerge, particularly how crossdressing is going to fit into our lives, how it is going to impact our status quo. It is not uncommon to find our husband, once out of the closet, also *out of the house*.

This situation does not develop overnight nor does it develop with all relationships. But when it does happen, it can cause distress. It appears that once the crossdresser discovers his wife is supportive, he believes that means he is now "free" to come and go as he pleases.

It is understandable that once the crossdresser discovers he is not alone, he will gravitate towards activities with other crossdressers. He may even begin to attend weekend retreats and out-of-town events.

In many instances, the wife does not attend these activities. Perhaps she is working or taking care of the children. Perhaps she does not wish to attend. Perhaps financially only one can attend an out-of-town event. It is easy to see where resentment may begin—as she is left alone at home.

Crossdressers need to recognize this problem before it gets out of hand. Their primary responsibilities should be towards their families. They need to recognize the needs of their families and not leave them behind. They need to put crossdressing in relationships in proper perspective.

The silk felt so perfect and the color was so right that I couldn't wait to try it on. Just as I hoped, it looked great in the dressing room mirror. And it was washable. Sold, American.

I love shopping, trying on new clothes and finding that just right item. Macy's, Emporium, Nordstrom, the outlets, I love them all. But the Men's department at Ross?

Ever since I was a kid, I've hated shopping for male clothes. Once in a while I've been forced to get the odd suit or shirt because of a special occasion, but basically I've depended on birthdays and holidays gifts for my wardrobe. I don't think I look like a total schlep in my male persona, but when you rely on relatives for your garments...well, let's just say I'm not the sharpest dresser in the world.

A few weeks back, my friend Katy mentioned that she found it kind of odd that my male appearance was so drab since I obviously spend some time working on my female appearance. It seemed a little disconnected to her.

Of course, she was right. I've definitely avoided trying to look too slick in my male appearance because of my fear that other people would figure out how feminine I actually am.

My friend, Jane Kamper Bentley, told me that I might be afraid of something else, too: truly integrating the masculine and feminine in my daily life. Jane suggested that doing more to integrate my feminine sensitivities into my male life, including the use of symbolically "feminine" garments like a silk shirt, might be a useful way to get rid of these fears.

I told my wife about these conversations and a few days later she came home with a beautiful deep blue silk shirt she'd bought for herself from a men's department. She said I could wear it, too.

I have to admit that I was a little nervous going to work wearing that shirt. What would they think? Would I get the razz? I had a nice tie to go with it and the shirt felt incredibly good, but I was still a little worried. The reaction was amazing. People actually came up and stroked me. I got wonderful compliments all day. It was like going to an ETVC social when you're in top form.

So that's how I ended up in the men's department, but I've got a new problem. Now I have to figure out how to pay for two wardrobes.

A NOVEL with the catchy title *The Male Crossdresser Support Group* is due out in September. Penned by Tama Janowitz, the story is about a mother and child who find love and, what else?,

Summary of Ex-Comm Minutes

5/9/92

Officers present: Martina, Rusty, Nancy Ann, Zia, Vanessa, Lauren, Telzey, Paulette, Evette. Guests: Ginny, Lynn, Pamela, Cheryl, Cindy

Re: Car break-ins near the Chez. It was decided members should be informed and our lawyer contacted regarding liability.

Re: Gay Freedom Parade: ETVC will march, have a booth & present performances. More volunteers are needed.

Club has 422 member this year versus 437 last. 104 were new members.

Motions passed: 1. To give Tiffany five additional free copies of *Tapstry* #60. 2. To give Outreach control over 160 free copies given ETVC by IFGE.

6/6/92

Officers (new and old) present: Martina, Cindy, Rusty, Jane, Zia, Vanessa, Cheryl, Pam, Paulette, Lauren, Telzey. Guests: Charlotte, Linda, Julie, Donna, Lyn and Roxanne

Happy Birthday to outgoing President/incoming Education chair Martina.

support from a group of crossdressers. Janowitz, who is a fairly accomplished novelist, is hyping the book with a video that features gender people. Watch for it in the Fall when she starts working the talk shows.

ALL'S WELL IN Alameda County again where Empress XI Timmi Ryan is no longer PNG, or persona non grata, according to the Imperial Star Empire Newsletter. Hard words after the group's recent coronation led to the split between Empress Timmi and ISE, but apparently everyone has come to their senses. Congratulations to all. Timmi is a tireless worker for ISE and a good friend to ETVC. It's nice to see things back to normal.

FOAM FALSIES for \$60. Eyelashes for \$40. Makeup sponges for \$46.50. Huge markups that can range as high as 750 percent and more are typical of the prices found recently in the Michael Salem Boutique catalog, according to a recent article in the Renaissance News. Who would spend nearly 50 bucks on sponges you can buy in any drugstore for less than \$3? Paranoid crossdressers, that's who. In an interview with Salem, who has been a vendor to the community since 1969, he explained that his customers get guaranteed discretion in return for his extraordinarily high costs. What a deal! Salem claimed that his business was with the hoi polloi of the TV/TS world. Obviously. Who else could afford (or be dumb enough) to pay \$260 for shoes you can buy anywhere for less than \$70? The whole article was really a fine piece of straight ahead journalism by writers Pamela Westin and Paula Jordan Sinclair. We can use a lot more writing like that.

PARANOIA can be paralyzing, as well as expensive. Let's face it, for most people going out en femme for the first time can be very scary. An interesting article in the April 1992 edition of Cincinnati's Cross-port discussed how to overcome unfounded fear in public. One major point: remember that men look at women. Obviously, this is true, but when you are not used to being on the receiving end it can be disconcerting to realize that guys are checking you out. But looking doesn't mean you are being read. In fact, it may be a kind of compliment.

OH NO! I'm in deep stuff now. In my last column I misspelled the names of not one, but two, people whose names you NEVER want to mess up: B-I-L-L-I-E Jean Jones and J-O-A-N-N Roberts.

UH-OH! I'm in deeper stuff. I'm President of ETVC! ♡



Our contingency monitors for the Gay Freedom Parade are Telzey, Paulette, Pam, Evette. Roxanne will be a stand-by. We have not been given a schedule for monitor classes. No convertible reserved yet.

Membership year finished with 433 members vs. 455 last year. 115 were new members.

We will do a survey in January to help assess how better to serve, keep and acquire members.

Need for a viable Hostess Committee discussed.

Roxanne, who will attend the next IFGE Board of Directors meeting in Detroit, asked the committee for a letter to present to other directors outlining ETVC's concerns for the direction IFGE should take. The committee's wishes will be drafted into a letter by Cindy.

Motions passed: 1. That the Executive Committee will all participate to act as hostesses at socials, and that a greeter or greeters be present at front desk. 2. To approve funds (\$100) necessary to underwrite a blackjack table for the Casino Imperiale, November 7, 1992, proceeds to benefit the Council of Empresses and the Aids Emergency Fund. ♡

In the wake of violence over the past several months—the Los Angeles riots and, the beating and death of Cameron (Tina) Tanner, many cross-dressers have felt vulnerable and are reevaluating their level of comfort about being out in public crossdressed. Transsexuals may experience a resurgence of self-consciousness about “passing.” Those still in the closet wonder if it’s safe to come out.

Unfortunately, prejudice, discrimination and hate crimes are a part of our current reality. Homophobia, transgenderphobia, racism, sexism, and classism all exist. By far one of the most worthwhile tasks confronting us today is the eradication of these “isms.”

While we are working on increasing understanding and tolerance, however, how do we live our lives? How do we grow and develop in an environment where prejudice exists? How do we stay safe? How do we handle our fears and the fears of our loved one?

Take Care of Yourself

Value Yourself: How do you perceive your crossdressing or cross-gender identity? Self exploration and valuing inner feelings are signs of healthy development. By acknowledging that exploring true gender feelings in self-caring ways evidences good psychological and emotional well-being you can actively shift your self-concept from “bad” or “deviant” to “healthy” and “positive.” This in turn can help you develop the increased self-esteem and self confidence needed to follow your individual path in society, whether it be occasional cross-dressing or gender transition.

Build a Support System: An important factor in establishing and maintaining a sense of self worth and the courage to be truly and fully who we are is having meaningful, mutually supportive relationships with others. What kind of support do you have in your life? Support can come from friends, family, and loved ones, gender groups and organizations, and within the therapeutic relationship with a counseling professional. Whatever your circumstance, you need not remain alone.

Nurture Yourself: Laugh, love, play, eat right, sleep enough, exercise; pursue meaningful work, relationships, and interests.

Are the many aspects of gender exploration worrying or frustrating you, so that your focus is pulled away from other areas of your life to the gender issue? With time and support you will figure out your individual answers to the myriad of questions: “How can I go out and be safe?” “What if I’m read?” “What if my boss (brother, neighbor) sees me?” If you take good care of yourself and all your needs, life satisfaction will soar and should a stressor appear in your life (such as the large fellow with the bad attitude and plenty to say about your new blouse) you will be better able to cope. Always try to maintain a sense of humor!

Maintain Your Perspective

Consider whether any life can be lived without risk: It is true that if you are perceived in the world as a crossdresser or transsexual, your chances of violence increase, just as they do if you live in an urban environment, are a young black male, a woman, or perceived to be gay or lesbian. Perhaps there is a somber camaraderie in these numbers. It is also true that no life is without risk. Any violence that occurs is tragic and unacceptable; however, the majority of crossdressers and transsexuals are never physically harmed. They may encounter curious looks, tasteless remarks, or even an occasional hostile verbal confrontation with someone who has a different idea about life and lacks the sense and common courtesy not to express it. Any and all of these incidents are truly offensive and should not have to be endured, but are they reasons for stuffing yourself way in the closet forever? Be careful, but explore. Be yourself.

Put your fears in perspective: Assess how much of your fear about safety in certain public situations is realistic and prudent good judgment and how much is overactive worry due to your uncertainty about what you’re doing or the newness of the situation. More people are afraid of flying in airplanes (a relatively infrequent act for most) than driving a car (a frequent act) even though a greater risk of accident is present while driving a car. The fact that you are now going into the world in a new gender presentation, or contemplating doing so, naturally seems very scary, but much of that fear will wear off along with the novelty as experience affords a realistic measure of the risks.

Enhance Your Life: The purpose and goal of crossdressing—or, for the transsexual, cross-gender transition—is to enrich your life. If you are having more pain, fear, and confusion than fun, fulfillment and reward, you might want to seek professional counseling or a support group. Don’t let fears about safety or any other issue erode your life enjoyment.

Be Flexible

Develop a Flexible Self-Concept: Is your concept of what men and women are like locking you into a sex-role that is unrealistic and could contribute to you not being safe? As a male to female crossdresser or transsexual do you believe that women are “fluffy” or “passive”? Do you feel compromised in your ability to defend yourself should danger arise? How have you been prepared to defend yourself in the past? Can you use those skills now? Women take self-defense classes, jog, lift weights, carry mace and whistles, and learn how to use legal items such as house keys, nail files and their body as weapons. So can you. Just like genetic women, you will need to feel psychologically able and prepared, but not anxious and excessively worried, to protect yourself and know that you have a right to do so if a situation cannot be diffused by ignoring the instigator, finding help, going into a public place, or safely exiting the situation. A flexible, whole view of woman’s true capabilities will empower you to protect yourself.

Female to male crossdressers or transsexuals, have you developed an inflexible view of men that may hinder your safety? Do you believe men must always “stand up to other men,” “be in charge,” or be confrontational and combative? Do you believe men should never walk away from a fight, run, or get help? Men can and do all these things. Men also take self defense classes and learn how to protect themselves. Don’t feel that as you assume the male role, you must already know self-defense techniques, but do take the time to learn.

Be Aware of Options and Alternatives: Are you flexible in your actions and activities? Certainly, we all should be able to go anywhere we wish, anytime, wearing anything we please and not be molested or harmed. Good self-esteem lets us acknowledge our right to these activities as long as we are doing no harm to others. Pragmatism, however, sometimes calls for certain modification of plans. In other words, if the bridge is up, need you insist upon going across it at that moment? If you know the neighborhood you are going into is rough, with a high crime rate and you would be alone, or it’s late at night in an isolated area, self-caring, self-protective, good judgment should lead you to make other plans which would be just as much (probably more) fun!

Empower yourself

Work on the Solution: You can work actively toward eliminating discrimination and hate crimes against cross-dressing, cross-gender and transsexual individuals. Being active along with a community of others helps fight your sense of isolation, fear, and powerlessness by giving you a voice stronger in numbers. Being actively involved in public education, outreach, or legislative efforts can help assure a better future. Get involved. Speak out. Support groups active in bringing about

Weekdays, Peg Yeates works as a senior program analyst. Marvin Greer is West Coast manager for a fine arts shipping and consulting firm. But on weekends they don pink berets and T-shirts to become Queen Peg and Princess Marvin of the Street Patrol.

The Street Patrol, also known as the Pink Panthers, Pink Patrol or Lavender Patrol, is a group of about 30 Lesbians and Gays dedicated to preventing, if possible, and stopping, if necessary, attacks against residents and visitors in the Castro.

How long has it been active?

"Our unofficial guess is that it'll be two years on August 18" said Greer, whose cherubic features and glib humor erase any fears about a "cop" mentality. He was speaking outside Lily's on April 25, where he, Yeates and others remained stationed just outside the doors the entire thirteen hours of the Tina Tanner Fund benefit.

"What motivated us originally was a bashing that happened near a bar in the Castro. A pack of skinheads had beaten up two gays. When they ran inside the bar, the bartender thought the two had just been fighting and threw them out. Finally, they found a restaurant that called the cops. The attackers were caught and sent to prison.

Afterward, a group in Queer Nation said, "We cannot live like this," and started the Street Patrol. In January of '91 we started taking Guardian Angel training. Some people were skeptical, but it worked for our mutual benefit. We got self-defense training and the GA's learned about gay sensitivity."

Nowadays, the Street Patrol has its own training programs, with classes held from 9:30-11:00 on Friday nights at the Akido Arts Center, 870 South Van Ness and from 3:00-5:00 on Saturday afternoons behind the tennis courts at Dolores Park, Dolores &

18th Streets. New members are taught "self-defense and how to take away weapons in the context of working as a team."

"Those who escalate bad situations are weeded out," said Greer. "The primary job of the patrol is to diffuse and disperse tense situations, not provoke or escalate them; but if we have to get physical, we know how. Most members of the patrol are women, but, believe me, little people can drop big ones." Glancing down at Yeates, he said, "Peg has taken me down plenty of times."

If the first job of the patrol is preventing attacks, the next most important is to comfort and empower victims. "People feel helpless and scared. They need to feel right away that they can take some control back. We give it to them by asking, "What do you need? Police? Medical attention? And we will go through the process all the way to the courtroom for victims."

When asked why a person would give up weekends and take time off work as a Street Patrol volunteer, Yeates answered, "I guess it's an addictive hobby. You're part of a big family. We don't all have the same political viewpoints, but we all know that we can trust one another, because when you're on patrol you realize pretty quick that you're a target, so you have to trust your partners. And along with trust, you develop

dedication."

"Yes," nodded Greer. "This has made me feel better about my community. I no longer feel that everybody is on a tangent. Bashing concerns all of us, gay or straight."

The Street Patrol's presence at Lily's was not its first contact with ETVC. About one year ago Zia, Jessica and a couple of others were being threatened by thugs when a Street Patrol intervened. They are there for us. If you would like to volunteer for patrol duty or help support the Street Patrol, call the Street Patrol Line (415) 985-7423.

Three safety rules — Whenever you're out at night:

- 1) Pay attention. Don't even look like you're not alert. People wearing headsets, for instance, are frequently victims.
- 2) Avoid dark or poorly lit areas.
- 3) Carry a whistle.

Being Out, Being Safe

continued

changes benefiting the gender community.

Avoid the "-isms": Support and respect yourself one encounter at a time. Don't laugh at jokes based on negative stereotypes of crossdressers, transsexuals, women, gays, or racial minorities. Support your right and everyone else's right to be free and safe.

Happy and Safe Self-Exploration to You All! ♡

Luanna Rodgers, M.A., M.F.C.C. is a licensed psychotherapist specializing in work with the gender community. She has offices in San Francisco and the East Bay.

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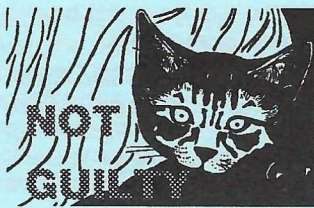
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Guilt and Shame

All of us have a world view, a way to make sense out of our experience. Though we may remain unaware of this web of beliefs, which is determined by our childhood experience, it nonetheless allow us to locate ourselves in an otherwise overwhelming and chaotic world. It is necessary and even healthy to learn from those around us when we are young; how else could we learn language, values and the rules of everyday behavior?

So we all have what might be termed a personal religion, an amalgam of interlocking attitudes, beliefs and taboos that we perform share with those around us. This is our internalized grid for organizing experience, it is our reality. But as anyone who has taken psychedelic drugs, studied anthropology or lived at length in foreign cultures can confirm, "reality" is arbitrary. Aborigines, Han Chinese, Hmong, Mayan, Masai, Eskimo, European; each culture has different outlooks on life, different values, myths, shibboleths and heroes.

In many cultures, the boy or girl who feels compelled to act and dress as if a member of the opposite gender is deemed sacred, and is encouraged to pursue a shamanistic path in life. The American Indian *Berdache* has special powers and respect based precisely on his having transcended traditional male gender identity. The Greek mythological figure *Tiresias* was both man and woman, and regarded as the greatest seer of all.

Our patriarchal European tradition rigidly forbids crossgender behavior of all sorts, confounding it with sexuality, the greatest taboo of all. Homosexual and transgendered behavior conflict with the deepest duality in a patriarchal world view; male identity is sacrosanct and confers power and privilege upon men, and men only. Thus, definition of what male means becomes the crucial determination of membership in this elite. Males who eschew male garb, the uniform of patriarchal authority, and women who aspire to such appearance, not only threaten the men in charge of church, state and culture, but everyone's fundamental sense of how things are and should be.

We experience guilt whenever we break the rules we absorbed as children. We experience shame when who we are does not match normative models. The more taboo the behavior, the more loathing for how we really are, the greater the discomfort. Crossing the gender line, like choosing a same-sex partner, calls into question the internalized patriarchal reality unthinkingly absorbed during childhood and reinforced everywhere in mainstream culture. It is scary to disobey and seemingly rebel against parents, peers, role models, media heroes, etc. Crossgender behavior transgresses against patriarchy's overly simplistic, dualistic formula that insists that biological sex = gender identity = social role. This inner conflict causes shame and guilt.

Christianity terms taboo behavior "sinful" and for thousand of years has done its best to blame "the devil" for any libidinous, dionysian displays. "Wicked" desires supposedly arise from a mystified outside force that one must defend against, creating an inner division and a splitting off from deep-felt yearnings one is then magically no longer responsible for—it's the devil's work. It is as if the forbidden part of the psyche should not, does not exist. How many times have I heard clients wish, "If it would only just go away..." But all sorts of forbidden desires do exist, as they always have and always will. Although it *feels* as if there is something wrong with *us*, or at least with that part of us that transgresses against our culture's taboos, the real difficulty is simply a bad fit with overly restrictive constraints of the dominant culture.

The way to deal with shame and guilt about crossdressing, or

any other taboo behavior, is to transcend unconscious adherence to an arbitrary, oppressive value system. Cultural disapproval of cross-gender behavior ultimately serves only to reassure dominant males that they are a distinct, identifiable ruling class not to be confused with those they control and exploit; women, children, as well as other species and the world's natural resources.

Men run the churches, the governments, the corporations, the media, the banks, the army and just about everything else. Disconnected from their own bodies, their sense of being boss-men in charge of the rest of us keeps them blind to their wanton destructiveness. Were they to feel connected, the way American Indians do for example, to the rest of creation, they could not destroy it pell mell as they seem bent on doing.

How difficult to see and connect when male dominance is reflected in every movie ad: The Man holds the gun, the half-naked Woman clings to him for protection. This overt emblem reflects the prevailing societal myth that (1) life is terrifying (2) men must be vigilant, violent and unfeeling and (3) that women need men's protection and merit it by being sexy and helpless.

Strong women frighten men. Soft men frighten men. Anything that threatens patriarchy frightens men. Men are, by and large, in tremendous denial of their deep insecurity about living up to all that is expected of them. A perfect example of this is men's terror of impotence. What's so important about an erection right now, or else? Underlying athletic, martial and intellectual male posturing, there dwells a deep-seated fear of feminine power as manifested in the mysteries of menstruation and birth. Many pre-patriarchal societies, and the few remaining "primitive" ones, have revered this female potency. When Goddess religions throughout Europe and the Middle East lost out to religions of the Angry Father, female sexuality and women in general came to be seen as sinful, inferior, shameful. Male crossgender and same-sex behavior became associated with womanliness, and women who loved other women or wished to live like men came under ridicule as a means to maintain their subjugation.

There is absolutely nothing intrinsically wrong with these behaviors. Nothing, except that they activate the cultural shadow energy around men's repressed feminine potential, their gentle, creative, sensitive, receptive intimate anima energy. And it is this repression that leads men to fear women and the womanly within them. To surrender to this energy would put them at odds with prevailing and internalized cultural norms, arouse shame, and eventually entail losing their patriarchal privileges.

But as some of my clients have discovered, the reward for transcending these patriarchal guilt and shame producing values is a whole new lease on life, an integration of inner energies and a new sense of solidarity with those struggling to save Mother Earth. By understanding and then moving beyond their guilt and shame, they find their work, their relationships and their health improving. Since this is not a process many people can navigate on their own, support groups like ETVC provide a perfect forum for exploration of these issues. Moreover, the Bay Area is blessed with alternative bookstores, institutes, mental health professionals and an atmosphere of tolerance bequeathed by the hippies, gays and lesbians who have courageously dared to openly challenge convention.

Until men and women who crossdress are willing to examine the real sources of their guilt and shame, they will remain isolated on the outskirts of the important transformative work required to bring our culture and even life on the planet back into balance. Shame lames. But should they find the courage to see beyond the internalized taboos of their childhood, then perhaps they can once again fulfill their traditional shamanistic role, and join with those others intent on healing the wounds that patriarchy has inflicted on all of us. ♥

An Open Letter

by Lauren René Hotchkiss

Telling friends and family is one of the most difficult aspects of the coming out process. Because of this, I decided to share a letter which I used to give information to my friends and family members concerning my lifestyle in hope that it will be helpful to others struggling with the same or similar issues.

I realize that what I am about to tell you may come as somewhat of a shock. Perhaps you have always known that there was something a little different about me, but never knew quite what it was. All my life I have kept a certain very important part of me hidden, at times even from myself. I have reached a point in my life, however, where I feel that it is best for myself and those around me to be completely open and honest about who and what I am. I hope you will do your best to understand and remain open-minded as you read what I'm about to tell you: I am a crossdresser.

I know that it may be hard for you to accept that I am not the person that you believed me to be, and that you might find it difficult at first to interact with me since finding out about this aspect of my life. I can appreciate and respect your feelings, for if there is one thing that I have discovered during my period of self-acceptance, it is that some things take a while to come to terms with.

There have been many changes in my life, not all of which I would have chosen had I been given a choice beforehand, but which have contributed greatly to my own personal growth. Though there have been challenges, never before have I felt such a sense of appropriateness as I have experienced during this period of transition; not only in terms of my own personal growth, but also in the opportunity it has afforded me to be a part of a supportive community in which I can at last fit in, and which is actively working toward our acceptance by the rest of society. Perhaps as people learn to accept that we are all both masculine and feminine, and begin to integrate rather than divide the two, we will find the peace and unity that God intended as our birthright.

I cannot tell you why I crossdress, for there is no answer to that. Opinion is divided in the professional community as to whether the cause is hereditary, environmental, or due to physiological or psychological factors. Most tend to agree, however, that there is nothing psychiatry can do to cure crossdressing as it is not a mental illness. Studies have shown that transgenderism is not something that will go away with time, nor have efforts to give it up ever proven to be successful. The need, therefore, is for understanding and acceptance. For myself, I am following my true path and feel more at peace with myself than I have ever felt before.

It is a challenging path, and one that is difficult for many to understand, as crossdressing is not necessarily indicative of homosexuality, bisexuality, or the desire for a sex change. Though often confused, there is a difference between sex and gender, and I have found, after much soul searching, that my need is to express myself in a lifestyle that is less restricted than that usually accorded to my biological gender.

I do not profess to be a woman; however, I have always felt a strong need for feminine expression. Femininity has always come naturally to me, while masculinity was something that I had to learn, and which always seemed forced. Though to all outward appearances I was a man, I never felt like one.

I feel that I was born into the body that I have for a purpose, which I believe is to accept and integrate the male and the female within myself, and to work for the acceptance of my community by society.

I know that you may not find it easy to understand but please try to realize that I am, at last, expressing who I am needing to be. I hope that in time you can appreciate that you have not lost the person that you once knew, but rather have gained, in me, a person who is on the road to discovering inner peace.

I care about you, and I hope you care enough about me to accept me for the person that I am inside, and not judge me by the lifestyle I have chosen or the clothes I choose to wear.

In God's love. ♡

I found myself in a small town...

by Thalia Gravel

Every so often, I hear someone comment that there seems to be a lot of turnover in the ETVC membership. My response is that ETVC reminds me of college towns I spent time in years ago.

These towns were nurturing places, where large numbers of very different people came together to learn and be a part of a particular community. There was typically a lot of ferment—new ideas and new people to discuss them with. Students quickly gravitated toward others of like mind and all sorts of official and unofficial groups developed, flourished, and sometimes disappeared quickly. Most people learned new skills and socialization strategies from both school and their peers. Bonds formed then which could not be severed by graduation.

The majority of the college population moved on into "the real world." For some, this real world was the college town itself. They entered the community of "townies" and settled in to work and live alongside the university they had attended. A few became town leaders and a few became shopkeepers who supplied the next waves of students. Some worked at the school and taught the succeeding classes. A kind of stability and continuity was maintained.

Those who gained their education and went on to other schools or into their chosen vocations spread out over the continent. But no matter how far afield they wandered, these graduates carried the memories from their time and their affiliations to their school. They had gained knowledge and experience that allowed them to make choices. Choices they may not have even known were there when they started school, choices that, in some cases, affected all our lives.

ETVC is like a college town. It is small and can be painfully parochial. It is a place with many different people who don't always see the issues in the same light. It can be a place where people find out that there are others with whom they share similarities. They create or join affinity groups that they need. ETVC can be a place through which a certain cohort moves—working out together their particular gender-based issues, be they transsexuals, transgenderists, transvestites or whatever—finding what works for them. It may be a return to the closet; it may be going public in that "real world"; or it may be keeping the small town open and operating for next year's crop of "freshpersons."

Thank goodness there are all these possibilities. Celebrate those who journey beyond ETVC and hope they send a postcard of encouragement back to us now and then. Bless those who remain and maintain. All are needed and none should be lost ♡

TS-TV, 42, Engineering student desires room or to share house near UC Davis. I am a good cook and housekeeper, non-smoking, classic music lover, quiet and easy going. Photo in Tapestry #60, p.146 (CA-3030). Call (209) 464-0855 and leave message. Mary Anne S.



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As reported last issue, Tuesday, April 21, Cameron (Empress XXII Tina) Tanner died from complications resulting from brain injuries suffered in a bashing at 16th and Capp Streets the previous month.

Saturday, April 25, Lily's at Valencia and Market held its twelve hour plus "Dragathon" to raise money for the Tina Tanner Fund to pay Tina's funeral expenses and aid other victims of hate crimes. It was big, fun and successful. "Just," as someone said, "what Tina would have wanted."

"Night of 1,000 Drags" began shortly after noon in the back room before a handful of patrons, some in the audience yelling "Yeah!" and clapping extra hard in defiance of empty chairs. But by 2 p.m. the handful had become an audience as politicians (Mayor Jordan, former police chief Hongisto, City Attorney Smith, Senator Marks, Supervisors Migden and Conroy) arrived to pay tribute to Tina, vowing that "such things must never happen again."

From then on people sat and stood in every available space as performers bumped and synced to recordings by Cher, Madonna and Bette Davis (?) as Sissy Spaceout (anything but!) darted

back and forth in constant motion, pulling invisible threads to make events flow seamlessly. Suave Steve Rascher, Lily's co-owner, glided through hour after hour of merry chaos with the aplomb of royalty at high tea.

ETVC was there, Ginny and Nancy Ann hosting a segment, with performances by our own Lauren, Francis ("who is that cute guy?"), those Fabulous Foxes and many others.

Sometime after midnight the house lights came on, the music played, and performers and audience joined to sing, hug, dance, cry and cheer as the total was announced: over \$11,000 raised for the Tina Tanner Fund.

It was a day of grief, remembrance and celebration by a community for whom tragedy has become almost as routine as changes in weather; a gesture of joyous defiance at the forces of hate; and a chord of resolution and hope that love does and will overcome all, even the vicious murder of one who epitomized the joy and love of life.



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by Lou Sullivan

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Renee Chinquapin

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Fourteen of us gathered at Lily's on April 11 for a presentation entitled "How's Your Image?" by Wilhelmina Beins, Fashion Image Consultant. I anticipated a discussion of makeup, clothing, etc., but was pleasantly surprised at the depth of the topics presented. Wilhelmina is a striking yet personable figure with a wonderful French accent and continental sophistication. She opened the program by asking each of the attendees what they expected to get from the event. Her primary point was that femininity in a person was a product of the mind, not outward appearance, and that crossdressing takes hard work and daily practice if one is to achieve acceptance in the role of the opposite gender.

The presentation included discussion of physical appearances, including numerous one-on-one sessions on feminine walking, hand gestures and voice training—with the emphasis on dedication and practice. Examples of femininity she cited were the gestures and movements of women of African and Asian cultures. She suggested that we closely observe how the women in our lives present the details of their femininity.

In my opinion, Wilhelmina's most important point was that biological gender exists for procreational purposes, but the self as a whole encompasses both female and male components. The

social role of gender is more flexible than the biological, but social roles have historically been confined to be consistent with procreational requirements. This has suppressed contact with our own intuition and brought us to a point at which we need to work to re-establish contact with the feminine aspects of our personalities.

Her ideas could be helpful to anyone, regardless of how they express their gender roles.

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ACT Now!

The Education Committee has set up its new ACT (Audio Cassette Tape) Library. You may order them from our Post Office Box in the same way you have been ordering video tapes.

Audio cassette tapes include the following educational seminars given by ETVC during the year 1990-1991. Sound quality is better on some than others, depending on background noise, but all are audible, and many are very interesting.

- ACT I 8/11/90 A Chat With Lin Fraser
- ACT II 12/19/90 Female to Male Discussion with James Green and Loren Campbell
- ACT III 1/23/91 Luanna Rodgers Discussion
- ACT IV 2/2/91 Judy Van Maasdam, Stanford Reassignment Clinic
- ACT V 3/20/91 The Society of Janus
- ACT VI 5/11/91 Voice Seminar with Yvonne Gordon
- ACT VII 4/13/91 The Significant Others Support Group
- ACT VIII 6/8/91 Ariadne Kane of the Outreach Institute

If you are interested in purchasing any of the above tapes, send \$4.00 per tape to the P.O. Box, attention Cheryl. Please be sure to tell us which audio cassette tape(s) you are ordering and allow four to six weeks for delivery. Then, just sit back and learn!


J2CP Information Services

Post Office Box 184, SanJuan Capistrano, CA 92693-0184

J2CP is an information and referral service which provides pamphlets and literature about gender issues. An information package is available for \$35 which includes Priority Mail shipping. Referrals are available, to therapists and gender programs. State whether you are M-to-F, F-to-M, or TV. J2CP also provides the "TerraNet BBS" which offers specialized AIDSnet and GENDERnet access to health and research information, and to gender-related forums. Write for further information. Electronic mail service is available to registered users.



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ETVC's 11th year starts with Lauren and me returning to head the Outreach Committee. Our meetings are held each month in areas all around the Bay, in homes and restaurants, usually a lot of fun, not just committee work. We'd like to see a lot more people come out for these. July 6 will be in Albany, north of Berkeley, and August 3 at the Lyons in San Leandro. Dress is optional. The last social was also Awards Night and I want to thank some people who have worked hard for Outreach but are rarely at social events. Marie, Jennifer, Rose Ann, Rachael, Melissa and Lin Fraser—all of whom put in much time on the Hotline, the Speakers Bureau, or both.

If you are looking for books and magazines on transgender topics, you probably know that the "adult" bookstores don't have much beyond the hardcore stuff. The IFGE has serious books available by mail. The 5th and Main news in LA., that advertises everywhere, has all the fiction. But for offbeat publications, try our own "Different Lights" bookstore at 489 Castro in San Francisco. They have the *Tapestry*, *Vested Interests* in hardback, a lot of paperback fiction and racks of odd magazines. I've bought, and try not to lend, *Dragazine*, which is from and about the Los Angeles drag scene; *Venus Castina*, on the local genderbender clubs and their patrons; and *Rites of Passage*, of interest to the post-op TS.



ETVC at IFGE

This March IFGE held its annual convention in Houston, down – if not deep in the heart of Texas. Our luminaries at the Lone Star hosted affair were l-r: Telzey, Billie Jean, Nancy Ann, Ginny, Roxanne
Photo: Roxanne de Lyon



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The Last

Your most Imperial Majesty, Douglass Stromberg, I humbly apologize. I still have not figured out how I named your opponent, Bruce Harrellson, San Francisco's newest Emperor.

Congratulations to the Imperial Court of Sacramento's Emperor Paul and Empress Stacey. May the Court of Pork and Beans have a most awarding reign.

All Tied Up?

Into corsets? Saturday, August 22, 7:30-11 p.m., Romantasy at 199 Moulton Street (between Lombard and Greenwich at Fillmore in San Francisco) will host a Corset Lacing Table. See their ad on page 16 for their location. \$5.00 to register in advance (which is *highly* recommended). \$10.00 at the door. Call Marcia at (916) 441-0292 for more information.

Security

I was informed of another auto break-in at our social. If you observe suspicious activities, let the bartender and any ETVC officer know. If you observe a freshly broken window, take the license plate number so we can talk with the owner before calling police. We also need to know the details if you have been victimized.

Finis

The last two years have been good, but this last year was far more trouble than the first. How many officers did I lose? How many times were my errors glossed over? Don't answer! I don't want to know.

But Not Good-bye...

In the coming year you can look for my contributions on the Education Committee pages. Join us on the second Saturday of each month for the Committee's meeting and event. Barring changes, committee meetings start twelve o'clock noon at Lily's, Valencia at Market. Events start at 2 p.m.

In the San Jose area, look for events at the New Community of Faith Church, 6350 Rainbow Drive, San Jose, on the second and any fifth Friday.

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Sexual perversions and immoral behavior are corrupting America's traditional values, especially among our youth, worse than ever. Fortunately one brave man, Rev. Donald Wildmon, is waging an all-out battle for preserving our traditional values.

His organization, called the American Family Association, describes itself as follows: "AFA is a Christian organization promoting the Biblical ethic of decency in American society with primary emphasis on TV and other media." Its efforts are making themselves felt, affecting what millions of Americans see, hear, and read.

I recently sent him a postcard asking for information, and I now receive their monthly newsletter. It describes the valiant struggles AFA wages with, among other foes, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), Planned Parenthood, and the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) network.

Regarding television, a recent headline read "Disney, MCI, Honda ads support lesbian kiss, deluge of perversions" regarding the show "LA Law." The advertisers who support other immoral shows such as "Saturday Night Live" and "Married With Children" are mentioned, along with their parent corporations. Addresses and toll-free numbers that can be used to complain, or otherwise comment, are faithfully included.

Among its many activities regarding print media, AFA regularly lists the companies that advertise in *Playboy* and *Penthouse* (again, with addresses) and these efforts are working. Avon board chairman James Preston has recently told AFA, "You have my assurance that Giorgio (Avon owns Giorgio) will be out of Playboy in 1992."

I think we should all keep informed about efforts, which clearly affect our daily lives. We, too, can let the politicians, networks, and advertisers know *our* views. AFA has made it simple and convenient to contact such organizations.

In addition to the fascinating newsletter, I also receive occasional requests for funds from Rev. Wildmon, along with a prepaid envelope. I sent back the last one, which he will have to pay to receive.

Silly me, I may have forgotten to include a check.

For more information: American Family Association
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