

Cotillion Fever Heats Up Winter

Gender Skybox

Pam Souza

ETVC socials at Eichelberger's? The Cotillion at the Russian Center? The Skybox on page one? Welcome, gender fans, to 1994, the year that begins with nothing in its usual place.

So many eras have ended and new ones begun that we've run out of glassware for toasting all of them. So find whatever beverage holder is available (even if it's your Mrs. Doubtfire

Slurpee cup), and raise it high to an enduring tradition in its tenth year. Cotillion fever rages as ETVC's flagship event, now in double digits, prepares to celebrate its first decade in style. Director Jacqui Jewels, Producer Dianne Summers, stunning contestants, dazzling guest performers and an army of behind-the-scenes volunteers will be Putting on the Ritz at the Russian Center on Saturday, January 29. Interviews with judges the week before, along with active-wear, talent and evening gown competitions at the Cotillion, will determine which five finalists get to answer the all-important Final Question for the title of Miss ETVC 1994. New this year: Debonair female-to-male gentlemen will go wingtip to wingtip for the first Mr. ETVC crown! First time Cotillionites can participate in the presentation of the debutantes. Everyone is welcome to come early for the buffet and stay late for dancing after the show.

More than a pageant, the ETVC Cotillion is a homecoming, even if our home has switched addresses. Long absent alumni return to join the current crop of gender students and teachers (we're each a bit of both) in celebrating the richness of our diversity and spirit. Come to the one event where you can be your most glamorous and feel most at home. We promise to stock plenty of glassware.



Jacqui Jewels 1994
ETVC Cotillion Director

The End of an Era, And a New Beginning

Cori Farrell

It is with a mixture of melancholy and excitement that we announce a new location for our monthly socials next year. The Chez Mollet, our home of many years, will not be available after December. Beginning in January, our new home for socials will be at Eichelberger's (2742 17th Street at Florida, San Francisco), a beautiful bar/restaurant that is fast becoming a notable establishment in the San Francisco gender scene.

We will most certainly miss the Chez - rather like leaving the place we grew up. A special thanks to Lenny, the Chez's owner, for being there for us all these years and welcoming us when many others wouldn't. There really is no adequate way to express our appreciation to Lenny and all of the wonderful people at the Chez Mollet for making our gatherings such a delight month after month, year after year. Lenny himself used the term "end of an era," and there is no more accurate description of our upcoming relocation. It is an era we will all remember fondly.

Now for a bit of background on our new venue: Eichelberger's is named after Ethel Eichelberger, a highly respected drag performer who portrayed classical theater characters in an updated, campy style. The classy and tasteful decor of the bar reflects this influence, while also conveying that people are there to have fun - and we think you will. The proprietors, Cornelius and Dennis, are most enthusiastic about meeting all of you; the atmosphere could not be more friendly, so please come. January 27, 1994 is the date for our first social at Eichelberger's. Join us there for a new experience at the beginning of a new era.

Eichelberger's & Kimo's: Getting There

After so many years at the Chez, cars almost seemed to drive themselves there. Maybe that's why so many of you have asked, "How can I teach my old car new routes?" It's easy. Here's how.

Eichelberger's

Don't tell your car Eichelberger's is on 17th Street at Florida, or it may panic ("Florida street! Where's that? I'll get lost! I'll run out of gas! I'll get towed!) Just tell it that you have a little surprise for it. Then here's what you do:

From the East Bay: Take the Bay Bridge to S.F., exiting in the right lane at "9th Street." Actually, you will be on Harrison Street. Stay on it to 17th Street, where you turn left. After a block or so, you will see Eichelberger's on the corner of Florida.

From the Peninsula: Take 101 to "Army Street." Follow the signs to "Potrero." Stay on Potrero to 17th Street. Turn left. After several blocks you will see Eichelberger's on the right.

From the GG Bridge: Take Lombard to Gough. Turn right. Follow Gough all the way up and down the hill. As you approach Market, stay in your left lane. A block after Market Gough ends at

...continued on page 3

NEW GROUP FORMED

RGA has announced in its recent newsletter the forming of a new support group in Santa Cruz, called the Parkhurst Society. They meet on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at the First Church of Religious Science, 1818 Felt (near 17th Street), 7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. For information, call Terri, (408) 462-3663.

ETVC NEWSLETTER

ETVC is a non-sexual, membership based organization 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, article submission guidelines and classified ads, please write to: ETVC Secretary, PO Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486. Minutes of all ETVC committee meetings are available to members on request.

OFFICERS

President	Cindy Martin
Vice-President	Dianne Summers
Secretary	Jane Kamper Bentley
Treasurer	Nancy Ann Martine
Education	Evette LaRoquaurie & Francis Vavra
Outreach	Lauren Hotchkiss & Telzey Adams
Social	Cori Farrell & Martina Bloom

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Membership (as of 11/30/93)	379
1992 Membership	362
New members this year	46

TREASURER'S REPORT

10/1/93 Balance	\$ 4,549.10
October Income	\$ 1,757.50
October Expenses	\$ 1,535.15
10/31/93 Balance	\$ 4,771.45
November income	\$ 1,451.00
November expenses	\$ 1,943.19
11/30/93 Balance	\$ 4,279.26

The ETVC Newsletter is published the last week of February, April, June, August, October and December. Submissions should arrive at ETVC by the 25th day of the previous month. Contents reflect the opinions of the contributors and the editor, and are not necessarily those of ETVC. Other organizations may reprint or reproduce uncopyrighted portions of the newsletter for their members, provided ETVC is acknowledged. Copyrighted materials may be reproduced only with written permission of ETVC.

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AD RATES

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

Personal ads from ETVC members: \$3 for up to 40 words. We will *not* accept ads with a sexual objective. Ad deadlines are the first day of June, August, October, December, February and April. Send ad copy and a check for the appropriate amount to: ETVC, PO Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486

HOTLINE 510-549-2665
VOICE MAIL 415-334-3439

EDITOR'S NOTES

by Jane Kamper Bentley

How often have you said to yourself, "What this newsletter needs is a new editor?" I've said it myself at least ten times in the past ten issues. With the founding of our Newsletter Committee (NewsCom), we draw perhaps a step closer.

NewsCom had its first meeting at Ginny's house in October. Present were old reliables Cori Farrell (Ad Director), Pam Souza ("Gender Skybox") and Jamie Fenton (Photographer). The new blood was Bobbi Dunne (Brenda Starr lookalike); Ginny (Calendar and Banner Pages Editor); Kevin Horowitz (Education Editor, former editor of the FTM Newsletter); Juana Smith (News Editor); and her lovely spouse Veronica, who is in charge of Raw Input, a job that's not as rough as it sounds.

Over the next couple of issues, as we discover what works best for each and all of us, the job of editor should begin to look less like a burden and more attractive to at least one of these talented people. Hey! Where'd they all go?

A belated word of support for a good friend. Luanna Rodgers was the focus for an "action" by Transgender Nation at the August meeting of the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Advisory Committee, taking some pretty hard hits for being a "psychiatric colonizer." One TN member referred to her very presence as "discrimination." It was an example of rightful anger directed at the wrong target.

Luanna's "misdeed," as I understand it, was to "speak for transgendered people when they are perfectly capable of speaking for themselves." She was conducting a sensitivity awareness session for the members of the LGBAC.

When TN identifies and denounces psychiatric workers who treat transgendered people as sick and in need of forced reconditioning (such abuse is a FACT in the histories of many in TN); when it takes the APA to task for pathologizing transvestites and transsexuals in its Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders; when it urges us to define ourselves in our own terms rather than therapeutic models, it raises the awareness of us all. But when it assails a credible advocate, who is dedicated to helping those of us in pain and confusion to realize that our transgenderedness is what is *right* with us, it undermines its very message.

"ser.en.dip'it.y, n.[coined by Horace Walpole (c. 1754) after his tale *The Three Princes of Serendip* (i.e., Ceylon), who made such discoveries.] an aptitude for making fortunate discoveries accidentally."

I have always liked the idea of things turning up that you weren't expecting, but were delighted to find. About eight months ago, thanks to information supplied by Luanna Rodgers, I began attending meetings of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Advisory Committee, warily curious about its goal of securing transgender rights in San Francisco. LGBAC had just appointed a transgender person, Kiki Whitlock, to be one of them. But who was she? And wasn't this advisory committee just an intellectual bureaucracy, whose ultimate purpose was to make its members feel important without accomplishing anything substantial?

I soon got to know Kiki (see "Countdown to Civil Rights"), and through her, Tamara Ching. Both are important members (I would say "leaders," except Tamara would probably chide me for "elitism") in the Asian/Pacific Islander transgender community. Both do outreach to those among us who have to do sex work to support themselves. It's a tough, dangerous job, yet they remain warm, empathic and upbeat. Kiki's work, and that of the TG Task Force, has been first rate.

The scattered enclaves of the transgendered are becoming known not just to the LGBAC, but to each other. We've seen presentations by Christine Tayleur of the Tenderloin Self-Help Centre, Sheri Webb of the Tenderloin Aids Resource Center, Rica Madam Turner of the Brothers' Network, Tamara Ching and Luanna Rodgers. I met Ann Ogborn and other members of Transgender Nation, and Shelley Salieri, a transsexual woman working inside City Hall as an advisor to several S.F. supervisors. And there is more to come as education prepares us for action.

Will we get transgender civil rights in San Francisco? I hope so. But whatever transpires, something else, something wonderfully unexpected is already happening. We are truly emerging as a community of transgender people and organizations, many of whom we - or, at least, I - knew little or nothing about just six months ago.

The next LGBAC meetings are January 18, when Transgender Nation makes its presentation, and February 21, when members of the Asian/Pacific Islander transgender community will speak. ETVC and FTM are scheduled for the April meeting. For more information call Larry Brinkin at the SFHRC, (415) 252-2510. Or call me through the Voice Mail. My mailbox code is J-A-N-E.

Letters

Editor,

On page 9 of the ETVC Newsletter for September/October, 1993, Thalia Gravel states that she is the first open gender person to serve on the Board of Directors of the Pacific Center.

Just for the record, I was on the board in 1986 and may or may not have been the first transgender person to serve.

Very truly yours,
Shelley Elvira Salieri

Getting There...cont. from page 1

a stop sign. Go straight into a wide street called Otis, which, after it crosses under the freeway, becomes Mission. Stay on Mission to 17th Street. After about 1/2 mile, Eichelberger's will be on the left at Florida.

Kimo's

From the East Bay: Just off the Bay bridge, exit at "Fremont." After Market, Fremont becomes Front. In a short block you're at Pine. Turn left. After about a mile, Kimo's is at the southwest corner of Polk.


From the Peninsula: Take 101 to "Ninth Street." Turn left onto Ninth, stay in one of the two right lanes. After Market, Ninth becomes Larkin. Larkin goes up a long hill. Near the top, turn left at Pine. Kimo's is one block away on the southwest corner of Polk.

From the GG Bridge: Take "Lombard." Turn right on Gough. Take Gough to the top of the hill. At California Street, turn left. Go three blocks to Polk. Turn right. Kimo's is one block away on the southwest corner of Pine.

Parking

Like the Chez, Eichelberger's is in a semi-industrial area. Street parking is as good or better.

Although street parking at Kimo's is almost nonexistent, there are four parking garages close by. 1) The closest is 1/2 block west of Kimo's, on Pine. 2) Up another 1/2 block, at Van Ness, is the Golden Gateway Holiday Inn. 3) One block south of Kimo's, on Bush and Polk, is a municipal garage. 4) On Bush, halfway between Polk and Larkin, is the only unattended garage. You park and drop your money in a slot.

<p>PRESENTING I.F.G.E.'S Eighth Annual</p> <p>COMING TOGETHER - WORKING TOGETHER CONVENTION</p> <p>Portland, Oregon March 12th - 20th, 1994</p> <p>SPONSOR: The International Foundation for Gender Education P.O. Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778 617-899-2212</p>	 <p>HOSTS: The Northwest Gender Alliance P.O. Box 4928, Portland, OR 97206 503-774-8463</p> <p>&</p> <p>Emerald City P.O. Box 31318, Seattle, WA 98103 206-284-1071</p>
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Presidents Message

Cindy Martin

1993 may be remembered as the year ETVC underwent some of the most dramatic changes in its 10 year history, but the one you will probably notice most is the loss of the Chez Mollet as our home base.

For most of our existence the Chez has been our meeting place, our refuge from a sometimes hostile world. And while it has been evident for some time that we would need to move one day, the executive committee was still quite stunned to learn in early November that the main meeting space at the Chez was going to be closed in January.

I have to tell you that I was very, very worried about this turn of events. Suddenly, we had to find a place that not only was welcoming to us, but which also had a large space at an affordable price, good parking and a safe location. Believe me, this was a very difficult combination, but the formidable Cori Farrell came through once again.

Our lovely social co-chair discovered Ethyl Eichelberger's, a restaurant/bar at 17th and Florida. I think you'll like it a lot. It's a bright, happy, lively place with great decor and an up-to-date menu that is very, very reasonable. Our space will be on the second floor. It is a bit smaller than the Chez so it is likely that for our larger events we will use an alternate location. Watch your mail and this newsletter for all the news on this subject.

While not as dramatic as moving to a new venue, gaining nonprofit status will have major long-term effects on our organization. After years of delay and inaction, 1993 was the year that ETVC took the decisive steps necessary to obtain nonprofit status from both the federal and state governments. This difficult process should come to fruition in 1994 and will bring our organization the formal recognition and credibility it has always deserved.

One of our biggest service gaps was finally filled this fall when ETVC began a program specifically geared towards the needs of transsexuals. The new TS program is being headed by Lucy Ann Jones aided by Jane Kamper Bentley and Francis Vavra, and has so far been successful beyond all expectations.

ETVC also started its own voice mail system late this year thanks to the fine efforts of high-tech priestess Jamie Faye. Now based at Cheryl Sheppard's home, the voice mail system is a fun and easy way for all of us to stay in touch and find out what's happening in the community. Call 415-334-3439 for more information.

In early January, ETVC began the nation's first anti-defamation program. The program's primary goals are to raise the awareness of the media about the realities of transgendered people and to react when necessary to unfair depictions of us in the press, on television and in films. After a great start, the program suffered a major blow with the loss of director Roxanne de Lyon and more immediate issues have slowed the process of finding a replacement. Reviving the program will be a high priority after the Cotillion.

Speaking of the Cotillion, our biggest event of the year is going to be staged at the Russian Center this January 29 after four years at the California Club. See the separate article on this year's Cotillion for more about the show.

While the anti-defamation program is in low gear at year's end, ETVC's efforts to attain fair treatment of transgendered people continues, thanks to ETVC Secretary Jane Kamper Bentley as she joins the battle for a city ordinance aimed at protecting us from discrimination in housing, jobs and public facilities.

Besides all these major innovations and changes, ETVC also added a second monthly social, established a monthly bowling night, published an extensive update of its huge library catalogue and expanded its charitable giving.

And we did it all without raising member dues.

Have a wonderful 1994 and COME TO THE COTILLION!

Special Events



ETVC Dance Socials

Sunday, January 9 at End Up

Wednesday, February 9 at Kimo's- Upstairs

Dust off those dancing pumps! We start the year at the End Up; in February the party moves to Kimo's upstairs, where, as your feet stir to the beat, your eyes take in the pageantry of the street below. It's Wednesday, the middle of the week. To the rest of the world, "over the hump" day. To you, born to be wild! to be free! to dance! it is a day - and night - as full of magic and rare possibility as any other - maybe even better! The first two dozen ETVC ladies to show up at Kimo's each get a red, red rose. *Don't* be number 25! 8 p.m. Free Admission.

Multiple Personalities - Bill Henkin

Wednesday, January 12

William A. Henkin, PhD., an experienced psychotherapist in the gender community, will speak on the fascinating subject of "multiple personalities" as a positive paradigm, and how experiencing the other side/s of one's persona relates to gender issues. Location: 1261 Howard St., 2nd Floor, between 8th & 9th St., S.F., next to the "Balloon Lady" shop. 8 p.m. \$3.00 donation.

Way Off Broadway Opening Night

Thursday, January 27

In a new year and a new location, join us for the opening night of ETVC at Eichelberger's, 2742 17th Street at Florida, where the elite of San Francisco's gender scene meet to see and be seen. This night will turn a page in ETVC history and comes at the height of our busy season, just two days before the Cotillion. Join us to ring in Cotillion Weekend, our New Year, and our new look. Eichelberger's. Members \$3. Guests \$5. Starts 8 p.m.

ETVC Cotillion - "Puttin' on the Ritz!"

Saturday, January 29

For our 10th Cotillion anniversary, ETVC Cotillion Director Jacqui Jewels takes us back to the Golden Age of Movie Musicals. Yeah, it's 1933. We ain't got two nickels to rub together, but with FDR in Washington and Busby Berkely in Hollywood, we got something better. We got a New Deal. And talkies! Ahhh, the sets! The songs! The goils! Oh, them bee-yoo-tee-ful goils. And one swell lookin' fella'. One of them goils is gonna' be our brand new Miss ETVC 1934 - uh, 1994. And the fella'? He'll be Mr. ETVC. And you? You can be anybody you want: Joan Blondell, Ruby Keeler, Ginger Rogers, or even Eleanor Roosevelt, as you dance, dance, dance the night away! Tickets \$20 in advance. \$25 at the door. Russian Center: 2450 Sutter Street, San Francisco. Doors open 7 p.m.

En Femme With Judy Ann

Wednesday, February 9

Lovely, versatile Judy Ann presents part of her makeover Workshop for Girlfriends, showing us how to walk, sit, and dance like a lady, plus "wearing hats with attitude" (add panache to your wardrobe!). Also, makeup and hairstlye tips to help you attain your own distinctive look. At her studio in Antioch (E. Bay); please call her for directions and to reserve a space - (510) 706-8748. 8 p.m. \$3.00 donation.

San Francisco Imperial Court Coronation

Saturday, February 19, and other dates

The Mardi Gras Madness San Francisco Imperial Court Coronation starts its party season with its Presentation of Candidates at the Imperial GALA on Saturday, January 15th at the California Club, and ends with the post-Coronation Victory Brunch on Sunday, February 20th at the EMBASSY room. Coronation Week includes a Roast of the Emperor and Empress, an In-Town Show, and an Out-of-Town Show and, of course, the fabulous Coronation itself on Sturday, February 19th at the Gift Center. For more detailed information or to make reservations at ETVC's table, call Ginny at (415) 1499 prior to February 1st. Coronation tickets \$30. Join us and walk on stage with ETVC with pride!

Karaoke Night

Thursday, February 24

Now that you have spent countless hours perfecting the appropriate voice for your gender of choice, here's a chance to show it off to all your friends. Courtesy of Diana and Janelle Sexton and their notorious Laser Karaoke, we are proud to present ETVC's Karaoke Night (honest, we'll be laughing with you, not at you). Eichelberger's. Members \$3. Guests \$5. Starts 8 p.m.

Transsexual Seminar - Ask Dr. Lin

Sunday, February 27

Why should dumb old Jane Kamper Bentley get to ask all the questions of the Bay Area's favorite Feminist Jungian Gender Therapist? It's *your* turn to ask the *right* questions. She may not know everything, but Dr. Lin Fraser will discuss just about anything. Perhaps not, "How many words a minute can an archetype?" But certainly everything from, "How to keep from going crazy in a crazy world," to, "What is an archetype?" to "What is the proper role of the therapist?" to...well, what *is* your question? For self-identified transsexuals. Kimo's. Free. Starts 3 p.m.



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TV/TS/TG GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

A Calendar of Events for January & February



JANUARY

4	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 849-4112
5	ETVC	Education Committee	Meets at 7:00 PM	Eichelberger's	(510) 832-7202
5	ETVC	Social Committee	Meets at 7:30 PM	Eichelberger's	(510) 865-8963
7	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
7	RGA	Social & Fashion Show	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
8	ETVC	Executive Committee	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(415) 750-1850
8	ETVC	Cotillion Committee	Meets at 4 PM	Eichelberger's	(916) 965-0473
9	ETVC	Dance Social	Starts at 8 PM	End Up	(510) 865-8963
11	ETVC	Outreach Committee	Meets at 7:30 PM	Berkeley	(510) 849-4112
12	ETVC	Multiple Personalities	Starts at 8 PM	San Francisco	(510) 832-7202
13	ETVC	Significant Others	Meets 7:30-10 PM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
14	ETVC	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
14	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
14	South Bay	Gender Discussion Group	Meets 8-10 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-5619
15	ETVC	SOS Luncheon	Starts 11:30 AM	San Jose	(510) 934-0826
15	Imperial	SF GALA	Starts 7 PM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
17	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 849-4112
20	ETVC	Couples Social	Starts at 8 PM	Pleasant Hill	(415) 664-1499
21	ETVC	Bowling Night	Call for details	San Francisco	(415) 731-7032
21	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
21	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
27	ETVC	SOCIAL	Starts at 8 PM	Eichelberger's	(510) 865-8963
28	RGA	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	Sunnyvale	(408) 732-7406
29	SGA	Dinner/Social	Starts at 8 PM	Sacramento	(916) 482-7SGA
29	ETVC	COTILLION	Starts at 7 PM	Russian Center	(916) 965-7331

FEBRUARY

1	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 849-4112
2	ETVC	Social Committee	Meets 7:30 PM	Eichelberger's	(510) 865-8963
2	ETVC	Education Committee	Meets at 7 PM	Eichelberger's	(510) 832-7202
4	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
4	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
5	ETVC	Executive Committee	Starts at 8 PM	San Francisco	(415) 750-1850
8	ETVC	Outreach Committee	Starts at 7:30 PM	Berkeley	(510) 849-4112
9	ETVC	En Femme	Starts at 8 PM	Antioch	(510) 706-8748
9	ETVC	Dance Social	Starts at 8 PM	Kimo's - Upstairs	(510) 865-8963
10	ETVC	Significant Others	Meets 7:30-10 PM	San Jose	(415) 664-1499
11	ETVC	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
11	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
11	South Bay	Gender Discussion Group	Meets 8-10 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-5619
13	FTM	Informational Meeting	Starts at 2 PM	San Francisco	(510) 832-7202
14	Cupid	Kiss Kiss	Starts at 12 AM	Everywhere	Dial-A-Smooch
17	ETVC	Couples Social	Starts at 8 PM	Foster City	(415) 664-1499
18	ETVC	Bowling Night	Call for details	San Francisco	(415) 731-7032
18	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
18	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
19	Imperial	SF Coronation	Doors open 5 PM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
21	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 849-4112
24	ETVC	SOCIAL	Starts at 8 PM	Eichelberger's	(510) 865-8963
25	RGA	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	Sunnyvale	(408) 732-7406
26	SGA	Dinner/Social	Starts at 8 PM	Sacramento	(916) 482-7SGA
27	ETVC	TS Seminar	Starts at 3 PM	Kimo's - Upstairs	(415) 697-2314

OTHER GROUPS

Pacific Center for Human Growth, a counseling oriented growth center, sponsors all-inclusive gender support groups on every Friday except for the last Friday of the month at 8:00 PM. 2712 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley. Call: (510) 841-6224.

Rainbow Gender Association (RGA) meets 1st and 3rd Friday of the month 8:00 PM at the New Community of Faith Church, 6350 Rainbow Drive, San Jose. Write: RGA, PO Box 700730, San Jose, CA 95170. Call: (408) 984-4044

Sacramento Gender Association (SGA) Blue Rose Chapter meets 8 PM the 4th Saturday of each month at the Townhouse. Write: Blue Rose Chapter, PO Box 215456, Sacramento, CA 95821-1456. Call: (916) 482-7SGA

Diablo Valley Girls (DVG) Meets 1st Tuesday and 3rd Monday of every month 8:00 PM at Just Rewards Nightclub, 2520 Camino Diablo in Walnut Creek. Write: DVG, PO Box 272885, Concord, CA 94527-2885. Call: (510) 849-4112.

The Tenderloin Self-Help Centre (a project of the Central City Community Hospitality House funded by the Community Mental Health Services) meets every Wednesday, 4-6 PM, at 191 Golden Gate, San Francisco. Call: (415) 554-0518.

FTM, a support group for Female-to-Male crossdressers & transsexuals, holds both open, Informational Meetings, and closed, Support Meetings. Write: FTM, 5337 College Avenue #142, Oakland, CA 94618. Call: (510) 832-7202.

ETVC Membership Application

Please Print

Mailing Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Preferred Name: _____

Birth Date: Month _____ Day _____ New Member: _____ Renewal: _____

How did you learn about ETVC? _____

Part year membership from January 1 - May 31 is \$10.00 (New members only).

Full year membership June 1 - May 31 is \$20.00

Please remit by check or money order to:

ETVC, P.O. Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486

Cindy At Large

Cindy Martin

You don't need a prescription for the glycolic acid products that have been the hottest thing in skin care this year, but you'd better keep a close eye on your purse because the cosmetic companies know that it is very hard to resist a magic wrinkle cream.

Glycolic acid products are the weak sisters to chemical peels, the process in which a strong acid is used to literally burn off the upper layer of skin. The theory is that skin that grows back under these conditions will be smoother, younger looking and have less sun damage. Glycolic acid in typical commercial concentrations works more like an exfoliant than a burn agent but the long term effects are also supposed to be better looking, younger skin. While it is possible to get concentrations of up to 15 percent glycolic in a cream, dermatologists in recent articles in Allure magazine are recommending that you stick to products in the 8 to 12 percent range.

The trouble is that the major brands in department stores don't come right out and tell you what the concentrations are in their creams. You could easily pay \$40, \$50, \$60 an ounce and more for products with less than 5 percent glycolic, which means you may as well buy a Buf Puf. Ask the salesperson exactly what you are getting and if they don't know or cannot tell you, forget it and buy at the salon where you have your facials done.

Does this latest miracle work? I'm using an 8 percent solution of glycolic acid in my daily skin care routine and my face does seem a little clearer though my wrinkles sure haven't gone away. One bonus: my acne seems to heal a tad faster since using this product. That alone made it worth it for me, but of course I cannot promise that it will do the same for you.

TV CALL HOME? If he can make killer sharks, ugly aliens and dinosaurs popular, just think what director/producer Steven Spielberg can do for us. According to the New York Post, Spielberg is going to produce a film called "To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything,"

about three New York drag queens whose car breaks down in a conservative southern town. Mitchell Kohn, a top executive in Spielberg's company was quoted as saying the film would be about "accepting different types of people and enjoying life." Sounds about right to me.

THREE-FIFTHS OF A PERSON REVISITED Sinking ever deeper into the quagmire that is intolerance, the Tri-Ess board of directors has come up with a "clarified" version of something called a "Friend" of Tri-Ess. People who do not qualify for Tri-Ess membership, in other words gays and transsexuals, can affiliate with the group under the Friends classification. However, these Friends cannot vote on their chapter's policies or hold any offices. Further, it is up to the local chapter to decide whether they will allow their Friends to attend Tri-Ess meetings. The basics of all this were reported in the September 1993 issue of the Alpha Omega Silhouette, newsletter of the Northern Ohio Tri-Ess newsletter. P.S - The newsletter reported that the clarification came during a meeting

held this June in Denver, Colorado - also known as the anti-gay Hate State. Perfect.

SPEAKING OF INTOLERANCE A gang of four post-op MTF transsexuals got booted, again, from the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival because of a bizarre policy at the Lesbian event that restricts participants

to "womyn born womyn", whatever that means. Not-so-veiled threats of violence from other attendees led the group to "voluntarily" leave. To their credit, many women offered support and help to the TSs, not surprising, considering past surveys have shown that the overwhelming majority of women at the event find the TS-exclusion policy to be despicable. Thanks to the Renaissance News for printing the story.

FRANCIS, FRANCIS HE'S OUR MAN and a good writer too! Our education co-chair Francis Vavra got great play, picture included, in the always excellent FTM newsletter this October. In the story Vavra invites other FTMs to join us during the Gay Pride Parade next year (yes, excellent) and encourages other FTMs to take part in ETVC activities (yes, yes, yes!). Thank you sir!

"You can never really know if or when you pass. You will ALWAYS know when you are accepted" - Alice Carla Longstreet, writing in Tiffany Club of New England's Rosebud's Newsletter.

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Ask Dr. Lin

Dr. Lin Fraser (with J.K. Bentley)

You are invited to submit your questions to "Ask Dr. Lin c/o ETVC, POB 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486."

JKB: You've just returned from the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association Convention. A lot of us have heard of HBIGDA. What exactly is it?

Dr. Lin: It's a group of professionals primarily involved in the care and management of gender dysphoria: surgeons, endocrinologists, psychotherapists, psychiatrists, sociologists, even a few lawyers. To be a voting member, you need to be a provider of some sort. So there are some members who are both providers and transgendered persons. HBIGDA is responsible for establishing the Harry Benjamin Standards of Care and modifying them.

JKB: The people involved with the Standards of Care are also involved with the DSM, the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, aren't they?

Dr. Lin: The DSM III-R, and soon to be DSM IV-R, is published by the American Psychiatric Association. It has no formal connection with HBIGDA. DSM covers a whole range of psychiatric conditions, of which transvestism and transsexualism are just a small part that looms very large in importance to transgendered people. However, if you look at the people who author those parts of the DSM that pertain to transgendered people, you see that they are all part of HBIGDA.

JKB: Are you involved with the DSM?

Dr. Lin: No. All those people are psychiatrists who are selected by the APA - and it's all through academia - academic politics. I don't know exactly how it's done -

JKB: How interesting. We should know about this, because I would think that the job of deciding whether our behavior is pathological should be given to people like yourself who work with us and can see whether we're nuts or not -

Dr. Lin: What I saw happening - even though the issue of DSM was addressed hardly at all at the HBIGDA conference - was a huge range of views on gender and gender dysphoria based upon how providers experience gender. There is an old school based upon the

patriarchal paradigm, which is hierarchical, separatist and pathologizing. And you have another community emerging among providers that sees gender as a construct, in context, feminist, viewing the behavior of transgendered people as gender nonconformity rather than gender disordered. When you look at gender nonconformity in context, you see the same thing in a variety of cultures all over the world, that the person who is gender nonconformist is given a role somewhere between the spirit and flesh. They're often shamans of some sort. In Northern Thailand, for instance, there are women who are gender nonconformists. When they go into a trance state, and have some sort of connection to a goddess, they become men, because men have the power. There are examples of many different kinds from all over the world. Burma, India, American Indian.

JKB: But not in contemporary Western Culture. Does that have something to do with the overall conformity brought about by industrialization?

Dr. Lin: Either that or by modern science, which is really quite masculine. When you're connected - when you don't experience a separation from mother earth - there's less of a need to split into two. With technology, gender is more of an either/or; the response to gender nonconformity is treatment. Non-technological

cultures, on the other hand, find a role for the transgendered. With the fluidity of roles, there is less to pick. A lot of my clients report, for instance, that they feel not-male. They don't necessarily feel female, but they definitely don't feel male. But in this culture, what are their choices? If you're not male, you must be female.

JKB: It reminds me of the argument the early Christian church had about whether Jesus was truly man or truly God, and they decided he was both. I guess what I'm finding is that I am truly man and truly woman, but there is no hierarchy to authenticate that. The culture doesn't provide a context for me. I have to provide the context. I'm not going to say it's not difficult. But I can make an agonizing problem out of it, or I can take the problems it raises as challenges. It's a matter of stepping out in faith, believing that if I am truly myself with others, I may have a lot of disappointments and even heartbreak, but I may be able to make some wonderful connections, as well.

Dr. Lin Fraser is a practicing psychotherapist in San Francisco, specializing in gender issues; she has been a friend of the gender community for 20 years.

Developing a Positive Gender Identity

Luanna Rodgers

It takes courage to consult one's self for the direction to take in life rather than consulting tradition. It is often easier to be defined by what other people expect of you, to merge into a stereotype, to yield individuality, to abdicate responsibility for being who you are and becoming what you want to be. But the price for giving up the prerogative to grow is devastating in spirit, in energy and in integrity.

- Betty Berzon, Ph.D.

Dr. Berzon, in the paragraph above, is writing in her book *Positively Gay* (LA: Mediamix, 1979) about the challenge of developing a positive *gay* or *lesbian* identity. Her statement seems to speak equally well to the challenge of being a *crossdresser*, *transgendered individual* or *transsexual*. It does take courage to consult oneself and one's own needs for gender expression. It often seems easier to be defined by what others expect: to live in the role of your gender at birth and not depart from that for an evening - much less, a lifetime - and to conform to accepted gender stereotypes. Men are men. Women are women. Stick to the rules and no one gets hurt. But it *does* hurt; it hurts the spirit deeply to give up on being yourself.

How, then, does someone who knows that their gender reality departs from the narrow constraints of societal norms accept the challenge to be true to themselves, to grow and to develop their own identify and mode of gender expression?

First, reclaim your own power. Don't let others define who you are, how you should feel, act or present yourself. Don't feel that you must explain yourself to others or be explained by others - be they professionals or others. Professionals (psychotherapists, physicians) are available to help you toward feeling comfortable *with yourself*. They do not have the authority to dictate how you live. Living by someone else's rules is always ultimately destructive.

Second, crossdressers, transgendered people and transsexuals have a lot of "deprogramming" to do. There are many myths and misunderstandings that form the basis of prejudice against cross-gender expression in the general population. Some of this prejudice is internalized by the person with cross-gender feelings. These myths and internalized self-hatreds need to be exposed, examined and disposed of. Some examples of common harmful myths are:

Myth: Transgendered individuals are mentally ill.

Fact: There is no greater incidence of mental illness in the transgendered population than in the general population.

Myth: Transgendered individuals are marginal people who must accept limitations in their lifestyle.

Fact: Transgendered people are in all walks of life and every

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socio-economic status; many hold responsible, well-paying and even prestigious positions. *And the more people speak up for their right to express themselves, the more true this will be.*

Myth: Transgendered individuals are sexual deviates and cannot have and maintain close and loving intimate relationships.

Fact: Most crossdressers are married or involved in close relationships with significant others. Many have families to which they are loyal. Most transgendered individuals and transsexuals also maintain close and loving relationships. Gender issues are just that, *gender issues*, not sexual issues. The transgendered person is not sexually impaired or unable to relate to others in a loving manner.

Add any of your own individual self-doubts and harmful myths to this list, find the facts and dispel the myths.

Lastly, careful self-disclosures lead to support. Identifying oneself as a crossdresser, transgendered individual or transsexual can be frightening, but it is only through coming to terms with who we are that we can gain further understanding and the support of others. It is far more gratifying and healing to be loved and accepted by a few people who truly know us than to hide well from a million. Finding acceptance from others, furthers self-esteem and self-acceptance.

The work toward developing a positive sense of self and gender identity is hard, the cost of not doing it harder, and the rewards immeasurable.

Luanna L. Rodgers, M.A., MFCC is a Bay Area psychotherapist specializing in work with the gender community.

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Night Man

Francis Vavra

Night Moves

This is a column about some of my adventures as a "night man" (FTM cross-dresser). I've been going out dressed as male, mostly at night, alone and with others, for about three years now, having fun and becoming more confident. Recently, I found a partner in "gender treachery" to accompany me to mainstream places for nights on the town, lovely Cori (ETVC Social Co-Chair). With pounding heart, feeling like a nervous 16-year old boy, I summoned up the courage at the July social to ask her out the first time. Old images from high school raced by of a skinny, long-haired girl no one would ask out; the "crazy gypsy" with dancing feet, whirling alone at sock hops, envying the popular cheerleaders with their boyfriends. Now I was a gypsy guy hoping this shy pretty lady would say yes, which she did, much to my surprise and joy.

We went out the following week to Club 36 at the top of the Union Hyatt in San Francisco. I had been there before as my (female drab) self, and had enjoyed the atmosphere and top notch live jazz, accompanied by in-house pianist, and fellow gypsy, Larry Vucovich. That night, a well known local jazz singer, Mary Stallings, was performing, warbling beautiful love songs in her inimitable style. In the semi-dark, with large comfortable chairs and a crowd of serious jazz enthusiasts, we felt at home. The waitress was friendly, I ordered drinks in a low voice, crossed my legs male style, and put my arm around my date, admiring her purple dress. She snuggled against my shoulder, visibly relaxing. The piano player came over to our table during a break, and thanked us for coming (like me, he has an eye for feminine beauty, and wanted a closer look at Cori). I introduced her to him, and people around us glanced our way in an unconcerned manner, although I noticed a few slightly quizzical looks (I tend to make eye contact more than some "men", or perhaps

one or both of us were being read). Later, when we were getting ready to leave, I described the women's room to her (anteroom for makeup, second room with stalls), and as she headed in that direction, and I to the men's room, I noticed one couple's expressions change, as if they had been trying to figure us out, but then decided we were indeed the gender we presented. Or maybe it was simply civilized politeness (another plus for good nightclubs, people keep their thoughts to themselves, or word them positively - "I just wondered if...").

For those who haven't met me, I always wear a suit and tie when going out, and have my hair quite long (for a man), but brushed back to show a silver streak and sideburns. My ties are colorful and I usually wear an earring (or two - I am a gypsy after all), and one large silver ring. I used to wear a black fedora, as European men often do, but hats attract attention, so I wear one less often now. With my realistic mustache, I am occasionally taken at face value, as a slightly foreign looking man. Cori and I talked about "passing" and both feel it's great if we do, but if we don't, we just look the best we can, continue to improve on our roles, and act as if we belong wherever we are. I am fairly relaxed in public, and play the part of the gentleman naturally, opening doors, pulling out chairs, ordering drinks or dinner, leading on the dance floor.

We had a wonderful time on that first date, getting to know each other better. Since then, we have been to several other night clubs (where you can also dance) - Starlite Dancing at the Francis Drake; Top of the Mark at the Mark Hopkins; and the Tonga Room at the Fairmont, all with friendly service and no problems. We may be paving the way for other cross-dressers to make forays out into the world of nightclubs unfamiliar with us. We also go to "drag friendly" and women's dance clubs, but there is extra excitement in "going mainstream."

I discovered Cori had never danced before going out with me, but with an inherent sense of rhythm and my enthusiasm (gotta dance!), she has become a good dancer in a very short time. I asked her to "go steady" at the Sorority Rush social, giving her my high school Honor Society pin to wear (I knew it would come in handy some day). I feel I've graduated high school, and am now ready for college. Thank you, Cori, for sharing these adventures with me. Sometimes fantasies can come true!

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OTHER VOICES ...

Other Voices is a newsletter within the ETVC newsletter by and for Significant Others. 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 invites all Significant Others to attend our meetings. Group members define Significant Others as wives, lovers, friends, children and others close to TV/TS persons who are themselves not TV/TS. We encourage you to ask the SO in your own life to attend, particularly if she or he needs support from peers in dealing with feelings about the TV/TS in her or his life. All meetings are kept STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL to help insure that a safe, supportive environment is created in which all attendees feel secure enough to freely share and talk about their feelings. We are frequently assisted by a helping professional with a specialty in our area of concern.

Our next meetings will be Thursday, January 13 and Thursday, February 10. You are all welcome with open arms. For more information call Ginny at (415) 664-1499.

Holiday Extravaganza

Julie Freeman

Every once in a while, Donna and I treat ourselves to a gender conference. This time it was the Holiday en Femme in Burbank, billed as the Holiday Extravaganza, at the Holiday Inn. And a grand holiday it was!

Three of us traveled together. Donna and I and a good friend, off to "her" first such get-together. We left on Thursday and arrived in plenty of time to register in girl mode, boy mode, and browse around a bit. And then time to get ready for dinner and prepare for girl mode for the next few days. We were on the 17th floor - not my favorite by a long shot - but the elevators ran smoothly and soon I forgot we were up so high.

Dinner was in the grand ballroom and we had plenty of time to reacquaint ourselves with "familiar" faces from all over the country. This was my fifth conference and it was great to see so many "old" friends. The food was exceptionally good for banquet style, and the hospitality of the staff superb.

The next day we browsed around the vendors' booths, attended a few workshops on makeup, etc., and some of the bolder crossdressers even allowed themselves to be interviewed by the media. They made the local newspaper and several news stations, including CNN, and attracted newcomers to our holiday who were sorely in need of a support group. Again, we are amazed at how many crossdressers are still deeply hidden in the closet.

Interestingly, the other hotel patrons seemed unconcerned about us. We were able to move around freely and four of us had dinner that night at the Black Angus a block away where we were treated royally. There were a few "looks" given by the other patrons, but that is to be expected. Our friend, being "out" for the first time, was in seventh heaven.

Saturday was a great day for the wives and partners of crossdressers. We, the wives, all had breakfast together and then chatted about our relationships for over four hours! It was a very moving experience to be able to share feelings and emotions with

other wives and partners who themselves are sharing their own feelings. There was no hostility, no put downs of anyone, regardless of their position on crossdressing.

There were women there who have known about their husbands' crossdressing for years, and there were a few wives who had known for only a few months. They came for support; they came for education; they came because they loved their husbands and wanted to make their relationships work. We had a great facilitator - Dr. Sandra Cole, a friend of the crossdressing community for years, who made us all feel good about ourselves and helped us to validate our feelings. Those wives who came in a bit bewildered and frightened were so pleased to find such a wonderful support group that they were glad they had come. One young wife only came because a friend of hers, not a member of our community, said, "If you love him, you will go!" A wonderful piece of advice!

We then met our husbands for a great lunch, followed by a speech by Dr. Peggy Rudd, author of *My Husband Wears My Clothes* and organizer of the Dignity Cruises, on the art of communication. We ended the afternoon by listening to a panel discussing the purposes and structure of their couples' group.

Dinner that night was a MURDER MYSTERY event and we all had fun trying to decipher the clues and determine who the murderer was. Sad to say, we were so busy chatting that we had absolutely no idea who the guilty party was!

So the holiday was just that! A chance to get away from the humdrum of everyday life. A chance to sit back and enjoy the hospitality of a modern hotel, mingle and converse with old friends, meet new friends, learn more about how to make crossdressing a positive in our lives, and certainly not least HAVE FUN.

I recommend it to you all!

Heartbreak - Isn't There a Kinder Way?

Ginny

Recently, a woman called on the phone to tell me her husband of thirteen years had left her to become a woman. She had known he liked to wear women's clothes and lingerie; she tried to understand his needs and went along with his gender related desires. He had never indicated he was unhappy with this arrangement until the night he told her he couldn't deal with the situation anymore and he was leaving her right then to begin a new life toward a goal of sex reassignment surgery. He bluntly told her he wanted nothing more to do with her or any of his past, called his parents and her parents and told them of his decision, arranged for a place to stay in a town 100 miles away, and walked out of the house, never looking back.

As she related this story, I could feel the heartbreak, the pain and the anguish as though it were my own. She spoke between her tears - a woman cast aside like an old shoe, left with emptiness and despair, abandoned, confused, resentful and HEARTBROKEN by the special man she had nurtured, cared for and loved. "How can he treat me this way? What happened seemingly overnight to make him turn on me? Tell me what I should do! ...help! ...help! ...help!

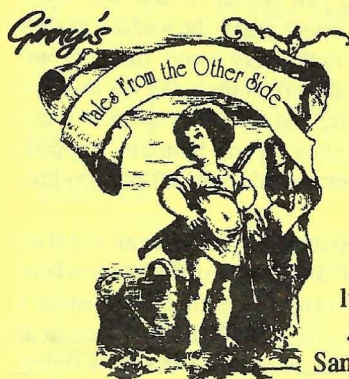
Unfortunately, this story is not unique.

After several years of working and playing with the transgender community, it is clear to me there are some individuals who MUST change their gender to match their soul. It still is not clear to me why this is so, but it is a fact - it must be done. It is not this fact that I argue with. Instead, it is how the individual deals with those he has loved and who have loved him. Isn't the, "I'm getting rid of you so I can

be free to be me," attitude just a selfish, expedient way to get out from under the stress you alone created?

Wouldn't it be a lot kinder to treat the woman who has been your friend and confidant with a little respect by openly discussing her needs and concerns as well as yours? For instance, are all your bills paid, and will she have financial security if you leave? Is it clear to her your decision was based upon your personal need and not an argument or disagreement with her...in other words, IT'S NOT HER FAULT! Will you agree to counsel together with an MFCC for awhile until she has built up her self-esteem to where it was before the wall fell in on her?

Those who walk away from the lives and loves they have built will not easily replace them. If you do follow the transition path to its ultimate goal, you may well find a need for what you were so quick to throw away - a true friend.



Something new has been added to the calendar from the Significant Other Support Group (SOS). In an effort to reach more wives and friends of the crossdresser, we have hosted a couple of Saturday lunches which have been well received. The next luncheon is scheduled for Saturday, January 15, 1994, at a restaurant in San Jose (TBA - Call (510) 934-0826 for details) at 11:30 a.m.

Originally, this was an event planned just for the significant other, but often their partners drove them to the restaurant, so the partners have been getting together for lunch at a table on the other side of the room. This way, the SO's still have the important confidentiality needed to feel free to discuss their problems with their peers.

As things will sometimes evolve, this luncheon has now expanded into an opportunity to combine the SO's and their partners (who attend in drab only) to spend the afternoon on some excursion together. For instance, on January 15 they plan to tour the Winchester Mystery House in San Jose. This brings a special comradarie to those attending and forms comfortable friendships. Why not give it a try? If nothing else, it sounds like a fun way to spend a Saturday afternoon and get to know nice people.

•••••

GINNY'S TOP TEN NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS: 1) Communicate. 2) Communicate. 3) Don't get mad, get even. Greet him at the door in a fedora and tie and ask him why dinner isn't ready. 4) Communicate. 5) Invent a mirror, with a switch you control, that shows him a picture of you, the children and a sign that says, "Remember us?" 6) Communicate. 7) Communicate. 8) Communicate. 9) Communicate. 10) COMMUNICATE!

•••••

Valentine's Day is on Monday, the 14th of February. for a touch of elegance, give him a couple of red roses along with a card that says, "I love you." Show him by example how a tender, sensitive woman thinks!

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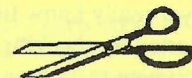
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The Middle Way

Lauren Hotchkiss

Owww!

©1993 by Lauren René Hotchkiss
(First of three parts)

So many people have asked me about the poem that ran in the last newsletter, and whether it was a true story, that I've decided to tell how it came about. And so here it is, complete and unexpurgated: The True Story of Electrolysis.

It all started about a year ago when I decided that I was at last ready to start electrolysis. I had been thinking about it for a long time, but for reasons which ranged from cost to abject FEAR, I had not been ready until now.

I began talking to people that I knew who had gone through the big "E". Reviews were mixed. Some had experienced good results and didn't think it was too painful, while others had evidently been to "The Electrologist From HELL!", for they looked like they were up for the lead in the remake of *The Bride of Frankenstein*. I decided I'd never really know till I tried it for myself.

I started by checking the Yellow Pages and making a list of the electrologists in the area, and then started to make some calls. Some I screened out right away, either because they charged too much, or they were just too weird, ...even for me. From my original list of ten or twelve electrologists, I eventually selected five that I was actually going to make appointments with, figuring I'd choose the one I felt like I could work with the best. I still marvel at the fact that after seeing the first one on the list I ever wanted to try electrolysis again. Her name was Manoosh the Impaler, and I soon found out why.

It all started like this.

The sky had been growing steadily darker as I followed the directions that Manoosh had given me; directions that led me beyond the edge of town and into the countryside. After turning off on a road that wound through the foothills overlooking Berkeley, I eventually came to the address she had given me. I was amazed to find, as I looked through the gate of the estate at which I'd found myself, that it was actually a castle. The sky was black by now and it was just starting to rain, as the gatekeeper, who looked like a refugee from a 1930's Universal horror film, let me through and I began to make my way toward the castle. It had seemed to me that there had been a pleading look in his eyes, as if he'd wished to tell

me something. But he could not, for as I learned later, his tongue had been removed.

Looking up I saw strange kites being flown from the roof, but didn't have a chance to wonder what they were, for just then the front door opened. Standing framed in that dark aperture was a very peculiar individual, whom I took to be the butler or manservant. He was dressed all in black and spoke not a word as he led me through cavernous chambers, up winding stairways and along labyrinthine passages till eventually we arrived on a landing before a massive steel door. It was only later that I recalled that even though he had kept his face averted, I had seen the scars upon his throat where his vocal chords had been severed.

He pounded upon the portal with the huge iron knocker which hung upon its embossed surface, the sound echoing through the entire castle. "Enter," intoned a sinister voice that chilled me to the soul. As I entered the room and the door was shut and, I felt, locked behind me, I found myself in the presence of a late middle-aged woman of imposing and somewhat intimidating presence.

After introducing myself, I had just started to ask her some questions about the electrolysis procedure when she told me to shut up and lie upon the table that stood in the very center of the room. Too shocked to do otherwise, I complied, only realizing my mistake when it was too late to escape, for she had drawn straps across my body and buckled them firmly into place. I was helpless, trapped, bound firmly in five point restraint that would have baffled Houdini. I began to look around me.

I don't know why I hadn't noticed it before, but I began to get an uncomfortable feeling of *deja vu*. I'd seen this office somewhere before, and then it hit me. It was an exact replica of Dr. Frankenstein's lab. The table upon which I now lay, the banks of electrical equipment, the bubbling chemical solutions, even the kites flying from the turrets far above, all were perfect. The only thing missing was a hunchbacked assistant named Igor.

But then I heard her call, "Igor, put down that brain and bring me...the machine."

(To Be Continued)

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Let's All Go To Portland in March '94!

Ginny

Many of us are already registered for the next IFGE Coming Together Convention in Portland (March 12 to March 20), hosted by NWGA (Northwest Gender Association). It is so nice to have the 8th Annual Convention on the West Coast again. The last time was in 1989, when ETVC was the host organization - and what a great time for our members and visitors that was! We got to meet all the movers and shakers from around the country. Most of all, it was FUN!

We have always had a close and loving relationship with NWGA. Ellen Summers and Roni, Dana, Jamie and other wonderful NWGA-ers have partied with us at Pajaro, or laid out the red carpet when we visited them. You can bet they will show everyone who attends the 1994 IFGE Convention the best time ever. Join us for all or part of that week. An IFGE Convention brochure was included with the November/December ETVC Newsletter. For further information, call me at (415)664-1499. If you've never gone to a national convention, THIS IS THE ONE TO ATTEND!! Let's get a big group from ETVC together to support NWGA and IFGE. You'll love the experience!

Memo From The Outreach Committee...

Telzey Adams

Outreach committee meetings, suspended for a few months, resume on January 11 and February 8. We can always use a few more good people to come and help us with ideas. Dress is always optional; conversation is always good.

The work of the committee has continued. You might have seen our ads in TV Epic, The Spectator, East Bay Express, Bay Times, and the Guardian.

The Speaker's Bureau is always looking for people who have free days and want to appear before groups, large and small, of the innocent.

Our Hotline (510-549-2665) is now over two years old and our corps of dedicated volunteers need reinforcements. You answer calls in your own home *without* having to use your own number; the system call-forwards from the Hotline number to your phone.

We need writers and performers for our long-delayed and debated cable TV programs. We need magazine writers and people who are comfortable contacting the media about publicity. The Hostess Committee always needs new hostesses. To help, please see me or Lauren, or call us via the Hotline or Voice Mail (415-334-3439). Our mailbox codes are "L-A-U-R" or "T-E-L-Z." Or come to a meeting!

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photographer Mariette Pathy
Allen at N.Y. event
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TS Surgery Seminar Success in Spite of Skipped Speaker

Veronica Smith

On Sunday, October 10, the ETVC Transsexual Committee's guest speaker was to be Judy Van Maasdam of the Gender Dysphoria Clinic in Palo Alto. After waiting half an hour for her to appear, Secretary Jane Bentley invited spokespeople from the different groups represented within the nearly 100 audience members to introduce themselves. The extemporaneous panel provided an excellent cross-section of the wide-ranging transgender community.

Francis Vavra and Kevin talked of FTM, the female-to-male TS/TV group to which they belong; Charla of I.M.A.G.E. described living openly and actively in Sutter, California, where she's been known for her first 55 years as Charles and the last eight as Charla; Melinda, an attorney, reported on the Second Annual TG Law Convention in Houston, and then conducted a question and answer session on legal issues specific to transgendered people; Anne Ogborn of Transgender Nation talked of her forthcoming trip to India to study the Hijra; and Camille Moran, a self-described "psychiatric-survivor," detailed her long battle with the psychiatric profession.

Camille recalled that when she announced her TS identification, her family's psychiatrist prescribed electro-shock therapy, and eventually placed her in an institution where she was drugged, beaten and raped. Anne Ogborn said that Transgender Nation actively opposes "psychiatric colonization" of the transgendered. Through the tests and evaluations psychiatrists design, they monitor and control access to hormones and surgery. She asserted that many TG people want freer access to both. Melinda said that one of the first things on the TG Law Convention's agenda had been the drafting of a Transgendered People's Bill of Rights: control over one's body should be an inherent right.

Although it was unfortunate that Ms. Maasdam was unable to attend, as it turned out because of a scheduling misunderstanding, the evening proved quite educational because of many interesting people speaking on topics relevant to our very diverse community.

Countdown to Civil Rights

TG TaskForce

JK Bentley

On the evening of November 10, ETVC came face to face with a hopeful future. Three members of the SFHRC's (San Francisco Human Rights Commission) Transgender Task Force, Larry Brinkin, Kiki Whitlock and Shelley Salieri spoke about the task of winning full civil rights protection for San Francisco's transgendered citizens.

"Over the past five years," said Larry, a staff member of the SFHRC, "I received over 30 calls from transgender people who have suffered discrimination. But because there is no protective legislation here...there was little I could do." Early in 1993, he sparked the interest of SFHRC's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Advisory Committee in addressing this vital gap in the law.

For Kiki, whether it's AIDS awareness or transgender rights, "education is the key." In April, 1993, she was appointed the first transgendered member of the LGBAC, and chair of its Transgender Task Force. Under her leadership, the Task Force began holding

...cont. on page 16

LADY VERUSHKA

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Beauty Secrets

Professor Bill Jones

Tips on Foundation Makeup

There is a wide variety of makeup materials available. If your skin is beautiful and you don't have to hide a beard, women's cosmetic makeup purchased at a department or beauty store may be all you need. Foundation makeup in a drug store tends to be so heavily packaged you can't tell what color you're buying. Regular cosmetics tend to be light and sheer. If you want an opaque makeup to even out your skin tone, and don't perspire heavily, I suggest Kryolan Aquacolor makeup. It is a water base pancake type makeup which comes in a great many beautiful colors. Aquacolor has a matte finish when it dries, but after a few minutes the warmth of the body creates a beautiful soft, natural glow. All of the Kryolan makeup is heavily pigmented, so it will cover beards and dark shadows under the eyes without the use of other cover up products. I've discovered that many beard cover sticks give you an unnatural orangy look.

If you have to cover a beard, minimize roughly textured skin or if you perspire heavily; I strongly recommend Kryolan Cream Stick plus Dermacolour powder. The cream stick is an oil base makeup and comes in a great many colors, so you should be able to accurately match your skin tone. It is opaque enough to cover heavy beard shadow without using a beard cover stick. The Dermacolour powder is pigmented, so you need to buy an appropriate shade. It sets the Cream stick so that it lasts through heavy perspiration. Several layers of Cream stick and Dermacolour powder will effectively smooth out acne scarred skin. If you don't need the water proof qualities of Dermacolour powder, regular translucent powder will work very well to set the cream stick. The Dermacolour Powder is more expensive, but I feel it is definitely worth the extra money (I use Dermacolour powder and creme stick on the opera singers I work with. They perspire heavily in their costumes, and this combination holds up very well).

To minimize large pores, particularly on the nose, a second coat of foundation and a dusting of powder works very well.

No matter what type of foundation you choose, it should match your skin tone as closely as possible. Test the color on your cheek and your neck. You want the makeup to blend down onto your neck without a visible line. Hopefully you will only need a hint of foundation on your chest when you're wearing a low cut dress.

If you are using a water base pancake makeup, it will probably go on easier with a small natural sponge rather than a synthetic one. A natural sponge is only slightly more money and will give a smoother result. Be sure to apply the color with as little water as possible, just use a damp sponge. If you get streaks, let the foundation dry before you try to smooth it out. You will probably find that the streaks disappear as the makeup dries. Pancake makeup doesn't need to be powdered.

If you are using a cream stick makeup, apply it with a piece of synthetic sponge. I use a piece of fake foam rubber (flexible urethane foam), the kind you find in the upholstery section of your fabric store. It's easier to throw them away than to try to wash them.

After applying the foundation lightly and evenly all over your face, you may want to add a bit more to cover your five o'clock shadow. If you are covering a heavily textured skin surface (like acne) you may want to blend cheek contour color into the cream base before powdering (powder contour may emphasize the texture). Now you're ready to powder to set the cream stick. Apply a little extra powder to the mustache area and forehead, because the perspiration is heavier here. Allow the powder to sit on the foundation for a few minutes before brushing off the excess. This is especially true with Dermacolour powder. The instructions suggest waiting ten minutes before removing excess to achieve the maximum waterproof quality. I find about three minutes is sufficient. A big, soft blush brush is ideal for dusting off excess powder.

The Uninvited Dilemma

A Question of Gender

by

Kim Elizabeth Stuart

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First Time

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In this issue's column I ask three ETVC members, "When was the first time you ever cross-dressed?"

As I interviewed the following members, I realized how important it is to have them define what they mean by "first time to crossdress," because everyone has a different way of defining what a specific first time event is, including "crossdressing." I, myself, began with the idea that the first time one cross dressed was the first time one put on even a single piece of attire belonging to the opposite sex. While Lee's account concurs with my perception, Paula and Pauli offer alternative definitions, demonstrating the importance of clarifying what is meant.

Paula is a svelte 58-year old recent member of ETVC. Her account begins with addressing the question of what I mean by "first time to cross dress":

Well, it's the degree of crossdressing that bothers me about answering that question, because I actually borrowed my mother's underwear as a teenager, and actually wore it. However, the first time I actually did full drag, got on a dress, undergarments, wig, makeup, and so on, was after I had finished a Ph.D. and was teaching. That was about forty years ago. Although it bothered my wife, she helped with some of the transformation. I remember that after I was dressed I felt exhilarated, I enjoyed doing it, and wanted to do it some more. I enjoyed feeling that I looked female. I don't think I did, particularly, but I was dressed well enough that I could have imagined that I did. Although I knew that society couldn't accept it, I felt it was appropriate for me to dress as a female. I felt that in a certain sense I'm a female. Crossdressing was something that I wanted to do, and continue to do. If it weren't in many ways totally impractical, I would probably dress female entirely, I could certainly go a long time dressed that way.

Pauli, a soft-spoken individual, begins her experience of crossdressing when she was 5 or 6 years old.

I never thought of myself as a little girl in those days, but when I was 5 or 6, probably closer to 5, my sister, who was 13 years older than I, married and moved out of the house. I was given her room and she had left a lot of things behind. A lot of the furnishings were left behind, like a real frilly dresser, with a mirror, things like that. There were lots of her clothing in the closet, or maybe it was in the chest of drawers. I remember a little suit, a pink suit. I remember putting it on. That was probably the first thing I tried on, a skirt and jacket. When I tried it on, it seemed really natural to me, it made sense. It was kind of exciting. It's always been. I've kept doing it.

Lee, an attractive Asian, offers us a final story about her first time to cross dress.

I remember that when I was in grammar school I used to go home for lunch. Both my parents worked, so there was no one home during the day, so I could go through my mom's stuff. And when I reached the sixth grade I really started dressing a lot as far as putting on her lingerie and stuff under my clothing and going back to grammar school like that. In my mind, that was when I started crossdressing. When it became sexually stimulating. In the fifth or sixth grade. I mean, I wanted to do it more and more because I received pleasurable feelings. Regardless of whether I was fully or partially dressed. It was always difficult to be fully dressed at home. But I would sneak in and get a panty, girdle, slip or something and wear those under my own clothing. That was when I first became aware that it was more than just an experiment. It was exciting to do.

Each of these three people, Paula, Pauli and Lee, had similar emotional reactions, i.e.: pleasure, excitement. But each also experienced that initial event under very different circumstances. I wonder how you would define the "first time I cross dressed?" And how different or similar would your tale be in comparison to the three above? If you get the inclination, please send me a typed account about your experience. And please remember to offer me suggestions on future first time topics.

Transgender Clinic Opens

On November 30, the Tom Waddell Clinic at #50 Ivy Street (near Civic Center) in San Francisco, commenced operation of its Transgender Clinic. Tamara Ching, a peer volunteer at the clinic, reported that despite a "disorganized" start, all nine clients who showed up were attended to by the staff of eight.

The Transgender Clinic will be open every Tuesday, 5 - 8 p.m., offering "comprehensive medical care, including hormone administration and counseling." Calling ahead for appointments is highly advised. For information and appointments, call Mary Steffan, Unit Coordinator, at (415) 554-2940, or 2950.

HALLOWEIRD!

V. Smith as Nurse M. Biber, en route to performing radical SRS, accompanied by spouse Juana, looking like she doesn't wanna!



...Countdown to Civil Rights, continued

educational seminars to introduce various members of the TG community, along with their concerns, to the LGBAC. A new woman since 1985, she is a microcomputer expert who gave up her lucrative Montgomery Street career in 1988 in order to work with the Asian-Pacific Islander and HIV infected transgender community.

Possibly the most politically active of the trio was Shelley Salieri, whose first stint in politics came at the age of seven as a volunteer for FDR's 1944 presidential campaign. A legislative aide to Supervisors Alioto, Hallinan and Bierman, and a candidate herself for supervisor this year, she is an expert in transportation. She authored a little known section of the recently approved Proposition L, giving job protection to San Francisco's transgendered civil servants.

Underscoring the urgent need for legal protection, Larry recalled that two of the complainants against transgender job discrimination, apparently feeling their cases were hopeless, committed suicide.

All members of the panel repeatedly stressed the need for the LGBAC to hear from as many different sectors of the TG community as possible. In addition, Shelley cited the need for transgendered people to be "interested citizens...to come out to other government functions" in our preferred gender in order to "create an aura," a visible concern for the welfare of the whole community, showing an interest in things that "may have nothing to do with transgender issues."

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