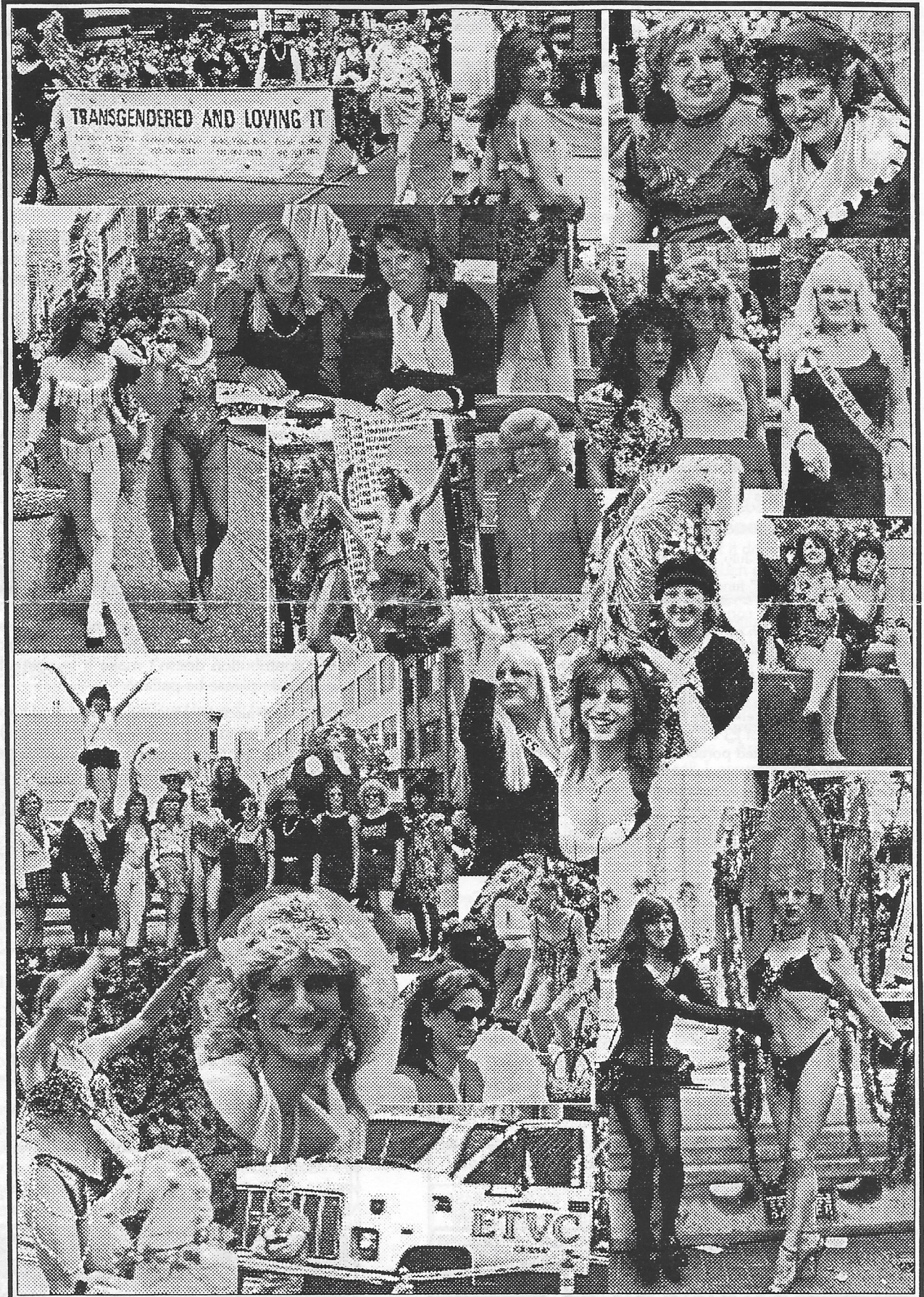


ETVC Marches With Pride!

ETVC The Channel
Transgendered And Loving It!



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 1998-99 Officers

(Fiscal Year: May 1 - April 30)

President Leslie Bailey
 Vice President Lulu Blau
 Secretary Veronica Smith
 Treasurer Lisa Ronald
 Education Nancy Cupps / Juana Smith
 Outreach Sandra Brewer
 Social Nicole Cook / Evette RoqueLaurie

Secretary's Report

Membership as of July, 1998 190
 Total Fiscal Year 1997-98 Membership 327
 New Memberships this year 22

Treasurer's Report

Account Balance as of July, 1998 (estimate) \$6,500.00
 The "Home for ETVC" fund (included in above) \$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 and Advertising Ayme Michelle Kantz
 Contributing Photographers Telzey Adams, Nicole Cook
 Vernoica & Juana Smith and Jamie Fey Fenton

Ad Rates

	Per Issue	Six Months	Per Year
Business Card (3-1/2 x 2)	\$ 25	\$125	\$ 250
4x5	\$ 60	\$300	\$ 600
Full Page	\$100	\$500	\$1000

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

The Saga Continues...

It seems recent calls to action have not gone unheeded and the debate on our proposed name change rages on (as evidenced by our Readers Respond pages). After the July ExCom it was decided that we're still uncomfortable with the idea of holding this runoff election until more of our members renew. ExCom really wants **EVERYBODY** who's eligible to vote to be able to do so, but is at the same time reluctant to effect a possible name change (and all that that will entail) based on so few eligible voters. So again I must ask you to rustle up those laggards and prod them into renewing their membership...they're missing out on a lot of good stuff!

So on to the debate: ETVC or TGSF...runoff to be held (hopefully) in September, maybe October. Don't worry, when it comes time to publish the special mail-in ballot, I guarantee you won't miss it. When the time finally does arrive (probably before the end of summer), all I can hope for is that you'll trouble yourself to cast your ballot. The first go 'round was, frankly, embarrassing and doesn't speak well for our commitment to what we believe in and stand for. I know this issue has plagued many ExComs for years and in all honesty, I've always felt our energies were best directed elsewhere. But it's finally time to put it to bed and be decided one way or the other. So give it some thought, maybe even send me something worth publishing on the matter, but do keep an eye out for your opportunity to participate in the election...your vote will make a difference.

Good Stuff?

This issue is jam-packed and squeezed together a bit. I can't believe all the stuff you're sending me! It was determined that we could go to 18 pages without paying extra postage, so here we are; and I apologize but I had to go to a 9-point body text so I could cram it all in! I'm trying to prioritize all the time-sensitive articles (in favor over the numerous photos of the Parade) and forgive me if your contribution doesn't make it to print. I'll catch you next time 'round...please be patient.

You may also notice that I've published two months' worth of ExCom minutes in this issue (June's and July's). ExCom took my suggestion to heart and agreed our members need to be more up to speed on what's-a-happenin', not however, without a sacrifice. In order to make this possible, they also agreed to move their meeting up to the first Sunday of every month in order to accommodate my deadline, for which I humbly thank them. In addition, no small effort will be expended by our dedicated Secretary, Veronica, in transcribing her recordings of the meeting in time to

Continued on Page 3

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Leslie Bailey

To all those who participated in the Pride Parade in any way a big thank you. Lulu has wanted to do a float for some time, so she got a lot of people to pitch in and pulled it off big time. We spent Saturday over at Jelly's decorating the truck (20 footer) and transforming it into a fantasy float. What was to worry about? We finished it Sunday morning with a whole hour to spare thereby preserving Lulu's sanity. Dianna, Q, and Kalani along with everyone else who rode the truck or walked, strolled or roller skated won the crowd over. I was proud of our group. I was proud to be transgendered.

To all who worked so hard to make it happen, to all who contributed materials and artistic flair to make the float so wonderful, THANK YOU!!

Shifting gears (no pun intended), a young, straight woman was at my door a few days ago soliciting memberships for the Human Rights Campaign. She was obviously appreciative of a welcoming household. I don't know if she fully realized how appreciative I was of a person not of our combined communities who would spend her summer (paid or not I don't care) to advance the LGBT cause because she thinks it right. I joined (and I intend to join several others that are working for human rights) because I'm concerned about the politicians and coalitions that are intent on rolling back the clock to a "safer" and more repressive time. It is important to show people who are in a position to effect decisions about our lives that we are out there in significant numbers and that we are confident about ourselves and happy with our choices. Isn't that what Pride celebrations are about?

From the Editor

Continued from Page 2

send them via email to ExCom members for approval prior to publishing. (Official approval of the Minutes will come, of course, at the following month's ExCom meeting and any final corrections shall be duly noted in *The Channel*). Thanks to the wonders of the Internet and the willingness of ExCom to review the Minutes in a timely manner, we should be able to pull this off henceforth.

Now transcribing meeting minutes is a drudgery any way you look at it, and it's just another fine example of one member going a little further than she really has to in order to keep our boat afloat. This is, after all, a volunteer organization. We're all extremely fortunate to have the dedicated people now holding elected positions for the 1998-99 term. In all honesty, some of them do so reluctantly, but that doesn't deter them from doing their best. All of them are working hard, always on their own time, to make our monthly programs and events become successful, positive statements about our organization, and a welcome haven for those of our ilk.

And can I have a round of applause please for those Party Nymphs who came out to decorate the ETVC float and those who marched in this year's LGBT Pride Parade! I caught the Q-TV video on the tube a few weeks ago and ya'll looked great! I've marched in the parade before and I know what a thrill it is to have all those people waving and clapping, hootin' and a-hollerin' at you while you strut down Market Street...it's a real thrill! Give all these people a hug when you see them next...and won't you, too, consider joining one of our committees? There's lot's going on and much to be done. We need you! Come out, come out wherever you are!

CONFESSIONS OF A STRAIGHT GIRL

Chapter 10: The More Things Change...

by Andrea Drane



Making it all the way through SRS marks the end of our life-long struggle to be complete in body and spirit, and signals a new beginning full of promise and full of challenge. You might expect that your life would be wondrously transformed, and that all your hopes and dreams would be realized. What a disappointment to realize that the world remains blissfully unaware of your change in status, and that most aspects of your life remain the same—or it would be if you embrace such unrealistic expectations.

SRS has no inherent magic. It doesn't enhance your ability to pass, and it certainly doesn't mean you can relax your manner of dress or your personal grooming. While you do have increased confidence, reduced anxiety, and a certain indefinable feminine glow about you, it's no reason to revert to old behavior. Your presentation is pretty much what it was when you signed in at the Admitting desk.

Finally having the right body is pure ecstasy, but everything has its price. Recovering from the actual surgery takes several weeks, and your new personal hygiene and dilating routines are quite demanding—particularly during the first month (can you say "four times a day"?). The novelty of being post-op wears off quickly, and the celebratory lunches and dinners end all too soon. The loss of attention can be quite a let down, but it does pass. Once it does, getting on with our lives becomes so much easier. A case in point:

The Fourth of July always draws large crowds to the Marina. The Safeway parking lot fills by early evening since it is so close to the fireworks at Aquatic Park. I was there with another TS friend getting some snacks for the festivities. As we left the store, we heard someone behind us calling "Ma'am? Ma'am?" When we turned around, a young college-age man asked us, "Are you going to your car?" We apologized that we weren't, and noticed an increasingly confused look cross his face. "Are you two really guys," he asked in an incredulous voice? I assured him that we were women, but he didn't believe me. "Are too, are too!" he cried, and then yelled to his two friends in the car that he had "caught" two transvestites. My friend got really upset, and shouted something about "fat ignorant frat boys"; I just started laughing, and said, "Oh, ignore him! Let's go before he calls for 3PO."

It would have been very different story if the incident had been more that a pathetic attempt at verbal ridicule, and my humorous remark was lost on my friend. Still, the encounter illustrated that being post-op doesn't change what the world sees.

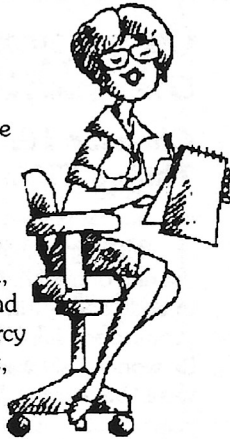
I am irrevocably female now—no retreat and no surrender. Nothing I have done has changed the world around me, and I simply have to deal with what is. But I have changed so much. I am truly complete, with a solid sense of who and what I am. Having had SRS simply completed the process that I started almost two years ago. By itself, it changed little. Taken together with everything I have learned through therapy and my Real Life Test, though, one cycle of my life has ended, and a new cycle has begun.

WEEKEND EXCURSIONS?

Would like to meet other cross dressers to go out with occasionally on Friday or Saturday nights. Have fun, flirt; Kimo's, Marlina's, etc. I'm 46, shy, not even sure passable. Women especially welcome. (415) 267-7628. Paula

ExCOM MEETING MINUTES

The monthly meeting of ETVC's Executive Committee was at 3:00 on June 14, 1998 at Leslie Bailey's. In attendance were President-Elect Bailey, Secretary Smith, Outreach Chair Brewer and Outgoing Outreach Co-Chair Adams, Education Co-Chairs Cupps and Smith, and Social Co-Chairs Cook and RoqueLaurie and the Very Outgoing Outgoing-Social Chair Darcy Leopard. Guests included Editor Ayme Kantz, Debbie Cook and Consuela Valdes. Outgoing President Souza, Treasurer Ronald and Vice President-Elect Blau were absent.



The Meeting was called to order at 3:45 p.m. **The Minutes:** Juana moved that May's Minutes be approved, Nicole seconded; they were unanimously approved. **Communications and Announcements:** Leslie announced she would limit future ExCom meetings to less than three hours, and will increase communication among the officers between meetings so as to speed the process along. The BBS has been closed and Erin and Darcy have cleared out the storage locker; there is a need to locate a place to store stuff. Leslie will get the bank signature card. The AIDS Walk will take place on July 19; Erin will handle that and her name and number will be put in *The Channel*. Telzey announced that the GLBT Film Festival was coming up and Sandra reported on *Transformation*, a dance sponsored by OGBLT, happening on June 20 in the East Bay.

President: The Prez is helping Lulu with the Parade and is working on the Cotillion.

Vice President: There had been a parade meeting on the 13th. There will be a float building party on June 27th. Lulu, Dianna, Kalani and Q are designing and in charge of building. Sandra suggested that old issues of *Tapestry* be labeled and given away at the information booth. Telzey will supply table and chairs for the booth.

Secretary: Membership for the beginning of the membership year is 143 with 12 new, which Veronica thought was encouraging. For the first time in four years, the membership number was up in comparison with the previous year. The May newsletter was the least expensive to date: the entire cost for copying and first class mailing was \$443 (compared to \$1,500 doing it the old way). Veronica thanked Ayme for a wonderful job in producing a beautiful newsletter at a fraction of what the newsletter used to cost. Veronica also expressed appreciation to Elizabeth Walters for breaking ETVC away from the old style of doing the newsletter.

Sandra led a discussion about how to charge new members who do not join at the beginning of ETVC's year. Nicole suggested a little grid on the application as a visual aid for new members so they could see exactly what they owed whatever month they joined. The ExCom agreed. Sandra is reducing free issues given to friends and helpers. There were nearly 130 freebies every month. Leslie and Sandra will meet on June 21 to discuss pruning the freebies.

Treasurer: Lisa wants yearly budgets and 60-day projections of expenses by the 5th of every month. Veronica, Lisa and Leslie will meet twice a month and divide the post office box. Leslie will create a schedule. Ayme would like to publish a Treasurer's report.

Outreach: Sandra has 13 for KQED Pledge Night. She sent a letter to Toni and Valarie. The Outreach Speakers Workshop will be held at Charpes on July 26, from Noon to 5:00 p.m. Brunch will start it off. Juana asked about San Francisco outreach pro-

grams. Sandra said she would try out Lulu's helpful free advertising list.

Education: Juana said that the July 22 seminar would include Sybil and Dr. Henkin discussing S&M. Nancy had already sent EdCom's budget to Lisa and she's lined up for C.C. Parrot and Shoes for August; Dr. Ousterhout at Kimo's on September 13; and Dr. Meltzer in October.

Social: Nicole Cook had been very busy. She passed out her agenda, which included (1) *Operation Experience Your Dreams*, (2) *Operation Planet TG*, (3) Enhancement of the Website, (4) TG San Francisco Excursions, and (5) the posting of a *Hate Crime* locations map on the website. She wants to establish events like bar hopping in addition to the mid-months, and announce these events on the ETVC Website. Nicole presented a Resource Catalog to the ExCom for review. She would like this on the website as well. Nicole had a mailer to send to prospective vendors. She was looking at organizing a cooperative event with SGA. The idea would be for Sacramento girls to come out in San Francisco and vice versa. The thought was that it might be easier to get the girls out when they're out of town. There was a discussion about paying for end-month socials. Leslie thought that if the club was going to charge for admittance, something special should be offered

New Business: Nicole and Debbie passed around a petition on *AB 1999 - TG Hate Crime*. The Cooks volunteered their house for the ETVC mini-retreat. Leslie would like to set out another calendar of the year and discuss broader issues than are usually discussed at ExCom meetings. Ayme wanted to include the most recent ExCom minutes in the newsletter, but that would require Veronica (who works full-time and has a very demanding wife) to type them and have them approved within a few days. The ExCom meetings will be moved up in the month and the minutes can be distributed by e-mail since almost all the officers have e-mail. Ayme wants ETVC to have an interactive website. She said "so many people live on the fringe of a dream" and she wants to facilitate as many TG people as possible "to live the dream." She wants a website that allows downloading any information ETVC has. That means ETVC's website would have to be equipped to handle credit card payments and accounts. The idea being that a member would join/renew online and receive a password to a restricted area where they could view the Channel and other group publications, or download viewable (PDF) files. Ayme offered to write the newsletter PDF file herself. Nicole, Ayme and Q are all internet literati and seem quite capable of creating an interactive site. Nicole and Ayme presented a very exciting vision expressed with a lot of enthusiasm, but our old Veronica worried about the continuity in volunteers and officers. Veronica asked what would happen after Nicole, Ayme and Q finish their volunteerism. Who would do the website and handle the credit card accounts?

Continued on Page 5



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June Minutes

Continued from Page 4

Nancy brought up the Name Change issue. She enumerated reasons why TGSF was a good name. She said "being transgendered is a change process: people change their appearance, people change their name, some even go all the way and change their sex, so people shouldn't be afraid of change." She felt now was the right time to change for something that better fit the club. Leslie concurred. But dour old Veronica reminded them that the next newsletter would only go out to the 143 who had renewed so far. Was it fair that the name would be determined by so few? It was agreed that the top two contenders would be announced and discussed in the August issue when membership was beefed up. With that, Leslie asked if there was a motion to adjourn.

Adjournment: At 6:20 p.m., Evette moved to adjourn. Nancy seconded the motion, the motion was passed. The next ExCom Meeting is on July 5 at 3:00 in San Francisco.

July 1998

EXCOM MEETING MINUTES

The monthly meeting of ETVC's Executive Committee was at 3:00 on July 5, 1998 at Lulu Blau's. In attendance were President Bailey, Vice President Blau, Secretary Smith, Outreach Chair Brewer and Social Co-Chair Cook. Guests included Debbie Cook and Telzey Adams. Absent were Treasurer Ronald, Social Co-Chair RoqueLaurie, Education Co-Chairs Cupps and Smith.

The Meeting was called to order at 3:15 p.m. **Communications and Announcements:** Erin is handling the AIDS Walk taking place on July 19. Sandra asked if the Cotillion was still scheduled for February 6, 1999, one week closer to the Imperial Court's Coronation. Leslie confirmed that it was. Lulu said that the tentative date for The Really Big Shew was September 25 at the Billy De Frank Auditorium. That would mean that both September and October's socials would be in San Jose, because the Halloween social will be there also. Nicole said that the auditorium was inexpensive (around \$175) compared with San Francisco auditoriums.

The Minutes: Sandra corrected the initials of Transformation's sponsor — APEB not OGBLT. With that correction, Sandra moved that June's Minutes be approved, Nicole seconded; they were unanimously approved.

Old Business: None.

President: President Bailey extended her thanks to Lulu and to all the others who helped with the Float and Parade. The President, the Secretary and the Treasurer will meet July 10 to divvy up the mail box receipts. Leslie will get stuff from Erin and start on the Cotillion planning with Lulu.

Vice President: Lulu was disturbed that there was no banner at ETVC's information booth and that there were no refreshments other than the sodas Telzey brought. Sandra had offered the booth's use to FTM. Leslie, Lulu and others suggested that next year FTM have their own booth next to ETVC's and ETVC would facilitate and help FTM in any way it could. Sandra would discuss this with Jeffrey of FTM very soon. Nicole asked about the float building schedule. She could help if the float were built on Friday night, not Saturday. But Leslie pointed that both the truck and (next year) facilities will be rented, and it's just cheaper to rent for two days rather than three. **Telzey wanted it noted that the banner still has wrong telephone numbers on it**

and she would like this strongly noted so that the mistake will be corrected by next year. Nicole and Debbie offered to correct it right away.

Secretary: Membership is 169 with 20 new (compared to 199 with 31 new last year's July meeting, but that meeting took place two weeks later in the month). 170 members from the previous year had not renewed this year. There was discussion of sending out a reminder letter to those members, a mailing of approximately 150. The ExCom instructed Veronica that the letter should mention the Name Change vote, the Resource Guide, and the fact that the newsletter is now monthly.

The June newsletter was the least expensive to date: the entire cost for copying and first class mailing was \$309 (compared to \$1,500 doing it the old-fashioned way). Veronica expressed much gratitude to Ayme for a newsletter that just seems to get better and better with each issue. Veronica also mentioned that Ayme has been vigorous in contacting advertisers and drumming up money. Veronica recently verified that the newsletter could possibly go to 18 pages instead of the usual 16 pages without extra postage. That may be necessary to accommodate the extra material and advertising that Ayme is acquiring and editing so nicely. At this rate, Ayme could very well make *The Channel* self-sufficient, a truly paradigmatic shift for ETVC; because *The Channel* was once ETVC's biggest financial drain. Lulu preferred the old newsletter's paper and she thought the print on the calendar was too small. Lulu and Sandra definitely thought the event write-ups should go on the page facing the calendar. Veronica would relate ExCom's desires to Ayme, but both Veronica and Leslie pointed out that larger paper would require different and more expensive printing. Sandra confessed that she at first had been wary of going monthly with the newsletter, but that Ayme had made a believer of her. Veronica and Lulu were especially happy with the dialogue now happening in the newsletter, even the free flow of criticisms.

Treasurer: Veronica, Lisa and Leslie will meet twice a month and divide the post office box starting July 10. Sandra was curious about how much of her United Way contribution got through to ETVC. Veronica answered that most if not all of it did.

Education: Juana and Nancy basically have the rest of the year's seminars and locations confirmed.

Outreach: Sandra mailed 40 announcements about the July 26 Speakers Workshop. She also used Lulu's helpful free advertising and promotion list. She sent information to *SF Weekly* promoting the Outreach Speakers Workshop and Juana's July 22 Education Seminar. But the next *SF Weekly* will come out the day of the Seminar so Sandra didn't know how effective it would be. Lulu stressed that if there were a point person and photograph, the local press might print a spread of the event. Sandra sent APEB an apology for the fact that no ETVC representative appeared at the fund raiser on June 20. De Anza College sent \$150 in hono-

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 2ND, 3:00PM

AUGUST EXCOM MEETING

Want to see some change in the way things are run? Dying to contribute your time and money to a worthy cause? Just want to put in your two cents worth? or, just have nothing better to do. Well whatever the reason you can join us in Livermore at Sandra's house as we create the minutes that appear in the channel. Email or call me (Nicole) and I will arrange for you to get directions. nicole@tgforum.com or (707) 824-0860.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12TH, 8:00PM

MID-MONTH SOCIAL

Well I mentioned last month that we were going somewhere new for the August Mid-month social, and we are. Join us on August 12th at Harvey's in the Castro. Harveys is located at the corner of Castro and 18th street (1 block south of Market). Our official starting time is 8:00pm but be sure to be there before 9:00 because I think there is a drag show later in the evening.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26TH, 8 PM

EDUCATION SEMINAR: THE SHOES MAKE THE WOMAN

Do you need more shoes? Of course you do. Shoes make you happy, especially shoes that are comfortable and fashionable. Sexy oh-so-high heels. Strappy sandals. Friendly flats. High-high boots. Essential pumps. Amusing mules. You can match your nails to your eye shadow to your belt to your nylons, but if the shoes aren't right - if the shoes don't put a spring in your step and a smile on your face - you're better off wearing your pajamas. With the appropriate slippers, of course. Unfortunately, unless you're petite, you probably have trouble finding the shoes you want in your size.

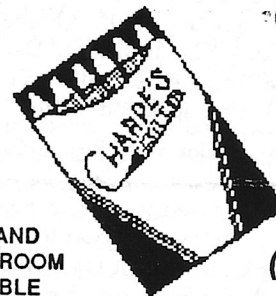
C.C. Parrott and Robert Geleta of Cher Cher's Shoes, will host a focus group to address our need to find high fashion female styled shoes to fit a man's foot. Cher Cher's shoes are designed to deliver comfort and quality without skimping on style. An interactive discussion will cover conceptual designs, color and style preferences,

as well as your specific needs and desires. Hint: bring a picture from a magazine of those shoes you've been lusting over that don't come in your size. And let's not stop there. Cher Cher's has future plans to make purses, hats, jewelry, and other accessories. Don't you just love it when things match? Please come even if your goal is just to learn more about shoes! There's no need to go barefoot. Unless of course, you want to. And then we'll talk pedicure. Kimos's Upstairs, corner Polk and Pine, 8:00pm, Free!

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27TH, 8:00PM

END OF MONTH

Well it is time for something a bit different in the End of Month festivities. How about a legs contest? That's right it's time to break out that sexy little outfit that really shows off your legs. We will have finalist in four categories, Sexiest, Most tasteful, Most exposure and Most Graceful. After which we will choose a Miss Legs from our four finalist. So we will expect to see you and your legs at Charpes on August 27th at 8:00pm. Charpes is located at 131 Gough (about a block North of Market).



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- Secretary, Veronica Smith VeronicaCS@aol.com
- Social Chair, Nicole Cook nicole@tgforum.com
- Editor, Ayme Kantz MissAyme@aol.com

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Calendar of Events - August 1998

OTHER GROUPS

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 925-937-8432.

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 925-937-8432.

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.

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

						1
2 3:00 PM ETVC ExCom Meeting; Livermore	3 8:00 PM Diablo Valley Girls: Social	4	5	6 7:00 PM DVG Rap Group (RCC)	7 ** 8:00 PM Pacific Center: TV/TS Rap	8 8:00 PM Far West Women: Meeting 8:00 PM Sacto Gender Assoc: Social
9	10	11	12 8:00 PM ETVC: Mid-Month Social @ Harvey's	13	14 ** 7:00 PM Silicon Vly Gender Assoc: Support Grp	15
16	17 8:00 PM Diablo Valley Girls: Social	18	19	20 7:00 PM DVG Rap Group (RCC)	21 ** 8:00 PM Pacific Center: TV/TS Rap	22 8:00 PM Far West Women: Meeting 8:00 PM Sacto Gender Assoc: Social
23	24	25	26 8:00 PM ETVC: Education Seminar - Shoes!	27 8:30 PM ETVC EOM Social @ Charpes	28 ** 7:00 PM Silicon Vly Gender Assoc: Support Grp	29
30	31					

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FEB	7.5	10
MAR	5	7
APR	2.5	3

Our Readers Respond...

FIRST PRIDE!

Hi all,

I just thought I'd say thanks to all those hard working folks who pulled together the ETVC float this past Sunday, particularly Lulu, Leslie and Diana. Wouldn't have happened without you. They say you'll never forget your first Pride, and I certainly won't!

Luv, Nikki

HEY GIRLS!

After reading the latest *Channel*, I thought the least I could do was donate a few more dollars to the cause. Hope this helps a little.

Love, Nikki Rillingale

(Ed. Note: This little note was accompanied by a check for \$75.00! May the Goddess always smile upon you Nikki...)

SO WHAT'S IN A NAME ANYWAY?

Dear ETVC,

Or what ever we are calling ourselves by now. As a long time member, as President of a sister organization (Emerald City) and as an experienced business person, I would like to offer a few thoughts about what we call ourselves, and something I think is much more important.

I have seen many business hire new advertising agencies to spruce up the message they send to the public. The first thing that always happens is new letterhead. Then a new logo. Sometimes a new name. All I have ever seen come of this is a lot of expense, a lot of confusion, and sometimes a loss of identity. Recent studies now show that the old icons and names of companies are the ones people remember, not the newly minted ones. Smart companies seem to know this. Even if the company changes totally, they realize the value of their history and name, their marque.

So what's in a name anyway? There seems to be some confusion about what ETVC stands for. No one seems to know any more what the letters mean. Well, to a girl who has been around for nearly two decades, I can tell you what it stands for to me. It stands for the best known, largest, most active, cross dressing group on the west coast. It is a place where I know I can always find friends. Where information is readily available. Where no one will ask if I am TV, TS, CG, CD, or anything else before they offer aid and assistance. ETVC stands for all of these things. It is the organization nearly everyone in our genre has heard of if they live on the west coast.

Do we really want to give all that up? To start over with a new moniker in an effort to be all things to all people? Some say we should not use the letters "TV" because we are more than a "TV" organization; that we have changed since our inception and now have many different kinds of members. Does that really matter? I think not.

Ford Motor Company now owns Jaguar of England. The Jaguar is now built with Ford parts, Ford experience, Ford engineering. It is now a dependable car, which Jaguar never was. Would anyone in their wildest dreams suggest changing the name from Jaguar to Ford?

CLUB X?

The name change thing reminds me of two sayings. "A rose by any other name" and "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." Hell, let's just change the name to Club X. X being the unknown can stand for anything you want. That way we won't have people all hung up on their acronyms, or secret meanings. 66 people voting out of 300. You can sure tell that the name change is a burning issue.

While I'm at it, will someone please answer a question I have had for some time now. Why did we drop our beautiful old logo? For Roxanna, thank you and AMEN sister AMEN.

Betty Byrne

(Ed. Note: The old logo was dropped during the 1993-94 year when the newsletter's name was changed to the Channel. Even then the name change issue raged on, but the logo drew even more ire than usual and it was decided to drop it altogether after an attempt to design a new one failed.)

DEAR ETVC,

I feel compelled to mention your publication is read promptly upon arrival here in Soquel - Santa Cruz area. The format is excellent with many articles relevant and timely. However, I feel isolated due in part to the fact San Francisco and environs are stated repeatedly with no mention of the Santa Cruz and Monterey areas.

I attended the "California Dreaming" event the previous week - noticed there was no attempt to identify a member's home town. I learned later, unfortunately, several Sisters from the Monterey area were in attendance.

Membership would be encouraged if the ETVC Channel were to feature a "contact" page similar to what is provided by the various webb pages. Not every Sister has a computer with webb page access.

Thank you, Erika Carter

(Ed. Note: Erika, this will be brought to ExCom's attention and they'll look into it for 'ya!)

Our current name causes no harm except to those who are so sensitive they seem to go about looking for reasons to be hurt. The name has a long history and much fame. It now constitutes a "marque" which should not be thrown away.

Far better if the effort put into the name change campaign were to be directed towards finding us a new home. Up here in Seattle, we have had to move Emerald City a couple of times as venues have disappeared, and each time it took time to rebuild our active membership. Each time we managed to recover, and while the people involved made it happen, and the social events provided an excuse to meet, it was the stability of location that ultimately made the difference.

Call us what you will. I will still belong, and still come to events when I can. The name is not the reason I come. But I implore you, regardless of what name we use, find us a permanent home.

Debra Darling

Our Readers Respond...

BACK ATCHA ROXANNA!

by Veronica Smith

Dear Roxanna,

Thanks for the letter. As always you make some good points. And thanks for mentioning that we are on the right track with the newsletter. *The Channel* used to cost around \$1,500 per 16-page issue, came out once every two months and took up to three weeks for delivery because it was sent by bulk mail. *The Channel* now costs around \$400 per 16-page issue, comes out monthly and is sent first class. The credit for this goes Elizabeth Walters, the sensational previous editor who broke us of the old way of doing things, and Ayme Kantz, the sensational present editor who found a friendly, inexpensive printer. You wrote that what is really important for a club's newsletter is "the content, the information and communication," and I hope you agree that being monthly aids in achieving these goals. But you grew critical of the ExCom and other "prime movers" (*who they?*) in the second part of your letter and painted a picture of us throwing money around like there's no tomorrow when the club is in "a state of emergency," sort of like partyers aboard the *Titanic* opening another bottle of champagne after hitting the berg. You ended your missive by saying that you "would feel more inclined to help *when there is greater common sense practiced.*"

Gosh, Roxanna, I'm a guy in a dress (a yellow floral number that's too short and tends to ride up, but I love it)! How am I supposed to have *common sense*? That's almost an oxymoron — the commonsensical crossdresser. If I had any common sense, I wouldn't be a member of ExCom. I tried to get out of it. I asked everyone I knew if they wanted to be Secretary. No one did, so I said I'd do it one more year. Do you want to be Secretary? *Does anyone reading this want to be Secretary?* If so, please contact me - VeronicaCS@aol.com. We'll get you started by being on my committee. Then you can go to all the ExCom meetings, take notes, prepare the minutes, track membership, write letters, make copies, oversee the newsletter, help the editor, pick up the newsletters, pay with personal checks and/or credit cards and (hope to) get reimbursed later, lug seven reams of paper through BART, arrive early at socials and just sit at the door *like a wall flower* and take entrance fees from people when everyone else is having fun. Excuse me for a moment, I had to dab the tears from my eyes. Boo-hoo, poor Veronica.

The *common sense* approach would be to have a full-time staff instead of volunteers. But even if we did have professionals, Roxanna, what would you have them do? You don't really give any advice other than to try harder, don't risk any money, don't make any mistakes, and perhaps, when we have solved all the problems and are well situated again, you might be inclined to help. Thanks. You mentioned money-losing Gender Fairs and Halloween Parties, but there were only two Gender Fairs. The last one lost money so we haven't had any in two years. We had several profitable Halloween parties at The Dunfey; however, when it closed, we were forced to find another more expensive hotel. Obviously the biggest bone of contention is the Cotillion. Again, venues affect revenues. The 1997 Cotillion was profitable, but we didn't have enough room for everyone. This year we went for something bigger. We gambled big, lost big and Leslie paid big. The club didn't lose or make any money on the Cotillion, but this ExCom sees it as ETVC's showcase. Some of us even think it is *necessary* to have a premiere event to which we can bring family and friends. As of right now, the Cotillion is scheduled for the same place on February 6, 1999. We believe it can be made profitable and we

are willing to risk every penny Leslie Bailey has to prove it!

In your letter, you questioned whether the Cotillion should replace regular socials and educational seminars. But the Cotillion didn't replace any socials or educational seminars. In fact, the educational seminars as piloted by Nancy Cupps and Juana Smith for the past two years received overwhelming approval on the surveys. The seminars are regular and usually well attended. As for the socials, in spite of not having the Chez, Darcy made them not only regular but more plentiful as well. Her mid-month socials at various new venues like Café Mars and Lilo Lounge became very dependable and almost always had good attendance. The present Social Co-Chair Nicole Cook and her spouse, Debbie, have already sent questionnaires to over forty establishments asking about their policies towards transgendered people.

All the above probably sounds like rationalization. I mean, if we're so practical, why did we have such an irregular cash flow for the past two years? I believe, and I hope it doesn't sound like too much of a cop-out, that ETVC is presently experiencing certain social and economic changes. Membership has been declining ever since we left Chez Mollett (that was one of the reasons for last year's survey), but from what I've read in other newsletters, it doesn't sound as if ETVC is the only TG club experiencing a membership decline. It has been suggested that internet chat rooms have become competitors to local TG clubs. That may be true, or at least a factor. But I also think that the dramatic jump in San Francisco property values in the last four years has placed every square foot of possible profit-producing space at a premium. Locations here are not cheap, so finding a suitable venue is more difficult than it used to be. Also, the inflated housing costs might be forcing the middle-class cross dresser (who used to be the staple of this club) away from the City into far-flung and more affordable locales. Once outside San Francisco, it is just easier to frequent clubs closer to home and not support the old club in the City. If that is the case, then this ExCom has had to react to broader and more intangible impingements upon the old way of operating than just the closing of the Chez. Whether or not it has reacted appropriately, of course, remains to be seen.

DEAR FRIENDS,

I'm writing on behalf of FTM International to thank you for allowing us to share your information booth at the SF Gay Pride celebration. We found it a very successful experience, as we shared information, and obtained new members and subscribers. We would like to thank especially Sandra Brewer, who accommodated us and our stuff at the booth. Thanks ETVC! See you at the next Gay Pride!

Jeffrey M. Dickemann



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SANDRA REACHES OUT

by Sandra Brewer

I want to thank everyone who participated in the KQED Pledge Drive in June. We had eleven volunteers who may have been seen briefly on TV. Also televised was our presence in the Freedom parade. Our information booth was a popular attraction at the end of the parade route at Civic Center this year. We shared our booth with

the FTM group. At times it was so crowded, we need to consider staffing separate booths at future events. I'll report on our Outreach and Speakers Workshop held in July next time.

I have to take issue with a statement published in our last newsletter. This was in an article recycled from DVG so the author may not even recall the statement, but I want to address it since it's been recently republished. The statement made in the fifth paragraph of Barbara Anderson's article accuses transsexuals who switch their sexual orientation during transition of being homophobic. She admits in the seventh paragraph that transitioning is a complex process that requires re-balancing; she promises more analysis next time. If we get more of the same, and this reflects her current thoughts, maybe we've seen enough. If she has re-evaluated her analysis, maybe we need her current thoughts and not just outdated reruns.

Most of Barbara's writing that I recall has been insightful, and I valued reading it; but she is way off base using the derogatory term homophobic to describe what can certainly be a natural consequence of transition. Apparently, she feels transsexuals are homophobic unless they are homosexual in at least one of their pre- or post-transitory states. While this may be an accurate description in some cases, a general statement is just not called for here.

I've found therapists generally well-meaning and reasonable people, but this isn't the first time I've departed from their standards. Despite the claims of activists that therapists are depriving them of their day with the surgeon, a referral is almost never refused to a client who still wants the surgery after completing a year living full time in the new role. Sometimes this isn't enough; I feel that passing, at least reasonably well, should be an additional requirement.

No matter how bad off a person is before surgery, transition and surgery can bring only misery when he is unaccepted by a society turned off by the sight of a man in a dress. If such a person was suicidal before surgery, he'll probably be even more so after the surgery. To me the year of transition was a test of society accepting me, as much as of my adapting to it. Though some of my needs would never have been fulfilled, I would never have gone forward had I failed either test. When the world at large isn't accepting, we need to be more aware that ETVC and other TG support groups offer a wonderful haven of acceptance; these are truly a resource to be treasured.

A RESPONSE TO SANDRA

By Barbara F. Anderson, Ph.D., LCSW

Thanks for the opportunity to write even more on this fascinating and challenging subject - "Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity." I do think you have a valid point with regard to my statement that "the exception to the pattern occurs in the case of individuals who are so homophobic that they had only allowed themselves relationships with those of the opposite sex." If I were to rewrite that sentence I would say "One exception to the usual pattern..." perhaps offering other examples of variations from the usual pattern. This was the first of two articles on this subject. Perhaps the second, "Impact of Gender Transition on Sexual Orientation" will clarify my position on the matter.

I apologize if my tone was accusatory in labeling certain behavior as homophobic; it was not meant to be. We all harbor within us homophobic as well as racist, sexist, ageist, etc. biases. How could we not, given the society we are raised in?

Since I have the floor, I will take issue with your belief that passing is of supreme importance in a successful transition. I refer you to an article I wrote, "Past Passing" for DVG in May 1998. My experience in working with clients as well as with a non-clinical population on civic projects, suggests that there are characteristics other than passing that are more predictive of success in transitioning. They are self-esteem, acceptance of one's own TG status, and having a mission or purpose in life. In this matter, Sandra, your ideas are out-of-date. We are past passing and have embarked on an era of acceptance. No longer are people who meet the criteria of the HBGDA Standards of Care denied the opportunity to live their lives as they choose rather than as dictated by society or well-meaning therapists who deem the applicant for sex change procedures "not good (i.e. pretty, feminine, sexy) enough."

Sandra, I do appreciate your finding my past articles insightful and hope that this exchange will keep us both open to differing points of view.

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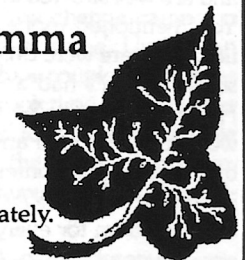
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JUNE SOCIALS IN REVIEW

by Nicole Cook

The June 10th Mid-month social at the Lilo Lounge was lightly attended with several of the mid month regulars present. Leslie, Jan, Debbie and I had dinner, and what I had, some kind of marinated pork strips, was excellent. After dinner we headed for the lounge. Most of the group were around the two center tables Rachel, Alexis, Vera, Veronica, Everett, Jan, Debbie and I socialized in this cozy lounge, which has a sort of tropical motif. I have not quite figured out the combination of the oriental restaurant with the tropical lounge, but it works ok for me. Later in the evening Lulu showed up and Leslie, Lulu and Veronica held what looked like a little board meeting at one of the tables by the door.

The End of Month social was once again held at Charpe's. We had dinner there again and once again it was excellent! I had the pork pot roast and Debbie had the beef pot roast, both were great - I wonder who is back there cooking? When we arrived at 7:30 there were already 6 of our group there having dinner. There was a party of four with Nancy Ann, Veronica & Juana. We arrived with Ayme and Sandra arrived moments later. Humm.. perhaps we should start the event earlier? By 8:15 or so we were practically the only people in the establishment. However, most of the group began to arrive after 8:30.

Since we had the back room we set it up in sort of a club format, however several members of the group preferred to stay at the more plush front bar. There is a bar in the back room, and there has been some talk about getting someone to (wo)man it. For a while we had a couple of our members playing the piano in the back room. The turn out was around 30 people. In my continuing effort to remember names I will try and list who I remember seeing.... Of course I already mentioned Nancy Ann, Veronica, Juana, Ayme and Sandra. Cindy Martin and Jamie Faye were both there, Q and Darcy were among the group arriving around 9:00. I remember discussing parade outfits with Didi, and I remember talking to Bardi for awhile. I can remember faces of several other members but I haven't remembered their names yet. At about 11:00 a few of us walked down to Market (2 blocks) to see a drag show at Piafs. I understand that is a new bar/club. They were quite friendly with a "Come on in" as we got to the door. We saw 3 performers in the 30 or 40 minutes we were there. This place is defiantly trying for a high class look. It was a fun place to visit.

A few other socials in June: The SGA social on the 13th after the Freedom Fair had a turn out of around 20 people with most of the regulars in attendance. During the meeting Deanna and her SO (I have been sitting here for 15 min. trying to remember her name, sorry) were voted to the SGA board. The DVG meeting on the 15th had to have at least 20 people because we ran out of petitions for AB1999. Both Didi and Bardi were at the DVG meeting. The TGIF meeting on the 20th had an amazing 40 people in attendance. Diane & Anne's driveway looked like a automobile Rubic's Cube. With an exception of a few (like Bardi, Chelsea and Serena) this is the only meeting where I see most of these people, so I try to make it whenever I can. We had a barbecue and talked about a number of things including the parade.

Attention Pub Crawlers!

Looking for something exciting to do in The City? Nicole is looking for Social Coordinators. The job entails each coordinator to organize a club excursion once a month. How hard can that be? I will even help you set it up and attend them. The group will be from 4 to 10 members interested in trying new night spots or visiting old favorites. If you want to be a Coordinator or a member of the excursion group email me nicole@tgforum.com or talk to me at the socials.

MARDI GRAS IN SAN FRANCISCO

By Nicole Cook

Well where should I start? For those of you that have read some of my previous articles, you know that I was quite impressed by the TG scene in Sacramento and have been looking for something in San Francisco that impressed me as much or more. Well I found it. It may not happen every night or even every week but it is a hands down must see event.

This adventure will begin with our arrival in San Francisco. I only left home with Nicole's things so I was Nicole for the duration of the event. Why do I mention this? So you know that everything described in this article was done en femme. After calling every hotel in the ETVC Resource Guide we were finally able to book a room at the Vagabond Inn on Van Ness. I went up to the office and checked us in (I was in one of my casual outfits with only a little make-up on, i.e. easy to read), they were quite nice, asked us where we were from and gave us coupons for breakfast. After placing our bags in the room we walked up to the store on Polk near Filbert. Again everyone was quite nice.

The plan for the evening was to have dinner in the Polk-Pine area and then take a taxi over to the Castro (we heard there was something happening over there on Saturday night). We could then taxi out around 11:00 and be back at the room by 11:30 so we could get up in time for what we thought was the main event, the parade. While our group at one point during the planning stage numbered more than 10 and we were to visit a more unique restaurant, our group ended up as three of us having dinner at Peppino's about a block from Kimo's on Polk. By this time I was wearing my outfit that sort of looks like leather with all the gold zippers on it, my hair was curled and all my makeup was in place, i.e. only some of the people were reading me, but it seemed to be the few tourists that had wandered into the area.

Dinner was good and the staff treated us well. After dinner we walked down to Kimo's to have a drink while we waited for a cab. Chelsea, who was with us for dinner, had to drive home and come back the next day for the parade, so she left from Kimo's. After a margarita at Kimo's our cab pulled up (which the Kimo's bartender called for us). We jumped in and told the driver to take us to the Castro. The driver said it was all blocked off and started telling us where the road barriers were, I just told him to get us as close as he could. He suggested we get on Divisadero and approach from the North, I said OK and off we went.

The cab driver hit a traffic jam on Divisadero between 15th and 16th and we got out. This is definitely the way to approach this event. We were on a hill looking down at the intersection of Castro and Market. Through the tree's we began to see that the entire intersection was filled with people. We also noticed that the dance music wafting up the street was coming from a stage on

Continued on Page 13



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I LOVE IT!

By Nicole

There are certain events that just need to be announced, and this is one of them. Debbie and I were on our way back from Carla's and decided to stop by a place that both Serena and Chelsea had told us about. We ended up catching the rush hour traffic on the 880 and almost did not go. That would have been a mistake. From the time we entered the door at the "I Love It!" Consignment Boutique in Fremont, it was pleasantly obvious that we were not just welcome but we were VIP clients. I was dressed casual, only a little make-up jeans and my pink blouse (easy to read). Jo-An greeted us enthusiastically as we came in the door and before we had been there 5 min. I was trying on dresses. As I tried outfits on Jo-An would bring back more, and she did have an eye for what would look good on me. Out of the more than 20 items I tried on, we ended up purchasing 6 garments for less than \$150.00, one of which was a formal gown. If you want a place to go to have a great time, this is the place. It was as fun as going out to dinner. "I Love It" Consignment Boutique is one of those places that is not just TG Friendly but is TG enthusiastic.

July Minutes

Continued from Page 5

aria. 11 showed up for KQED Pledge Night. Lulu suggested that someone send KQED a letter requesting notice of when TG stuff was shown. Leslie said that *Ally McBeal* recently showed a sympathetic TG character. But our Veronica felt ambivalent about the depiction: the character is a prostitute who dies at the end. What does that say about and to TG characters? But Leslie and others felt good that the character was a nice person and shown in a sympathetic light. Veronica grudgingly agreed. Sandra often mentions TG characters on TV in her column.

Social: The well-prepared Nicole had already e-mailed her agenda to all the officers. Her *Resource Guide*, which she and her wife had been compiling, was now at 40 pages and almost in a releasable form. She would like the guide to be available to members for less than she would sell it to vendors and non-members. She also thought it could fetch a profit if offered on ETVC's web page. She and her spouse, Debbie, generously offered to handle the distribution. As for the *Halloween Party*, Nicole expressed Carla's concern about liability insurance: would Carla or ETVC be held responsible if someone drank too much and had a car accident after the party? Leslie said she would look into this with ETVC's insurance agent. Also, there has been little progress on the party liquor license. Debbie and Nicole sent out 50 *new venue questionnaires*. The mailers were addressed and stamped so as to facilitate and maximize response. The Cooks sent them to venues in and around the Castro. The theme for the *August Social* will be a legs contest with a prize. Some of the categories Nicole offered were: Sexiest, Most Tasteful, Most Exposed (otherwise known as the DiDi Mau Prize), and Most Graceful. Nicole would like the August Mid-month to be somewhere different, perhaps in the Castro district. Nicole was unsure about charging people to go into the back room of Charpes without there being a draw. Leslie mentioned that Charpes management want people out of the dining area by 10:00 p.m. so they can set up for the next day; they would like us either in the bar or the back room. Because of the recent record turn-outs at TGIF, Dianne and Anne were not interested in doing a joint venture with ETVC. They have too many guests to handle as it is. However, Nicole would like to create the same type of event in the East Bay perhaps once every three months. She asked if anyone knew someone who would like to open their home to 30 or 40 cross dressers and transsexuals?

New Business: Telzey passed out flyers about the Closet Ball in August. And she mentioned there was a fashion exhibit at the Berkeley Art Museum. Leslie asked the officers if they minded having their e-mail addresses in the newsletter. Sandra did not want hers in it and Lulu was unsure, but Nicole, Leslie, Veronica all said yes.

Adjournment: At 5:15 p.m., Nicole moved to adjourn. Sandra seconded the motion, the motion was passed. Leslie, Veronica and Sandra went over materials from the mail box. Next ExCom Meeting is on August 2 at 3:00 in Livermore. Call Nicole if you want directions at (707) 824-0860.

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0802	Nicole Mossinger	0820	Roxanne Canino
0803	Cheryl Sheppard	0821	Heather Ann Napier
0803	Megin Hart	0822	Victoria North
0808	Linda Phillips	0823	Lealani Jones
0809	Billie Hall	0824	Denice Gee
0811	Mary Elicker	0826	Allen Matthews
0813	Andrew Firebaugh	0827	Jamie Lee
0813	Angel Grant	0827	Joesanne Powell
0813	Vera Rae House	0827	Louise Warren
0814	Charlene Merlot	0827	Lulu Blau
0815	Mike Creager	0827	Sabrina Evans
0816	Casey Cole	0827	Soledad DiCosta
0816	Gail Stern	0828	Evelyn Perry
0817	Deborah Booth	0831	Bardi DeTro
0819	Suzanne Taylor	0831	Darcy Leopard

Many Happy Returns of the Day, Ladies!

Mardi Gras in SF

Continued from Page 11

Market at the intersection. As we got further down the hill we could see further down Castro. It was unbelievable, Castro was completely full of people for several blocks. There were certain areas where groups of people were dancing. On the roof of the bus stop to the right about four girls were exotic dancing in some sort of line dance. On the roof of the bus stop to the left two guys (with almost nothing on) were exotic dancing.

We entered the crowd and made our way to Castro Station. We were headed towards Harvey's but saw Castro Station and decided to go in. Like all the Clubs we visited that night, it was packed. We were only in for a while before we moved on through the crowd to Harvey's. There were so many people in the street you had to move sideways to squeeze between the people. We passed 2 or 3 additional roadside music events, where the street had become a dance floor. We went into Harvey's long enough to get a drink but most of the action was outside so we returned to the street. By this time we had passed a few side streets and noticed they were full of people also, so we ventured down 19th I think to The Moby Dick, checking out the on-street activity as we moved. The Moby Dick had something called "Sex on the Beach" in a slurpie machine, so we each had one, yum. It was evident everywhere we went, that we were in the midst of a big party, not several little parties, but one giant party covering several blocks. And one thing became real evident. The "out" portion of the Transgendered community is a lot bigger than I thought it was. Every bar we went to I saw several TG's not to mention the 20 or 30 we saw on the street, and I did not know any of them. Now remember I have been going to ETVC, DVG, SGA and TGIF for the last 6 months and these were all new TG people.

Now since you are reading this several days if not weeks after I wrote it, it is too late to go this year. But if you do nothing else next year this is the event to go to. You can feel free to wear whatever you want, the more elaborate the better. In fact if you dress too conservatively you might not even get noticed with all the half dressed and exotically dressed people wandering around.

Boy that sounds good, what was the down side? First let me say that the good part of this event far outweighs the bad, but I thought it would be useful for you to know the bad so you can do some planning for next year. The first thing was the lines; bathrooms were set up on the street but all of them had lines. There were lines to get something to drink but it was not too bad maybe a 5 minute wait if you went to the right part of the bar. Our taxi in plan taxi out plan wasn't half bad, well actually it was exactly half bad. We taxied in with no problem. There was no way to get a taxi out of the Castro after 11:00. We wanted to be at the parade on time Sunday so we started walking down Market between 11:00pm

and 11:30pm. We walked three blocks East trying to find a corner where we could hail a cab. At each corner there were 4+ people all trying to hail cabs. Eventually we gave up and took a MUNI train several blocks to Van Ness where we finally got a cab.

I believe we got back to the hotel room around 12:30. We got to bed sometime before 2:00am, I tried to sleep but I was too geared up from the road party in the Castro. After a hearty 5 hours sleep we were up again. We headed down to Polk Street Station (across from Kimo's) for breakfast. The people at Polk Street Station were nice to us but we did not feel as comfortable there as the other places we had been to. After breakfast we checked out and headed over towards the civic center. We wanted to leave the car near the end of the parade route. Parking was no problem, we parked in a lot on Mission near Eighth. We then proceeded to the Bart station to get to the start of the parade route. (This by the way was Nicole's first ride on Bart.) We made it to Embarcadero station with no problem, even though there were non parade people on the train we were not out of place, because several of the other parade people were using the same method to get to the starting area.

Purely by luck we came out of the Bart tunnel at Spear and Market, we started to turn on Spear but heard Leslie calling to us. The ETVC float was right in front of us as we came out of the Bart tunnel. We made it before the pre-designated hour of 10:00 so we started helping with float construction. As it turns out we had plenty of time because the float did not move until after noon.

The parade was fun, we danced to the music being played from the float. Dianna, Kalani and Q danced on the float. I don't know who selected the music but it was great, sort of a moving dance club. I found out before the parade that several more of our members were in the Castro the night before (Dianna, Krystal (from SGA), Rachael and Melanie), we had not seen them due to the number of people. Many people showed up to walk with us in the parade. In addition to our royal court, we had Leslie driving the truck, Lulu, Veronica and Juana, Trina, Krystal and Chelsea (from SGA), I saw Donna from DVG at the start, Serena, Valerie (who I see more at TGIF than anywhere else), Jamie Faye, Darcy as well as several other's who as much as I try, I still cannot remember their names. The parade was a blast, a few of us danced along side the float. We were throwing candy into the crowd, many of which were shouting "you go girl!" as we passed. No telling what TV channels we showed up on, I know we passed at least 3 cameras.

The parade ended near the Civic Center where there was a giant fair ground setup. There were booths for each of the groups represented in the parade, food vendors, jewelry vendors, and what looked like the same rather interesting collection of leather goods I saw at the Sacramento Gender Fair. This event was also packed. Again, this was an event well worth attending.

So in review what will I do next year to make things a bit smoother (i.e. allow me to stay longer at the Castro party on Saturday night and still make the parade). First of all I will find a place to stay in or near the Castro. This solves several problems, including parking & driving in San Francisco. I think we will arrive earlier perhaps Friday night and leave later, perhaps Monday. This will let us prepare properly before the first event and recover after the last event. I will also get a new pair of shoes. I ended up wearing a casual outfit to the parade so I could wear my flat bottom boots. The previous night of wandering the Castro in high heels had taxed my feet. I will need a pair of flashy heels which look good with both outfits and I can wear for 12 or more walking hours in a 24 hour period. Oh yes they need to be in a ladies size 14 or 15. So that about sums it up, it is probably the closest thing to Mardi Gras this side of the Mississippi. And while there is no fasting the next day, you may experience party withdrawals.

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ARGUMENT CLINIC

by Cindy Martin

Veronica Smith is one smart person. We've roomed together at a convention and she is a lot of fun to engage in discussion because she is so intelligent and well-read. Me, I'm a dummy, so I like hanging with smarties.

Veronica mentioned to me that she had seen a television talk show (uh-oh) in which the husband declared to a hostile audience that he wanted to take hormones. Next to him, Veronica recalled, sat his incredibly overweight wife who was playing the victim perfectly, telling the audience and host that she hadn't agreed to marry a woman, etc. etc. You've heard it before. The audience ripped the poor man. Mercilessly, according to Miss V.

Then Veronica said something that was hugely interesting: she said that no one seemed to be wondering whether the guy had ever bargained to marry a woman who was 200 pounds overweight. She had changed her body, probably without his permission, so why weren't people asking her about her right to do that?

Now I should say that it wasn't clear to me that this woman had been skinny when they'd married and then added all the weight, but presuming that happened, I told Veronica I thought the argument was nonsensical. You can always lose weight, you can't easily undo hormones, I said.

Not true, she said. Stop taking hormones and most of the effects will go away, but that wasn't the point, she argued. The point was that it was socially more acceptable for the wife to change her body dramatically than for the male to change his body dramatically. Yes and no, I said, being extremely overweight in this culture is to risk severe social marginalization. Then too, taking hormones ISN'T just about appearance, or shouldn't be. It is about gender identity and I think that goes a bit deeper. Marriage too should be built on something a bit more substantial than body type.

Still her point was, is, a strong one. Particularly in the context in which she raised it: the man being berated for wanting to change his body while the wife, who had apparently already changed hers, was never called to account. I'm still thinking about this one...



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WHOSE BODY IS IT, ANYWAY?

By Veronica Smith

In TGForum recently, Cindy Martin wrote about a discussion she and I had at California Dreamin'. Somehow the topic of hormones came up (how odd at a gender convention!). I mentioned that I had once seen a daytime talk show where a man didn't tell his wife he had been taking hormones until he could no longer hide his breasts. The wife, the host and the audience all came down on the guy. The audience thought he was weird and the host told the guy he should have at least asked his wife's permission. I mentioned to Cindy that the wife was very overweight and I wondered at the time whether she had asked her husband's permission to get fat. After all, we are talking about modifying one's body, right? She ingested something orally and changed her body; he ingested something orally and changed his body.

Cindy reacted strongly and called my comparison "bogus." She said that hormones and food were very different. Ingesting hormones, Cindy insisted, was deeper than mere appearance; it was about gender identity. And she said that marriage also was deeper than appearance. I agreed about marriage, but if that were the case, why couldn't the wife love her husband even if he had breasts? As for taking hormones, I didn't feel I had to agree that there was only one purpose. But these objections that Cindy raised were beside the point of what I was arguing. My point had to do with the *possession* of the body and whose permission was needed to change it. Does it belong to the spouse? To society? To Jerry Springer? When you are growing up, your body belongs to your folks. When you are in the service, it belongs to the military. When you are dead, it belongs to whomever to do with whatever they want. It seems there should be some time in your limited existence when your body actually belongs to you.

A man is permitted by society to do certain things with his body. He can get fat, he can build muscles, he can get a tattoo. *He can even take hormones*, as long as they are the right kind of hormones. Arnold Schwarzenegger admits he took steroids, artificial hormones, when he was a body builder. He took them and modified his body into something that was quite different from what was considered the norm of twenty-odd years ago. (In fact, his body was considered so different that in an episode of *The Streets of San Francisco*, he played a body builder who killed a woman when she called him a freak.) But was Arnold castigated by society for taking hormones to modify his body into something considered unusual? Arnold followed his own inner vision of how he was meant to be and by so doing redefined how all men look at their bodies. Perhaps if the transgender movement had more people who followed their own inner visions the spectrum of acceptable body types would broaden.

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Out On The Town

SHOPPING EN FEMME

with Darcy Leopard

When I first embarked on creating this column a couple of years ago, my purpose was to demonstrate to my fellow TG sisters the success and joy that can be experienced when we willingly step out into the public eye with courage and self-confidence. Most of the experiences I have written about so far describe nightlife adventures at various bars, clubs and restaurants. Since there are many other interesting ways to be "Out on the Town", I'd like to begin reporting on my experiences in these realms, also. It never hurts to broaden one's palette, so to speak!

The experience I am about to share with you happened quite some time ago, but since it is such a special story to me, I felt I couldn't let it go by. Those of you who have met me have probably noticed that I often wear a certain black, leather skirt. I purchased it at North Beach Leather in the Fisherman's Wharf area. It had been a dream of mine to own one ever since I was a teenager. One day I decided to make that dream come true.

Since it is best to dress comparable to the clothes one will be buying, this gave me an excuse to dress up a bit. I already had a mustard-colored, leather skirt that I had picked up a flea market. I combined this with a cream-colored, silky blouse; sheer, black, thigh-high, stay-up stockings; and a pair of black, patent pumps with four-inch heels (rather low and conservative by my standards!). My makeup was rather striking for the daytime, yet I toned it down somewhat with lighter lip and eyelid colors than I normally use at night.

It was a nice, sunny day as I stepped into my car and drove towards my destination. I thought back years ago to when my sister had taken the trouble to hunt down a North Beach Leather mail-order catalog. She showed me what she too had been dreaming of acquiring some day, as I secretly drooled over all of the exotic designs and colors! When I arrived at the vicinity of the store, I was fortunate enough to find a nearby parking spot. I received a few, wide-eyed and amazed glances as I stepped out of the car, and wondered if I was being read, admired, or both! A gentle breeze blew my hair across my face as I walked the half-block and turned to enter the store.

I felt as if I had stepped into a fantasy world, as the cheerful, smiling faces of two beautiful, young women dressed in sleek, leather dresses immediately greeted me. They told me to take my time looking around, and showed me what was currently on sale. I looked around a little, but since I was a bit nervous, I ended up focusing on my goal rather quickly. As I settled upon the object of my desire, a somewhat older woman stepped up and asked me if I would like to try it on.

She showed me the dressing room, which was revealed by a couple of fancy doors, which swung open from the center. I ven-

tured inside, and eagerly started changing clothes. I had selected a soft, black leather skirt, size 10, which ended about three inches above my knees. As I slipped it up over my legs and hips, I prayed that my waist would not be too thick for me to get the skirt fully zipped. Fortunately my strict diet had paid off, and I was able to get it fully closed. I looked in the mirror, and was quite pleased with the fit.

The woman had been waiting outside, and asked me how I was doing. I stepped out the door to show her the results. "You look great!" she said. "Although, it could be a bit tighter in the hips. Let's try a size 8, and how about something a little shorter? You've got great legs, honey. You should show them off!"

Well, that was certainly nice to hear! She found a shorter version of what I had in a size 8, and I gave it a whirl. The problem was it really didn't fit much different, and I pointed this out to her when I again stepped outside the dressing room. "Hmmm..." she said. "I see what you mean. You don't really have much of a butt, do you honey?" It was at this point that I began to believe that I was actually passing. If she had known that I was a male, this would have been a rather redundant statement, and a painful reminder at that!

I ended up trying on the longer, size 10 again for comparison. I decided that I liked it better, so my decision was made. As I stepped out of the dressing room again, one of the original women who greeted me came over to chat. "We're having a little party this afternoon," she began. "Would you like some champagne? Our designer Michael Hoban is here! Would you like to meet him?"

I can tell you right now that, if this had happened recently, your "On the Town Girl" Darcy would have definitely said YES! But this was quite a while ago, and I was a still a bit of nervous, neophyte girl then. I politely declined, saying something rather lame such as "I've got to get going". After the gentleman at the cash register had finished ringing up my purchase, the lady who helped me came over to give me her card. "Just remember, honey," she began. "I've got a lot more of those skirts in all kinds of different colors! Come see us again soon!"

I was excited with my successful shopping adventure as I drove home, but couldn't help but feel a little disappointed in myself that I had declined the offer to meet the designer. Oh well. Perhaps in my next article, I will tell you all about actually getting to meet someone like this!

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NEW ONLINE SO LIST!

New online mailing list for wives and SOs of crossdressers and men who consider themselves to be transgendered; no topic off limits. Attitudes range from complete acceptance to really struggling. Open to women only—no crossdressers please! Women need a place where they can feel safe to discuss these issues. Write to Jenni at www.aluckywife@aol.com and explain a little about your situation.



CHOICES

by Jane Bolig

Part II in a continuing series

You may, or may not, some day live as a woman, but you can start your voyage of discovery right now. In ways that nobody but you has to know, take a step, a little, tiny step.

If it feels right, take another step, and another. Who knows where the road will lead.

Yes? No? Maybe?

THE ROAD NOT TAKEN

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
O, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that, the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,
I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference

— Robert Frost

No one else can tell you whether the road you are on is the right one, and you can't know for sure until you are on it. Sometimes you have to take the wrong road all the way to its end to know that it is wrong; even after you have found the right road—your road—outside forces may block your way. It's up to you to accept or resist and overcome them.

Perhaps, for instance, like many transsexuals, you married and fathered children in hope of being "cured," only to find your desires to live as a woman more intense than ever. Your decision

must be tempered by the fact that you have willingly assumed obligations to a wife and dependent children; their financial and emotional needs come first. You need help that this presentation cannot give. If you are not seeing a therapist, by all means, start.

If you are married, and your children have grown or you have no children, I have no advice except to tell your wife, if you haven't already, about your gender issues. But don't tell her until you've discussed them, and your marriage, with a therapist. I can't recall any instance in which marriage between a heterosexual woman and a transsexual partner continued or ended happily. Too often, wives are treated like collateral damage in the transsexual's bull rush to "become the woman I know I am." The aftermath can bring reconciliation, but it takes time and effort from both...and lot of growing up by the transsexual.

I believe it's a different case altogether when considering the effect of your gender decision on parents, grown children and other family. They may feel hurt, humiliated, angered, but they will not lose a meal or their home, or be emotionally scarred as children can be. As Millie Brown says, "No one has ever died from learning that their child was transsexual."

In the business and social realm, things may seem like a kind of chess game in which we don't know how the pieces move until we try to move them. Local civil rights laws and community tolerance vary widely, yet most success stories tell of those who create, rather than find, acceptance. Yes, real, serious prejudice exists. I know of a person who came to San Francisco armed with two advanced technology degrees and impressive credentials, only to be snickered at and rejected in a score of job interviews; but I know of others (a firefighter, for example) who flourish even in the barrens of mid-America. To an unknown but significant extent, we create our own reality.

Assuming that no family obligations prevent it, that you are in a reasonably secure job, and that the time is right, what else should you consider?

Continued on Page 17

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ETVC ON PARADE!

by Dianna, Miss ETVC 1998

How does one express the feeling when a dream comes true? Everyone has their own unique way of showing one's dream. Let me share with you the dream of the parade.

While pondering how I could make ETVC stand out and bring knowledge of our existence to the community, I thought of something fun, exciting, and imaginative that all of us could work on together. I wanted to include the Royal Court (Kalani and Miss Q) and have them share in the happiness and rewards of the crown. I came up with the idea of a float that would show what is most important to me. I chose a fantasy theme (of course) where unicorns, rainbows, and dreams could come alive. This way I was able to include not only the royal court, but anyone that wanted to participate as well.

When Lulu made the call and asked, "Dianna, what do you want to do for the freedom parade?" I immediately responded, "A float where dreams come alive!" As we went over the idea, we built off of it and expanded on it as well. At first I didn't think it would happen, yet little by little it started to transpire into reality. With ideas at hand, Lulu set a date for the meeting. We gathered together and discussed ideas using our imaginations. The mushrooms, tree, flowers, clouds, and butterfly all formed from our brains onto scraps of paper and then into tangible products.

Paper mache trees were formed, painted, and wrapped. Green turf was laid to form grass. The excitement increased as each new step was completed. To watch a dream forming into reality is priceless. It's even more exhilarating when it's your own dream. The day progressed and so did the wind. We had some very ingenious individuals who created a wind breaker. "Thank You." Without that it would have been more difficult to finish. Soon the mushrooms took shape, the unicorn appeared, and the rainbow's base was set up. Part of the crew worked into the evening. Even on the day of the parade last minute touches were added. The float was finally ready to rock and roll.

As I woke up on Sunday morning, the excitement made my heart pound like the drum beats of an African dance. As I slowly transformed into Dianna, I realized: "Here is my chance to do the biggest outreach at one time ever during my reign". I finished my makeup, did my hair, went for my dress, and put it on. It was made especially for the occasion. I wanted something fun yet glamorous. By making the dress myself I achieved both. The final touch was the crown wrapped with orchids. I felt complete and ready to meet the public. Ready to let them know: "We are who we are, creative, fun, loving, and energetic individuals." As the parade started, the royal court was in place and all of the lovely ladies surrounded the float. Our adventure was about to begin. The adrenaline started as soon as the float made

Continued on Page 18

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Choices

Continued from Page 16

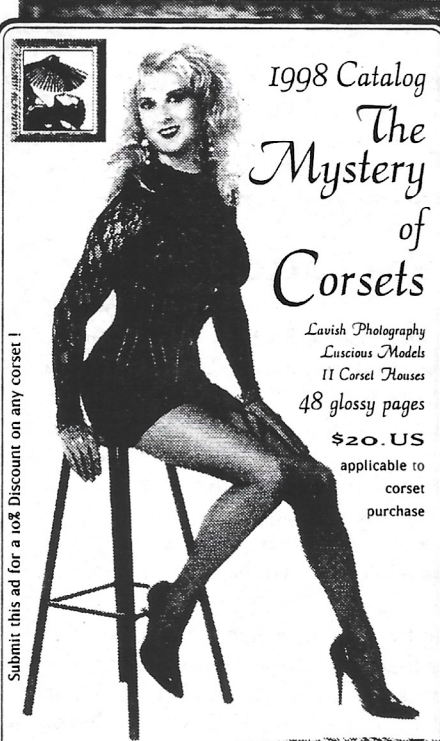
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You could start living as a woman tomorrow. There is no rule book that says you must take hormones, remove your beard, alter parts of your body, change your ID, undergo psycho-therapy, or prepare your colleagues, friends and family. You can just do it. So, why not?

Unless you are incredibly passable without trying (in which case, what took you so long?), or have a political point to make, you probably want people to call you "ma'am" and "she" without prompting; you want a smooth, feminine face, soft skin, a female shape and believable voice. Eventually, perhaps, you want sex reassignment surgery. It all comes at a price. The Table at the end of this paper by no means exhausts all possible procedures and costs, and the prices are approximate. If you are average, and, like most of us, not under a medical plan that covers TS care, your transition up to and including SRS, will cost \$40,000, or more, including beard and other hair removal, psycho-therapy, physician and hormone cost and a couple of non-SRS surgeries.

Your heart may tell you that even today is too late to begin living full time, but if you want your tomorrows as a woman to be happy and successful, use today intelligently: build a financial foundation. The formula I propose is simple. When you get your check, pay yourself first by putting as much as you can into savings. Unless you're already invested and know what you're doing, stay out of the stock market and especially high risk areas such as futures. 5% per annum in a savings certificate is not a lot of growth, but it's minimum risk.

Part III will continue in the September Channel.



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A NEW KIND OF VENUE

By Nicole

After the tremendous success of the June TGIF social it became obvious that a certain sub-set of our members prefer a more laid back venue for socials. TGIF is a social gathering held at Anne and Diane's residence in the hills around Santa Rosa. Several of the participants are either ETVC members or former ETVC members. This type of venue is an excellent place for new comers to venture out on their first excursion en femme. That's where I did my first excursion.

So what am I getting at? I would like to put together an additional ETVC event similar to the event which Anne and Dianne hold for our members. After all if a sizable group of our members prefer this type of venue we should provide one. You might ask "Why not just use Anne and Dianne's event?" Well they were maxed out at the June event, both parking and the size of the crowd introduced some logistical problems. What we would like to do is set up a sister event that can assist TGIF in maintaining a more cozy ambiance.

So what am I asking? Do you have a home (or similar venue) in a rural setting, where you would be willing to hold a ETVC social? It would not have to be every month. How about once a year? If I can get 4 once a year volunteers we could hold 1 country social each quarter. It would be best if the location was in the South Bay or East Bay, currently several people come from these areas to attend TGIF. It would be nice to occasionally offer them a closer venue to attend.

There are a few things Anne & Dianne do which add to the comfort of the TGIF events. One is the ability for participants to come in drab and dress when they get there. There is usually some type of dinner event, either a barbecue or pot luck, and occasionally there is a guest like a photographer or make-up person. If you have the place, I will help you plan the event. In fact, if you want me to I will do all the planning. What I need are the locations. If you can help, please let me know. You can email me at nicole@tgforum.com, call me at (707) 824-0860 or talk to me at one of our socials. Like I said, I intend this to be an additional ETVC event, after all it is clear we also have a sub-set of members which prefer the big city venues, and if we can get more of our members to take that first step I am sure we will have more.

START PLANNING FOR HALLOWEEN!

by Nicole Cook

Well we have located a great venue for the Halloween Party this year. This Year we will be going to Carla's in San Jose. Those of you that know Carla's might think it is too small. What you don't realize is that the metal roll-up door in the back of Carla's opens onto a Auditorium in the Billy DeFrank Community Center. The auditorium has a stage, dance floor, sound system & stage lights. For those of you that don't know about Carla's, let me give you a description. Carla's is a combination Social Club, Boutique, and Salon that caters exclusively to the Transgendered community.

If you have been looking for that easy chance to get out, this is it! It doesn't get any easier than this! Carla's has parking and is one of the TG friendliest places around. Carla's is about 1/4 mile from the San Jose Cal. Train Station, and we are in the process of making arrangements with the 2 hotels around the corner from Carla's for group room rates. We plan to be running a van between Carla's & the Hotel. We will also do pick-ups and drop off's at Cal. Train. Carla's is also located about 5 min. from Mary's (formerly Hamburger Mary's) of San Jose. So if some of you want more exposure into the community at large that will be available too. So start planning now for what promises to be one of the best Halloween parties ever.

ETVC on Parade!

Continued from Page 17

its' first movement. The music started and my blood ran through my veins like the Colorado River cutting through the canyon. As we turned onto Market street I felt totally alive.

Seeing the crowd on the sides of the street and hearing the music was so exhilarating! Dancing and singing to the people made a dream a reality. Twirling and spinning, laughing and smiling...what a time! With Miss Q and Kalani both at my sides, we rocked the float. We brought life to the streets and the crowd loved it. Throwing candy to the waiting crowd and passing out fliers were great ideas. Our group wasn't just a part of the parade. We became the parade! We showed people we're alive and we do exist. With the fact that we are now accepted and are now known in the gay community, we showed them what kind of talented and wonderful people we truly are. It brings me great pleasure to know that I have accomplished one of my goals with the winning of my crown.

I must say it wouldn't have happened without the help from all of you that participated on the float. From the bottom of my heart, thank you all. From the idea makers to the workers and the walkers, we all did it as a group. Anyone that was able to participate...thank you.

Remember, dreams come true as long as we believe and have faith in ourselves and God. Dianna.



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Angel Grant	\$20	Esther Shaw	\$5
Tianna Marie	\$10	Randall Stone	\$10
Radene Reed	\$10	Nikki Rillingale	\$75

Bless you for caring and thank you!