

# ETVC Channel

June 1998

Volume 17, Issue 4

## Our Gender Family

by Rachel Mill

### NEW THEORIES FOR THE TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY A Theoretical Perspective

*Note: This is an adaptation of a talk given at California Dreamin' 98. The first paragraph may send you to LaLa land so inject a dose of caffeine. The remainder will return you to a normal state.*

The statistically controlled, double blind study of Gender Identity Disordered transsexuals with transitional identities, who had experienced hormonal or surgical intervention performed by practitioners trained in forensic psychiatry, was conducted in accordance with the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders and showed that post-transitionally oriented, gender dysphoric transgenderists, experiencing rejection of gender role and psychopharmacological or psychotic delusions, frequently presented anatomical and gender role incongruity, accompanied by symptomatic pathological phenomena, that generally lead to institutionalization... yada, yada, yada, drone, drone, drone...

Doesn't that dissertation bring a series of irrepressible yawns to your face? Mine too. Let's see what else I can find. Bear with me for a moment. Ahhh, here's something more interesting. Let's see, "If a man puts his finger on a hot stove for a minute, it seems like an hour, BUT if he sits on a park bench with a pretty girl, then an hour seems like a minute." Ooops, wrong theory, I think that's the Theory of Relativity.

Hold on, I know that I've got something you'll like. On the program Early Edition a copy of the newspaper is delivered a day early. I woke up early one morning last week and had the good fortune to find editions of papers that were 10, 20 and 30 years in the future.

**Here's the first from The San Francisco Chronicle, dated May 1, 2008...**

Mr. J.J. Allen took first place in the Tiara Ball Gown contest after placing as a finalist the last three years. J.J. wore a mesmerizing columnar, black crochet, slipdress with an illusion lining and underbust shaping from the Collete Dinnigan collection. The gown had spaghetti straps, a lav-



*The Andrews Sisters drop in at California Dreamin'*

ish lace fringe hem and back slit. The outfit included a matching Louis Vuitton drawstring bag. Being tall and slender was a tremendous asset but J.J. admitted resorting to strategically placed padding that produced soft, gentle curves in all the expected places. The delicate, elegant and incredibly sexy, Via Spiga 4-inch heels, with adjustable ankle strap wrap were the perfect touch. Lip, eye and nail makeup was brilliantly done in off-shoots of Revlon's LavenDare line. Shades of lavender light, violet haze, frosty white, plumscape, iced amethyst and wild lilac created an image of charm and seduction. Jewels including two rings, a watch, bracelet, necklace and of course crowning tiara all of lustrous black and white south sea pearls. For all the compliments and accolades, and there were many, J.J. said the best was when his dad came up to him quietly and simply said, "Nice dress J.J."

**The second article, also from the Chronicle, is dated May 1, 2018...**

The combined Boards of Directors of two well-known West Coast transgender organizations, Powder Puffs Of California and Educational TV Channel, announced today that this would be the last California Dreamin' conference and cited declining attendance for the move. A spokesperson said that members generally felt comfortable enough to go wherever they wanted so there was no need to go to a

*Continued on Page 12*

**We haven't received your membership renewal, but we didn't want your subscription to be interrupted. To continue receiving the Channel for the next year, please renew now!**

# The Channel

ETVC, Inc., a non-profit corporation, is a non-sexual, membership based organization serving the educational, social, and recreational needs of gender-gifted 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.

## ExCom 1997 Officers

(Fiscal Year: June 1 - May 31)

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 May 10, 1998 ..... 327  
 Total Fiscal Year 1997 Membership ..... 327  
 New Memberships this year ..... 83

## Treasurer's Report

Account Balance as of May 10, 1998 ..... \$1,458.43  
 The "Home for ETVC" fund is now ..... \$2,017.50

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.

The Channel, the ETVC Newsletter, is published monthly. Submissions should arrive at ETVC by the 15th day of the month preceding publication. Contents reflect the opinions of the contributors 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 as the source of the material. Copyrighted materials may be reproduced only with written permission from ETVC.

## Newsletter Staff

Editor ..... Ayme Michelle Kantz  
 Advertising ..... Telzey Adams  
 Photographers ..... T. Adams and Jamie Fey Fenton

## Ad Rates

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<b>Business Card</b> (3-1/2 x 2)	\$ 25	\$125	\$ 250
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Personal ads from ETVC members: \$10 for up to 40 words. We will not accept ads with a sexual objective. Ad deadlines are the 15th of every month. Send ad copy and check or money order to ETVC, Advertising Dept., PO Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486

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## From The Editor...

### CATCH AS KANTZ CAN

by Ayme Kantz



There are a number of things I'd like to talk about in this, my first editorial as Editor of the Channel. The first of which is, ETVC is broke! Membership has steadily declined (we've lost over 100 members since I served on the ExCom four years ago). Fundraising opportunities have been reduced (no booth at the Pride Parade, etc.). Expenses seem out of control.

If you've been reading the Minutes from the ExCom meetings, you know by now that we lost our collective shirts (OK, blouses...) at the Cotillion this year. What once was ETVC's biggest money maker of the year has turned into a millstone around our necks. How did this happen? Wasn't a budget followed? Weren't there alarm bells going off somewhere? Who's responsible for this fiscal irresponsibility? I feel like taking to task the outgoing ExCom for this colossal blunder, but after speaking with a number of them recently, I have to admit that there are valid reasons why this happened. And don't get me wrong. The Cotillion serves ETVC very well in establishing bridges between GLBT organizations around the Bay Area. It certainly says "we've arrived," but is it worth it? Sure, everyone had a great time and it's generally agreed that it was the best Cotillion we've ever had, but it also used to represent thousands of dollars in income for ETVC and a tidy donation to a favorite charity (for which we used to get some nice PR). Can we continue to justify the expense of hosting the event if it puts us so deeply in the red? And we weren't the only losers; Project Open Hand must have certainly been disappointed. Frankly, it's inexcusable, and some of our members agree - I've published in this issue letters that express these sentiments much better than I ever could. Please read them. And the next time you see Leslie Bailey, give her a huge hug and then bend down to kiss the ground she walks on, because without her extremely generous donation, we could've been in deep do-do.

Continued on Page 3

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*Continued from Page 2*

Should we re-evaluate the focus of the Cotillion? Instead of a glorified beauty contest, intent on electing a figurehead, perhaps we should use the opportunity to recognize our members instead. And considering the financial trouble we're in, a re-evaluation of the model on which ETVC is based might be in order, and that boils down to one fabled name in our storied history: Chez Mollet. The group was founded entirely around this establishment – it offered good parking, a private area for meetings and events, good food and drink and low operating costs. And ever since the Chez closed down, ETVC has been trying to emulate that arrangement. Clearly it has not been as successful as we'd all like. A lot of energy is expended in trying to find an establishment that caters to our members' needs (and there are a lot of them!), as well as ExCom's to fund the coffers, so we'll be hard pressed to find a situation that will please everybody. But how to solve the problem? I certainly don't have any easy answers, and it's to our membership that we must turn. Somebody out there has got to have a string to pull somewhere, a rapport to pursue. After all, we are a non-profit organization. Wouldn't it seem reasonable to use that to our advantage?

### **Fundraising and Bylaws**

Long term members who've taken the trouble to read the Bylaws may have noticed a few changes. One of the conditions of our non-profit status was that the general membership meet once a month to conduct club business, hence our end-of-month "socials." By eliminating this requirement and installing an Annual Business Meeting, the focus of ETVC's mission has certainly shifted. The opportunities for member input have been cut back, but the revised Bylaws now stipulate that we publish the time and location of each month's ExCom meeting so that any member of good standing can attend. I encourage you to do so. The next meeting is on Sunday, June 14, at Leslie Bailey's home in Albany, 527-5398/524-7759; 3:00pm.

The membership needs to get off their collective pantied fannies and go above and beyond. Valerie Valeska set a fine example for us all by contributing an extra donation along with her membership renewal. If you can, consider doing at least as much. ETVC needs it. Join a committee. Organize a fundraiser. Volunteer to help at events (and show up on time!). Encourage new members to join. Support our advertisers. If no one is collecting entrance fees at events, seek out an Officer and give it to them. We need to rely (for the time being) on the honor system, so pay your door fees and renew your membership on time. If you can't give your money, give of your time.

Part of what I offer to keep the wheels turning and trim expenses is to voluntarily imageset this newsletter and negotiate with a printer friend of mine (many thanks here to Harry at International Minute Press, Mission & New Montgomery) to produce this and ensuing issues at cost. By doing so, I've had to change the format of the *Channel* from 11x17 sheets to the letter-size stapled tome you now hold in your hands, but in doing so have realized a 36% savings in production costs. Perhaps when we're healthier finan-

cially, we can revert to the nicer format and put this puppy on a press, but for the time being, it's the Xerox machine for us.

And since this is, after all, your newsletter, I want you to feel free to send me material for publication. Articles, photos, ads – whatever. Email me your files: MissAyme@aol.com. Save text files as "RTF" (Rich Text Format). Mac or PC is fine. Typed articles should be laser printed preferably (use a serif font like Courier or Times) or typewritten, double-spaced. Whatever you've got, send it to me. I'm only here to push the buttons and make this look as good as possible. I typeset 'em as I see 'em. If it's publishable within our guidelines, I'll print it. We need to hear from you. There's a lot to discuss. We're in trouble and you've got to help.

### **Name Change**

Acronyms, acronyms! What's up with that? Do we have to have an acronym that means something to everybody? It's been sixteen years with the handle we've got, it's widely recognized and firmly established, and even if it (admittedly) doesn't work any longer, do we really need to go there considering more immediate matters? If we must have an acronym, my vote goes to Bay Area T-Girls, or BATGIRLS. Just think of the merchandising possibilities! TRANZ with a "Z" would work, with a nice flashy Z in the logo, meaning everything and nothing at the same time. If we must have an acronym, let's keep the one we've got.

### **The New Year**

So now we've got a new ExCom coming around the corner. A few from the existing one are staying on for another term (Goddess bless them!), but clearly their work is cut out for them. The Budget must be first and foremost in their minds as we approach the new fiscal year. We need to support them and offer advice, encouragement and ideas. Show up at the next ExCom meeting and get involved with the business of moving ETVC forward. We cannot rely upon a small handful of dedicated individuals to drive ETVC as we try to recoup and regroup. This is my call to you, the membership, to get involved somehow, some way. If you've got an idea, forward it to the appropriate Committee Chair or better yet, volunteer to drive it to fulfillment. Offer to make a presentation at one of our Educational Seminars. A lot of us are on email – let's find a way to use it to our advantage so we can communicate with our leaders and with each other. ETVC is a member-based organization so that's where our real power lies. A lot of what happens next for ETVC is going to depend entirely on you.



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Lisa Hoyt

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### MEETING MINUTES

April 1998



The monthly meeting of ETVC's Executive Committee was at 2:00 on April 5. Communications and Announcements: Andrea's surgery will be completed in Portland on April 10; Juana was scheduled to fly up there and bring her back.

The Minutes: Sandra mentioned two changes in the March Minutes: she wanted Training program changed to Workshop Program and Lyon's changed to Lions. With those corrections, Sandra moved that Minutes be approved, Leslie seconded and they were unanimously approved.

#### President's Report

The locker was still not emptied and ETVC may have to pay for a portion of April's rent. Erin, Leslie and Juana met with Joan Goodnight about Cal Dreaming. Q, Kalani, Ronnie, Gina and Dianna have declined their nominations. Leslie will ask Michele Garcia and Alexis.

#### Vice President's Report

Leslie had already personally paid all losses incurred by the Cotillion. With the Cotillion over, Leslie wanted to get together with Miss ETVC for Pride Day preparations. She was unsure if the parade would be televised. Beer and merchandise booths would again be catered; there would be no opportunity to make money.

#### Secretary's Report

Veronica reported that membership was 325 of which 81 were new (compared to 379 & 93 last year). Ayme Kantz had agreed to replace Elizabeth as editor. However, the budget for the newsletter was still not made clear, only that it had to be as inexpensive as possible. Veronica wanted the newsletter to look good: it represented the club and had a great tradition to be maintained. One suggestion was to go back to the format of The Channel and Channel 2, keeping monthly information coming to the membership but at the same time alternating an expensive production and mailing with an inexpensive one, the difference between 8 business-like pages and 16 more fun pages. Ayme definitely thought she could get cheaper copying, and might even get copying donated. But cheaper and/or donated copying might mean going to 8" x 11 inch sheets as opposed to the 11 x 17 inch sheets. Ideally, the budget might go from over \$9,000 last year to around \$3,000 this year, and at the same time, double the number of issues. If the newsletter could generate around \$3,000 in advertising, it might actually pay for itself.

#### Outreach Report

Telzey reported that there was little advertising except in TV Epic (which runs her picture) and that the hotline was picking up. Diane and Ann Giles had 17 speaking engage-

ments during the last academic year. Sandra had recently spoken at Modesto Junior College and at the Castro Lions Club. Sandra would most likely hold her Speakers Workshop Program in late July. Sandra is now focussed on the June KQED pledge night and another speaking engagement in Solano. When asked why there were hardly ever any ETVC speaking engagements in San Francisco, Sandra replied that SFSU instructors had their own TG favorites upon whom they always called.

#### Education Report

Juana wondered if ETVC offered too many educational events. But Nancy thought the seminars were great outreach. She pointed out that Dr. Schrang's lecture brought in 75 people, 60% of whom were not members.

#### Social Report

Leslie had checked out The Thirsty Bear as a possible location for socials and determined that it might be suitable for mid-months but definitely not for end-months. Erin said that the April social was taken care of because it was part of California Dreamin'. This led to an appraisal of ETVC's social situation.

The March social was not a success. Café Mars gave the back room (thought to have been reserved for ETVC) to a party that actually paid for it (imagine that!). ETVC was stuck in corner of the middle room beyond the pool table and behind the eight ball. Officer nominations and acceptances were made amidst much noise. Socials used to be ETVC's biggest single money-maker, previously generating something like 40 percent of the club's total income! Leslie definitely wanted to make socials into money-makers again. Leslie suggested Charpes (on Gough Street near Hayes) for May's social. The back room there can comfortably hold 45 and is set off so one could place a table at the door and charge. Charpes has a grill with dependable food and (especially important to Leslie) a bartender who gives good margarita. The May social is ETVC's annual social with awards and voting. Erin would get volunteers to count the ballots. Nancy suggested that the votes be put on a database. Juana believed that someone should organize who would work the door and table because it was necessary that Lisa Ronald not get stuck with it again as she always does. The June Social has traditionally been when ETVC did The Really Big Shew and had been tied-in with Gay Pride Week celebrations. But because there was no dependable venue and no money, this year it will either be cancelled or at least tabled. The July social was usually Friendship Bingo. Juana suggested Karaoke. Leslie thought that perhaps RGA and ETVC could have a joint Halloween party maybe at Carla's in San Jose. Sandra offered her place; Sandra has lots of room, but she does live in Livermore.

#### Old Business

Name change suggestions will be put on the ballot.

#### New Business

Awards were discussed. Adjournment: At 7:00 p.m., Leslie moved to adjourn. Nancy seconded it and the motion was passed.

# Calendar of Events - June 1998

## OTHER GROUPS

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

### Pacific Center for Human Growth

A counseling oriented growth center sponsors all-inclusive gender support groups on every Friday at 8:00pm, 2712 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley. 510-841-6224

### Rainbow Gender Association (RGA)

Meets 1st and 3rd Friday of the month 8:00pm at the New Community of Faith Church, 6350 Rainbow Drive, San Jose. Write to RGA, PO Box 700730, San Jose, CA 95170 or call 408-984-4044.

### Sacramento Gender Association (SGA)

Blue Rose Chapter meets 8:00pm the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month in Sacramento. Write PO Box 215456, Sacramento, CA 95821-1456 or call 916-482-7SGA (7742) for meeting locations.

### Diablo Valley Girls (DVG)

Meets 1st and 3rd Monday of every month. 8:00pm at Just Rewards Nightclub, 2520 Camino Diablo in Walnut Creek. Write to DVG, PO Box 272885, Concord, CA 94527-2885 or call 510-937-8432.

### DVG Rap Group (RCC)

Meets 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month, 7:00pm at Rainbow Community Center, 2637 Pleasant Hill Road (@ Taylor Blvd.) in Pleasant Hill. For more information call 510-937-8432.

### FTM

A support group for Female-to-Male cross dressers and transsexuals; Holds open Informational Meetings and closed Support Meetings. Write FTM International, Inc., 1360 Mission Street, Suite 200, San Francisco, CA 94103 or call 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 4:00pm until early evening. For dates, location and reservations, call Diane or Anne at 707-544-1540.

### Silicon Valley Gender Association (SVGA)

A new transgender support group meets at the Billy De Frank Community Center in San Jose on the 2nd and 4th Friday of every month from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. For more information, call 408-293-2429.

### Far West Women (FWW)

A support group for TGs affiliated with the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Alliance in Humboldt County. Meets every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month at 8:00pm in the GLBTA Center at Fourth and "D" Streets in Eureka. For information call the Center at 707-445-9760.

	1 8:00 PM Diablo Valley Girls: Social	2	3	4 7:00 PM DVG Rap Group (RCC)	5 8:00 PM Pacific Center: TV/TS Rap 8:00 PM Rainbow Gender Assoc: Social	6
7	8	9	10 8:30 PM ETVC: Mid-Month Social @ Lilo Lounge	11	12 7:00 PM Silicon Vly Gender Assoc: Support Grp 8:00 PM Pacific Center: TV/TS Rap	13 8:00 PM Far West Women: Meeting 8:00 PM Sacto Gender Assoc: Social
14 ETVC: ExCom Meeting	15 8:00 PM Diablo Valley Girls: Social	16	17	18 7:00 PM DVG Rap Group (RCC)	19 8:00 PM Pacific Center: TV/TS Rap 8:00 PM Rainbow Gender Assoc: Social	20
21 3:00 PM ETVC: Education Seminar	22	23	24 7:00 PM ETVC: KQED Pledge Night	25 8:30 PM ETVC: End of Month Social @ Charpes	26 7:00 PM Silicon Vly Gender Assoc: Support Grp 8:00 PM Pacific Center: TV/TS Rap	27 8:00 PM Far West Women: Meeting 8:00 PM Sacto Gender Assoc: Social
28 GLBT PRIDE PARADE!	29	30				

## ETVC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Full Year Membership June 1 - May 31

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Check all that apply:

New Member    Family Member    Renewal   Birth Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Preferred Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Family Member's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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How did you hear about ETVC? \_\_\_\_\_

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**WEDNESDAY / JUNE 10**

**MID-MONTH SOCIAL - 8:00PM**

Lilo Lounge, SOMA, 1469 18th (@ Connecticut). Are you a Katoï, a Thai "Ladyboy?" Where better to be a Lovely Ladyboy than the Lively Lilo Lounge, the most likely Thai bar this side of Bangkok to find curvaceous katoï.

**SUNDAY / JUNE 14**

**EXCOM MEETING - 3:00PM**

Leslie Bailey's Home in Albany, 527-5398/524-7759. This is the annual "Transitional" meeting, if you'll pardon the expression, in which both outgoing and incoming elected officials of ETVC get together for a review of the year, set goals for the coming one, share ideas and express opinions; A passing of the torch, if you will from one Dream Team to another. Are you ready to share in the dream?

**SUNDAY / JUNE 21**

**EDUCATION SEMINAR - STUDY GROUP; 3:00 PM**

Cafe Commons, 3161 Mission Street, San Francisco. Do you enjoy sipping cafe mochas while participating in a lively discussion with friends? Then why not join fellow TG friends as we form the first ETVC study group. In lieu of a seminar, we will plan what to read, whether it is articles or books, when and how often to meet, and how many pages to read, etc. Please join us as we explore the facets of transgenderism as seen both by those who are and those who observe them.

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**WEDNESDAY / JUNE 24**

**KQED PLEDGE NIGHT - 7:00PM - 10:00PM**

KQED studio is at Mariposa & York. Contact: 925-443-9938. Be there! KQED will provide us dinner and an opportunity to be seen briefly on the air. Show KQED viewers that we, too, support their (and our) community.

**THURSDAY / JUNE 25**

**END OF MONTH SOCIAL - 8:00PM**

Build up a thirst working the phones at KQED the night before? Well, quench it and at the same time have a drink to celebrate Gay-Lesbian-Bisexual-Transgender Pride Week and get ready for the Parade! Looks to be lots of fun at Charpes, 131 Gough at Page.

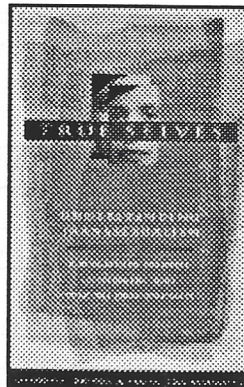
**SUNDAY / JUNE 28**

**LGBT PRIDE CELEBRATION - 10:30AM**

"Dreams Do Come True!" We have a theme this year! Join the celebration as Miss ETVC '98 Dianna and her ladies in waiting, Junior Misses (near Misses?) Kalani & Q, express their gratitude for the opportunity to make dreams come alive—a responsibility that requires being taken lightly. Crawl out from under your tired & tawdry toadstools, don your faerie frills, & twinkle your toes for a walk on the clouds. This is one of the most fun events of our calendar year as we join our alternative lifestyle neighbors to bask in the awe, admiration, & joyful support of this 'emerald' city's celebrious citizenry and variegated visitors....all in the full light of day! Make Market Street (talk about 'the main drag!') your yellow brick road....

The Parade starts @ 10:30 a.m. with a great fair at the other end. (Editor's Note: The Parade is running backwards down Market Street this year, from 2nd Street to 8th Street; Party hearty at the Civic Center from Noon to 7:45pm) It's all day party fun....if you can bear it. (Some, you can bet, will bare at least some of it!)

We'll have a focus meeting about 2 weeks before the parade, then decorate the vehicle (did someone say 'float?!') the day before—all helpers / dreamers welcome! We also need parade safety monitors from our group (this requires special training, so sign up early!). Time and place info coming soon...call the ETVC Hotline (415) 564-3246 or Leslie Ann Bailey @ (510) 527-5398 for updates and/or to volunteer.



**Mildred L. Brown, Ph.D.**  
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# OUR READERS RESPOND

## PRELUDE

My Dear Officers-Sisters

I know I do not participate to the level that you do. Where and when I do, I try to make it count and a few times I have saved the day. That is part of my Tao.

After reading the ExCom Minutes I could no longer contain myself. I hope that you will print this letter and if any of you are led to comment please do. Because if it was entirely up to me, I would be heartless and without mercy. What I have now because of you means that much to me.

I cannot just sit idly by without speaking up. I know what those numbers mean. The way I feel is God help the non-participating bench-warmer if we fold in bankruptcy. I see it as potentially losing the ground I have gained by fighting in every battle that came my way to get where I am today. Without ETVC I will not stop being a woman, that will never change. But, I could be a lone soldier. We need a renewed dynamic in our organization. Without it, we had better not try for something the size of "TGUSA."

I have read my attached letter over several times and only regret that I did not have more space for a few other things that are in need of being said, like who will run for office when you don't? I know you get tired, I know you put in a lot of time, effort, work and money, and I thank you one and all.

Well I guess I have said all I can say for the present. I can always write again about the next issue that plucks my strings and you can decide whether or not to print it.

## AN OPEN LETTER...

Dear Sisters,

I have just finished reading my May newsletter and I am appalled! It is an absolute shame that the organization that we owe so much to is in such condition. I should clarify myself. I am speaking about what I read in the ExCom Minutes. Yes, I read every word in every report.

I just did some calculation arithmetic and guess what I came up with? OUR Club is \$2,500 in the hole for the Cotillion that everybody just Loved. We do not have any money in OUR bank account. We will need another \$2,000 by year's end. Guess what? Are you aware that with 324 members that is only \$13.89 per member?

I just renewed my membership and I put my money where my mouth is and included an extra \$20.00. I do not think that there is one member that cannot even give \$5.00. If we, as the body politic, do not support this organization in tangible form by way of money, or donated time and talent or non-tangible in a word of encouragement or thank you to our officers, ETVC is going to come crashing down around our ears!

*Continued on Page 8*

## FROM SOMEWHERE IN THE FUTURE

by Melissa Robinson

I remember when it was necessary to have Outreach to help our brothers and sisters. It was a time when The Others had to be taught about the transgender community.

Of course, that was many years ago. Back then, in 1998, the transgender community needed to advertise the existence of support groups. The majority of transgendered individuals were not affiliated with the tiny support groups. These individuals were defined by the passe terms of "closeted" or "in the closet."

From a survey of ancient records, this must have been an exciting time for the pioneers at the leading edge of the transgender movement. These pioneers were a minority within the tiny transgender support groups. Many members of these groups quickly forgot how it had felt to be without a support group, and placed all their energy into self-indulgent socializing, quickly dropping any pretense to provide an outreach service to the community. These individuals felt comfortable during their social activities, while remaining "in the closet" for the majority of their existence.

These "social-TGs" did not realize that the lack of a comprehensive outreach program only slowed down the transgender movement, resulting in a prolonged time in the closet.

In contrast, the Outreach Pioneers understood that an expansion of the member base could only help all those unknown closet-cases as well as those who believed they were in some small way out of the closet. It was a long and hard climb for the outreach pioneers. They found their biggest hurdle to be disinterest by the social TG's, even from those who held official positions. The yearly budgets allocated sums for advertising and outreach, and then overspent those sums on social events for the few, ignoring the many in need. The sums for advertising disappeared and were made up in some small way by the dedication of the too few pioneers.

Yes, it was an exciting period for the pioneers. They saw and experienced small-mindedness and ignorance, but their vision of a better tomorrow kept them strong.



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## A RESPONSE TO Ms. ROBINSON

from Secretary Veronica

I'd like to address some of the points made by Melissa in her story. Since Melissa wrote a futuristic allegory, I have to guess as to what she means exactly. But I assume when she refers to "social TGs" who hold "official positions" and who waste the support group's budget "on social events for the few" that Melissa is chastising the present ExCom officers for blowing so much dough on the Cotillion. She further implies that the present officers have spent so much of the club's resources on money-losing socials that it has hindered the ability of the "Outreach Pioneers" to connect with closeted TGs, an effort which Melissa suggests is ultimately more important than any silly shindig.

I don't like Melissa's dichotomy between "social TGs" and "Outreach Pioneers." Just because some of us like occasions to wear frilly dresses does not mean we are not committed to connecting with as many of our sisters and brothers as possible. I had nothing to do with the planning of the Cotillion, but I was proud that ETVC could pull off such a distinguished affair. The truly diverse crowd looked as if it had a grand time and I thought it was damn-fine outreach, too. The Cotillion reached a wider audience than any previous ETVC event; it was filmed, edited and televised half-a-dozen times. True, it was only on public access, but still, my Cotillion tape is a delightful showcase for our group and is presently being borrowed by my co-worker. How many more will see it? And the Cotillion did not actually cost ETVC anything because Leslie Bailey, the event's producer, *personally covered all of the Cotillion's losses*. In the past year, Leslie put more than \$3,000 of her own money into ETVC's coffers. Leslie is not rich and she has sons in college, but she is extremely responsible and more firmly committed to this organization than anyone I know. Leslie could never fit into Melissa's scheme of *outreach pioneers vs. social TGs* because Leslie does both outreach and is also one of the most sociable TGs around. By placing Leslie's contribution into perspective, I come to my second point.

This past year we had less than 330 individual and family memberships, so ETVC received around \$8,000 in dues. At the same time, the newsletter cost over \$9,000, tax preparation fees were \$1,200, insurance was over \$1,000 and there were lots of other costs like state filing fees, postage, copying, and so on. Because there has been a serious cash-flow problem with the club, the typical operating procedure is for ExCom officers to put all expenses on their credit cards and hope to be paid off when the club can afford it. Darcy Leopard not only spent all her spare time searching for safe and fun places for her sisters to meet, but she also carried the Halloween losses on her credit card for months. My credit card has paid for the last couple of newsletters copying and mailing. As of this writing I've not been paid back for the last issue, and *The Channel* you're holding right now has been paid for by my *other* credit card, because the first one is maxxed out. Nancy Cupps, who bought a computer, scanner and printer for the club's use, works very long hours at her job and has also worked long hours with Juana to produce the Education seminars. And Melissa must know how much Telzey and Sandra give to this group. President Erin and the rest of us have presented ourselves

## An Open Letter...

Continued from Page 5

There will be no Cotillion, no Library, no seminars, no support group, no presence in the community. I am a member of ETVC, DVG and TGIF. As much as I can, I support every one of them. What do I get back? When I was outed on the news in February 1997, the knowledge that I was a member of three gender organizations with unknown political clout *stopped* my entire company from running over me. When one person thought they could pull something in December, a side effect of membership got a *piece of his ass!* And tore it up too, just like a pit-bull, yes it is funny.

Because of ETVC and others I am where I AM: TODAY...NOW. Living full time, happy, at peace. Do you have any idea of what we will lose if we do not come to our own rescue?

ETVC, RGA, DVG, FTM, TGIF, SVGA, FWW, PPOC, all need our support. When we participate we participate in ourselves. You wait for someone else to do it and I guarantee you will live in your closet until you die. We have and are making the planet a safer place for everyone of every gender persuasion. Yeah, you damn right I had a part in it. You are right, I am damned ticked! Get up off your asses! Get up off your dimes! Not a single one of us can do it by ourselves. I can only do my part, I cannot do your part. Collectively, we ARE a force and a power to be reckoned with.

It is not easy for me to be sweet and pleading at a time like this. I am a competitor and a fighter. The financial state of ETVC is a clarion call to action. Soldier, put those boots on...Sister, straighten your skirt and step forward...It's Showtime!

**Valerie Victoria Valeska**

for the Parade, KQED pledge nights, Tranny Fest film festival and panel discussions. I really resent being called "self-indulgent" just because I like to get dressed up and go out with my sisters once in a while. I mean, if I'm going to be criticized for that then what's the point?

Even though much of the above has been discussed in previous issues of *The Channel* and in the ExCom Minutes, Melissa and certain other critics have never realized how drastically things have changed since Chez Mollet closed. Chez Mollet's back room with bartender used to cost around \$75. With Ginny dependably sitting at the back room's doorway, pleasantly greeting each of the 50-100 individuals and scrupulously collecting entrance fees, every social, every Halloween Party and every Really Big Shew was an assured moneymaker and unofficial fundraiser. Without a cheap, dependable venue, our socials have tended to become money losers. But what does Melissa suggest instead? Does she suggest we do away with socials? In Melissa's futuristic fantasy, does she imagine lone Outreach Pioneers on cold, forbidding landscapes spreading transgenderism's word to their closeted sisters and brothers? But without the occasional warmth and joy of a welcoming, communal event, what exactly is the word her pioneers would spread?





**SANDRA REACHES OUT**  
by Sandra Brewer

After the ETVC May Social at Charpe's (131 Gough St near Oak St), it's too late to vote for our ETVC officers, the new bylaws, and a possible new name for our organization. There's still time to send in your membership renewal for another year without missing any issues of

the ETVC Newsletter. At this time it's not clear if future issues will be published on a monthly or bi-monthly schedule. The results of the election will appear in the next issue; it appears likely an opportunity will still be open to share the outreach and social chair positions. Please give this some consideration.

We are scheduled to join the staff of volunteers to answer telephones for the KQED pledge drive from 7 to 10 PM on Wednesday, June 24th at the KQED studio in San Francisco. KQED will provide our dinner, and an opportunity to be seen briefly on TV, television that is. This is a special night of gay programming; the programs expected to air include 'The Castro' which recently won a Peabody award for programming excellence, and the program 'Gay, Straight, Can We Talk'. Let me know at least a week before the event if you want to join us, so I can submit your name for access to the parking garage. Call me at (925) 443-9938 with your address and/or telephone number and I'll send you a confirmation and directions to the studio.

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The Freedom Parade in San Francisco on Sunday, June 28th is your chance to be seen expressing your true gender by hundreds of thousands of people. We expect representatives from the female-to-male community to join us in our information booth at the end of the parade route.

If you want to hear about and/or share the experiences of ETVC outreach speakers, plan to come to our ETVC Outreach and Speakers Workshop. Tentatively, we expect this to be a half-day event in San Francisco on the weekend of July 25-26, just a month before the fall semester begins. Call me at (925) 443-9938 to make sure you're on the list to receive an announcement of the time and place.

Transgendered topics have not escaped media exposure during the recent sweeps month. Ru Paul was featured in an episode of Sabrina The Teenage Witch on ABC. With the help of a little witchcraft, the role had him performing in both drag and drab. Of particular interest on CBS was an episode of Chicago Hope that dealt realistically with a story about a transgendered youth, and the reaction of his mother and others to this phenomenon. The show even pointed out that the condition is not a choice, and it is not likely to go away. I expect many of us will be looking for a repeat of this to share with our own families.

*RhythMystress*

*Darcy Leopard*

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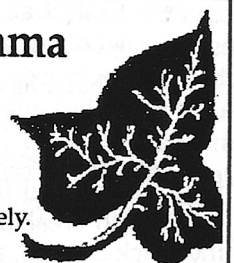
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## CONFESSIONS OF A STRAIGHT GIRL

by Andrea Drane

### Chapter 8: 'Twas the Night Before...

Where did all the time go? The last time I looked, my scheduled SRS date was still weeks away! Run down the checklist as I pack - have I forgotten anything? Do I really need all these toiletries? Where did I put my airline ticket? Aarrgghh!

Emotionally, I knew that I was ready to take this irrevocable step - I had left the trappings of a male existence far behind, and was quite happy with and successful in my life as a woman. There was nothing to go back to, and my focus was on the present. I had never been as sure of anything in my life as I was about having SRS - I had only the anxiety associated with being in a hospital, away from friends and family. The logistics, however, were another matter entirely.

Having read all of the material in Anne Lawrence's Transsexual Women's Resources pages on the Web (<http://www.mindspring.com/~alawrence/index.html>) and having chatted with several of my "big sisters", I thought that I had everything under control. Unfortunately, I neglected to factor in going off hormones three weeks prior to surgery. Not the most pleasant experience, it certainly complicated rational thought during that period. As my estrogen level dropped, I quickly acquired a constant companion - a nagging headache just at my threshold of awareness. I also experienced my share of mood swings, night sweats, and the odd hot flash. On the plus side, though, the excess water weight that I had carried for the past year finally evaporated.

The week just prior to my surgery was totally frantic. One moment I was the excited child who couldn't wait for Santa Claus to arrive; the next I was the harried parent wondering how they were ever going to complete their holiday preparations in time. Since I would be off work for almost a month, there were so many projects that had to be completed, delegated, or mothballed. On the home front, I had to:

- Plan my grocery shopping in such a way that most, if not all, of the perishables were consumed by the time I left
- Ensure that my house cleaning and laundry was done, so that I would return to a clean apartment and fresh clothes
- Make arrangements for someone to pick up my mail
- Collect all of the items that I would need to take with me (mostly documents and toiletries)
- Obtain all of the items that I would need upon my return

The day preceding my surgery was busy, but in many ways boring and tedious. The LiquiPrep regimen, which began with breakfast, put a definite crimp in my meal and my snack choices, and also restricted my activities a bit. My pre-op appointment turned out to be the highlight of the day, while filling my post-op prescriptions at the local pharmacy turned out to be my last real excursion for quite a few

days. I drank the LiquiPrep itself at the prescribed time (remember, Schvepp's Bitter Lemon), and made sure that I was back in my hotel room by 7:00 pm to avoid any risk of an "accident". I set both the hotel's bedside clock radio and my personal travel alarm for 4:00 am - I was not going to oversleep! Despite the anticipation and my excitement, I fell asleep quickly, and slept through the night with no unusual dreams.

The morning of my surgery I managed to arrive at the hospital a few minutes before my scheduled 6:00 am appointment time. Naturally, they weren't quite ready for me, so I took a seat in the waiting room and calmly read the book that I had started on the flight up. Upon reflection, I can't be sure if that demonstrated fatalistic acceptance of or complete detachment from my imminent, irrevocable, life-altering surgery. No matter - it helped keep my apprehensions at bay.

I still couldn't believe how relaxed I was as they wheeled me into the operating room. The anesthesiologist looked down at me and said, "Andrea, I'm going to put you to sleep now." I felt a burning sensation in my hand, heard a soft roaring in my ears, and then was totally unaware of anything until I woke up in my hospital room. It was dark outside, and a nurse was checking my vital signs.

"Hi," I said. "Did everything go okay?"

She assured me that everything had, so I smiled and drifted back to sleep...

*(Chapter 9 will continue in the July issue of The Channel)*

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# Out on the Town with Darcy

## CALIFORNIA DREAMIN' PUB CRAWL

Several months ago at a pre-planning California Dreamin' meeting, I was asked to put together a bar/club hop for attendees of the conference. I readily agreed, since I saw it as an excellent opportunity to show members of our community the treasure-troves of nightlife I have discovered during my forays with my friends around our wonderful city of San Francisco.

As the date of the conference approached, I called Bree, my ever-faithful friend and tour guide by trade, to help me create and facilitate the event. We decided to meet, at all places, at a Scottish pub known as the Edinburgh Castle, located in the Tenderloin district. It was here that we hashed out our plan of attack in drab over hearty micro-brews, in sharp contrast to the en femme cocktail elegance and kicking of heels that we were envisioning!

We decided that we wanted to give people a broad sample of the San Francisco nightlife experience. From the avant-garde to classic elegance, from posh to trash, from sipping cocktails in straight high-society to gettin' down at free-spirited gay and lesbian dance clubs. Drawing on our own wonderful experiences, we came up with a plan we were excited about.

We rented a 24-passenger Minibus, which rendezvoused with us outside the Golden Gateway Holiday Inn Friday night, complete with a very friendly driver named Eddie. Eddie waited for us patiently as Bree and I went about the daunting task of rounding everybody up from the festivities of the convention's Friday night dinner. By 9:30 PM the bus was packed to capacity and we were off!

Our first destination was an incredible, new bar/restaurant located in Ghiradelli Square known as the Loongbar. A spacious, split-level venue with an Asian theme, I have since found out that the "Loong" stands for Dragon. Indeed, a Dragon could easily fit inside the place.

We made quite a splash upon arrival as twenty-seven cross-dressers filed through the courtyard entrance and grand doorway as I ceremoniously held it open. We made our way through the foyer to the bar, seating ourselves at designer-chic, cocktail tables which overlooked the restaurant below. We had timed things such that the dinner patrons waiting in the bar had mostly gone downstairs, so everyone got a seat. Miss Didi Mau's seat was rather questionable; however, as she strategically propped herself upon a decorative box (table?) to show off her fully exposed legs.

We all settled into relaxed conversation amidst the warm yet strikingly avant-garde design of the place. Bree bounced around talking to various groups at their tables, while I struck up a nice conversation with a new friend from San Jose named Stephanie, and an established friend named Melanie. I told Stephanie how Melanie reminds me very much of the pretty receptionist Michelle at my place of work. So much so, that I thought Melanie was Michelle when I first saw her at a social! Melanie pointed out how it is nice to be confused with a similar-looking, genetic girl!

After about an hour, we headed back to the bus for our next destination, the Crown Room at the top of the Fairmont Hotel. As we made our way through the Fairmont's hallways, we evidently stirred up a bit of controversy amongst the guests. They were probably reeling from what appeared to be a legion of cross-dressers, tackling the Fairmont like it was a medieval castle. We smiled and giggled our way through a labyrinth of hallways to find the elevator, and probably shocked the folks who rode to the top with us with our joyous, yet brazen chatter.

The Crown Room itself is huge, and offers incredible views of the city. We only had to wait a few minutes before we were promptly seated. As before, we were scattered amidst several tables. It was fun the way each of us got to sit with different people at different places, and tell each other stories of our experiences. A really fun girl named Billie, striking in her sleek, mauve bolero jacket and æ length pencil skirt, was entertaining us with jokes and clever innuendoes. I told her at one point that I was sure we were making San Francisco history tonight, as I was sure this was the first time 27 cross-dressers graced the renowned Crown Room atop the Fairmont Hotel!

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*Continued on Page 12*

special cross-dressing conference. More and more transgendered individuals have chosen to bend, shift or break the arbitrary, culturally-enforced links between birth sex and gender expression. More individuals see themselves as different, not better or worse, just different and find some level of gender non-conformance appropriate in their daily lives.

In a seemingly incongruous statement he indicated that support sessions sponsored by the groups were continuing to increase. More professionals who understand transgender issues are trained and available to help anyone who is struggling with gender related issues. He explained that it was a watershed moment to be able to switch emphasis from purely social programs to those that offer needed psychological support to members troubled by a gender identity disorder. He concluded that while there are real personal problems that need treating, the number of societal-induced problems continue to decrease.

### **Here's one last related article from the Green Bay Wisconsin Press Gazette dated May 1, 2028...**

Years ago when the Packers traveled to San Francisco we used to comment on the interesting characters in California. Now we have them here in Wisconsin and they don't arouse nearly as much attention. At yesterday's game, with the balmy weather, one of our male sports reporters wore a short dress to the game, and I have to confess that he has great legs! Time was that any guy who tried that at Lambeau Field wouldn't live to see the second half but now it just seems almost normal.

Last week my best friend and I went out for drinks and he confided that he had been having job problems and didn't know what to do. He cried. Know what? It was okay. In fact it made me feel like more of a friend to be able to be understanding and supportive. A month ago at my impending 50th birthday, I admitted to my wife that I was afraid of growing old. Instead of laughing she was very loving and we had one of the most intimate evenings I can remember. In retrospect, those old macho stereotype days weren't so good after all. I no longer consider showing emotions a sign of weakness. Instead it's a sign of being more human. Quite an improvement, even here in Green Bay.

So what does this all mean? As we move beyond simply finding a place to dress and gradually push down the walls of our carefully constructed closets, society sees and understands us better and begins to accept and even emulate some of our traits. Eventually we become such an integral part of the fabric of society that we cease to exist as an independent, definable group. Some scoff and say that can't be, but George Bernard Shaw saw a similar type of vision when he said, "You see things; and you say, 'Why?' But I dream things that never were; and I say, 'Why not?'"

Oddly enough, our common bond is in our differences. We have struggled more to understand and accept ourselves. Because of our struggles we can be more sensitive to the struggles of others. Through our sensitivity we can infect society. Once they catch understanding and acceptance there is no known cure. I say, "Why not?" What do you say?

For our next stop, we left the classic, high elegance of the Fairmont to get down and dirty at the newly opened location of the Mother Lode. Located in the Tenderloin, it is notorious as a place for "working girls".

As we poured into the narrow, deep, and rather slick and sleazy establishment, we saw some of these girls up on stage, strutting their stuff to pulsating, disco beats. Miss Didi Mau never hesitated for a second. She hopped on stage to add her own Ballroom Dance steps a la sleaze to the whole scenario. Some of our entourage was probably a bit shocked at this whole spectacle, yet some told us this was just what the doctor ordered. Bree and I had decided that this stop was a must, since it is a San Francisco institution.

For our final destination of the evening, we arrived at The Café, a great dance club located in the Castro neighborhood. As we stepped off the bus in style at the entrance, many encouraging "you go girl" type comments were sent our way by the door staff. We found a very large, and well-laid out dance club upstairs. As usual with a gay club, the energy was really fun and enthusiastic. We danced up a good time, and got in one last cocktail before a closing time that came too soon.

On Saturday, we limited our outing to the GirlSpot, a very fun, lesbian dance club I've mentioned several times in my previous articles. Besides those of us who rode in our minibus, many people from the convention car-pooled to the club. As such, we really had a strong contingent of cross-dressers descend upon the place!

We were glad the weather was so nice, so we could fully enjoy the superb, back patio this club has. There were lots of places to sit and visit with each other, which also gave us a chance to rest our high-heel weary feet. After our feet recovered, we danced up a storm with some of the lesbians, who were really fun. There was also a foxy babe featured dancing on a stage of her own, and some of us took the opportunity to tuck dollars in her sexy outfit to show our appreciation!

One girl came up to us on the patio at one point, and wanted to know what was going on. "There are so many of you in here, tonight," she began inquisitively. "Is there a convention in town, or something?"

You got it, sweetie!

**Anne Vitale PhD**

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## 1997 RETREAT REVISITED

by Juana and Veronica Smith

A little more than a year ago, the ExCom officers determined that it was necessary to spend time together and away from distractions so as to concentrate on establishing goals for the next year. Ten goals were listed, including finishing a project that had languished for nearly a decade under previous ExComs. The following is a short analysis of how well or ill this ExCom has done.

### **Publish A Year Long Calendar Of Events**

During the retreat, the officers pencilled in a full year's worth of events. Although dates were tentative, the publication of ETVC's 1997-1998 schedule in the first edition of *Channel 2* was a benefit to members who needed to plan well in advance.

### **Promote ETVC's Visibility**

Cindy Martin and Jamie Fay Fenton's generosity allowed ETVC to have a free website, and the energetic and beautiful Miss Q created and maintained a webpage. Telzey recently reported that half the people she talks to on the hotline had found the number on the web. Juana got ETVC to participate in the first Tranny Fest, a week of transgender events including the first West Coast Transgender Film Festival. Miss ETVC Dale Carlson, Andrea Drane, Janet Bowman and Erika Von Valkyrie performed during the Freedom Day Parade. The Cotillion was broadcast on television for the first time. And ETVC was one of the sponsors of the major national event, California Dreamin'.

### **Search For New Social And Mid-Month Venues**

Darcy Leopard's strenuous searches allowed ETVC members to enjoy diverse venues such as the Lilo Lounge, Cafe Mars and Cyberworld Cafe. And The Cat Woman organized Saturday events at Cyberworld and the G-Spot. Ms. Leopard, Bree Wood and DiDi Mau checked out the logistics of creating club crawls at California Dreamin'. However, within the minds of most veteran ETVCers lingers the exemplum of Chez Mollet, a combined bar, restaurant and meeting hall that was inexpensive and had good parking. That dream spot has not been fulfilled.

### **Increase Communication With Membership**

The ExCom determined that a survey of the members was needed so as to understand their concerns. Sara Warren created a survey filled with pertinent questions and the ExCom edited it. Then Sara Warren copied it and sent it out. The results were tabulated, analyzed and published in *Channel 2*. At the same time, a fuller form of the ExCom Minutes was published so that the members were able to see the decision-making process and be made aware of the organization's problems and advances.

### **Review, Revision and Reworking of the Bylaws**

Nearly a decade before this ExCom took office, it had been determined that ETVC needed revised bylaws. A committee was formed and an outline drawn and there it sat for

nine years. At the 1997 Retreat, this particular ExCom decided that updated Bylaws was a worthwhile goal. Within six months after the May Retreat, dedicated ETVC volunteer Brenda Altman, Esq., had completed a draft of completely revised bylaws. Through further work by the ExCom and especially by Sandra, Erin and Veronica, a finalized version was put forth for membership approval.

### **Organization Name Change**

In an effort to represent the membership more inclusively, members submitted name change suggestions and a ballot was sent to all members for consideration. Results will be posted in the next newsletter.

### **Improve The Quality Of Education Seminars**

Previously, the Education Committee was expected to produce 18 Education Seminars a year. This requirement usually led to the quick burn-out of the Co-Chairs and Committee. Nancy and Juana determined that neither the membership nor the committee was served by this expectation. Therefore, they decided to work on improving the quality and limit the quantity of seminars. This innovation has stimulated more interest and greater attendance.

### **Expand The Newsletter To Include A Supplement**

It was thought ETVC would benefit with more timely information. This was especially critical when event venues became more difficult to secure. *Channel 2* was the result. After five issues, it was suspended when *The Channel* went to a monthly format.

### **Increased Participation In Civic Activities And Creation Of A "Tip Sheet."**

ETVC currently does not have enough volunteers to organize this level of membership participation or to help the ExCom create and update a tip sheet. Anyone who wishes to help out with this, please step forward.

As we look at what this ExCom has accomplished in one year, we feel that this group has done well during some rough times. There are certain things we did not see, such as the financial difficulties that have plagued the club and the inability to find a stable and suitable social venue.



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## MORE ADVENTURES IN THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

By Nicole



As you recall my last article ended just before the Cotillion. So I thought I would do a follow up article on my adventures starting with the Cotillion. This was my first time out to a "Grand Event" en femme, I did not know what to expect, but I was planning to have a good time. At first we had planned not to go, neither my wife or I had formal gowns to wear and we did not have the money to buy the ones we wanted. However Diane (from TGIF) convinced us that we could just wear nice outfits and we would be just fine. As a result four of us from TGIF went together, Debbie (my wife), me (Nicole), Heidi and Roxanne.

The Cotillion was held in a very nice venue with what looked like several hundred people in attendance. I saw several people I knew there and met a few new people. I was even talked into being one of the Debutantes. For those of you who have an account on the Transgender Forum (<http://www.tgforum.com>) I am in one of the pictures on the last page of the 1998 ETVC Cotillion Pictorial. (Thank You Cindy!). All it all we had a good time at the Cotillion.

After the Cotillion our group went out with two other TGIF people (Chelsea and Camille) to find a place in San Francisco to have a good time. We started by paying a visit to Marlena's. Marlena's is certainly TG friendly, when we arrived there were several TG people there who were not at

the Cotillion, and a few who were. One of the bar tenders was even TG. The only drawback was that the bar was small and packed with people. We took a seat in back by the pool table and had a drink. The six of us had a discussion as best as we could and decided to try and find a place where we could dance.

We had heard from someone at the Cotillion that Krystal (from SGA) had gone to a place called the G-spot, so off we went. When we arrived the first challenge was finding a parking spot. During the circling for a parking spot we lost Chelsea and Camille. Eventually we found a spot and started down the busy road towards the club. As it turns out the club is called the End-up but on Saturday night (ladies night) it is called the G-spot (or Girl Spot). This is important because if you see the sign from one side it says End-up and if you see it from the other side it says The G-spot. We were circling in a direction that showed the End-up side of the sign and we were looking for the G-spot, good thing one of the girls in the back looked back at the other side of the sign as we went by.

We paid the rather steep \$6.00 cover charge and went inside. The G-spot has to be the best place we have found in San Francisco thus far. It has a dance floor and is about one half the size of the Faces in Sacramento. Across from the dance floor is a separate higher stage where an exotic dancer performs. There were at least 2 bars and an outside area in the back. The restrooms don't even have gender identification signs, so all genders were using both. They could use a few more bathrooms there, at times the lines were getting a bit long. We danced until the place closed around 2:00 am. It was a lot of fun.

Since the Cotillion, my wife and I have been to Faces in Sacramento 3 more times. It is just too much fun to miss. In addition I was at the SGA talent contest at Josephs last month. This was a fun event as well. SGA rented the club section of Josephs and had many performers including the ETVC royal court, Di Di Mau, and the ETVC President. I still think the best way to do the Sacramento experience is to start with the SGA dinner at Josephs and then go to Faces afterwards.

We have also been to DVG at least 3 times since the Cotillion. This appears to be the best venue for talking to other members. Even though it is held at a club, there is no loud music. The club has several small tables which allows you to move from one group to another and talk to most of

*Continued on Page 16*

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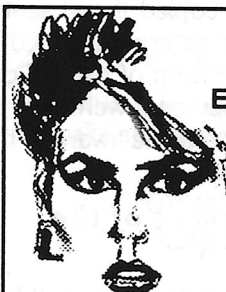
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## A TRIBUTE TO MY SIGNIFICANT OTHER

By Nicole

Many of you have met my wife Debbie at various TG events. We have a lot of fun going out to eat, dance and have fun at TG events. So I thought it would be most appropriate to write an article about her. Debbie has known about my feminine feelings for some time. I filled her in a little at a time because I did not want to lose her and I knew she would have to know in order for the relationship to last. In part my coming out has been at her speed. My wonderful wife has been supportive at almost every juncture of my transgendered emergence.

While I have not attended any TG events before last July, Debbie and I have gone vacationing where I was able to dress privately (and in some cases not so privately i.e. Hiking) en femme. In fact long before Nicole ever showed up at a TGIF meeting she had been to the beach, hot tubing near Pismo Beach, Hiking in the Humboldt Redwoods, sunning on the California high desert near Joshua Tree and lounging in a spa near San Juan Capistrano. In each of these trips, Debbie and I had a great time together.

Debbie even helped me find my way into the San Francisco area Transgendered Community. During one of her classes at Santa Rosa Jr. College, Dianne Giles gave a talk on the Transgendered community. Debbie got with Dianne after the talk to get the information about the group so I could attend the meeting.

For the last two Christmas's Nicole has always received presents from Debbie, which several of you have seen me

wearing at ETVC, DVG, SGA, TGIF or other TG events. The hair style that I wear, was created by Debbie and each time she does it she tries to perfect it into something better. While I have learned to do the basic version myself, it will always be Debbie who has done the more elegant versions.

Makeup is another area where she has been a great help. I was worried about telling her of my desire to wear makeup, but like everything else she surprised me by buying me my own makeup kit and giving me several of her makeup items. It was not that she could not wait to see me in makeup, she just wanted me to be happy. She is now my make-up coach of sorts, and helps me out when I am having a problem.

When I got the urge to have pictures taken of me, Debbie became my photographer. Not just for a picture here and a picture there, but for entire photo shoots of a hundred pictures at a time. Some at home, and some on location (including a recent photo shoot at the beach). Debbie has always liked taking pictures and now she has near professional equipment to do it with, and Nicole could not be happier. For those of you that have not seen some of these pictures they are on the TGForum <http://www.tgforum.com>. I am in the photo opportunity section, the profile section, in the Miss TGForum contest and in the not too distant future I should have a pictorial. Some of you might think that some of the pictures make me look better than I look in person, well that's my photographer, she's great.

There may be things that I wish I could have done in earlier parts of my life (for example experiencing my feminine side several years earlier) but there is one thing I am really glad that I did. And I feel lucky that it happened the way it did, and that was meeting Debbie. As I move forward in life, I am sure we will have many more great times together, and I can't think of any other person I would want to be with.

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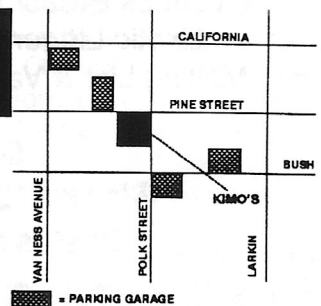
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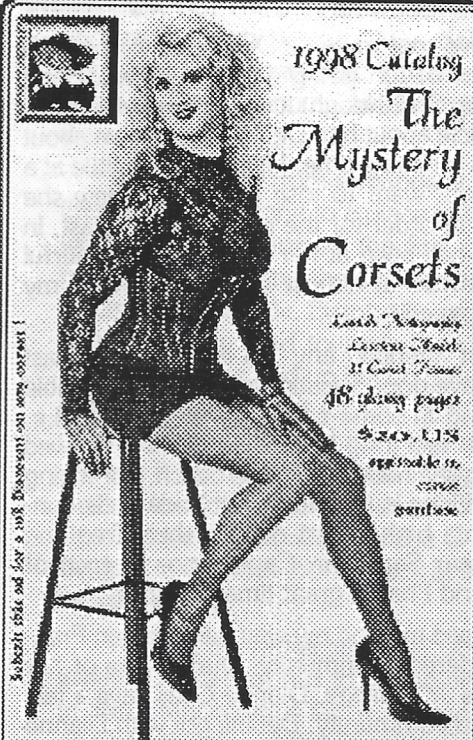
## More Adventures

Continued from Page 14

the people there. As I mentioned before DVG is very organized. As you come in, Donna has flyers set up for just about every upcoming event in the area.

The only other adventure worth mentioning is the night Debbie and I went to The Blue Muse for dinner and then to the G-spot afterwards for dancing. We went by ourselves not knowing if we would meet any other TG's at either location. As it turned out we had an excellent time. The Blue Muse (which is right around the corner from Marlena's is an excellent restaurant, the meal I had was extremely good, and the staff was very friendly. We were seated in a table by the window, and the service was excellent. As it turns out Veronica (ETVC Secretary), her wife and one other person had dinner at the Blue Muse that night while we were there. The G-spot turned out to be just as much fun as it was the time before. Since we arrived earlier this time we were able to dance longer and the cover charge seemed to be less excessive.

Well that's about it for now. If anyone wants to know where any of these places are, they are listed in the Northern California Resources guide on the Transgender Forum. (<http://www.tgforum.com>) If you don't have access to the TG Forum (you should get access it's well worth the rather low membership fee) you can email me ([nicole@tgforum.com](mailto:nicole@tgforum.com)) and I will send you the addresses.



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