

ETVC

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME SIXTEEN, NUMBER 2,

SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER, 1997

The 1997 Big Shew Lives Up To Its Name

By Darcy Leopard

ETVC's annual "Really Big Shew" kicked into high gear at Kimo's Show Lounge on Thursday, June 26th. Empowered femmes stepped up to the stage, trekking the audience through the Twentieth Century in a performance showcasing our community's variety of talents.

After a delayed starting time (warm thanks go to our audience for their kind patience), MC David Hawkins hit the stage singing the number "Beautiful Girls," accompanied by four 1920's era chorus girls dazzling the audience with their choreographed moves showcasing glittery beach balls.

The chorines were Lulu Blau, Marsha Mellow (a.k.a. Suzy), Tiara Del Fuego and yours truly, Darcy Leopard.

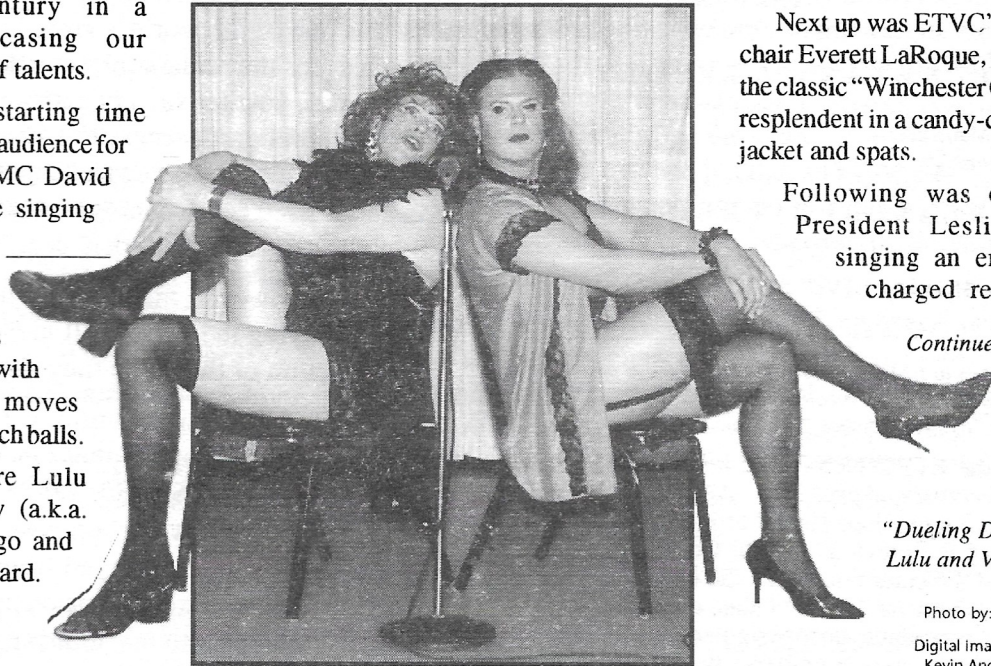
After the girls ran giggling off the stage,

our own 1997 Cotillion Miss Talent winner Dianna continued the 1920's era with her fabulous flapper number "I Wanna Be Loved By You," power-batting her eyelashes and charming all in attendance.

Next up was ETVC's social co-chair Everett LaRoque, performing the classic "Winchester Cathedral," resplendent in a candy-cane striped jacket and spats.

Following was our Vice-President Leslie Bailey, singing an emotionally charged rendition of

Continued on Page 7



"Dueling Dietrichs" Lulu and Veronica.

Photo by: Jamie
Digital Imaging by Kevin Anderson



A Perfect Day at the Pride Parade

By Janet Bowman

Just two years ago I watched the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Pride Parade from the sidelines. I wasn't yet a member of ETVC, but I watched with particular interest when the transgendered folks marched by. They were what I had come to see. The TG marchers were strangers to me, though it seemed like they were enjoying themselves. I remember thinking, "That looks like fun but I would never do it."

Well, guess what. A lot has changed in my life in those two years — and I'm a lot happier. I came out as a transgendered person

Continued on Page 7



ETVC's "truck 'o' pride" at the 1997 LGBT Pride Parade

Photo by Jamie

THE HANNAH

THE CHANNEL

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	Erin Souza
Vice-President	Leslie Bailey
Secretary	Veronica Smith
Treasurer	Lisa Ronald
Education	Nancy Cupps, Juana Smith
Outreach	Telzey Adams, Sandra Brewer
Social	Darcy Leopard, Evette RoqueLaurie

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Membership (as of 7/31/97)	209
Total 1996 Membership	430
New Memberships this year	35

TREASURER'S REPORT

Account Balance as of 6/30/97	\$6,697.24
-------------------------------	------------

The "Home for ETVC" fund is now \$2017.50

ETVC is a non-profit corporation.

Donations to ETVC are TAX DEDUCTIBLE on both Federal and California income tax returns Talk to your tax advisor for details.

Channel, the ETVC Newsletter, is published the last week of February, April, June, August, October and December. Submissions should arrive at ETVC by the 20th 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.

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Editor	Elizabeth Walters
Associate Editors	S. Brewer, D. Leopard, Ginny K., E. Souza A. Drane, J. & V. Smith
Advertising	<i>Please Volunteer</i>
Photographer	J. Fenton and T. Adams
Layout & Design	Kevin Anderson
Printing	Your Place Graphics

AD RATES

	Per issue	Per year
Business Card	\$25	\$125
4" X 5"	\$60	\$300

Personal ads from ETVC members: \$3 for up to 40 words. We will *not* accept ads with a sexual objective. Ad deadlines are the 20th 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 & VOICE MAIL 415-564-3246
B.B.S. 415-564-4903

Letter from Elizabeth

By Elizabeth Walters

Are You Getting Your Money's Worth?



Stated plainly, membership in ETVC is one of the world's great bargains: for the remarkably low dues of only \$25 a year (\$35 family rate), you get such benefits as a gender hotline, a computer bulletin board, access to written and videotaped educational materials, and a newsletter with comprehensive information about what is happening in our transgendered community. All in all, it is really a terrific deal.

Frankly, however, many of our members are being robbed. They are paying the club's full membership rate but getting only a fraction of the value they should receive.

Take our educational seminars, for example: except for the donations from members, these meetings — which feature expert information on a wide range of topics of particular interest to transgendered people — are free of charge. In the last year, subjects have ranged from the problems of dating for transgendered people to the pains and pleasures of S&M, and from advice on how to sound more feminine to techniques for making the difficult transition from one gender to the other — all offered in an intimate, private setting with an audience consisting of other members of our multi-faceted community.

Or consider our socials — festive occasions where transgendered people can get together with friends and let their hair down — unless, of course, they are wearing it in a French roll, Chignon or bun. Seriously, these get-togethers — which happen twice a month and only involve a modest entry charge at the end-of-month sessions — offer a splendid opportunity to meet new people with shared interests, enjoy small talk and catch up on the latest gossip and news.

Many members have commented favorably on our wonderful columns on things to do and places to go by Darcy Leopard and Debra Darling, and we are pleased to be able to offer them. But the fact is, you need not make a long journey or spend a lot of money in order to dress up and enjoy an evening in your preferred gender. ETVC offers you an opportunity to do just that for next to nothing, several times a month. If you aren't taking advantage, you are definitely not getting the full value of your membership.



Da' Prez' Box
ETVC President Erin Souza

Early Returns and Other Musings

So far the early returns from the poll about a possible name change show the "no" votes ahead. Many respondents believe that the time, energy and money involved in changing this organization's name would be better spent addressing other issues. Others express sentiment that the recognition ETVC has achieved — the result of much hard work over the past fifteen years — would be diminished or lost entirely with a name change.

Whatever we choose to call ourselves, we need to keep in mind that success depends less on labels than action. My involvement with this club brought me from a place of loneliness, fear and shame to one of visibility, confidence and pride. Like many, my first visions of other transgendered people were not positive: buffoons and psychotics in movies and television or exhibitionists in adult magazines hiking up their skirts to expose themselves. It seemed to me that if this was all that was out there for company — all that I could become — I was better off in a closet.

When I saw an ad for this organization in the Bay Guardian eight years ago, I called the listed number and requested literature with much trepida-

tion. Would I receive pictures in the mail like the ones in those magazines? Thankfully what I got instead was a tastefully produced newsletter that showed normal people enjoying one another's company in a respectful way, and that shared our common experiences in a way that was encouraging, not shaming. The notion that I could perform on stage in my desired gender or speak to college students had not crossed my mind until I read this newsletter.

I did not get involved just because of a catchy name. I was inspired because someone had set up a speaker's bureau, someone had created a Cotillion in which to perform, someone had taken pictures and written articles for the newsletter, someone had spent a few hours stuffing envelopes and licking stamps, and someone had put that ad in the Bay Guardian and other publications. Actually it was several someones working together who made these things happen.

But the same someones get burnt out over time. If we want things to happen for the future, more someones will have to step forward. Stepping forward does not have to be risky, high profile or time consuming. It can be setting up a stack of magazines for sale at a social, and carting them home at night's end until next month. It can be shopping for prizes (we'll pay you back), stopping by the bakery to pick up a cake, sending an article or poem to the newsletter, helping mail that same newsletter one night every two months, or offering a safe place to change or a ride for a closeted sister in your neighborhood.

It's these little actions that can mean the difference between someone growing or staying in the closet, between pride and shame. Please make the choice for pride.



ELECTROLYSIS

Permanent Hair Removal

- ★ Complimentary Consultation
- ★ Men & Women
- ★ Private Office
- ★ Days, Evenings, Saturday by appt.
- ★ Shortwave, Galvanic, Blend and Multiple Probe Technique.

707-526-4826

Amelia James
Registered
Electrologist

◆ 2700 Santa Rosa Ave., Santa Rosa, CA 95401 ◆

Mildred L. Brown, Ph. D.

SEX THERAPY & EDUCATION
GENDER IDENTITY COUNSELING

TRUE SELVES

Understanding Transsexualism — For Families, Friends,
Coworkers, and Helping Professionals.

\$25.00 Hardcover

(408) 249-2205

800 Pollard Rd., Suite B207, Los Gatos, CA 95030



ROSS & BASS PUBLISHERS
SAN FRANCISCO

• • • • • Special Events • • • • •

Mid-Month Socials

Wednesday, September 10th and Wednesday, October 8th
Our latest discovery is Cafe Mars, a great venue located in the South of Market neighborhood of San Francisco. It features a sleek, chic bar, pool table, food, and a wonderful patio, which should be great to hang out on during San Francisco's best months for weather. See Darcy's "On the Town" article to learn more about this nice spot. It is worth the visit just to meet the sweetheart bartender Michelle! Cafe Mars, 7th and Brannan Streets, SF. Call Darcy, (415) 641-8169, for directions. 8 PM, Free!

Grand Ducal Coronation

Saturday, September 20, 1997
The Annual Grand Ducal Court of San Francisco Coronation will be held on Saturday night. September 20, 1997 at The Holiday Inn on Van Ness in San Francisco. Doors open at 6:30 PM, Event starts at 7:30 PM. ETVc will have a table for ten as usual and tickets will cost \$25 each. Since this festive event is only three weeks away, if you want to sit at our table please call Ginny at (415) 664-1499 for reservations now before all our seats are sold.

Education Seminar: Corsetry for the Transgendered Physique

Thursday, September 25th
From everyday life to high fashion . . . from underclothing to outerwear . . . From the unmentionable to heralded status . . . the corset's use and acceptance has changed dramatically. Ann Grogan, proprietor of Romantasy Boutique, will provide a brief historical look at corsetry before describing how the corset has gained popularity in recent times. She will describe the styles available, provide guidelines on how to wear one comfortably and safely, discuss what you can expect for figure modification if you wear a corset on a regular basis, and many other relevant details. Several corsets will be available for you to examine. Romantasy is a representative for several high quality American and European corset makers and can help you order a custom-made corset. 8PM, Upstairs at Kimo's, Polk & Pine Sts. SF \$3

Special End of the Month Social

Saturday, September 27th
Attention Everyone! We are testing a NEW End of the Month Social VENUE on SATURDAY (that's right: Saturday!) September 27th. The site is CyberWorld, located at 528 Folsom Street between 1st and 2nd Street in San Francisco. It is a big space, split-level and modern, with a nice patio right at the front entrance. Plenty of places to sit and have dinner and a drink downstairs, a cozy lounge upstairs complete with couches and . . . computer terminals! Hop on-line and talk to your friends on TG Forum, letting them know you are there live! This is a special opportunity for new and long-distance members to have a go at the fun. The venue is centrally located with easy access from the freeway, and several parking lots make parking easy! This is a non-smoking venue, but you can smoke on the patio if you wish. Don't miss this special opportunity! 8 PM, Members \$3, Guests \$5.

Education and TS Seminar: Achieving a Feminine-Sounding Voice

Saturday, October 18th
Maureen O'Connor, a speech therapist with Peninsula Associates, will spend three hours with us to help you achieve a feminine-sounding voice and way of speaking. In 1996, Maureen's presentation on similar topics at the California Dreamin' convention received rave reviews. She will instruct us on pitch range, inflection, stereotypical women's speech patterns, and the type of non-verbal communication women use when they are together. The last hour of the seminar will include a workshop and question/answer session during which you can practice what you've learned and receive individual coaching from Maureen.

Due to the cost of the speaker's fee for this event, the Education Committee would like to suggest a donation (for those who can afford it) of \$5 to help cover some of the expense. After the workshop, the Education Committee invites participants to join us for dinner at Mayes Oyster House, an Italian seafood restaurant, located at 1233 Polk St, near Kimo's. If you would like to attend the dinner, please contact Juana Smith (home: 415-337-5409, work: 415-292-0470) so she can determine the size of the group and make a reservation. 3PM, Upstairs at Kimo's, Polk & Pine Sts. SF Suggested Donation: \$5.

Halloween Social at the Doubletree Hotel

Saturday, October 25th
This year's annual Halloween Social is at the beautiful Doubletree Hotel in Burlingame, a very elegant hotel set right on the water. Our usual venue of the Dunfey hotel is not available due to remodeling. This year we have a BIGGER ROOM, and MORE FOOD! A delicious selection of hors d'oeuvres is planned. A no-host bar will be available serving beer, wine, cocktails and non-alcoholic beverages. We will have a DJ spinning a wide variety of music to suit everyone's dancing tastes. Prizes for the best costume in several categories! 6 PM to 12 PM, 835 Airport Boulevard in Burlingame. \$16 Advance. \$18 Door. Advance ticket locations to be announced in Channel 2 Newsletter.

*Social Committee Meetings Continue at The Line-up.
Tuesday, September 16th and Tuesday, October 21st, 8 PM.*

**The New
KIMO'S**

1351 Polk Street — S.F.
(415) 885-4535
SHOWROOM & SPORTS ARENA
SAN FRANCISCO'S LARGEST GAY SHOWROOM

TV/TS/TG GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

OTHER GROUPS

September

1	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 937-8432
4	ETVC	Newsletter Committee.	7:30 p.m.	San Francisco	(415) 337-5409
4	DVG	RCC Rap Group	Meets at 7 PM	Pleasant Hill	(510) 937-8432
5	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
5	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
8	ETVC	TS/Education Comm.	Meets 7:30-9 PM	Kimo's Mtg.Rm.	(415) 337-5409
10	ETVC	Mid-Month Social	Starts at 8 PM	Cafe Mars, SF	(415) 641-8169
11	ETVC	Significant Others	Meets 7:30-10 PM	Palo Alto	(415) 664-1499
12	ETVC	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
12	ETVC	Lending Library Open	Hours 8-11 PM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
12	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
13	ETVC	Bowling	Starts at 8:30 PM	Colma	(415) 731-7032
13	SGA	Social	Starts at 7:30 PM	Sacramento	(916) 482-7742
14	FTM	Informational Meeting	Meets at 2 PM	San Francisco	(415) 553-5987
15	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 937-8432
16	ETVC	Library Committee	Meets at 1 PM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
16	ETVC	Social Committee	Meets at 8 PM	The LineUp, SF	(415) 641-8169
18	ETVC	Outreach Committee	Meets at 7 PM	Berkeley	(510) 443-9938
18	DVG	RCC Rap Group	Meets at 7 PM	Pleasant Hill	(510) 937-8432
19	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
19	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
20	ETVC	Executive Committee	Meets at 6 PM	Livermore	(510) 443-9938
20	---	Grand Ducal Coronation	Doors Open 6:30 PM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
25	ETVC	Corsetry Seminar	Starts at 8 PM	Kimo's, Upstairs	(415) 337-5409
26	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
27	SGA	Social	Starts at 7:30 PM	Sacramento	(916) 482-7742

October

2	DVG	RCC Rap Group	Meets at 7 PM	Pleasant Hill	(510) 937-8432
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
6	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 937-8432
8	ETVC	Mid-Month Social	Starts at 8 PM	Cafe Mars, SF	(415) 641-8169
9	ETVC	Significant Others	Meets 7:30-10 PM	Palo Alto	(415) 664-1499
10	ETVC	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
10	ETVC	Lending Library Open	Hours 8-11 PM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
10	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
11	SGA	Social	Starts at 7:30 PM	Sacramento	(916) 482-7742
11	ETVC	Bowling	Starts at 8:30 PM	Colma	(415) 731-7032
12	FTM	Informational Meeting	Meets at 2 PM	San Francisco	(415) 553-5987
12	ETVC	Executive Committee	Meets at 1 PM	San Francisco	(415) 337-5409
16	DVG	RCC Rap Group	Meets at 7 PM	Pleasant Hill	(510) 937-8432
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
18	ETVC	TS Seminar - Voice	Starts at 2 PM	Kimo's, Upstairs	(415) 337-5409
19	ETVC	Outreach Committee	Meets at 1 PM	Kimo's, Upstairs	(510) 443-9938
20	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 937-8432
21	ETVC	Social Committee	Meets at 8 PM	The LineUp, SF	(415) 641-8169
21	ETVC	Library Committee	Starts at 1 PM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
24	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
25	SGA	Social	Starts at 7:30 PM	Sacramento	(916) 482-7742
25	ETVC	Halloween Party	Starts at 8 PM	Burlingame	(415) 641-8169
31	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224

Pacific Center for Human Growth, a counseling oriented growth center, sponsors all-inclusive gender support groups on every Friday 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 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month in Sacramento. Write: PO Box 215456. Sacramento, CA 95821-1456. Call: (916) 482-7SGA for meeting locations.

Diablo Valley Girls (DVG) Meets first and third Monday of every month. 8 PM at Just Rewards Nightclub, 2520 Camino Diablo in Walnut Creek. Write: DVG, PO Box 272885. Concord, CA 94527-2885. Call: (510) 937-8432.

DVG Rap Group (RCC) meets first and third Thursday of every month. 7 PM at Rainbow Community Center, 2637 Pleasant Hill Rd. at Taylor Blvd. in Pleasant Hill. For more info. call (510) 937-8432.

FTM, a support group for Female-to-Male crossdressers & transsexuals, holds open Informational Meetings and closed Support Meetings. Write: FTM International, Inc., 1360 Mission St., Suite 200, SF 94103 or call Voice Mail (415) 553-5987.

TGIF (TransGenderism Is Fun), a social group for transgenders, meets one Saturday each month at a private home in Santa Rosa for a potluck social from 4 PM until early evening. For dates, location and reservations, call Diane or Anne at (707) 544-1540.

San Joaquin Gender Association, meets in Tri-Valley area. For dates and times, call Winifred at (209) 466-9198.

Silicon Valley Gender Association (SVGA), a new transgender support group, meets at the Billy DeFrank Community Center in San Jose on the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month from 7PM to 9PM. For more info. call (408) 293-2429.

ETVC Membership Application

Please Print

Mailing Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Preferred Name: _____ Family Member's Name: _____

Birth Date: Month _____ Day _____ (If Applicable) New Member: _____ Renewal: _____

How did you learn about ETVC? _____

Full year membership June 1 - May 31 is \$25.00 (Family - \$35.00).

Please remit by check or money order to:

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



Sandra Reaches Out by Sandra Brewer

Since the last issue of the newsletter went to press we have been very busy. In June, seventeen of us answered phones for the KQED pledge drive. Several members doing this for the first time were especially excited to see themselves on television during the pledge breaks.

Thanks to all who participated; we expect to do this again, probably in December. We had a good turnout, and were a popular entry in the Gay Freedom Parade; we met many first contacts in our information booth at the end of the parade route. We expect to host booths at the first East Bay Gay Mardi Gras Festival scheduled for September 20th, and at the Castro Street Fair in October.

There is only limited activity in our speaker's bureau during the summer, but by the time you receive this issue the fall semester will have begun. I sent new speaker information forms to all the speakers on the list. If you got one, please fill it out carefully and return it soon if you are interested in helping us show the outside world how weird we aren't. If you're interested and you didn't receive a form, let us know; we have more forms.

We also expect to conduct a speaker training session like the one last year later in the fall. We can all learn from each other's experiences. New speakers can learn from the experiences of

those that have been there; they are also welcome to observe an actual presentation before going on stage if they wish. We usually start a presentation with a short description of the transgender spectrum, and the speakers tell a little about themselves; the rest of the time is left for questions. We try to be open and honest, but with a friendly sense of humor. This always results in a healthy interchange.

Using our non-profit status, we frequently receive honorariums for ETVC from those requesting speakers. These are small, but they have totaled over \$400 in the last school year. Most of our requests for speakers come from Human Sexuality and Psychology classes at various colleges, but PFLAG and various women's and gay organizations have also requested speakers.

Colleges we've spoken to include San Francisco State, San Jose State, and Sonoma State, as well as Chabot, DeAnza, Diablo Valley, Modesto, Santa Rosa, and Solano community colleges. Only in Berkeley we have also made presentations to high school classes. To the extent our speakers show an interest, we hope to expand the program to still more colleges and organizations that want to see us in a different light from how we are presented on the talk shows. Please send in your speaker information forms.

TELEPHONE (415) 922-9240

MFC 8288

DR. LIN FRASER
PSYCHOTHERAPY

OFFICE HOURS
BY APPOINTMENT

2538 CALIFORNIA STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94115

Fax: (415) 929-8771

email: linfraser@aol.com

Foxy Lady Boutique



**Discreet shopping for
TV/Cross-Dressers, Transsexuals,
Swingers and Fantasy People**

French Maids & Adult Baby Clothes

Platform Shoes, Sizes 5-15

Thigh & Knee Boots, sizes 5-15

Dresses, 3-26 • Accessories & Makeup

Various Breast Forms, Including Silicone

Exotic Lingerie & Corsets In All Sizes

Mailing List & Various Catalogues Available

50% OFF

**SHORT & LONG BEADED
DRESSES - ALL SIZES**

**Store Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 10-6; Fri. & Sat. 10-7; Sun. 11-6
2644 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA 94110 • (415) 285-4980**



BARE WITH US
ELECTROLYSIS
PERMANENT COSMETICS
FREE CONSULTATIONS

6449 THORNTON AVE.
NEWARK, CA 94560

EVELYN BRUM. R.E.
(510) 795-0500

(Across From Newark Pavilion)

Joyce's Perfect Fit
"Intimate Apparel Salon"

ETVC Members - 10% Discount
by appointment only

bras
breast forms

hard to find sizes
certified fitter

1117 South B St., San Mateo • 415-574-2727

Parade

Continued from page 1

to my girlfriend, then to other friends, then I joined ETVC and became an active member. I gradually lost my fear of presenting myself in the gender I want to be, as a woman, in public. Maybe I haven't fully arrived yet, but participating in the Pride Parade was a giant leap forward. And it seems corny to say, but I was really proud to be there.

I've always been sympathetic to gay causes, but in the past I never felt I was a part of their world. I saw the parade as an event for the gay and lesbian communities, but for me, it was just an entertaining spectacle. Back then I didn't see myself as a participant because I didn't know what I was, I didn't know the word "transgendered," and I didn't know I was part of a group whose natural allies were other sexual minorities. The official title of the "LGBT" parade is an unwieldy mouthful, but every word in it is important. "One Community, Many Faces" was the theme. Now I know I am part of that larger community, and I have never felt so welcome as I did that Sunday in June.

The day was a glorious one from start to finish. First of all, it was an opportunity to dress en femme from the crack of dawn to late at night. I brought along three outfits to get me through the day! My role in the celebration was to play bass in an impromptu four girl jazz combo which would ride on a flatbed truck alongside the ETVC marchers and provide musical accompaniment.

Early in the morning I picked up Andrea Drane and her drum kit, and we proceeded to the home of Dale Carlson, Miss ETVC and saxophonist extraordinaire, just south of Market. Erica, our keyboardist and musical director, met us there. After rendezvousing with Leslie Bailey and loading the equipment on the truck, we went inside to change into our finery, sharing mirrors and makeup tips. Then we wandered over to the staging area at the Civic Center and began the long wait for the signal to begin marching.

While we waited we visited with the growing contingent of ETVC friends and other marchers, ate lunch, and ran through our music a few times. At long last we began to move. The moment was at hand!

The first few potholes the truck hit had us reelin' and rockin', and I had to assume a slightly unladylike stance to keep from losing my balance. But once we started playing, the time just flew by. The crowd was enormous (estimated at 500,000), and in a joyous and festive mood. Enthusiastic cheers greeted us as we finished each tune. I had never played before so many people! Especially not while cross-dressed in a miniskirt, fishnet tights, and silver sequined top!

Everywhere there were smiling faces and moving bodies, and from up on the truck, we had an unbeatable view. I was high as a kite. I think we all were. It was over too soon. Afterwards, we drove back to Dale's, unloaded the equipment, and returned to the expo along the Embarcadero, where the club had a booth. Friendly strangers stopped us to ask questions and snap our photos. We were happy to oblige.

I wandered off to watch the various bands play and shop for bargains. After a couple of hours, my long day entered another phase. I returned to my car and drove to Nob Hill to meet Joanna Paige. I slipped into something more casual in her apartment, and the two of us went out to dinner at the trendy Market Street restaurant Mecca.

We had a lovely meal until our waitress rather insensitively asked if we "gentlemen" wanted anything else. Fortunately, it was



Photo by Jaimie Fenton

Members of ETVC's 1997 Pride Contingent (from left) Erin, Dale, Andrea, Leslie and Sarah.

the only rain to fall on my parade all day.

After dinner, Joanna and I went to the Castro Theater for the finale of the Gay & Lesbian Film Festival. Joanna had ridden with the Dykes on Bikes in the parade, and was pleased to find another rider sitting in the next seat in the theater. The movie was called "Different for Girls", and it was a treat.

After that very satisfying and enjoyable flick, Joanna and I grabbed some dessert and coffee in the Castro and headed home. It was a perfect ending to a monumental, memorable day.

1997 Big Shew

Continued from pg 1



Erika Von Valkyrie and Dale Carlson wail during this year's "Big Shew."

Photo by Jaimie Fenton

"God Bless the Child," accompanied by Miss ETVC Dale Carlson on saxophone and Erika Von Valkyrie on keyboards.

The audience was scandalized next as Miss DiDi Mau stormed the stage. Her dress exploded as she stripped to "Out Of Nowhere," in her own tribute to the legendary stripper, Tempest Storm.

Dueling Dietrichs hit the stage next. ETVC Secretary Veronica and Lulu Blau performed as German Femme Fatales in lingerie and feather boas, singing "Bei Mir Bist Du Schoen."

Color Me Beautiful

by Cheryl Sheppard

On June 19, the Education Committee hosted a marvelous hands-on makeup and color consultation seminar upstairs at Kimo's. Nearly 25 brave souls arrived wearing no makeup, with the expectation that professional advice in makeup selection and application would enhance their charm and beauty.

Education chairs Nancy Cupps and Juana Smith provided three professional consultants that gave one-on-one attention to the participants. The speaker consultants were: Kimberley Blake, a makeup and image consultant from San Rafael; Linda Koch, one of Macy's finest makeup artists; and Jim Sturgeon, a former Macy's makeup consultant who is now a portrait photographer. For hands-on work in applying principles offered by the experts, Nancy put together a portable vanity with lights and mirrors that transformed upstairs Kimo's into a beauty salon.

The wonderful part of this experience was to receive feedback from people who know how to apply beauty products in a variety of ways for different effects and images, with the emphasis on a natural (passing) look.

Linda Koch, the consultant on my end of the vanity, told us that "Products and colors are as varied as individuals, and you need to find the right ones for your needs."

She recommended that everyone should have a good selection of makeup brushes in different sizes and shapes to apply makeup.

"You don't need to spend a fortune on brushes," she said. "the art stores as well as the makeup counters offer good quality at the right price. The same is true for the type of makeup you are using. Price does not always dictate what is best. It is what product that works for you that is important, regardless of cost."

Linda also suggested that if someone really wanted to get advice on colors, foundation products, etc., they should seek out understanding professionals that can do makeovers using a wide range of product types. Linda and Kimberly both offer such services, as do other specialists in our community.

I have attended a number of seminars on makeup application and I always find something to improve my appearance. Linda showed me how to shape the eyebrow with a nearly straight line from the nose to center of the eye and then graceful curve down to the outside. She also drew a wider and fuller upper lip on me which was particularly flattering.

Much thanks to the consultants and to the Education Committee for a wonderful and glamorous experience.

Making Speech Sweeter Than Honey

By Sandra Brewer

On June 8th, about 30 of us were present at Kimo's Upstairs to hear what Carol Fleming had to say about making our voices behave in a more feminine manner. Carol, a Ph.D. trained in voice therapy, is a San Francisco personal speech coach with thirty years experience in her field. Her objective is to help us express our feminine selves with credibility and congruity.

The first question asked when someone hears your voice is usually "Is it a boy or a girl?" When we are making a female presentation it is important to couple it with a voice that enhances that gender. Carol is quick to point out there are several clues a listener associates with your gender as you speak. Your appearance sets the stage for how you are perceived. Projecting feminine mannerisms should be your first step towards sounding your most feminine. If you don't look feminine you can't expect to sound feminine.

Other factors need to be considered. What we say, how we say it, and how we make use of variable intonations and inflections are extremely important components of our speech as perceived by others. Speaking to a mixed group or the presence of people who know you in a male role can complicate the issue. And the perception of your voice over the telephone is a whole different situation. Carol works with her feminine-minded clients to express their feminine nature; and she provides vocal exercises to help find the highest comfortable range in their voices.

How you hear yourself is different from how you sound to others. Listening to our voices on voice mail or a tape recorder is a closer approximation, but the recorded bandwidth is not wide enough to capture all the resonance of the human voice. Our voices usually project a higher pitch to others. The best way to measure the feminine qualities of our voice is to find an objective and honest person to provide feedback. A falsetto only annoys listeners; it is important to develop your own upper range and stay within it. A voice with feminine qualities should be soft, melodic, flowing, and warm; it should reflect the totality of your feminine presence.

As hard as we try, we'll never pass all the time; even genetic women are sometimes taken for men. Expressing our feminine selves is more than makeup, a dress, and soft sounds. If we develop our true feminine feelings from within, their outward projection will not be far behind.

Permanent Hair Removal

by Guy E. Campo, R.E.



Local
Anesthetic
Available

1570 THE ALAMEDA, SUITE 215 SAN JOSE, CA 95126
(408) 292-9096 PAGER/VOICE (408) 468-9044

Seahorse Medical Clinic

Joy Diane Shaffer, MD



1570 THE ALAMEDA, SUITE 215 SAN JOSE, CA 95126
(408) 292-1078

Rhyth Mystress

Darcy Leopard

Certified Massage Therapist

Phone: (415) 641 - 8169

email: mystrrthm@sprynet.com



Electrolysis

• Results Oriented

• 12 yr experience with the gender community

• Free consultation

A safe, private atmosphere that accommodates all levels of transitions & sensitive to gender needs.

454-2366

Other services available:

Makeup application and lessons, waxing, facials
1010 Lootens Pl. #6 • San Rafael • CA • 94901

REBECCA AUGÉ, Ph.D.

Clinical Psychologist
License PSY 6644

Individual and
Relationship
Therapy

Gender Issues

Life Transitions

Psychological / Skills
Assessment

3637 Grand Avenue, Suite C
Oakland, California 94610
(510) 835-9820
Email: rebeccaaugé@aol.com

ELECTROLYSIS

PERMANENT HAIR REMOVAL

Jano Bogg

REGISTERED ELECTROLOGIST

North Berkeley/Albany location

(510) 527-9060

by appointment

BREAST FORMS

SILICON EXTERNAL PROSTHESIS

Best Prices

"as natural as a woman's breast"

P.O. Box 9962, Berkeley, CA 94709

(510) 527-9060

by appointment

Kindred SPIRITS

BED & BREAKFAST / YEAR-ROUND RETREATS

Experience *gender freedom* in the
mountain splendor of Asheville... a safe,
welcoming space for all transgendered people

P.O. Box 18332, Asheville, North Carolina 28814
Phone: 704-253-9882 / Holly Boswell, Director

PAULA-JO HUSACK, M.A., M.F.C.C.

LIC. #MFC27864

Counseling, Psychotherapy & Consulting
Individuals, Couples, Families, Groups

1838 El Camino Real, Suite 203
Burlingame, CA 94010
(415) 343-4554

Different For Girls

A Film By Richard Spence

Reviewed by Janet Bowman

"Different for Girls" is the story of Kim, a transsexual woman who encounters Prentice, a man she had known at an earlier time, when they were both schoolboys. Kim (played by Steven Macintosh) has completed the arduous transition to womanhood and is working hard to make a life for herself in a quiet, low-key way. She has a nice apartment in London and a job as a copywriter for a greeting card company.

Prentice (played by Rupert Graves) is a bike messenger (they use motorcycles in London) and a classic bad boy. Irresponsible, impetuous, and loud, he gets into one kind of trouble after another. At first fascinated by Kim, he gets cold feet when the full facts of Kim's life story sink in. "I'm straight, you know," he tells her as he backs off. "So am I," replies Kim to cheers from the sophisticated Castro audience.

A relationship blossoms briefly, but it inevitably is drawn down by Prentice's excesses. Soon Kim is entangled with the police and her name and story are all over the newspapers, simply because of her association with him.

At this point the picture began to remind me of "Just Like A Woman," a 1994 film which did for heterosexual crossdressers what "Different" seemed to be doing for transsexuals. That is, portraying them as strong and sympathetic characters who must overcome various problems foisted on them by the ignorant and sometimes hostile people around them. In each, the transgendered hero/heroine overcomes the problems, shedding some tears along the way but ultimately conquering with laughter.

Both movies, made in the UK and featuring wonderful acting, could have been powerful forces to educate the public about transgender issues if only they had been seen by more people. When I saw "Just Like A Woman" at the San Francisco International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival June 29, there were no more than three or four people in the theater. While the screening of "Different for Girls" was a sellout, it was a one-time-only appearance. Let's hope we get another chance.

Barbara J. Anderson

Ph.D., L. C. S. W.

Clinical Sexologist
Certified Sex Therapist

1537 Franklin St., Suite 104
San Francisco, CA 94109

Ph (415) 776-0139
Fax (415) 441-0936

Confessions of a Straight Girl

By Andrea Drane

Making the transition to living full-time as your true gender is full of surprises. It's never easy, often scary, and quite a bit different than any previous public outing en femme, regardless of the duration.

For instance, your total "look" — carriage, voice, clothing, and makeup — has to hold up continuously for at least 10 hours. You can't always move away from people who may be regarding you in a questioning (or worse!) manner. You absolutely can't fade back into who you used to be if things get tough in the middle of the day - that person no longer exists.

Such a total immersion experience in an often unsympathetic environment is a truly daunting prospect, but one that we must embrace if we are to be successful in our transition and in our new lives.

So how does a girl develop the skills not only to face these challenges, but also to know whether or not those skills really work? Two words: public transportation.

Those who commute by car to an office campus miss out on this accelerated version of the "real life test." They leave their house in the morning, wrap their steel security cages around themselves, drive to the campus, park in the company lot, eat in the company cafeteria, and finally drive home. During all this time, they are primarily exposed to close scrutiny only by their coworkers, who most likely know all about them.

I live and work in San Francisco, and commute to and from my job on the always crowded 30 Stockton bus. This means that every day I: walk two blocks to the bus stop, crossing a busy street and

threading my way past all the people waiting for the 28 Daly City bus; stand shoulder to shoulder for up to 20 minutes at the bus stop with everyone else, waiting and wondering if the bus is ever going to show up; pass under the driver's scrutiny as I board the bus, (as well as that of any of the passengers already on board who happen to look up); sit (or stand) for 30 minutes or so as the bus winds along its route, continuously exposed with nowhere to run to and nowhere to hide; and walk a block along busy Market Street to my work.

At lunch time, I venture out to whichever Union Square cafe, deli, or restaurant fits my mood and then repeat the MUNI experience going home.

This environment provides constant learning opportunities, a wide variety of different role models and people/situations to deal with, and instant feedback on your success or lack thereof. Having to cope on such an immediate basis helps you not only see what aspects of your presentation need attention, but also provides positive reinforcement each time you successfully negotiate a situation, thus boosting your self-confidence. And as we all know, a confident attitude is essential to a successful transition.

Truthfully, my first month as a "new woman" was difficult at best. I experienced my share of giggles, turn-away-in-disgust looks, and mild taunts. There were days when I would arrive at work almost in tears, and spend the rest of a very unproductive day dreading the trip home.

I must confess that this was due not only to my relative inexperience and short time on hormones, but also to my own self-consciousness, nervousness, and the fear that "everyone's going to laugh at you".

Still, I refused to give up. With each passing day (no pun intended), I became a bit less self-conscious, a bit more relaxed, and a bit more successful at blending in with the crowd. Today, my relaxed, confident demeanor gets me through most situations, and I really get no more questioning looks than any other tall, somewhat masculine appearing genetic woman. In the past six weeks or so, I have even managed to reach the point where I get addressed as "ma'am" when I'm wearing my jeans.

While I still get read occasionally, I have learned to take even that in stride. So, while public transportation can be a daunting experience and a harsh teacher, it is nonetheless a most valuable experience and a most effective teacher.

It's hard to believe that I owe so much to MUNI. While I would have reached this point in my transition eventually (and I still have so much further to go), it would have been a much longer process.

Also, without my prior MUNI experience, I would never have survived my cross-country airplane flights to Boston. But that's another story. . .

WILLIAM A. HENKIN, Ph.D.
P S Y C H O T H E R A P Y

PHONE: (415) 923-1150

*alternate sex & gender concerns
SM/BD/DS coming out TV/TG/TS/SO
anxiety depression self-esteem
inner child & other alternate personas
intimacy relationships*

MFCC License No. MU 22960 • Board Certified Sex Therapist
Fellow, American Academy of Clinical Sexologists • H.B.I.G.D.A.

Patricia Nakamura

ELECTROLYSIS & SKIN CARE

State Licensed Aesthetician & Electrologist

Jane Nakamura

State Licensed Aesthetician

European Facials

- Glycolic Treatments
- Full Makeovers
- Waxing/Full Body Waxing

Electrolysis

- Private & Confidential
- Disposable Probes
- Desensitizing/Blend Method
- Reasonable Rates



Call For Appointment
(408)371-0488

Across from Hamilton Plaza
1645 So. Bascom Ave., Campbell

Transgendered Psychiatrist Speaks Out

By Sandra Brewer

On July 17th, nearly two dozen of us showed up at Kimo's to meet Shoshanna Gillick, the Bay Area's first openly transgendered psychiatrist. She was introduced by feminine image consultant Wilhelmina Beins, who works with Shoshanna on a program designed to help the transgendered community understand and express themselves more clearly.

Shoshanna is board certified in Adult, Child/Adolescent, and Forensics Psychiatry; she practiced for several years in Southern California in her native male role before transitioning to a female role in 1993. Formerly a cross dresser, she finds that to feel fulfilled she needs to live full time in a female role. This is a familiar story to many of us who have also transitioned recently. More details of her biography are included as a separate feature in the adjacent article.

Shoshanna's female image makes a very strong presence. She is articulate, and has an offbeat sense of humor; we wondered why she was smiling when discussing 'distress' until we realized she was referring to 'dis dress'. She detailed several aspects of dealing with the anxieties of being transgendered. She reminded us we're not 'complete women', and healthy (male) transsexuals must accept the fact there will be times when they won't pass as women. She also described some of her dialog with the (in)famous Virginia Prince, who as a pioneer has opened (closet) doors for all of us.

Except for a few children suffering from Gender Identity Disorder (GID), Shoshanna regrets she has had to discontinue the treatment of children since her transition. She recalls only too well her own background as a gender-disoriented child. She does not advocate removing GID for children from the DSM-IV psychiatric manual as has been proposed by the well-meaning but ill-informed San Francisco Board of Supervisors.

Wilhelmina and Shoshanna are working as a team to present a four-session interactive seminar on what they call Gender Soup. This covers many variations of the transgender spectrum, many variants of gender behavior, and some practical advice for dealing with gender-related problems. The seminar has a limited enrollment, but it will be repeated as often as necessary.

(415) 454-0101 - FAX (415) 454-5399

CONTINENTAL WIG SALON & BOUTIQUE
Tues.-Fri 11am-6pm Sat. 10am-4:30pm

Louise Carroll
Owner

1121 4th St.
San Rafael, CA 94901

Region's First Transgendered Psychiatrist Will Offer Gender Identity Seminars

Shoshanna Gillick, MD..., is the Bay Area's first transgendered psychiatrist. Dr. Gillick is board certified in the adult, child-adolescent and forensic psychiatric specializations.

A graduate of Georgetown University School of Medicine, Dr. Gillick completed her three year residency at Georgetown before serving two years in the U.S. Navy as a lieutenant commander in the Medical Corps.

Her two-year fellowship in child psychiatry at the University of Southern California was followed by a one year fellowship at the USC Institute of Psychiatry, Law and the Behavioral Sciences.

Dr. Gillick was a full-time academic clinician at USC for four years, coordinating training in child psychiatry and earning an appointment as clinical associate professor. In her private practice of forensic psychiatry, Dr. Gillick testified in over three hundred cases in Los Angeles Superior Court, appearing in the court's criminal, juvenile, dependency and family divisions.

In 1993, during a six year practice in corporate managed care, Dr. Gillick transitioned genders.

In San Francisco, Dr. Gillick will be coordinating her psychiatric practice with gender transition specialist Wilhelmina Beins. Their advertisement for gender consultation services appears below. A four-session Gender Soup Seminar will be presented on August 14th and 28th and on September 11th and 25th. The seminars will feature Dr. Gillick's "Genderino-Genderina" model of gender identity achievement, leakage and maintenance.

Please call (415) 931-0478 for further information.

Gender Services

PSYCHIATRIC CONSULTATION

EVALUATION • TREATMENT • SECOND OPINIONS

Gender Dysphoria	Individual, Couples and Family Psychotherapy
Mood Disorders	Medication Assessment and Monitoring
Panic Disorders	
Substance Abuse	
Forensic Issues	

TRANSITION SUPPORT

AESTHETICS • BODY LANGUAGE & PRESENTATION

Feminine Image For MTF's and TV's	Mirror Work
Masculine Image For FTM's	Video Camera Feedback
	Private Nurturing Setting
	Field Work in the Community

Shoshanna Gillick, MD **Wilhelmina Beins, MA**
DIPLOMATE IN ADULT, CHILD GENDER TRANSITION
ADOLESCENT AND FORENSIC PSYCHIATRY SPECIALIST

In San Francisco, Call
(415) 931-0478



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.

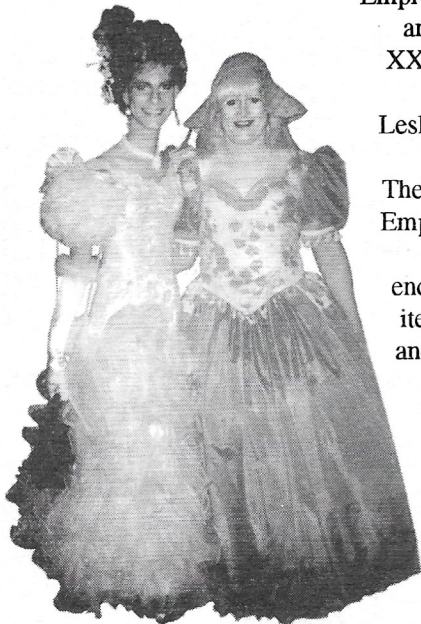
Southern Hospitality in Pictures

By Ginny

Sometimes we have events at ETVC where everybody wins and I'm pretty proud to be associated with the transgendered community. We participated in such an evening last May 31st, when we joined the San Francisco Imperial Court to promote a fund raiser for women's health issues — specifically breast cancer. As a result of all our efforts, the Imperial Court donated \$2,200 to the Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services of San Francisco.

Held at the Trinity Church in San Francisco, we were entertained by the "Joe Sent Me Club Singers," an excellent troupe of real live cabaret singers, joined by performances from emcees,

Empress XXX Donna Sachet and Erin Souza, Emperor XXI Brian Benamati, Julie Paris, Arthur Hurwith, Leslie Bailey, and our Miss ETVC, Dale Carlson. The Reigning Emperor and Empress, Jacques Michaels and Veronda Lanai encouraged us to purchase items in the silent auction and bid on celebrity lunch boxes, which were



Dianne and Miss ETVC 1997 Dale Carlson pose during a photo break.

Photo by Bill Settles

ETVC Vice President Leslie Bailey and President Erin Souza

Photo by Bill Settles

auctioned off by Empress XIV, Ginger. Lunch boxes prepared by Dennis Tyler were also on sale for a reasonable price.

The entire night was jam-packed with fun, bargains and entertainment, but the most delightful part of the evening was the splendor of the gowns. The ladies swirled in their hoop skirted gowns of different and beautiful colors, creating an atmosphere of days gone by in the "Ole South." Many of these gowns were created by costume designer Bill Settles, including the gown worn by the Belle of the Ball.



Nancy Ann Martine shows off her winning style — and her glamorous hat!

Photo by Bill Settles

The Beau and Belle of the Ball were selected by ballots cast by all those attending the event. The Beau of the Ball was Brian Benamati, who looked spiffy indeed in his Rhett Butler style suit.

But, hold on to your hats! Selected from all the gorgeous Emperesses, performers and lovely ladies in attendance as Belle of the Ball was our very own Nancy Ann. She truly was spectacular in her light green ball gown with matching enormous picture hat (she made the hat herself).

Congratulations, Nancy Ann — you deserved this title, and you can come down from the clouds any day now!

Yes, this was an event filled with caring and love for a good cause and for each other. At the end of the evening a conversation was overheard between a



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 on Thursday, September 11th in Pleasant Hill and Thursday, October 9th in San Francisco. You are welcome with open arms. Call (415) 664-1499 for more information.



EMPERESS AAA DONNA SACHEL CROWNS
ETVC's Nancy Ann "Belle of the Ball."

couple of young men outside the door of the Church:

Man #1: "Where have you been, I've been waiting twenty minutes for you?"

Man #2: "I was picking up the keyboard you bid on at the Silent Auction."

Man #1: "No, that's not right. Someone else bid more for it than I did and I didn't have any more money with me, so take it back. It belongs to someone else."

Man #2: "You wanted it, didn't you? Well, I bid more for it than the guy that bid after you, and so it belongs to you. Here, take it, it's yours."

Man #1: "You bid more for it? Why did you do that?"

Man #2: "Because I love you, hon, that's why. C'mon let's go home now..."

As this loving pair walked down the street, arms around each other, it seemed a fitting way to end this magical night. Everyone who participated felt the joy of giving to others and went home with love in their hearts and the memories of a very happy evening.

Veronda Lanai, Reigning
Empress of San Francisco,
"hoops" it up at The Ball

Photo by Bill Settles



Ginny's



This summer is pretty laid back for things going on in the transgender community. We, of course, still hold our monthly SO meetings on the second Thursday of every month in the homes of our volunteer hostesses. We try to hold the meetings in different parts of the Bay Area so at least one out of three might be close to where you live.

For instance, in September the meeting will be in Pleasant Hill and in October, the meeting will be in San Francisco. For November, we will schedule Palo Alto, but we are actively looking for someone in the South Bay to volunteer to be a hostess once every three months. If you can help, please call Ginny at (415) 664-1499. It would be best if we can continue to reach out to the SO's in all three areas.

I've just learned that RGA honored two special people with an award for their service to the transgendered community over the years. We would like to add our congratulations to Becky Redsing and Loyola Leveroni for the tremendous amount of work they do for all the people in RGA and specifically the wives and partners of transgendered individuals. They are both most deserving of this long overdue recognition. Thanks to both for their great commitment to the community.

We want to remind you once again that your contributions to "Other Voices" would be most appreciated. You are not alone; most of us have experienced the same feelings at one time or another. If you've got something you want to say about living with a cross dresser or your fears for the future or ways you've learned to keep a happy home with "her" in your life, please write it down and send it to "Other Voices," c/o ETVC, P.O. Box 426486, S.F., CA 94142-6486. We need your ideas and your input, and what you have to say might be a big help to someone else.

Out on the Town ...with Darcy Leopard KQED, Iron Horse and Cafe Mars



It was a recent Wednesday evening when Bree and I decided to participate in the KQED pledge drive. We arrived to find the place packed with volunteers, a notable contingent of which were ETVC members. This was a good sign, seeing our membership well-represented doing community service work. Bree,

however, was worried. While the rest of us got in line to enjoy the pre-function dinner service, Bree darted off to the broadcast room.

After I finished eating, I walked into the broadcast room to find Bree sitting in the front row with a big smile on her face. She had strategically placed herself such that her image would be almost constantly visible in the background of the television broadcast when the "Talent" (announcers) were speaking.

She had successfully positioned both of us like this the last time we did KQED, and we subsequently had great fun watching ourselves on a taped version of the broadcast at her house. We especially got a kick out of the part where Bree tripped over a chair, generating a loud crash.

So we sat together in the front row again. We were swamped with calls during the first round of pledges, as is the case with people in the front row. At the end of the first round, we were all told to move forward one row. For those of us in the front row, this meant being booted to the back row of a remote room, with no announcers.

Bree was aghast. In her mind she had just been kicked off the air.

We now received far less calls, and feeble camera coverage. We continued on for a few more rounds of calls, yet knew that we would never make it to the front row of the main room again. Bree began tempting me with her siren song of new places to check out on the town. Of course I succumbed, so we made a graceful exit and scooted out to her Urban Assault Vehicle.

We headed downtown, to an area we had never really considered before which straddled both the financial and shopping districts. It was here that we found The Iron Horse, a San Francisco landmark that resides on cozy Maiden Lane. We parked just around the corner, as parking was quite easy here during the evening. We exchanged greetings with the noble iron horse-head sticking out of the wall next to the entrance and walked in.

A rich, dark ambiance welcomed us. It was a quiet night, with just a few people sitting at the bar off to the right. We exchanged smiles with them and seated ourselves at a small, round marble table in a seating area just past the foyer. A friendly waiter named Paul arrived promptly and took our Martini orders. He returned shortly with our drinks, and proceeded to chat with us for a while. Then he

told us we could run a tab, since he figured we couldn't outrun him in the shoes we were wearing!

Bree and I relaxed and reminisced back to the time we first met. January 1996, during the inaugural Mid Month Social at the now sadly defunct Eichelberger's. We sure missed that place, although we noted that we have had a ton of fun finding other places ever since! Paul returned and took our second order, which consisted of Bree's standard Cape Codder and my standard Greyhound. Then Bree had Paul take our picture.

Bidding farewell to The Iron Horse, we headed to a place known as Cafe Mars, located in the South of Market neighborhood at 7th and Brannan streets. Parking was so easy we were worried the place was closed, yet happy sounds emanated from the establishment as we approached the entrance.

We certainly turned heads as we strode inside. The crowd of regulars at the bar wasn't used to girls such as us being a part of the routine! But they were certainly excited at our arrival, and began chatting amongst themselves about it.

Bree and I found a nice spot at a corner of the bar with a great view. We were immediately greeted by one of the most friendly

bartenders we have ever met, a pretty young lady named Michelle with bleach-blond hair and a twinkle in her eye. She got us our drinks, and started chatting with us enthusiastically.

The design of the place had clean, hard lines, brightly yet subtly lit. A long, vinyl, diner-style, sparkle-patterned bench ran the length of the wall behind us, faced by small tables and individual chairs.

Overhanging these tables were metallic lamps skewered by multi-colored neon lights. A mural of a space scene was painted in a corner wall. Around the back of the bar was a more softly-lit area I could only partially see at the moment.

After a short while, we noticed another beautiful young woman looking straight at us and smiling big. We smiled back, and she came over to introduce herself.

"Didn't I see the two of you in Harry Denton's Starlight Room about a year ago?" she asked.

We were amazed. Sure enough, we had been there about a year ago during one of our early escapades. We had a great time talking to her about our adventures on the town.

Later on, Michelle gave us a tour of the rest of the place. The area behind the bar turned out to be a cozy space sporting a pool table with deep red felt as well as more places to sit. Adjoining this area was a covered patio, with more tables and chairs, and a small bar. As we returned to our seats, Michelle pointed out a counter where food could be ordered earlier in the evening.

Of course Bree had her camera going much of the time. We took pictures of each other with our friend from Harry Denton's, with Michelle, and with various other happy patrons of Cafe Mars, including the one you see on this page.



Darcy and company at Cafe Mars

Gender Rolls Over

By Kim Elizabeth Stuart

Twenty-five years after Title IX was added to the Civil Rights Laws, the term "roll over" has taken on a much different connotation for innumerable young girls and women. What has rolled over has been the myth and the actuality that little girls and women are not interested in competitive sports. Little girls, it was said, shunned any sort of team sports and preferred passive activities such as playing with dolls. Those were the gender role stereotypes of my generation and several generations to follow. Many of the male to female transsexuals I interviewed for "The Uninvited Dilemma" told me they never liked sports and were much more interested in 'girls' things such as playing with dolls. Of course little girls weren't encouraged to participate in active sports, and the expectations were that they would seek pleasure in more passive activities. Little boys who did that were considered nerds. My, how things have changed! Many of the nerds have substantial financial control over the technological 'information age,' and a lot of women are out there actually sweating and earning a living in the field of sports.

In 1972, Title IX was added to our Civil Rights Laws, and it mandates that boys and girls — men and women — be treated equally, irrespective of their gender. Educational institutions are not only required to treat girls and women as equals, but they are slowly being forced to do so financially. Many schools have been fighting the law in the courts, and many schools have a long way to go to reach any sort of equality, financially or otherwise, between boys and girls and men and women and the opportunities that are open to them.

But dramatic changes have taken place in the world of sports. Athletic scholarships for university women have increased almost 200 percent since 1972, when the law was passed. When I was an undergraduate in the mid to late 1940's, women's team sports were no more than intramural activities. The myth that girls and women were not interested in competitive sports was prevalent and continued to flourish for many years afterwards.

Anyone who watched the Olympics in Atlanta last year would be hard pressed to still say that girls and women are not interested in competitive sports. Sports for girls and women have exploded in their popularity. Prior to 1972, only 1 in 27 high school girls played sports; today, 1 in 3 participate. Given the opportunity, the encouragement and the role models, young girls are enjoying sweat-inducing, hard-nosed competitive athletics in record numbers.

Basketball (very much of a contact sport) has probably become the most successful example of the metamorphosis that has occurred. Women's college basketball games are starting to show up on national television and 2 professional basketball leagues have been formed. One of those leagues has already played for a full season and exceeded all expectations for attendance. Young girls are now being encouraged to play many competitive team sports and learn some of the lessons boys have been taught for years — teamwork and leadership skills.

For my generation, there was only the occasional Althea Gibson or Babe Didrickson Zaharias to serve as role models for young girls. In 1997, women role models abound in most competitive sports.

"It's difficult to find a book on the subject that doesn't use gender role stereotypes to illustrate the difference between transsexuals and non-transsexuals."

Lots of little girls now aspire to be like their favorite woman basketball or soccer or volleyball or track stars.

It used to be believed that most girls and women who played competitive sports were lesbians because 'normal' girls just weren't interested in that sort of thing. I think that we can rest assured that 1 out of 3 girls in high school are not lesbians. Soccer moms are not just hauling Johnny, David and Billy to games anymore. These moms are doing double duty because they're hauling Nancy, Megan and Cindy to games as well. It's not considered unfeminine

anymore for girls and woman to play and to play hard, and the old myth that only lesbians go out for sports has been replaced with the belief that competitive sports are healthy for boys and girls.

What has all this got to do with transsexual men and women? Just this: It's difficult to find a book on the subject that doesn't use gender role

stereotypes to illustrate the difference between transsexuals and non-transsexuals. Even the DSM-IV (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of the American Psychiatric Association) uses the following stereotype as one of the 5 criteria for diagnosing gender identity disorder in young boys: "aversion toward rough-and-tumble play" (DSM-IV Section 9: Sexual and Gender Identity Disorders. Table 73-2).

From the looks of things, that criterion for diagnosis is going to have to change, isn't it? Perhaps it's more important to emphasize the discomfort expressed with biological gender roles rather than trying to nail down all of the behavior patterns commonly associated with those roles. The norms are changing, and so, perhaps, will the aspirations of little boys and girls. All of this is not to say that all little girls are going to become terrors in the sporting arena, and that dolls will eventually fall out of fashion. I sort of look forward to the day when competitive sports and more passive activities will not be considered incompatible with each other. The very essence of gender identity and sex roles is changing before our eyes, however. Certainly boys and girls have different anatomical and biological characteristics which support reproduction. But there is a continuum with respect to the human race, and not everything is as clear cut as we sometimes would like it to be. More importantly, it would seem critical to recognize that the stereotypical behavioral norms of today may well become the social antiquities of tomorrow.

Kim Stuart is the author of "The Uninvited Dilemma" and the "Research Supplement to The Uninvited Dilemma" published by Metamorphous Press. She is also the author of a booklet entitled "A Guide for Male to Female Transsexuals Considering Shifting Their Gender Identity" published by ETVC. She may be reached on the Internet at: (kimstu@harborside.com)

The Uninvited Dilemma

A Question of Gender

by

Kim Elizabeth Stuart

Research Supplement available separately.

Metamorphous Press

PO Box 10616, Portland, OR 97210-0616

Toll Free 1-800-937-7771 Fax (503) 223-9117





On the Road

with Debra
by Debra Darling

San Francisco is such a fun place to visit, and ETVC just makes it even more so. This last trip started just right when I arrived at my hotel. I checked in, and the desk clerk greeted me with "Of, course! Who could

forget you. Welcome back!" It was great.

I spent two lovely evenings meeting people from ETVC, one at the TV station fund raiser and one at the Show at Kimo's. It was so nice to get to meet some of the girls again.

Lots of fun things happened while I was in the city, but one merits some mention. As you know if you read this regularly, I love a little jazz bar down on Union Square. When I got there this time, it was packed. Ailene, the waitress greeted me at the door with a "Where have you been? We have missed you!" Just the thing to make a girl feel welcome.

Then she asked me if I wanted my usual place at the piano bar. I said yes, but it looked very full. She told me to wait a minute, and when she reappeared, so did an opening at the bar. Just magic I guess.

Halfway into my first Irish coffee, I felt some one staring at me. He was a rather handsome guy, tall, and athletic. He finally got up enough courage to come stand next to me, and asked the usual question: "Are you a guy or a girl?"

We talked for a while, he heaping on the compliments, me basking in them, when I decided I had better clue him in. I finally convinced him I only go with girls. After a couple of additional tries, he drifted away. I soon saw him chatting up another girl at the bar behind me.

When he went to the men's room, I smiled at her and she rolled her eyes. I took that as comment about our shared experience, him, and went to talk with her. She told me his opening line had been that I was a guy, all dressed up like a girl and would you believe it I only liked girls.

She laughed and said she had then told him she only liked girls, too.

Some nights a guy just can't win!

By the way, Ailene says "hi" to anyone who wants to come in. She knows the folks at Kimo's and used to be a cocktail waitress in the Castro. She says we are always welcome at the Gold Dust, just tell her you are friends of Debra, the blond from the days of Earthquake McGoon's.

Anne Vitale PhD

PSY 17601

Individual & Group Psychotherapy
Specializing in gender issues since 1978

Notes on Gender Transition
<http://www.avitale.com>

610 D Street
San Rafael CA 94901

(415) 456-4452
avitale@nbn.com

BOOK REVIEW:

The Man In The Red Velvet Dress

By J.J. Allen

Review By Sharon Rose

This work is an exploration of many thoughts about how and why people are cross dressers. Some of those thoughts you may agree with and some you may not, but all are interesting. It's a tall order to explain that which many of us feel may not have an explanation, but this book gives it a pretty good shot.

Author Allen gives nine reasons people became cross dressers and eleven types of cross dressers. He also gives us some fascinating ways of looking at things. One thought he shares from another book is understanding that the genitals do not dictate sex roles — the mind does. He believes there are people in the transgendered world who view their penises as enlarged clitorises, and people who view their clitorises as undersized penises. If you view sex as a continuum, anyone may declare themselves a man or woman since "man" or "woman" is a state of mind.

I thought the chapter called "Can A Man Become A Woman" fascinating. An interesting parallel is drawn between feminism and cross dressing. The last chapter, "Solving The Riddle Of This Great Passion" is a real study in sexual psychology. Even though I don't agree with many of the author's conclusions, it is worth exploring his book with an open mind; after all a mind is a terrible thing to close. Whatever your conclusions, the book is full of information — or perhaps, "Miss" information. It will give you many new ways of seeing yourself and the world around you.

Specializing in work with the Transgender Community

Luanna L. Rodgers, MA, MFCC

Licensed Marriage, Family & Child Counselor

Individual Psychotherapy • Couples & Family Counseling
Gender • Sexuality

Call & Let's Talk!

*Gain knowledge, information,
self-respect and support.*

1609 Church Street
San Francisco, CA 94131

Telephone:
(415) 641-8890