

I.R.S. Grants ETVC Nonprofit Status

By Sandy Kasten & Cindy Martin

The Internal Revenue Service has granted the Educational TV Channel nonprofit tax exempt status. The surprisingly swift approval came in late February, barely two months after final papers were filed. Notice of the action was given on March 12, exactly one year after the effort to become a nonprofit was rejuvenated. The exemption was made retroactive to July 21, 1989 when ETVC became a California corporation. ETVC has been classified as a public charity, as opposed to a private foundation. The retroactive approval means that it may be possible to deduct contributions made to the organization in the last four years, but check with your tax advisor first.

As we go to press, we have not received a determination regarding our state nonprofit status, but this usually follows IRS approval. Becoming a nonprofit has great advantages both for individual members and for the organization as a whole. For example, donations to ETVC are now deductible as charitable contributions on your tax returns so long as there are no goods or services received in return. Bequests to ETVC may qualify for estate tax deductions. A portion of your membership fee is also tax deductible (You can deduct \$14 out of \$20, or \$24 out of \$30). The \$6 that is not deductible in these cases is the value of your newsletter. If you have a half-year \$10 membership simply discount the value of each newsletter you have received at \$1 each, whatever is left over is your charitable contribution.

To make it easy for you to support your community, ETVC has asked the United Way to list us as a "donor option" agency. If you already contribute to the United Way at work, simply ask your United Way administrator for your form and under the "Independent Agencies" list write in: Educational TV Channel, PO Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486.

Many volunteers have worked for this community out of the goodness of their hearts, but they may also now be eligible to deduct out-of-pocket expenses, including long distance phone calls and automobile travel in service to the organization. Car travel is deductible at 9 cents per mile. From an organizational standpoint becoming a nonprofit will mean a significant discount on our bulk rate postage. We also expect to get nonprofit rates on other supplies, insurance, equipment rentals, etc. The more we save, the more we can put into programs that you want. In addition, as a nonprofit we may be able to obtain grants, both from public and private sources, for educational and social service projects we may undertake.

This is a historic moment for ETVC and for the entire transgender community. The federal government, and soon the state, has recognized us as a legitimate organization doing important work for our community and for the public.

You should all be proud.



Ginny Knuth Receives Trinity Award

Our own Ginny Knuth was one of the six people to receive a Trinity Award at this year's IFGE convention in Portland. Within the Crossdressing/Transsexual communities, the Trinity Award (a ten inch satin steel statuette of IFGE's Hands & Rose logo) is second only to the Dr. Virginia Prince Lifetime Achievement Award. To give some idea of what esteem Ginny is held in the community, the other recipients were JoAnn Roberts, Alison Laing, Marilyn Irving, Marsha Boltzer and Wendy Parker. After being warmly introduced by her friend, Mariette Pathy Allen, Ginny received a standing ovation. She then gave a generous and graceful speech (ad libbed), for which she received another rousing ovation. Congrats, Ginny!

THE CHANNEL

THE CHANNEL

EDITORS NOTES

Kevin Horwitz

ETVC Inc., a non-profit corporation, 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 3/31/94) 445
1993 Membership 425
New members this year 93

TREASURER'S REPORT

2/1/94 Balance \$ 5900.92
February Income \$ 2701.17
February Expenses \$ 3718.88
2/28/94 Balance \$ 4883.21
March Income \$ 1331.20
March Expenses \$ 1340.69
3/31/94 Balance \$ 4873.72

The Channel, 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 25th of May, July, September, November, January and March. Send ad copy and check or money order to: ETVC, PO Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486

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

I've enjoyed editing this issue of the Newsletter, and see it as kind of an ingestion process- a chance to learn more about ETVC as an organization, become better acquainted with members I haven't yet met, and get a better understanding of what people would like to see in upcoming issues. I will try to keep these perspectives in mind as I go about my job of "cranking out" the newsletter.

In addition to newsletter-related matters, I've had the pleasure of learning more about what ETVC is famous for — namely the Social and Education events, the well-attended Transsexual seminars, and the unique organizational meetings which frequently revolve around scrumptious dinners at Eichelbergers. At the March meeting, for instance, Cindy Martin announced ETVC's newly acquired nonprofit status — a truly newsworthy event! The evening's main event, however, was the nomination of officers for the upcoming election, with the following results: nominated for president: Jane Kamper Bentley; Vice President: Lisa Maxwell; Secretary: Barbara Bowden; Treasurer: Jano Bogg; Education Chair: Ayme Kantz, Kristen St. James; Outreach Chair: Lauren Hotchkiss, Francis Vavra; Social Chair: Jackie Conner, Jennifer Plonka. Additionally, Jane Kamper Bentley asked people to vote whether to change the the newsletter 's formal title to 'The Channel', or leave it as the 'ETVC Newsletter.' This was approved, which means that we will now utilize The Channel as our formal title.

Here are a couple of announcements: A big thanks to those of you who sent in articles, news briefs, photographs, etc. These items are useful — they keep the newsletter current and vital. However, not everything can go into any one issue. Time-sensitive articles generally have priority, so please bear with me; space constraints dictate that I play the "bad guy" and hold some items in reserve for another issue.

LETTERS

Dear Editor,

I would just like to say welcome aboard. May you chart us a course with a view from the other side. As I come to the end of my transition, I ask where are the men? Well maybe it is time to invite them into ETVC and into circulation.

Sincerely yours,
Charlene Hunter

Dear Editor,

Recently, Transgender Nation- San Francisco (TN-SF) has been criticized for "dissing Luanna Rodgers" at what is now the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Advisory Committee (LGBTAC) of the SF Human Rights Commission. Let me state now and forever that TN does not have an issue with Luanna Rodgers. We recognize her caring service to our community and wish her all the best as she continues to provide for our needs.

Our issue is self-empowerment of the transgendered peoples (we use transgendered to include crossdressers, transsexuals, drag queens, etc.). We want our people to speak for ourselves rather than depending on the non-transgendered to speak for us. Just as you wouldn't look to a white to speak for black rights, or a man to speak for lesbian rights, we feel it is inappropriate to use someone who is not transgendered to speak for transgender rights. The additional problem with using a *psychologist*

to speak on our behalf is that it sends a powerful message— a message that we are “mentally ill,” that we are in need of being “cared for” and “managed.”

What happened 9/21 at LGBTAC was only part of the action, however. On January 18, TN put on our own presentation using 100% transgendered people. This was very well received and included a technical overview, personal stories, flip charts, and even a glossary of gender (copies of the presentation text are available by contacting TN).

In all of history, no group was ever saved until its members decided to save themselves. TN San Francisco is a diverse group, united in anger and resolved to direct political action to end transphobia by whatever means necessary. Our goal is to make this world a safe and accepting environment for all transgendered people.

Sincerely,
Kathy Jones, member of ETVC
for Transgender Nation San Francisco

Editor's note: *This is an excerpted version of Kathy Jones' letter — it is truly unfortunate that we haven't got space for the letter in its entirety, but I hope this helps.*

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your recent gift of \$500 to Project Open Hand. Your help truly makes a difference in the lives of men, women and children with AIDS. Every day of the year, Project Open Hand volunteers fan out across San Francisco and Alameda County to deliver over 1,850 hot nutritious meals and hundreds of grocery bags. Six days a week, volunteers fill custom grocery bags with items selected by our walk-in food bank clients. People from all walks of life give their time to work in every aspect of Project Open Hand, making possible the fulfillment of our mission, providing Meals with Love for People with AIDS.

With this tremendous volunteer support, we are able to direct your gifts mainly to covering our enormous food costs and direct client service expenses. You can be assured, therefore, that your help has the greatest possible impact. Thank you!

Very truly yours,
Steve Burns, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Male-to-Female Therapy/Support Group Forming

This is a good group for people who have either just started Transition or are seriously considering it. This on-going group meets on alternate Monday evenings 7:00 to 8:30 pm at a central Marin location. The fee is \$60.00 per month and a free pre-registration interview is required.

Call Anne Vitale PhD at 415/456-4452 for more information. If you get the answering service, please leave detailed instructions on when and how you want your call returned.

Presidents Message

Cindy Martin

Early in March a very strange, and false, story appeared in a monthly San Francisco publication called the Buzz-Tattler. This “opinion” piece claimed that one of ETVC’s most prominent leaders was asked to resign because she had “brought too many gay people into the organization.” The article goes on to call ETVC homophobic and asks the gay community to boycott our events.

Jane Kamper Bentley, Ginny Knuth and I have all responded to this malicious piece of trash in the strongest possible terms. Anyone with even minimal exposure to ETVC knows that this organization has worked very hard for many years to build solid bridges with the gay community and has been very vocal at the national and local level in denouncing homophobia. We have also put our money where our mouths are. Our members have generously supported many gay and lesbian causes, including the campaigns against hate laws in Oregon and Colorado. At the same time, the gay community has been extremely generous and supportive of ETVC.

The b-t article apparently stemmed from bogus information about our Executive Committee meeting in February. It is no secret that this was a very spirited meeting and that Ginny and I had several disagreements. But, as Ginny wrote in her response to the Buzz-Tattler, “There was never a question of our love and support for our friends in the gay community. Both Cindy and I have consistently given our personal support and guided the membership of ETVC toward the support of all gay events for many years.”

In an organization as vibrant and dynamic as ETVC there are bound to be disagreements. But on this issue the leaders of this organization are in total agreement: *homophobia has not, is not and will not be tolerated.*

On a more pleasant note, the Northwest Gender Alliance (NWGA) and the Emerald City of Seattle are to be congratulated for staging a very fine International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE) Convention in Portland in March. Those in attendance were quite taken by Portland, which has a nice downtown and an exciting nightlife for us T people.

INFORMATION FOR THE FEMALE-TO-MALE CROSSDRESSER AND TRANSSEXUAL

by Lou Sullivan

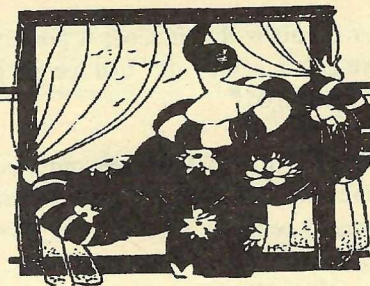
123 pages revised and updated 3rd edition now available in its illustrated paperback book format!

Send \$10.00 to:

FTM

5337 College Avenue, Oakland, CA 94618

Special Events



HRC Hearing on TG Civil Rights

Thursday, May 12

The setting, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors meeting room up at the top of the grand staircase of City Hall. The subject, Civil Rights for Transgendered People, as the San Francisco Human Rights Commission takes testimony pertinent to the need for transgender people to receive legislative protection against discrimination in employment, housing and services. Some of us will testify, but all of us need to be there. The most persuasive argument is YOUR presence. 4:30 PM to 8:30 PM.

TS Seminar

June 5, at Kimo's - Upstairs

For the pre-op, sometimes everything seems to be a prelude to that longed for date with the surgeon. But what about life after surgery? Our panel of post-ops field your questions about life "on the other side." For self-identified transsexuals. Starts 2 PM. FREE.

San Francisco Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Freedom Day Parade

Sunday, June 19

Last year you parked yourself in the closet for fear of ANYONE finding out. This year you'll march with ETVC, throwing kisses to thousands upon thousands of cheering, clapping, waving, smiling, joyous people. Last year was so quiet, so lonely, so fearful, just you and your mirror. This year, the WORLD is your mirror, and it's smiling back at you. Aren't you glad you came? And aren't you smart to wear comfy tennies - NOT heels, NOT oxfords - on this, your personal walk into her(and his)story. Want details or are you able to help that day? Leave a message with L-I-S-A on the voice mail system, 415-334-3439, or call 510-609-9488. We need you!

Leather, Lace & Cross Dressing

Wednesday, May 18

A panel of professional Bay Area Dominatrixes who especially enjoy working with crossdressers will discuss their craft and answer questions about their specialties. There may be role playing demonstrations, costumes and makeup, no S/M. Kimo's, 8:00 p.m., \$3.

Sewing Tips with Cindy

Wednesday, June 15

If you want to wear that "one of a kind" dress, don't miss this evening! Cindy Martin will share her expertise in making your own dresses and gowns, bring your pens (to take notes), and she'll bring the pins. Kimo's, 8:00 p.m., \$3.

ETVC Dance Socials at Kimo's

Wednesday, May 11 & Wednesday, June 8

Come to Kimo's (Polk at Pine, S.F.) upstairs and socialize or dance, dance, dance! We will be borrowing Kimo's DJ for both evenings. Check it out for a really great time. Starts at 8 p.m., No Admission Fee.

Awards Dinner

Thursday, May 26

Arrive early for our May Social and see the presentation of awards, including the Ginny Knuth Member of the Year Award, to ETVC's most distinguished members of the past year. Eichelberger's. 7 p.m.

ETVC's 12th Anniversary/Election Party

Thursday, May 26

How's this for a dual purpose evening? Celebrate ETVC's 12th anniversary as an organization, and be there for the election of our 1994-95 Executive Committee. There will be more new faces in our next ExCom than we have seen in quite a long time. Meet your new officers. Help us to say "Thank you" to retiring veterans Nancy Ann Martine, Trina Martina Bloom, Telzey Adams, Evette LaRoquaurie, Cori Farrell, Dianne Summers and Cindy Martin. Note that this event starts a half hour later than usual because of the preceding Awards Banquet. 8:30 p.m. Members Free. Guests \$5.

1994 Inaugural Ball

Thursday, June 30

Our fearless leaders in Washington aren't the only ones who know how to have fun after an election. Come party with the new Executive Committee with very little risk of becoming the subject of the nation's next political scandal (bribes will only be accepted in the alley behind the restaurant). There's even a rumor that G. Gordon Liddy will make an appearance. 8 p.m. Members \$3. Guests \$5.

Gender Bowling Night

All levels welcome

Third Friday of each month

Call (415) 731-7032



TV/TS/TG GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

A Calendar of Events for May & June



MAY					
1	ETVC	Newsletter Committee	Meets at 2 PM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
3	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 849-4112
4	ETVC	Education Committee	Meets at 8 PM	Eichelberger's	(510) 534-8407
4	ETVC	Social Committee	Meets at 7:30 PM	Eichelberger's	(510) 865-8963
6	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
6	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
7	ETVC	Executive Committee	Starts at 8 PM	San Francisco	(415) 750-1850
8	FTM	Informational Meeting	Meets 2 PM	San Francisco	(415) 534-8407
9	ETVC	Outreach Committee	Meets at 7:30 PM	Berkeley	(510) 849-4112
11	ETVC	Dance Social	Starts at 8 PM	Kimo's - Upstairs	(510) 865-8963
12	ETVC	Significant Others	Meets 7:30-10 PM	Castro Valley	(415) 664-1499
13	ETVC	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
13	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
13	South Bay	Gender Discussion Group	Meets 8-10 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-5619
14	ETVC	SOS Luncheon	Starts 11:30 AM	San Francisco	(510) 934-0826
16	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 849-4112
18	ETVC	Leather and Lace	Starts at 8 PM	Kimo's - Upstairs	(510) 534-8407
19	ETVC	Couples Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
20	ETVC	Bowling Night	Call for details	San Francisco	(415) 731-7032
20	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
20	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
26	ETVC	Awards Dinner	Starts 7 PM	Eichelberger's	(510) 865-8963
26	ETVC	Social Officers Election	Starts at 8:30 PM	Eichelberger's	(510) 865-8963
27	RGA	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	Sunnyvale	(408) 732-7406
28	SGA	Dinner/Social	Starts at 8 PM	Sacramento	(916) 482-7SGA

JUNE					
1	ETVC	Social Committee	Meets 7:30 PM	Eichelberger's	(510) 865-8963
1	ETVC	Education Committee	Meets at 8 PM	Eichelberger's	(510) 534-8407
3	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
3	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
4	ETVC	Executive Committee	Starts at 8 PM	TBA	(415) 750-1850
5	ETVC	TS Seminar	Starts at 2 PM	Kimo's - Upstairs	(415) 697-2314
7	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 849-4112
8	ETVC	Dance Social	Starts at 8 PM	Kimo's - Upstairs	(510) 865-8963
9	ETVC	Significant Others	Meets 7:30-10 PM	Oakland	(415) 664-1499
10	ETVC	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
10	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
10	South Bay	Gender Discussion Group	Meets 8-10 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-5619
12	FTM	Informational Meeting	Starts at 2 PM	San Francisco	(510) 534-8407
13	ETVC	Outreach Committee	Starts at 7:30 PM	Berkeley	(510) 849-4112
15	ETVC	Dressmaking Tips	Starts at 8 PM	San Francisco	(510) 534-8407
17	ETVC	Bowling Night	Call for details	San Francisco	(415) 731-7032
17	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
17	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
19	Pride Day Parade	10 AM to 5 PM	San Francisco	(510) 609-9488
20	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 849-4112
23	ETVC	Couples Social	Starts at 8 PM	Pacifica	(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) 482-7SGA
30	ETVC	Inaugural Ball	Starts at 8 PM	Eichelberger's	(510) 865-8963

OTHER GROUPS

Pacific Center for Human Growth, a counseling oriented growth center, sponsors all-inclusive gender support groups on every Friday except the last one 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 Center (a project of the Central City Community Hospitality House funded by the Community Mental Health Services) TV/TG/TS Support Group meets every Wednesday, 3:30 - 5 PM, 191 Golden Gate Ave., 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) 534-8407.

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 (Family - \$15.00) (New members only).

Full year membership June 1 - May 31 is \$20.00 (\$30.00).

Please remit by check or money order to:

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



Cindy At Large

Cindy Martin

The bigots are after us now. As I reported last month the state of Washington has become the latest target of hatemongers. The newest twist by the knuckledraggers is to include transgender people, along with gays and bisexuals, in ballot measures that are designed to destroy what little protection we have from discrimination. A similar initiative is being put together in Idaho. Meanwhile, the group that started all this, the Oregon Citizen's Alliance, is making yet another attempt at getting a hate law passed in that state. This is serious business and requires serious action. If you want to help the folks in Washington send a check made out to the Washington Citizens for Fairness, or WCF, the group fighting the hatemongers. Mail your check to The Emerald City, PO Box 31318, Seattle, WA 98103. The Emerald City is the major transgender group in Washington and has close relations with ETVC. They will see to it that your donation gets to the right people. I will report on other anti-hate groups working in their states when I receive their addresses.

Cindy's News Briefs

IRVING THALBERG, the famed movie producer whose credits included the Marx Bros. "A Night at the Opera" and the original "Ben Hur" used to cross-dress with his gorgeous wife, the actress Norma Shearer, according to a new biography.

FTM SOLDIERS in the Civil War may have numbered more than 400, according to a recap of a Jan. 1994 Smithsonian magazine article in the Cactus Flower newsletter of the Alpha Zeta Tri-Ess chapter in Arizona. Women soldiers were prohibited of course, but many apparently bound up their breasts, cut their hair and were given their rifles.

PROTEST at the San Francisco Centre Nordstrom store on Feb. 13 was sparked by the firing of a woman let go for doing makeovers for men. Nordstrom, which has protections for gays in its corporate non-discriminatory policies, vociferously denied the firing was because of homophobia. A corporate executive told the Bay Area Reporter that discrimination of any kind is not tolerated by the chain and noted that the company financially supports many gay and lesbian causes. The bottom line is you should be able to shop at Nordstrom without a problem but if you encounter any let me know and our anti-defamation team will get involved.

BARCELONA is very TG friendly according to a book of that title reviewed in the Powder Puffs of California newsletter. Transvestites are considered a "part of the city's fabric, it's sexual heritage." writes author Richard Schweid. In this Spanish city TVs are welcome everywhere and are highly visible...and they aren't prostitutes either. The book is published by Berkeley's Ten Speed Press.

SWITCH story in the January 1994 Ladies Home Journal tells a tale of how a husband and wife, both accomplished actors, switched

roles for a week. A nice story about role switching, but very stereotypical with the guy feeling "exposed" and "vulnerable" in his skirts and the woman feeling "powerful" in her male role. No new ground broken but interesting in that both get very much into their "roles". The male admits he likes having guys admire and treat him courteously, though he can do without being continually noticed by both men and women. The female enjoys the ease of dressing and sense of security but in the end "can't wait to wear a dress again."

UNHAPPIER TALE about real life gender issues is in the March 1994 Redbook. After 20 years of marriage a Denver couple break-up when the husband decides to go on hormones and have a sex change. The wife is very bitter in this story, even blames Denver's Gender Identity Clinic (that city's major TG support group) for encouraging her husband to be a transsexual. The author is clearly hostile to the TS in the story and uses inappropriate language, including calling cross-dressing a "bizarre hobby". Though the story does contain some interesting insights on the impact of transsexualism on one family it is crudely written and will receive a formal response from ETVC's anti-defamation program.

AND FINALLY this from Pam Souza's monologue at the ETVC Cotillion: "Scientists found a pre-historic TV frozen in Siberia. They know he was a TV because he held stone carvings of himself to show his buddies."

AND THIS FROM PAM: Arnold Schwarzenegger in T3: Wedding Day... "Hello. Macy's Bridal Salon? Give me a bridal gown big enough for a Clydesdale. Elegant and cool for an August wedding. "I'll be backless."

More News Briefs

DISCOUNTS APPROVED BY EXCOM. The ETVC executive committee has approved a new family membership plan designed to get couples a break on their annual dues. Two people who live in the same household can now receive a membership for \$30 and become full voting members of ETVC entitled to all privileges and discounts to events. Couples previously had to pay \$40 for dual memberships. Households that hold family memberships will receive one newsletter and can expect to save \$17 or more a year in fees to events if they are regular attendees. Because we are now a nonprofit group \$24 of the \$30 membership fee can be deducted. Individual memberships remain \$20.

For 1994-95 membership renewals the ExComm approved a special discounted \$5 annual fee for the voice mail system for those people who join ETVC before July 31, 1994. After that the annual cost is \$10 per year. By comparison, commercially available voice mail costs \$8 to \$10 per month. For info and to try out voice mail call 415-334-3439.

Renaissance Education Association, Inc. of Philadelphia in conjunction with Ms. Terri Randall, are pleased to announce a film project for the transgendered community. Randall is an award-winning filmmaker who has made films for Discovery Channel and PBS. Renaissance is applying for a grant for this project, and will also solicit commercial donations. More information will follow. The project will encompass the full spectrum of transgenderism.

Ellen Summers, founder of NWGA and a long-time member of the community, was named recipient of the Virginia Prince Award, IFGE's highest honor. Ellen lives in the Portland area, but is a member of ETVC.



On voting day, soon to be Emperor Chuck Adkins and Empress Anita Martini speak to our own ETVC audience at a cocktail party at Lily's

Ralph Judd's
Great Moments In TV History



1962: Hary Morgan and Cara Williams (plot and episode date unknown), on *Pete and Gladys*, CBS.

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11/18/83 Boss Hogg (Sorrell Brooke) and Sheriff Roscoe P. Coltrane (James Best) dress as women to catch two goons on the *Dukes of Hazzard*, CBS:

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PSYCHOTHERAPY

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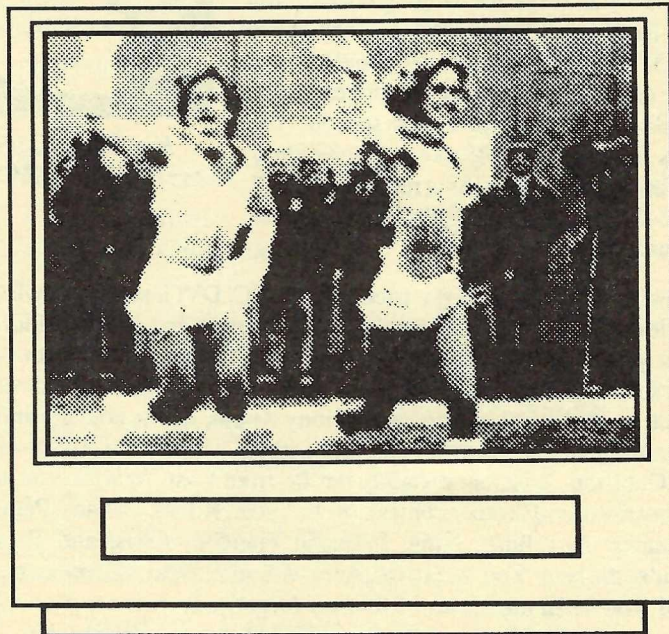
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TO 7:30PM



Permanents, Hair Styling SIONY ANGELO



5/15/80 Mork (Robin Williams, left) tries out for the Denver Bronco cheerleaders, creating an uproar in front of 70,000 cheering fans on *Mork & Mindy*, ABC.



A Cotillion Retrospective and Beyond

By Lauren Rene Hotchkiss

Although at this writing it is nearly two months after the Cotillion, I'd like to share some thoughts with you that I didn't have time to cast onto disk before last issue's deadline. I'd planned to give an acceptance speech the night of the Cotillion and thank all the people who had helped me and had been of service in putting the show together, but, given the lateness of the hour — the show was by then running an hour and a half overtime — I figured I'd wait for a more propitious moment.

I really feel that this year's Cotillion was the best one ever. We definitely had the most diverse and talented group of contestants and other performers we'd ever had, as well as being privileged to have had the superlative directorship of Miss Jacqui Jewels — if only you knew how many times we had to practice that damn Charleston — and the indefatigable leadership of Vice President and producer of the Cotillion Ten, Miss Diane Summers, who brought the vision of this, the next generation of the Cotillion, to life. I'd also like to acknowledge and thank the other incredibly talented members of our cast, crew, and Cotillion planning committee that made sure everything went smoothly, as well as all the wonderful people who came to the cotillion and showed their support — you were the warmest, most receptive audience I ever played to. My sincerest gratitude to Louise Carroll, of Continental Wigs, for hanging in there with me for the last three years — we finally made it babe. What can I say about Louise? She took me from an awkward ingenue who could barely keep her bra on straight (that was back in my old pre-hormone days, before I even had anything real to fill it) and, like "My Fair Lady's" Professor 'Iggins, transformed me into a lady.

I also want to thank all my friends in ETVC, DVG, and RGA who believed in me; my mother, who I almost got to go to the Cotillion this year, for producing...me; my good friend Jessie/Mistress Victoria, who sent me to hell and brought me back again, and most of all a tip of my shiny top hat to Ginny Knuth, whose courage and commitment knows no bounds, and without whom we would have no Cotillion. Last, but certainly far, far from least: Warmest hugs to my sister and brother contestants this year, Robin, Deanne, Pam, Jennifer, Angelique, Nina, Lulu, and Francis: Girls, and guys you're the best. You've provided me with some treasured moments and wonderful memories. I'll never forget you.

Everyone seems to have a favorite part of the Cotillion. To me, the final question has always been one of the most interesting aspects — it took me four years to get that sucker right. You work hard all night amassing points until at last you're chosen as one of the

finalists. And then what do they do, they throw out half your points and base the other half of your score on how well you answer whatever question they decide to throw at you. If you're lucky, you get the easy one: "Why do you want to be Miss ETVC?" Now every contestant, whether they've consciously thought about it or not, has some kind of an answer to this, otherwise they probably wouldn't be there. But then again, you might be asked some off-the-wall question like, "what can you tell us about the mating practices of the Tasmanian Slime Devil?" or "what are your feelings regarding the cutting-edge biological research on the sweat glands of the Australian Titmouse?" Although the question I was asked wasn't as bad as one of these, it wasn't the hoped for one, either. Instead, it fell somewhere inbetween the two extremes.

Although we had our share of technical glitches, such as a missed tech. rehearsal, forgotten contact lenses (mea culpa), a shaky and unlevel runway, power exchanges in the dressing room, a piano that was not unlocked in time for my talent number, an almost interminable intermission and an intermittent short in the Stage Manager's head set, we showed ourselves to be the professionals we are and pulled it off. And even though the evening didn't go quite as we expected it would, the most important thing is that we had fun and made sure the audience had fun.



Miss ETVC (Lauren) accepting scepter from Mr. ETVC (Francis) at Lily's

But enough about the past. On to the future! Though I must admit I had hoped to be selected Miss ETVC, and will try to do the best I can, I don't feel that the title of Miss or Mr. ETVC should be about personal egos, but about having the desire to make a difference; the willingness to get involved with print and broadcast as well as do personal appearances. The world is changing. No longer can we afford to remain in a closet, no matter how big it is, wrapped in chains of guilt and shame. There is only one way to break those chains. The way the African-American community did it, the way the gay and lesbian community did it; not by violence and aggression, but by assertive and concerted action; a willingness to come forward and address each incident of prejudice, ignorance and oppression; not by demanding respect, for respect cannot be demanded, but by earning it. I think its important for all of us to remind ourselves that in our associations with others outside the gender community, we not only represent ourselves as individuals; to them we ARE the gender community. And in

that sense, we are all Mr. and Miss ETVC's aren't we?

I will do my very best over the next year to carry on the grand tradition set by our illustrious former Miss ETVC's, Shaunna, Billie Jean, Teri, Tiffany, and all the rest. I have no intention of trying to be the best Miss ETVC that I can be. I freely admit that I don't know everything. What I want to do is surround myself with knowledgeable advisors; to tap into the areas of expertise that some of you represent, such as Jane Kamper Bentley's involvement with the Gay and Lesbian Task Force. We'll accomplish more if we work together toward a unified goal than waste energy on factional conflicts between the various sub-groups of the gender community.

During my tenure I will be keeping you informed of my activities and appearances on behalf of the club via this column. And speaking of columns, I've run out of room in this one, and so 'till next time...

TS Affairs Update

Bobbi Dunne

Just a note to mention a few housekeeping items relevant to the "TS Affairs" corner of the ETVC Newsletter. First I would like to thank Ayme Kantz and Philippa Garner for their excellent contributions, and to request articles from all pre and post-op transsexuals who would like to contribute to a greater understanding of our community. Also, I want to thank all in our community who worked with the bisexual community in a collective attempt to attain inclusion in the name of the Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade and Celebration Committee, Inc. We simply need more of us, as well as members of the entire Transgender Collective to volunteer their time, if we are going to succeed in this effort. The next date it will come up for review is in November - BUT - the Parade is June 19th and we need volunteers. For a day to remember with pride for the rest of your life, call 415-864-3733 and sign up for the Special Needs Committee. In closing, let me remind everyone to check the ETVC Calendar for TS events and lend support to those functions and committees.

Surprise Host For February Seminar

by Philippa Garner

Well known psychotherapist and gender expert, Dr. Anne Vitale, took time from her busy schedule to share her knowledge with us at the February Seminar on TS Issues, following Dr. Lin Fraser's untimely cancellation due to her mother's illness. After introduction by Jane Bentley, and a brief update by Shelly Salieri on San

Francisco's recent recognition of transgender rights in its city and county employment policies, Dr. Vitale began the seminar with a few words about her practice in San Rafael. She is the only gender-oriented counselor in Marin County, and her clients come from a wide geographic area. She indicated her emphasis is on life experience and she favors group work. After presenting this brief overview, she opened the floor for questions.

Several hands shot up from the thirty or so in attendance and the discussion commenced. The issue of "passing" came up in various forms and there was a lively exchange on the subject of Public restrooms. One person told of using a "relief bottle" in the car, rather than risk a confrontation in the ladies' room. It was pointed out that ID in the new gender role is relatively easy to obtain and that discretion is the appropriate restroom tactic. Also it was suggested that one should sit or stand as befits the designation of the facility. Two individuals, dressed in matching tee-shirts, delivered a prepared attack on the psychotherapy establishment and the Standards of Care, (guidelines for SRS eligibility), asserting that persons seeking gender change should have direct access to the medical profession. They charged that therapists act as gatekeepers to the doctors, causing TSs excessive waiting and expense. Dr. Anne Vitale, as well as a number of members of the audience, spoke calmly and persuasively in explanation of the wisdom of the present system. One member of the audience commented that persons in transition are apt to become fixated on medical goals to the exclusion of other important issues. Professional guidance could prove essential in maintaining a sense of perspective. Although colorful and lively - this engineered disruption was clearly beyond the scope of an informal event, yet it served as a venue for Dr. Ann Vitale to exhibit her skills as a therapist, and to illustrate for many in the audience the importance of those skills to our good health.

LADY VERUSHKA

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CROSSDRESSERS beginning or experienced are welcome to learn new makeup tips and how to walk that walk and use a feminine voice. These are important things. You are welcome to consult with me on feminine issues as well. I do not provide a "sex" service for you, but instead I will help you with your image, feelings and looks. #10 SASE to: A.G.A.E./633 POST ST. #600/ S.F., CA 94109. Call to hear my voice: 510-527-5445



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First Time

by Juana Smith

The purpose of my column is not just to explore first time experiences of those interviewed, but also to introduce ETVC members to each other. In this issue, I am interviewing an FTM for the first time, and it is also his first time being interviewed. Because there are so few female-to-male cross-dressers in ETVC, I saw this as a golden opportunity to introduce him to you; it also gives him the chance to let you know what male-to-female cross-dressers may share in common with him.

Jake is a 35 year old FTM, who told me he first began to think about cross-dressing around the age of 6. When I asked what motivated him to cross dress, he replied:

"Well, I just knew that I didn't seem to fit in with all the other genetic females and that I seemed to fit in more with the guys. So, I thought, at first, that I was just a tomboy. And that I would grow out of it, like everybody else thought I would. I sort of thought I would because that's what I was told. But I didn't grow out of it. And when menstruation hit, I became severely depressed. That's when I knew I just I couldn't grow out of it, and I never wanted to either."

The first time I cross-dressed, I borrowed one of my brother's shirts. My mom had my brother and me helping her do the laundry, so it was easy to get him to let me borrow one. So I put it on and it just seemed to fit better. Nothing in particular happened, nothing sexual or anything like that. More the shirt seemed to fit in with how I was feeling, my appearance. I mean I never did feel like a female. So when I began dressing more masculinely, my self-confidence increased. For a while, I didn't feel like I seemed to fit in anywhere, because I never really fit into the female world. I wanted to find a niche. When I got into the later high school years, I started wearing more than boys' shirts and jeans, I started wearing underwear, gym shorts, boxers, briefs, shoes. And then I was just buying everything I could male and I was hardly buying anything female. The more I'd get men's clothes and men's haircuts, the more masculine things that I did, the better I felt. But still, the more I dressed like a male, the more problems I had, with my parents and with some other people in society."

As Jake got older, he began having problems associated with being female and not fitting into the social stereotypes. He began to consider reassignment surgery and was fortunate to meet MTF transsexuals who openly discussed their changes with him. Jake wanted to be a man, and to bring about a physical reality of who he felt like inside. He wanted to be able to look at himself and see, "instead of breasts, just having a chest; instead of having a vagina, having a penis; basic anatomy things." About a year ago Jake made the decision to go beyond cross-dressing and is currently on

hormones. This is what he had to say about getting started on hormone therapy:

"I'm feeling a little more self-confident, a little more able to attempt certain things about myself, where as before I wouldn't even be able to conduct an interview. I would have been so closeted, so afraid."



photo by jammie venison

Jake self-identifies as transgendered, "because 'trans' seems to be like a journey where you go back and forth," but he looks forward to the day when he would "just say man." Jake is a transgenderist, and he is, additionally, a new member of ETVC. He is excited about belonging to the organization and looks forward to meeting other members. Through the outreach efforts of ETVC at the San Jose Gay Pride Festival, Jake was able to discover an organization that invites a myriad of transgenderists and cross-dressers to participate in a community.

I.F.G.E.: REPORTS & COMMENTARY

A Small Objection to Phyllis Frye's Planned Protest Veronica Smith

At the IFGE convention in Portland, I had the pleasure to hear Phyllis Frye speak. While suffice it to say that I very much liked and agreed with just about everything she said, I'm uncertain about one point: her planned protest of New York's Gay Pride March because "Transgendered" is not included in the march's title.

The march, of course, is a celebration of the 1969 Stonewall riots, and it is my understanding that, though Stonewall was in some ways "transgenderist," all the people involved were gay first, transgendered second. In fact, the transgendered dress and behavior were emphatic expressions of the initial participants' gayness. I am not aware of any heterosexual crossdresser who participated in the riots. Therefore, though we can certainly celebrate Stonewall and for our own purposes define it as transgenderist, I honestly believe the day is more a celebration of open gayness. If we'd like to show our support of diversity in sexual and gender identity, that's great (and I DO emphatically support it), but I don't think we're in any position to DEMAND inclusion in the march's title.

Perhaps my view is clouded by the convention. The "transgenderist" crowd which Phyllis Frye addressed was mainly composed of

crossdressers who hadn't paused at flying to Portland and paying \$95.00 a night for a room- well-heeled, corporate-looking folks who looked far more comfortable in the Hilton than I could have imagined them at Stonewall. I don't think such crossdressers have paid as much dues as the crossdressed lesbians and Puerto Rican drag queens who started the riots. Obviously people like Phyllis Frye have; as Phyllis herself said, being transgendered has cost her somewhere between \$400,000-\$600,000 in lost raises and wages. She has certainly been out there, but most other transgenderists don't seem to be as visible.

Generally (and please note that "generally"), crossdressers seem to be heterosexual, middle-class white men, some of whom appear to be homophobic. Whenever they are interviewed on Oprah, Donahue, Sally or whatever, cross dressers adamantly and loudly insist that they're not gay without qualifying that separateness. But though in public cross dressers distance themselves from gays, very often in private they meet in gay establishments- tolerant spaces created by people who have paid heavy dues to have such environments by openly

living (at no little risk) "in the face" of the heterosexual hegemony, the very society to which most cross dressers are so proud of belonging. I even have an example: while at the convention, I talked to one of the many Tri-Ess members who were there. She

told me that after her group's regular meetings, they hang out in a local gay bar. I asked her if that wasn't hypocritical, since her group excludes gays. She answered that Tri-Ess' major goal was to keep marriages together and she thought that was more important than whether gays were included. Can gay/lesbian/bi march organizers differentiate Tri-Ess from Aegis and IFGE from ETVC and all the televised TVs who have shouted over and over again that they're not gay? Should the same "sister" with whom I spoke feel slighted if excluded from the march's title?

In her speech, Phyllis Frye preached that we must reject prejudice, racism, homophobia, and hypocrisy, and while I wholeheartedly agree with her on those points, I cannot support her "demand" for transgenderists to share the glory of a victory until our major representative organizations embrace completely and without restrictions the warriors who fought the battle.



Ellen Summers, founder of the Northwest Gender Association in Portland, Oregon was presented with the coveted Virginia Prince Lifetime Achievement Award at the recent I.F.G.E. convention. Ellen has also been a friend and member of ETVC for over five years. Congratulations Ellen, on a well deserved honor.

I.F.G.E. CONVENTION: An FTM Perspective

by Francis Vavra, Mr. ETVC

There was a noticeable FTM presence at this years IFGE convention, numbering around twelve including myself, with many coming in for the two days of workshops specifically designed for us. Because of scheduling conflicts and program changes, I was only able to attend a few FTM programs. Of those I attended, I especially enjoyed the open rap forums, where we shared problems and ideas, and were able to meet each other informally. Highlights of the FTM program included Dr. Sheila Kirk's informative talk on the effects of taking male hormones (testosterone).

Of several other workshops presented by wives and partners of FTMs, one was particularly well-attended: Jason Cromwell's show and tell on pants stuffers, prostheses, urinary devices and chest binders of various kinds. Jason, who hails from Seattle, managed to convey humor as well as share the highly-guarded FTM secrets of illusion and protrusion. He had several FTM-made products to show, so that future consumers could see what we were (or were not) getting for our money.

James Green, myself, and one other fellow represented the Bay Area, and "new men" from all over the country were present. James won a seat on the IFGE Board, the first FTM to be officially voted in as a Board member (Taylor Montgomery is serving out a vacated seat term as an alternate). At the Saturday night banquet for the Virginia Prince award, the guys all turned out in tuxes and dress suits, looking very dapper. They posed for a group photo, including one holding Billie Jean, who jumped into their arms (pictured at right) - and were in much demand for photo opportunities with the ladies in their beautiful evening gowns.





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, May 12 and Thursday, June 9. There will be a significant others luncheon Saturday, May 14. You are all welcome with open arms. For more information call Ginny at (415) 664-1499.

He Didn't Lie To You... Not Really ...

by Ginny Knuth

When I was thirteen years old, I went to a church bazaar with my girlfriend, Ida Mae. My father told me if I "fooled around" or if I got home later than 11 PM, I would never be able to go out with Ida Mae again. Since I will soon be sixty, this took place around 1947 when "good girls" were expected to be pure and virgins when they married, and I was determined to be a good girl.

Off we went with thoughts of fun and boys in our heads. We met them at the taffy machine (I already weighed 250, but still spent a lot of time at the taffy machine): They were so handsome — older men, both 16 — the dark haired one was Ida Mae's type and they went off together and I never saw them again that night. The blond, Andy, tagged along with me. After a while he asked me if I wanted to go for a ride in his car — a big NO NO in those days for teenaged girls! I thought I was so lucky that he wanted to be seen with me, I would have followed him to China!

The "ride" quickly turned into what today would be called attempted rape, but I fought hard and he finally gave up. He was angry so he drove the car at a very high speed taking me back to the bazaar. Andy lost control and the car went flying down a steep hill at about 70 mph. As

fate would have it, two trees standing on the hill somehow stopped the car before it could careen down the steepest part of the hill. Even though I was in shock, I somehow managed to open the door -- and I ran all the way back to the Bazaar. When I couldn't find Ida Mae, I raced home -- walked in the house at five minutes to eleven, and my father asked me if I had a good time. "Wonderful," I told him as I headed for my room, fell down on the bed, and cried for four hours.

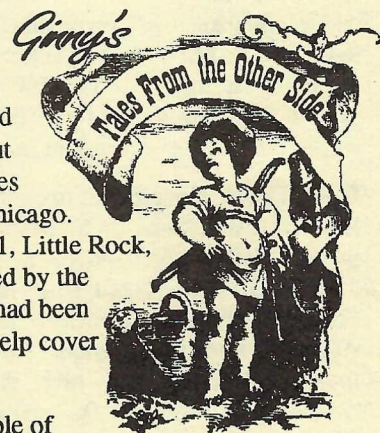
Just a quick update on the IFGE Convention as it related to wives and partners. Not many SO's were in attendance, but one of the luncheons was set aside for us to sit on the dais, be introduced and hear Linda Peacock as luncheon speaker talk about S.P.I.C.E., which is a national convention for wives and partners to be held from July 6-10, 1994 in Chicago. For info, you may write to Linda at PO Box 24031, Little Rock, AR 72221. Later on in the week it was announced by the Trustees of the Winslow Street Fund that a grant had been provided to S.P.I.C.E in the amount of \$1000 to help cover convention costs. Thanks, Winslow Street Fund!

Our S.O.S. group is having a fine time every couple of months sharing a Saturday for lunch and other adventures. Coming up on May 14th is a luncheon at 11:30 AM in a downtown San Francisco restaurant, followed by, who knows, a little shopping, maybe? Bring credit cards, oh insignificant ones! For reservations and information, call (510) 934-0826.

This is the first time I have ever told this story to anyone. My feelings of despair were so deeply set, I guess I threw the experience into my subconscious so I wouldn't have to deal with the reality of it. I was so badly humiliated, so embarrassed, so ashamed of myself. I felt so dirty, ugly, unworthy, and confused. I knew better than to let anything like that happen. Why did I go into it so eagerly, and yes, if the truth be known, even enjoy parts of it? I could only suppose I must not be a "good girl" after all. No one must know... never!

When your husband tells you he is a crossdresser and has been a crossdresser ever since he can remember, he is telling you a story somewhat like my story. He has been living with the guilt and pain society puts on people who are different and has never understood why this gave him such joy and pleasure, when it was so wrong, dirty, ugly, and confusing. He spent a life time embarrassed and ashamed, feeling unworthy of someone as wonderful as you. It was a secret he could not face himself, let alone share it with anyone. He could not afford to tell you about it for fear you would lose your respect for him, or even leave him!

So, he tells you. And what do you say? "It's not the crossdressing I mind so much, it's the fact that you lied to me all these years. I can never trust you again." He never really lied to you.. he just found the strength to face the truth. If it takes five years or forty-five years to face our truths, it still takes courage to confront them with today's perspective. And from those who care about us... we need support, understanding, and the reaffirmation of their love.



The Significant Other's Surprise

by Luanna Rodgers

Handling the discovery of crossdressing within a relationship, demands communication between partners, information and time to process the information. Your first reaction might be shock, anger or distrust. Your impulse might be to run or strike out. First of all, slow down. You may feel confused and unable to handle the discovery. However, take your time. You, no doubt, have chosen to be in this relationship for some very good reasons. Your bond deserves the time and careful consideration you need to assimilate the new information. Get at the root of what is causing you to feel distressed about your partner's crossdressing. This will enable you to talk with your partner more clearly and directly. Many significant others feel upset due to one or more of the following fears:

Trust - "If you hid this from me, what else are you hiding?" Probably, nothing. After years of feeling ashamed of crossdressing and learning to hide it, it is tremendously hard to reveal to anyone, especially someone they love and depend on.

Self-Blame — "If I were more feminine, more sexual, thinner, younger [you fill in your own self-perceived inadequacy], you wouldn't have to do this." Your partner has most likely crossdressed for years before he met you. Crossdressing generally begins in adolescence or early adulthood. It is an inner need. It is not caused by you.

Lack of Love - "If you loved me you would stop this behavior that is hurting me." No doubt your partner has tried to stop many times throughout their cross dressing history, for you and for themselves. There is no effective way to make crossdressing go away. The most useful approach is to find out how it can be a part of life in the most positive, least disruptive way.

Loss of control - "If I condone this, you will want to do it all the time, it will get worse." The fact that your partner needs to crossdress at times does not mean that if outside controls (you!) are not applied, the crossdressing will increase. Most crossdressers establish a pattern of frequency that is comfortable and stick to it.

Sex change — "You are going to want to change your sex." Crossdressing is not transsexualism. The crossdresser enjoys being the gender he is. The comfort or excitement of crossdressing comes from crossing over periodically, vacationing in that role, not moving in!

Homosexuality — "If you crossdress you must be gay." The vast majority of crossdressers are heterosexual men who enjoy being in a relationship and being sexual with a woman. They crossdress for personal satisfaction, not to attract a sex partner.

Perversity -- "This is sick and means we won't have a 'normal' sex life." For some, but not all crossdressers, there is an erotic element to their crossdressing. A favorite fantasy for some might be making love with you while crossdressed. Does this mean they don't thoroughly enjoy lovemaking in your usual ways? They very much do. Does this mean they are "sick?" Crossdressers are not mentally ill. They are full of complex fantasies like any other adult. Adult sex

play can contain a lot of variation between secure partners willing to explore.

Competition — "If you're going to be a woman too (even once in a while), that doesn't make me very special." Your partner may glue on the nails, put on the pantyhose and perfume. That in no way diminishes your femininity. No one can take that away from you. It is yours. Your partner cherishes and enjoys your femininity.

Loss of esteem — "Others will find out. What will they think of me? Of us?" Couples typically make mutual agreements about who will know. No one need know who you don't agree to tell. If you decide to tell someone else, be aware that there may be times when support or information is needed. You might want to utilize an SO group, CD group or gender knowledgeable therapist. Perhaps the more long term task is evaluating why loss of self esteem is tied to discovery by others. In an era where alcoholism, child abuse and domestic violence is openly discussed, why is the nonviolent, victimless event of personal crossdressing such a source of shame and secrecy?

In addition to sorting through your own feelings, you may need some factual information about crossdressing. Several books are available on this topic. Gender-knowledgeable therapists can help provide information. You also need to talk to your partner about what his crossdressing means to him. What does he do? What does he want to do? Does he want you involved or not? What do you each want? What are your areas of negotiation? Be aware that your partner may have no experience talking to anyone about this and may be even more frightened than you are. Seek outside counsel if you are unable to discuss the matter in a constructive manner and reach a workable agreement.

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

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Beauty Secrets

by Bill Jones

Lipstick Tips & Creating Breastforms

Two things to talk about this month... Suggestions for applying lipstick so it will last, and an ingenious way to make your own breastforms!

LIPSTICK

One of the biggest makeup problems for lips is colour that changes or seems to disappear. Here are six simple steps to colour with staying power:

1. Use your foundation as a base coat on your lips. Apply smoothly, but not too heavily.
2. Outline the shape of your lips with a lip pencil. Not too dark a colour, this isn't the '60's.
3. Fill in with lipstick. Use a brush, if necessary.
4. Blot with tissue.
5. Powder your lips with translucent powder, brush off the excess, to "fix" your lipcolour.
6. Add a second coat or lipstick or lip gloss in the same shade, to revitalize the colour.

BREASTFORMS

Take four large party balloons of a neutral tan colour (the kind that inflate to about 12 to 14 inches in diameter). Overinflate them to the point where they "almost" burst. Use a coin to stopper the end while you work on the others. Leave them stopped for approximately ten minutes. This takes much of the elasticity out of the rubber. Allow the air to escape from them slowly, by pulling the rubber away from the coin a bit. When the balloons are deflated they should be about six inches in diameter, laid flat. Place one balloon inside another, carefully, so you have two double balloons. Partially fill the balloons with HAIR GEL! Find a really thick, goopy brand with no colour. 10 fl. oz. per balloon makes a full 34C. Before tying off, try to get all of the air out of the balloon. Unlike water balloons, these warm up fairly quickly and stay warm. Unlike birdseed, they are soft to the touch. They have heft and bounce and jiggle. They look quite natural with a good, full coverage underwire bra. This wonderful suggestion was invented by "Evelyn" and discovered (alt. transgendered) on the Internet! Let me know how it works for you and I'll pass the information on to Evelyn.

CLASSIFIED AD

Roommate wanted. Recently Divorced WM closet crossdresser looking for place to stay in SF with understanding M or F in 30's. Pls Call 395-8364.

Book Review:

What Do Men Want?

Veronica Vera

New York Times , February 6, 1994

It is no accident that the same issue of the New York Times in which the Book Review featured Richard A. Shweder's essay "What Do Men Want? A Reading List for the Male Identity Crisis" (Jan. 9), the Magazine contained a photo spread in which male shoe designers modeled their own pumps.

As dean of students at Miss Vera's Finishing School for Boys Who Want to Be Girls, the world's first male-to-female cross-dressing academy, I recognize that my students are part of a bold avant-garde that represents a need in most men to share more in the female experience. When women felt the need to balance in their lives, to share more in the male experience, we created the women's movement. Men, too, have this need for balance. Cross-dressers are more fortunate than most because the clothing gives them access to these feelings of Venus envy. For every woman who burned her bra, there is a man ready to wear one. Describing the "left-wing" and "right-wing" virtues of "the design for the new male," Mr. Shweder states, "when we stride boldly toward the new millennium, many more of us will be doing it in high heels."

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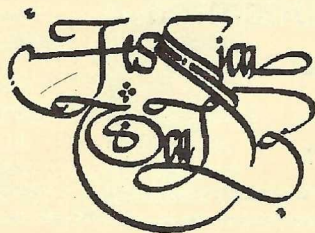
"Transgender" Added to Title of Government Body First in California to Formally Represent TG Community

by Ayme Kantz

"Transgendered" has been added to the official title of a standing committee of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission (HRC), a move which establishes the first governmental body in California to formally represent transgendered people. A resolution creating the Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgendered Advisory Committee (known as LGBTAC) was approved by the Human Rights Commission on February 24, 1994. The HRC also passed a resolution to hold a special hearing on May 12, 1994 to hear testimony on the problems and discrimination faced by transgendered people in areas that include employment, housing, medical care, public accommodations and treatment by police. Testimony is certain to disclose how transgendered people are routinely harassed, demoted and fired from their jobs. Many landlords refuse to rent to the transgendered and we are subjected to violence which often goes unaddressed by local police services. Public services, including medical and social services, are often denied. Recommendations on how to address these issues, including an ordinance making it illegal to discriminate against transgendered people, are expected to come out of the hearing.

The Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgendered Advisory Committee is very different than it was a couple of years ago. Its membership has struggled to be much more diverse, reflecting different sectors and groups; its issues have expanded, and its scope of work has now come to include our community. We have been and are participatory in the struggle for human rights. Let us not forget that we are also the founders and ignitors of gay rights in the United States. Changing the name of the Advisory Committee reflects the present day reality the Human Rights Commission is facing, and more importantly is an attempt to dispel an incorrect notion of just who and what started the gay rights movement in the United States.

In June 1994, thousands of gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgendered people will arrive in New York City to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion. Those who remember and took part in that historical event know that transgendered people had much to do with something, and that something was the gay rights movement. We owe a lot to the courageous transgendered people who ignited the spark which lit a prairie fire. Thus it remains clear that the respect of each other's ethnic, gender identity, sexual orientation, religious affiliation, social and economic status, and the protection of these categories from acts of discrimination - is the cornerstone of human rights, and that the committee's name change is not an act of "political correctness" but one which is consistent with the goals and objectives of the Human Rights Commission.



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Transgender Bias Behind Killings

by Leslie Feinberg

Brandon Teena might still be alive today if not for the criminal role of Nebraska police. Teena was one of three people shot to death in a farmhouse south of Humboldt, Neb, on New Year's Eve. John Lotter and Marv Nissen have been charged with three counts of first-degree murder and kidnapping. Lotter is charged with raping Teena in an earlier incident and Nissen is accused of aiding and abetting that crime.

Brandon Teena had moved to the small town in November. Just two weeks before his death, Teena was arrested by police on the suspicion of cashing a forged check.

When authorities discovered that Teena had been born female, they made the information public.



According to newspaper reports, during a Christmas Eve party Lotter and Nissen forcibly stripped Brandon Teena in front of a woman he had dated. The two men then reportedly beat, kidnapped and raped

Teena. Teena was treated at Falls City Community Hospital. When Teena reported the crimes, police claimed they didn't have enough evidence to prove the case. Now police charge that on New Year's Eve, Lotter and Nissen broke down the front door of a farmhouse and murdered Brandon Teena, resident Lisa Lambert and Phillip Lambert.

All the News that's fit to print?

And then there's the role of the media. One of the ways Teena was first outed was when a newspaper printed his female birth name after his arrest. And after the murders, salacious and bigoted reporting and blame-the-victim headlines only fanned the flames of hatred against transgendered people. Mr. Teena was a female to male transsexual. Given the circumstances of his death, remaining closeted about his transsexuality was not a matter of 'deception' but of survival. What was fatal was the level of prejudice and violence he faced when he was outed by law enforcement authorities."

Fairness & Accuracy in Reporting wrote: Transgendered jazz musician Billy Tipton died in 1989 of an untreated ulcer rather than risk exposure by a doctor. Throughout history, people who have challenged gender boundaries have been threatened, harrassed and killed. (remember Joan of Arc?)

Public exposure, not 'sexual deception' led to Brandon's assault, abduction, rape and eventual murder and with the murder of two friends. ...*excerpted from Worker's World Party 1/20/94*

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The Uninvited Dilemma

A Question of Gender

by

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Gender Transition Seminar

by Ayme Michelle Kantz

Belgian-born sophisticate Wilhelmina Beins presented a seminar Wednesday evening, March 9, as part of ETVCs actively growing program of information seminars targeted at all segments within our membership. Her seminar focussed on "passing" techniques for male-to-female transsexuals, with special emphasis placed on makeup, clothing, and accessories.

Ms. Beins called each woman in the room to the front of the stage where she kindly critiqued such things as appearance, style of dress, voice, makeup, and comportment. She emphasized the positive attributes, and was quite gentle in pointing out the negatives. The general objective of nearly everybody was to "blend in."

According to Wilhelmina, you should try matching your wig to your natural hair color, particularly your eyebrows, for the best effect. She also suggests wearing scarves as a fashion ally for creating accents, draping, silhouettes, etc. She pointed out differences in skirt lengths and recommended a longer length for most people. Shoes should match the rest of your clothing, and jacket sleeves ought to be just the right length (usually to the wrist).

Wilhelmina Beins is available for all types of services, including shopping, makeup, fashion, coiffure, and etiquette. Her main objective is working with women individually and adapting to her unique body style. She suggests that you play the hand God has dealt to the best of your ability- emphasize the assets and downplay the liabilities. Look for her ad elsewhere in this issue and give her a call- you'll be glad you did.

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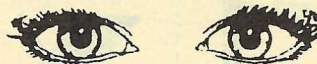
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IN MEMORIAM

It is with sadness we report that Dr. Roger Peo, a noted Sexologist and long time friend of the transgendered community passed away on April 7th, less than two months after first being diagnosed with lung and bone cancer, quietly at his home in Poughkeepsie, New York.



Dr. Peo graduated from the Institute of Human Awareness here in San Francisco and settled in private practice back East. He was one of the first psychotherapists to become actively involved with the gender community and was the author of the popular advice column "Roger's Notebook," on gender issues.

Merissa Sherrill Lynn, founder of I.F.G.E., stated "Roger was a pioneer for building bridges between our community and the professional community." Dr. Peo was there for many people over the years who needed his knowledge and help — he will be missed.

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Big Doings With The Tall Girls Of Texas

by Veronica Smith

From February 23 to 27, I was at the Texas "T" Party in San Antonio. It was held at the Airport Holiday Inn and was hosted by the Boulton and Park Society.

Started as a barbeque in Linda and Cynthia Phillips' back yard six years ago, it has now grown to be one of the largest transgender events in the world with 376 attendees from 33 states and five countries (Canada, Columbia, Germany, the Netherlands, and Australia). Although natural disasters kept at least 20 Californian couples from attending, 73 other couples did show up.

A major emphasis for the "T" Party has always been the CD's relationship with his significant other; seminars were devoted specifically to maintaining and strengthening this relationship and a renewal of vows ceremony is offered. In their 38 years together, the Phillips have probably explored every aspect of a transgenderist marriage.

However, since my S.O. couldn't come to San Antonio, my highlights were a shopping trip led by Cynthia Phillips and a guided tour that included a leisurely barge trip down the San Antonio River and visits to a restored mission, a beautiful garden, and of course, the Alamo, an impressive memorial to Texan spirit. Thus, the Texas "T" party can be recommended not only for a couple who want to reinforce their commitment to each other, but also for any girl who just wants to have fun. Veronica-Bob says, "Check it out."



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...Variety

"An attractive picture in her various costumes."

... The New York Dramatic Mirror.

When vaudeville died, she went back to England to perform at summer resorts and on television. Her greatest hit and signature song: "All the Nice Girls Love a Sailor."