



Boston's IFGE Convention Draws Hundreds

Pictured at right are Charlotte, Telzey and Renee, part of ETVC's delegation, enjoying a quiet moment at the IFGE convention.



After all the anticipation, I was finally sitting at Oakland Airport waiting for a delayed flight, with a mountain of luggage, starting a long list of forgotten items, and wondering if a quick change to a week in Las Vegas wouldn't be more fun than the 1990 IFGE Convention.

The East was cold! The convention was held from March 27 to April 1 in Boston, or rather in a Holiday Inn in Natick, in the suburbs. Unfortunately it snowed on March 29 and without a coat I didn't tour Boston. But the hotel had everything necessary: great (expensive) rooms, three shopping malls across the street, fancy restaurants in walking distance, more interesting events than anyone had time for, a comfortable lobby bar, and good friends to meet or reencounter.

Representing ETVC were our President, Charlotte, myself, Tara, Renee Chinguapin, who did programs on "Beyond the Looking Glass", and "Living with Men", and Sybil and Juliette, doing "Alternate Personas" and "Dominance and Submission." We were well represented.

The IFGE, on its home ground, was well organized, but programs had to be shifted about on Saturday, when a wedding party took over much of the hotel. (Taking advantage of the situation, the sister of the bride was invited, and did attend our formal banquet that evening.) Tiffany, the host club, put together a city tour, a large program of SOS events, and a night out at a fancy restaurant using chauffeured limousines. This became much less popular when it was announced that only "real women" would be allowed in the ladies room.

Instead, 13 of us walked over to a fish place called Legal Seafood for an excellent dinner in the middle of the suburban Boston crowd. As we were leaving, a group of men in business suits invited us to join them for drinks. But they were all just a little too drunk and most of the party returned to the hotel.

There were four luncheons, each with a dais full of notables and keynote speaker. Probably the best was Jennifer Anne Stevens, who is about to publish a book called From Masculine to

Feminine and All Points in Between. There were two days of TS programs, open to all and very well done. Also a long one day program for Females to Males, closed, but well attended by an enthusiastic group. There were two days of IFGE Committee meetings and a final long board meeting on Sunday, all of which were duller than expected - work was required! And the Congress of Representatives met to decide what it ought to be doing.

Three projects were thought most important: a Group's "How To" manual on starting and sustaining clubs, the coordination of a regional events calendar supplied to local clubs for their newsletter, and a regional speakers bureau to supply speakers for outside-their-own-city events.

Finally, there were general interest events, and receptions, and an evening get-acquainted buffet, and the lobby bar 'til 1 AM, and the registration room area with tons of books for sale, and a vendor's area with clothes, make-up, wigs, jewelry, and Jim Bridges, who was such a hit last year, doing make-overs.

The biggest event was the formal banquet on Saturday. With an influx of local people, about 230 fabulously gowned ladies sat down to filet mignon and champagne. Sister Mary Elizabeth received the fourth Virginia Prince award, for service to the transgender community. Wendy Parker did a half hour of song and jokes, to great applause. If only I could remember all those insider jokes!

Sunday, after the board meeting, Telzey's stuff went back into the suitcase and I discovered that being her for five days, then just stopping, is greatly different from just dressing for an evening out. In fact, it was such an emotional wringer that I took several hours regaining the composure to go down for a very late dinner.

And so I came home Monday, glad for not going to Las Vegas after all. Next year, IFGE "Comes Together" in Denver, 1992 is in San Antonio, '93 will probably be in Florida. See you there.
— Telzey

Editor's Notes

Begun with a handful of exceptional people, ETVC may break the 500-member barrier in this our eighth year. While impressive, it should surprise no one that we continue growing considering how much this organization gives to our special community.

We have a great place to meet in San Francisco (with parking, no less!) where we can be in public with safety. (Thank you, Lenny, and the Chez Mollet staff!!!!) The annual Cotillion is a major event that draws television coverage and hundreds of guests. And take a look at our calendar these days. Every month this group offers a Significant Other Support Group, a Couples Group, a Poker Social, educational seminars and of course, our monthly social. ETVC and its sister organizations make it possible for you to do something safe and enjoyable nearly every weekend. You just don't find that in most places.

Yet for all of this, there are many in our group (including some who are very regular at our functions) who have done nothing to help the organization remain viable.

Frankly, ladies, you owe this organization something more than just coming to parties and paying dues once a year. And being busy is no excuse: everybody is busy and everybody has commitments. Some people also seem a little paranoid about getting more involved. If you are actually worried about your security, then you really don't know the people in this group. We are a SUPPORT GROUP, remember?

Elections are coming up this May at the Anniversary Social. We are fortunate that some very qualified people have already said they will run for office, but we need more candidates. The offices up for election include President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and chairwomen for the Education, Outreach and Social committees.

There are no cliques running our show. ANYONE can be an officer whether you have been a member for eight years or eight weeks. But if you absolutely cannot hold office how about joining the social committee or education committee or outreach committees?

Take some action. It's easy and a great way to give something back to the club. Besides helping out is the best way there is to meet people.

Onward: The SF Examiner is going to feature ETVC people in an Image magazine article on Mariette Pathy Allen's Transformations. The article was scheduled to appear around the first of April, but has been delayed until at least the middle of May.

Quick note on Allen's book: Did anyone else think it could have used a little tighter editing? I hate to be critical because I enjoy the book, but a few of the stories could have been dropped with no damage. Sorry, but when I see copy I immediately look for a blue pencil. I will say this: the ETVC people in the book were all extremely interesting (you know whom I'm talking about!), intelligent and gorgeous.

Be sure to catch the review elsewhere in this newsletter.

Transvestites and transsexuals have been lumped together with criminals, drug addicts and pyromaniacs and specifically excluded from protection from discrimination if stricken with a disability under a new federal law. Rightwing Southern manics in the U.S. Senate insisted on the language.

Garbage like this happens because our voice is never heard in the corridors of power. They don't hear us because most TVs are part-timers who are scared of being exposed.

Will this ever change? Will TV's and TS's really follow the same path as the gay and lesbian community and develop some political clout? ETVC didn't even exist 10 years ago. Most of the other organizations around the country are virtually brand new. We are in our infancy as a community with so many of us still trying to square away our personal situations. I don't know where our community will be in the next few years, but it is certain to become much more vocal as more of us reach full self-acceptance. And, just as so many of us in recent years have found the closet unacceptable, so too will we be less meek about allowing the lies and slurs to go unanswered.

ETVC NEWSLETTER

ETVC is a non-sexual, membership based organization with the purpose of serving the educational, social, and recreational needs of gender-challenged people, their spouses, significant others, family members, friends, and professionals in the helping services.

For details about ETVC programs, membership, newsletter subscriptions, and classified ads, please write to: ETVC Secretary, PO Box 6486, San Francisco, CA 94101.

O F F I C E R S

President	Charlotte
Vice President	Barbie
Secretary	Donna
Treasurer	Nancy Ann
Education	Melanie
Outreach	Evelyn & Telzey
Social	Franchesca & Maxine

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Membership (as of 3/31/90)	414
1988 Membership	384
New members this year	126

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance on 2/1/89	\$3,499.01
February income	816.40
February expenses	1,466.61

Balance on 2/28/89	2,848.80
March income	2,356.60
March expenses	1,262.89

Balance on 3/31/90	3,942.51
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The ETVC Newsletter is published in February, April, June, August, October and December. Newsletter contents reflect the opinions of the contributors and the editor, and are not necessarily those of ETVC.

Other organizations may reprint or reproduce portions of the newsletter for their members, provided ETVC is acknowledged.

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Editor:	Cindy
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A D R A T E S

	per issue	per year
Business Card	\$20	\$100
4" x 5"	\$50	\$250
8" x 5"	\$80	\$400
8" x 10"	\$160	\$800

PERSONAL ADS

ETVC will accept personal ads from ETVC members at the rate of \$1 per 3 lines. We will not accept ads with a purely sexual objective.

Send ad copy and a check for the appropriate amount to: ETVC, PO Box 6486, San Francisco, CA 94101.

Ad deadlines are the first weekend of the month of publication (June, August, October, December, February and April).

HOTLINE 415-763-3959

Career Woman - Election Night

Come and make your vote count. Elections from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. with the polls closing at 9 p.m. (best to return your ballots early by mail). Awards will be presented after the polls close. Election results will be announced with introduction of new officers as soon as possible. Socializing, birthday cake, etc., for the rest of the night. May 31, 8 p.m. Members free, guests \$2 at the Chez Mollet.

Cavalcade of Stars

Welcome to the cavalcade of stars, a farewell from your current social committee. If you have some talent, now is the time to show your stuff. We will have guest appearances by the Imperial Star Empire - Empress 11, Miss Timmy Ryan; plus the court of Alameda, and our very own Miss ETVC, Tiffany. Show will start at 9 p.m. - A show not to miss. June 28, 8 p.m. Members \$5, guests \$8.

'Cause Makin' Up is Hard to Do

For those of us who just can't get it right, no matter how hard we try to apply our makeup properly, there's new hope. Louise Carroll of Continental Wigs will once again return to the Chez on Thursday night, May 17, at 8 p.m. to help us out. You might want to review Martina's article in the last newsletter to be prepared. \$3.00 members and guests.

In the Public View

Passing in public requires more than just "looking" feminine. You must be prepared for a variety of situations and do your best to handle them as a real woman would. Renee Chinquapin of Miss Renee's Charm School will try to help us gain that confidence we need to go public on Saturday afternoon, June 9 at the Chez Mollet starting at 2 p.m. \$3.00 members and guests.

Couples Group

The couples group is alive and well and having fun at its buffet dinners in the lovely homes of our friends around the Bay Area. The group will be meeting on May 24 (a week later than usual) at Ginny and Nancy Ann's in San Francisco and on June 21 at Lyn and Vanessa's in Foster City. Come and be a part of another party just for you and your loved one. To find out more, call Ginny at (415) 664-1499.

Dues are Due

All memberships in ETVC, regardless of when they were purchased, need to be renewed as of June 1, 1990 at the annual rate of \$20 for the full year through May 31, 1991. Be sure to continue your subscription to this newsletter, as well as discount prices at our social events. Renew now and avoid the rush.



Remember, "Don't leave home without it."

ETVC Membership.

Renew today!

Lou Sullivan to be Honored

Long a friend of ETVC, Lou Sullivan will be thanked for his many contributions to the gender community at a luncheon in his honor on Saturday, May 12 at 1:00 p.m. at the German Oaks Bavarian Restaurant in San Francisco at 2257 Market St. between 15th and 16th. Lou is a highly respected member of our paraculture and spoke before the American Psychiatric Association in San Francisco earlier this year. He also recently addressed the Harry Benjamin Society in Cleveland. He formed his own support group for female-to-male transsexuals in 1986 and has about 15 at his quarterly meetings.

We will have the restaurant's private dining room for the event. Lunch will offer a choice of either a chicken or fish entree and include dessert and coffee for \$15. Tickets may be purchased by mail from ETVC by writing to P.O. Box 6486, SF, 94101 before May 7, or at any ETVC or RGA event. For further information, call the hotline at (415) 763-3959.

Significant Other Support Group

The Significant Other Support Group wants to invite all significant others to attend our SOS group meetings. Group members define significant others as wives, lovers, friends, children and others close to TV/TS persons, but are themselves not a TV/TS. We encourage you to ask the SO in your own life to come to these meetings, particularly if the SO feels they need support from their peers in dealing with their feelings about the TV/TS in their lives. It is important to emphasize that all meetings are kept STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.

The SOS group meets the second Thursday of each month from 8 to 10 p.m. in the homes of members. You are all welcome with open arms. The next meetings are May 10 in Pleasant Hill and June 14 in Oakland. For more information, call Ginny at (415) 664-1499.

BIRTHDAY GIRLS (and guys)

May

Ann S., Beverly R., Billie Jo, Bobbie G., Carol C., Charlene C., Cindy M., Diva M., Donna S., Dora Mae, Jane B., Joanne D., Kathie E., Lesley Anne, Lyndria, Marcia S., Marie S., Marilyn C., Marion T., Nancy F., Rebecca A., Ronda S., Sharyn S., Susan B., Sybil H.

June

Anne R., Billie Ann, Bobbie M., Charlotte H., Dana A., Dianne S., Elfrieda, Gina Marie, Ginny K., Jessica J., Jill G., Jo Anne H., Jo Anne O., Jodie R., Joyce H., Joyce Z., Juanita G., Lawrence M., Lin F., Lisa M., Lisa P., Lorraine T., Lynda G., Lynne J., Martina, Melissa R., Michelle J., Michelle N., Micki H., Nalini E., Rhonda D., Rose Ann, Rose C., Royalle V., Sheila M., Sissy T., Sylvia V.

Head of the Class

When you were in school, what would your reaction have been if a group of crossdressers had made a presentation to one of your classes? This spring nearly 1000 students in classes dealing with human sexuality and social issues at SF State University heard and met ETVC speakers during five presentations from February to April. We spoke to huge classes of more than 700 and small classes of 40. Each time we tried to clarify the distinctions between sexuality and gender and we tried to explain what it was like to grow up seeing the sex roles differently. We were always received with courtesy and great interest and our panels were always applauded. Many students came up to our groups at the ends of classes to ask more personal questions; compliment members on dress, demeanor and honesty; or in a few cases, say they, too, are crossdressers. Our panelists, Charlotte, Monica V., Melissa, Susan, Lisa, Jaimie and Miss ETVC herself, Tiffany, are doing some great work (So is Thalia - ED.) We shake up the stereotypes and make sure that we are perceived as whole, real people.

Lately, we have been giving out questionnaires to the students. After speaking once, Monica's curiosity got the better of her and she put together a one-page set of questions about attitudes towards crossdressing. Even allowing for the relatively liberal nature of students in classes dealing with sex roles and sexuality, the response has been gratifyingly favorable on the whole.

In early March, I attended Speaking Out, the second conference on Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Speakers Bureaus in San Francisco. As the only acknowledged gender minority person, I was a bit hesitant to bring up our issues. I have felt that we have too often freeloaded on the tolerance and socially progressive part of the gay community. Their working in and opening up society's minds, their tolerance of our issues, and strong political bent have been to our advantage but we don't always reciprocate too well. In other words, I was a little afraid of being labeled a parasite. But as I began asking questions, making statements here and there, and working with other speakers' bureau coordinators I found nothing but openness and support. There was interest in how we could cooperate on presentations and share speakers.

These speakers and their organizations are years ahead of us. One group - the Committee United Against Violence - makes over 200 presentations a year! I hope someday we can approach their levels of effectiveness. One conference attendee laughed when I brought up gender issues and said, "That's really it. Gender, the Final Frontier. Even we aren't there yet!"

In late March, Susan and I participated in a training session at Youth Advocates' Huckleberry House. Luanna Rodgers organized a two and a half hour workshop for the intake and counseling staff of this social service agency that works with youth offenders and runaways. The session was to sensitize the staff so they can better provide services to gender minority kids and their families. The response was very positive and I think we made an impact on the way the people there will work with kids in the future.

Do you have an interest in public speaking? If so, I want you! Even though we have a few experienced speakers, if we get many more opportunities, we will start burning the frequent speakers out. We also need help organizing and looking for new opportunities to present our issues. I would also like more speakers from the minorities in our minority: transsexuals, gays,

bisexuals and racial minorities. Significant others also need more representation.

What does it take? Confidence, honesty and time. You don't have to be an orator or a speech graduate. You needn't be the most beautiful. There is no party line - we are each representing ourselves as whole human beings, warts and all. Nobody needs to be constrained by a unified theory of gender, in fact, we are only experts at being ourselves. Diverse opinions are not divisive. We need to help audiences understand the variety and richness off our community. That's why no one works alone. Each panel is composed of at least two and usually three or four people.

The commitment is simple. You need to observe a presentation once and see if speaking is for you. Talk to me and we'll try to set something up. Most important is time flexibility because college classes are usually during the day. Usually I get about a month's notice on speaking needs, though that is not always possible.

If the public part isn't for you, we need help and ideas on places to speak. If you know of a group or program that we should be talking to find out whom we should contact. We need names, programs, addresses, phone numbers. If you're inspired talk to me or the ETVC outreach committee.

— Thalia

Letters to ETVC

To whom it may concern:

It is with great pleasure to write this letter of appreciation to one of the most informed and educated group of speakers on transvestism from the Education Transvestite Channel. For the past several semesters, we have had a number of speakers from ETVC and the presentations have always been superb. The speakers handle the students with the greatest of care, and provide them with positive information on transvestism - and they do so in a warm and supportive way. As one can well imagine, even some of the brightest and most earnest students do not understand the complex phenomenon of transvestism and react somewhat hostilely at first, but the speakers from ETVC have always put even the most apprehensive students at ease, thereby opening the floodgates of information about transvestism.

Many of my students over the past couple of years spoke and continue to speak positively about the speakers from ETVC on a regular basis. Furthermore, a few students have had a personal as well as an academic interest in crossdressing and plan to attend some of the meetings that are hosted by ETVC. This is testimony enough, in my opinion, of how effective and devoted the guest speakers are from ETVC.

I would like to pay special thanks to Thalia who has been so wonderful for arranging the appearance of guest speakers for the Human Sexuality Studies Program at San Francisco State University. Thanks to all of you for helping to educate our eager students.

Sincerely yours,
John P. Elia, M.A.
Lecturer in Psychology and Human Sexuality Studies
San Francisco State University

TV/TS/TG GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

A Calendar of Events for May & June



DATE	WHO	WHAT	TIME	WHERE	FOR INFORMATION
MAY					
2	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(415) 841-6224
4	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 988-0790
5	ETVC	Executive Committee	Starts at 8 PM	Foster City	(415) 570-5161
7	ETVC	Outreach Committee	Starts at 8 PM	Oakland	(415) 849-4112
9	ETVC	Social Committee	Starts at 8 PM	San Leandro	(415) 483-9090
10	ETVC	Significant Others Support	Meets 8-10 PM	Pleasant Hill	(415) 664-1499
11	ETVC	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
12	ETVC	Lou Sullivan Luncheon	Starts at 1 PM	San Francisco	(415) 763-3959
12	ETVC/RGA	Daybreak	Starts at 8 PM	Mountain View	(408) 984-5619
14	ETVC/RGA	Rap Group	Meets 8-10 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-5619
16	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(415) 841-6224
17	ETVC	Makeup by Louise	Starts at 8 PM	Chez Mollet	(408) 984-5619
18	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 988-0790
24	ETVC	Couples Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
25	Pac Ctr	Open Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(415) 841-6224
26	SGA	Dinner/Social	Starts at 7 PM	Sacramento	(916) 441-8379
31	ETVC	Anniversary Party	Starts at 8 PM	Chez Mollet	(415) 483-9090

JUNE					
1	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 988-0790
4	ETVC	Outreach Committee	Starts at 8 PM	Castro Valley	(415) 964-3655
6	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(415) 841-6224
8	ETVC	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
9	ETVC	In the Public View	Starts at 2 PM	Chez Mollet	(408) 984-5619
9	ETVC	Executive Committee	Starts at 8 PM	Montara	(415) 728-3615
9	ETVC/RGA	Daybreak	Starts at 8 PM	Mountain View	(408) 984-5619
11	ETVC/RGA	Rap Group	Meets 8-10 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-5619
13	ETVC	Social Committee	Starts at 8 PM	San Leandro	(415) 483-9090
14	ETVC	Significant Others Support	Meets 8-10 PM	Oakland	(415) 664-1499
15	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 988-0790
16	.....	Gay Freedom Day	10 AM - 5 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-5619
17	.....	"	"	"	"
20	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(415) 841-6224
21	ETVC	Couples Social	Starts at 8 PM	Foster City	(415) 664-1499
23	SGA	Dinner/Social	Starts at 7 PM	Sacramento	(916) 441-8379
24	.....	Gay Freedom Day Parade	9 AM - 4 PM	San Francisco	(415) 367-0359
28	ETVC	Cavalcade of Stars	Starts at 8 PM	Chez Mollet	(415) 483-9090
29	Pac Ctr	Open Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(415) 841-6224

OTHER GROUPS

Pacific Center for Human Growth, a counseling-oriented growth center, sponsors all-inclusive gender support groups on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, and last Friday of the month at 8:00 PM. The Center is located at 2712 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley. Call (415) 841-6224 for more information.

Rainbow Gender Association (RGA) meets on the 1st and 3rd Friday of the month at 8:00 PM at the New Community of Faith Church, 6350 Rainbow Drive, San Jose. RGA can be contacted by writing: Rainbow Gender Association, PO Box 700730, San Jose, CA 95170.

Sacramento Gender Association (SGA) meets at 7 PM on the fourth Saturday of each month upstairs at the Town & Country Inn's restaurant 2060 Auburn Blvd. Sacramento; call (916) 441-8379 for directions. Write Jennifer Richards, PO Box 417701, Sacramento, CA 95841 for more information.

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

Dear Miss Renee,

Why do I crossdress? Is there something wrong with me? - Worried

Dear Worried,

If you believe in reincarnation, I'd say you might have been a woman with some unfinished business in a past life. If you care much about psychology, I'd suggest that your parents wanted a girl, or your father was too rigid, demanding and distant. If your bias is scientific, perhaps there was some scrambled DNA. If you believe you have a choice in the matter, well maybe the demands this culture puts upon a male are unrealistic and this is the way you escape them for a while.

But I wonder, does it matter? Certainly there's nothing wrong with crossdressing. No one is harmed, so why do you care? It may be an interesting question, but it isn't an important one, and often just covers up a sense of shame and guilt. My advice is simplistic but serious, "Don't worry, be happy!"

Dear Miss Renee,

How can I learn about make-up colors that are appropriate for my skin and coloring? - Ruddy

Dear Ruddy,

In Long's and Thrifty's there are sometimes little machines to help you choose cosmetics; watch for them. If you have the courage, step up to the cosmetic counters in Macy's and tell the salesperson pointblank that you're a crossdresser, but you'd like to look your best, could she please give you some things? There are Merle Norman and other non-franchised cosmetologists, and often hairdressers can make a referral for you.

Dear Miss Renee,

What do I do about my "bulge"? - Well Hung

Dear Well,

You could wear looser clothes. You also shave your testicles, tuck back your penis and tape scrotal skin over it, pushing your testicles up your inguinal canal. Or, you could wear enough hip padding that your bulge wouldn't show. I recommend the latter, as women are so much wider at the hips than men and some padding cannot help but feminize your proportions.

Dear Miss Renee,

I just can't get up to the functions ETVC has because of my schedule, but I would love some support, what can I do? - Miss Lonelyheart

Dear Miss Lonelyheart,

In San Jose, there is RGA; in Sacramento, there is SGA, and don't forget Tri-Ess if you are a heterosexual cross-dresser. If there is a lesbian bar in your area, you might feel comfortable there. Your need is legitimate and healthy, don't give up!

Send your questions to: Just Ask Miss Renee, c/o ETVC, P.O. Box 6486, San Francisco, CA 94101.

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Next Outreach Committee meetings:

May 7 in Oakland

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Call Evelyn at (415) 964-3655 or

Telzey at (415) 849-4112

for more information,

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Adventures at the Cotillion

As a brand new member of ETVC, and living primarily in Los Angeles, the 1990 Cotillion was my very first contact with our fine organization. I had very few details on the event when I arrived Saturday morning. In a brief phone conversation with a member whose number was in the newsletter I learned there was no adequate place to change at the California Club. As I truly was a debutante, not having dressed outside before, except for Halloween, and being in somewhat unfamiliar surroundings, I knew that this would be quite a challenge. I didn't even have clothes yet.

Fortunately, I had arranged to stay at a female friend's. Although we had briefly discussed that I like "queens", she was not aware why I had made this trip. I still felt in a dilemma to explain the Cotillion to her.

We have become very close, however, and little by little through the ride from the airport and breakfast I did explain, and I was too delighted to find that she not only was understanding but enthusiastic!

Before I knew it, she had tried one of her own wigs on me and then whisked me to her female friends' house, where they had me try on several dresses before deciding on the right one, an elegant, floor length, sleeveless evening gown with the back out (requiring me to shave in a few unfamiliar places). Surely every ETVC sister can imagine the thrill that a still slightly flustered closet TV about to "come out" was feeling in having two sincerely interested, and attractive, real females fussing over me!

The second lady's shoes even fit me, and they were amazed as I was ecstatic that I could walk in them, though somewhat tentatively.

While they attended to other chores, I was dispatched to purchase three tickets at the Chez Mollet and to purchase my long black gloves and three pair of black silk pantyhose. It was the first time I ever enjoyed shopping in the fabulous new center on Market Street.

The only drawback to the entire evening was that we arrived so late that I hardly met any ETVC sisters. You can appreciate the time it takes for two real women to dress up not only themselves, but also a novice TV.

After we finally did arrive I was able to make use of my own profession, videography. I was amazed that I was able to hold my heavy VHS camcorder reasonably steady and focussed despite being in 4-inch heels, a tight long gown, without my hopelessly male eyeglasses, and in a state of nervous ecstasy.

After the Cotillion, the three of us "girlfriends" went to an all night party at which I caused quite a sensation and then a late, late breakfast at a coffee shop filled with curious, amused customers and employees. I stayed dressed until we returned home at dawn.

The 1990 Cotillion was thus truly an "Enchanted Evening" for me.

— Carol

ETVC and the SF Coronation

Groups from all over the Western Hemisphere attended this gala event and ETVC led the way as the first San Francisco group introduced at this major event on February 18.

This year's 25th Coronation was hosted by the reigning Emperor, Jerry Coletti, and Empress, Pat Montclair. The spectacular show was kicked off with a lavish Egyptian opening number, a musical presentation with fantastic headdresses, some in pink, and even Batman, who swooped onto the stage for his musical number resplendent in his black outfit. This was a couturiers dream as one fabulous gown after another was seen on the evening's participants.

But the real highlight was the selection of the new Empress and Emperor. This year's title went to ETVC's own Marlena who became the 25th Silver Peacock Empress of San Francisco. Joining her in the new imperial family is the new Emperor, Simeon. ETVC congratulates them both.

ETVC did another magnificent job of coat checking at the Silver Jubilee party on February 17. Our crew of checkers featured Martina, Meagan, Zia, Jessica, Paulette, Mary, Lorraine, Kim and Telzey.

All funds were donated to the San Francisco gay community for their favorite benefit of the night, the Harvey Milk National Memorial.

— Kim



ETVC coat check girls at the Silver Jubilee, clockwise from left: Jessica, Meagan, Zia, Paulette, Kim, Marie and Martina

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Discussion with Dr. Paul Walker

Dr. Paul Walker spent several hours with us in a question and answer session on March 17. He has been an important influence and help in the gender community, author of the Standards of Care and founder of the Janus Information Facility.

Here are some of his comments:

In Europe, the time required to live in the opposite role before surgery has been increased to five years. That is because the state pays for everything and they don't want to make mistakes or make it too easy. He sees no likelihood that the period in this country will be increased, or that costs will be covered. He laments that U.S. insurance companies will generally not cover TS costs and he thinks they should.

Although it is widely believed that taking estrogen has a big psychological effect, he says this effect is almost entirely due to changing life style and self concept, not to chemicals. In contrast, FTM's (female to male) taking testosterone experience a major effect, becoming hyper and aggressive like teenage boys. He says one of the major causes of psychological problems from estrogens is not the hormone level, but the changing for the level, also true for genetic females. Changing level has a negative effect and should be minimized.

Estrogen has important health risks, the major ones being those associated with blood clots, which are common side effects, making frequent blood tests important. Cancer risk, on the other hand, has been overblown and is probably not much to worry about. Progesterone has no adverse health effect and is thought by some to decrease the risks of estrogen, but it has little feminizing effect other than testosterone suppression, although some think it promotes breast development.

Walker believes a person should live in the opposite gender role for three months before starting hormones. He has seen far too many who demand it immediately and change their minds next week. He says no one needs hormones to pass, but your expectations have to be consistent with reality and you have to dress appropriately.

He said that TS's are like teenage girls; they are fascinated by their bodies and how they look. But they eventually have to grow up and start acting like real women. Otherwise they stay trapped in dysfunctional lives. It usually takes about four years for past stuff to catch up to a post-op, he claimed, and then she begins to realize that she has many of the same problems as before but now must face them as a woman.

Many people who initially think they are TS's are actually homosexual or transvestites, but don't realize they have those options because they feel it's too shameful.

Dr. Walker says androgyny is not a viable life style. You simply look like a freak and don't fit in. He says reality today is you have to fit in to the gender roles society expects, whether you like it or not. He wants people to find partners and be happy, and to do that they have to be conventional, he says. In Texas, crossdressers are surprisingly passable, because you either pass or you get killed. He admitted the Bay Area is more tolerant, but ignored any comment on alternative life styles here.

He observes that most male crossdressers come from conservative backgrounds and are very competitive and aggressive and feel they are forced into that to act like men. There would be many fewer crossdressers if gender roles were not so rigid and extreme.

Some crossdressing has a biological cause and some primarily an environmental one, but in all cases the cause is a mixture of both. Even to those predisposed, family influence has a big effect on whether the predisposition is expressed or not. Crossdressers often say they had a normal family, but if you dig deeper you almost always find it was dysfunctional, in ways that resemble the dysfunctions in adult children of alcoholics, he said.

For us to make progress in society, TV/TS research is essential, and not nearly enough is being done. All academics who do research in the field do it in their spare time; none does it full-time because it is not popular or justifiable to grant-making committees and administrators. The governing bodies are very sensitive to public relations and believe this topic is not acceptable in the public eye. He sees no easy solution to this because there are not enough of us gender people to do much.

Walker says one of the benefits of his work has been to see the tremendous beneficial changes in people when they are freed to express themselves as they choose. Male-to-females generally feel much more relaxed, safe, and calm, escaping from the pressures of male life. Many become much more aware of feelings and communicate better. Others stay locked into clothes and never get beyond that. Full mental health lies in combining the "masculine" and "feminine" sides in whichever gender role you end up.

— Ronda

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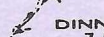
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A Letter from Mme. President

It has taken me years of struggling in my mind to arrive at this point in my life where nothing is too great a challenge and no one can discourage me, not that many have. Actually I can't remember a negative remark or comment; instead every time I explain what I am to someone I get the impression they feel honored. When I think of the hundreds of people who know me - and I mean all about me - it makes me wonder why I had to go so many years in hiding, but I guess all things must travel at their own speed.

The speed in which our club is growing is rapid and changes have been made to accommodate that growth. One major need is a computer. I don't think I need to explain the benefits of a computer since they are in so many of our lives and it can help in many ways for our group also. It would be nice if each of us could make a small donation towards this valuable addition to our club. Send donations to our PO Box or give them to Nancy Ann, our treasurer, at our next monthly social. Keep in mind it is to your benefit as well as for all the other members, so I hope we will think enough of our group to be generous.

I have been very proud to be ETVC's first president and I hope I have relayed to the public the class of people we are. I know I have gained respect by many, and I hope each of us will do whatever we can in our own way to do the same.

Thank you for letting me serve you this year and remember I will be there in the future for anyone. Don't hesitate to call; I love to talk.

— Charlotte

Thanks from the Veep

This past year has been a very good education for me (both of me). I want to thank all of you for your support. I look forward to working with the new vice-president as well as the rest of the executive committee. Thank you.

— Barbie

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Consciousness-Raising for Crossdressers

Exaggerating female stereotypes seems normal to some people at crossdressing meetings. You also hear people making outrageous statements like: "As soon as you put on a dress, you lose the ability to think."

I am worried that when we speak as above, many crossdressers unconsciously accept that as reality. They feel they have to conform to it to pass as women and have to treat women that way to pass as men.

Many of us speak in such stereotypes in the same way we tell minority jokes, without realizing how damaging they are. We can't pass it off by saying it's just the way people talk and doesn't mean anything. Such talk is what creates reality.

Instead of talking about what we have to lose to pass as women, let's talk about the emotion and sensitivity we have to gain. We need to experience what it is about the opposite role that makes us feel good about ourselves, to bring out more of the good stuff, and to encourage it in others.

Stereotypes, in contrast, tend to dwell on what you can't or shouldn't do. Conventional gender roles are restrictive and oppressive. Most crossdressers accept those roles without question. They try to escape from one oppressive role by overemphasizing the other. They may be fifty years old, but they dream of becoming "girls".

Decades ago women began to realize that calling a secretary "girl" was done for the same reason as calling a black man "boy." For those of you who don't know it yet, most people don't do that anymore.

Every time we let negative, derogatory talk go by without calling attention to it, we hurt and trap ourselves. I think it's better to try to free ourselves, and to support the opposite gender when they, like us, try to become more free and more whole.

— Ronda

As I reflect on what makes me happy I realize that it is really the simple things that make the difference.

Did you always identify with the actresses when you went to the movies? In high school, wouldn't you like to have had at least a shot at being a girl cheerleader or a majorette or the homecoming queen or the May queen? When we heard a group of girls giggling at the drive-in after school we wanted to be a member of their group. If you are like me, there were many times in your life in which you had to observe experiences that females could have that you wanted to have and could not and had to eat your heart out.

We were told that it was much better to be born a boy but we didn't for a minute believe it. Of course in some ways they were right, but the assumption is that along with being born a boy you got a male identity to go with it.

And this was before we were taunted by the idea of being the female in a relationship, being able to experience pregnancy or being the mother of children.

The good news is that the door is not slammed shut. There still is a lot to recoup. And believe me, when these things finally do happen for you, it is very rewarding and you will probably appreciate them more. You probably won't get pregnant, but I know married women who are former TS's who have children.

As I grow in my role as a woman, I eagerly try out new experiences. I may act like a teenager sometimes but I cannot go back to high school and be a cheerleader. But I can and do have lots of girlfriends. And we do things together that are fun and keep us laughing. Though I did not take dancing lessons as a child, I can and do now. I am taking a ballroom dancing class for several reasons. Number one, if a guy asks you to dance you have to know how to follow. Two, we grew up in an era when ballroom dancing was out and do your own thing was in. I am good at a fast boogie, but forget the foxtrot. Third, it is fun to learn and dance the woman's part. It is pleasurable when the teacher asks the ladies to step out front for our instruction.

As for other aspects of my life, I try to be outgoing and make lots of friends. I have been told that I am more empathetic now than before. I am in great demand by my women friends for questions about how men think. Not that I am any great expert either but at a minimum, I was one. I date straight men now and am the woman in these relationships.

Just seeing the world each day from a woman's perspective makes me glad to be alive in a way I have never known till now.

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10th Annual Tiffany Club Provincetown Spring Outing May 29-June 4

go on the town in Provincetown. Contact: The Tiffany Club, PO box 2283, Woburn, MA 01888 (508) 358-2305

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Getting Nailed

What's the great challenge of Crossdressing '90?

No doubt about it: Fingernails.

If you got hands, you got nails. You got nails and you got grief. Take press-ons. They seem so easy. Put 'em on. Take 'em off. Collect 'em in different lengths & colors. Trade 'em with friends. They're fun, fun, FUN! That's why they were one of my early femme purchases:

"I--I'll t-t-take them."

"Them? What, the press-on nails?"

"Uh, yeah."

"Hmmm. No price marked. Hey! Louise!"

"N, th-that's alright."

"No problem. Hey! Louise! LOUISE! This guy wants these here press-ons! How much?"

Louise didn't know. Then--oh, no!

"PRICE CHECK!"

Th-they were five-something. Over six bucks, with tax. I bought them and even waited for my change. I had to. She handed me the change first. Outside the store, I felt triumphant. then I got home.

They didn't fit. Six bucks, and they didn't fit. The biggest one covered my thumbnail like a string bikini. But I decided to try on the whole set anyway.

I'm right-handed, so naturally I covered my left fingernails first. Very pretty, sort of. But I can't grasp a soup spoon with my left hand, so how was I to peel the stickers off their sheet, manipulate them onto my fingernails and apply the press-ons?

The technique I devised was to lay out the nails according to size, apply stickum to all my real nails, then lay on the phonies, starting with the little fingers. I got them all on. They just wouldn't stay on. They'd slide and I'd press. They'd pop up and I'd press. I'd brush my hair and they'd stay there. It's the only place they would stay.

Somebody suggested, "Put the sticky stuff both on your nails and the press-ons. It works for me." She held up her nails. Gee, they were almost all straight. So I tried it and it worked out pretty well. Except--well, they held iron, but with the half-life of ice cream. Which means that after one hour the thumbs started to time-release. Maybe my fingernails sweat.

"Try contact cement," I read somewhere. Then I met Virginia Prince.

"Nice fake nails. How'd you keep 'em on?"

"Contact cement!" I beamed.

"Contact cement?" she snorted. "You wanna know about contact cement?" She displayed a couple of atrophied fingernails.

"This is what happened from leaving contact cement on too long. Ripped the nails off. Pain. Cheez. The only good thing to come of it was that they awarded me the Purple Heart. Don't even mention contact cement to me, d'you hear?"

"Yes, ma'am."

So much for press-ons. then it hit me: Hey, if I grow my own, at least they won't fall off. Problem solved, right?

"What the hell are you doing?" my wife mentioned, pointing to my hands.

"Growing my nails."

"They look like hell," she commented, meaning, "Everybody will know you're a transvestite."

"Listen," I explained, giving her the best back scratch of her life. "Oh," she replied, "I see. But please, don't let them get too long."

Nooo problem. Nature abhors long nails. Nails are meant to help you dig roots, grasp branches or pick up loose screws, not look pretty. To grow them long you must tend them like ten little gardens. Oh, yes, they must be nourished, cultivated and protected from harsh weather. Even so, they can come up stunted, cracked or split. Sure, you can buy nail repair kits, but you might as well try pasting petals back onto a rose.

Real women contend with such vagaries by going to nail salons. There, gas masked manicurists use carcinogenic agents to bond space age plastics onto fingernails. The stuff doesn't come off until it grows out or the finger falls off. Going that far wouldn't make sense unless you were living full time. But then I'd have to get electrolysis, cosmetic surgery and a new driver's license. Oh, and quit my job for one that pays less. Which means I couldn't afford to have my nails done.

Maybe I'll just wear gloves.

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Book Review

Transformations by Mariette Pathy Allen

"He crossdresses not just because female clothing is prettier, but because it enables him to get into another space...but sometimes Elayne is too pretty...and he doesn't see his maleself has its beauty, its handsomeness."

Thus Kaye, the wife of transvestite Elayne, describes one of the scores of crossdressers and their families pictured and discussed in Mariette Pathy Allen's moving new book Transformations - Crossdressers and Those Who Love Them."

Photographer Allen was introduced to our community over 10 years ago when she persuaded first some Mardi Gras, and then some Fantasia Fair attendees, to pose for her.

Except for a two page introduction, Allen allows her subjects to tell their own stories. Their accounts run the gamut. On the negative side are stories that describe how one person began dressing because he was physically abused. Believing that his sisters were better treated, he began imitating them. On the other hand are the stories in which the introduction to dressing came out of a positive event, such as getting compliments for doing drag at Halloween.

Even more significant are the deep inner thoughts our sisters reveal. There are those whose dressing has caused them to consider suicide under the pressures of an ignorant, non-accepting family or the larger society. There is a person with an apparent multiple personality who couldn't remember things she'd done while dressed.

There is Vicki who says "When you dress to express yourself as a woman, you're totally without facade. You're utterly vulnerable, you're not protecting yourself. You're carrying your feelings not only on your sleeve, but all over you."

There is Dee, who turned the negative childhood experience of forced drag to prevent street play into a coy, adult game of telling his wife she could prevent him from cheating on her by shaving his legs and painting his toe nails.

There is Rita, who says that "Male clothes are functional but limit feeling (but dressing)...from the blissful beginning with a bath and preening (to the completion that) reveals the body (and) puts your legs on display...(frees) these suppressed feelings...sexy, CALM, beautiful, VULNERABLE, graceful, sensual...(these feelings) have less to do with how I actually look and more to do with my frame of mind."

There are the wives, girlfriends, parents and children, voicing their too long suppressed feelings: Jan, who describes how parties at ETVC have shown her how one doesn't have to live in society's traps; Diana, who says she would love her father Kay even if he had a sex change; and Lois, who felt threatened after Penny's Fantasia Fair experience seemed to make him sparkle in a way she could not make him, until she attended a wives support group.

Finally, there are the leaders, like Merissa (founder of the Tiffany Club and co-founder of IFGE) who says "There's not just thousands of us, but millions - and few are doing anything for them. Crossdressing can give a sense of oneness with our environment (like) touching a rose..."

Virginia Prince, our grand dame: "Crossdressers of all persuasions are the vanguard of men's liberation because we have faced that which frightens so many men...our inner femininity..."

And lastly, and appropriately, the author - "(The gender community is) in the vanguard of men's liberation, not necessarily because they have a choice, but because it is part of their nature...(They're) heroic because...with one foot in conventional, patriarchal society, and the other in a secret world of exploration of sex and gender role...They confront what most of us keep hidden in our innermost fantasies...They love each other, but ...not as lovers. It's a love without strings or demands...without sex or gender."

— Carol

(Ed. Note - Transformations is available at major bookstores or through ETVC. Ask for details at the next social.)

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I knew I was in trouble as soon as I heard the music. It was loud and it was disco. What was worse, I was dressed like a Junior Leaguer in a room full of gold lame and black vinyl.

I didn't know much about Peanuts, a bar located on Santa Monica Blvd. near Crescent Heights Blvd. in West Hollywood, except that it was supposed to be a great place to go dressed on a Monday night in LA.

It was certainly easy to find and so was parking, but of course there is a constitutional right to convenient parking in LA. I must say that I was a little concerned about the place before I walked in because there were several youngish scruffy guys in front trying to get in, but I also saw a few girls outside and figured I'd be fine.

The joint was jammed. It seemed like everyone in it was wearing the flashiest outfits in their closets. Shiny metallic blouses, tight minis, spike heels and mountains of hair were the uniform of the evening for this crowd. Big bosoms also were popular though there wasn't a girl in the place who was born female.

Actually, as the night wore on few more modest souls turned up in the packed bar, but we were a definite minority among all the glitter, glitz and big hair.

Peanuts on a Monday night is a singles bar for guys to meet cross dressers and TS's, a lot of whom date professionally. As for the guys, most were attired a lot more casually than the girls were.

I tried to chat with some of the flashier girls but they weren't interested in talking to me. Actually they didn't seem too interested in the guys who wanted just to talk either. I saw one of them later coming from a darker area of the parking lot looking a bit disheveled...guess she found what she wanted.

One conservatively dressed girl I spoke with said Monday night was TV/TS night. On other nights you take your chances, she said, they may not even let you in. She told me that the back bar at the Queen Mary in North Hollywood was really the place to go on other nights since it was quieter and had more TVs who were socializing with each other.

While not really my kind of place, Peanuts turned out to be perfectly safe and an interesting show to watch for a couple of hours. The bartenders were nice; the prices weren't. My sodas cost \$2.50 each and coffee was \$2 so I'm sure the drinks weren't cheap. There was a \$6 cover too, though what it was covering I don't know.

Okay so now you're thinking: gee this sounds like something I'd like to be into; I want to go to Peanuts but my gold lame halter is ripped.

No problem. Go to downtown LA on Broadway between about 5th and 8th streets and you'll find exactly what you need. This neighborhood is bargain hunter heaven, especially if you're looking for the latest cheap tart outfits that are just barely street legal.

Actually the prices on clothes, and not just the cheap looking stuff, are exceptional in the many, many outlet stores in this area. Had I known this, I would have definitely set aside more time for this neighborhood.

Earlier in my visit I made my pilgrimage to Lydia's TV Boutique, 13837 Ventura Blvd., Sherman Oaks (818) 995-7195, a well-established retail store devoted strictly to crossdressers and an old haunt of mine. Lydia's has a particularly strong selection of shoes (though Halloween put a dent in their usually ample supply) and foundation garments. The store is also good for wigs, cosmetics, costume jewelry and lingerie. Besides this is a gender community operation and deserves our support.

Unfortunately I did not have time to contact any of the numerous new support groups that have sprung up in the last year and have made LA a very good place for crossdressers, no matter what your interest.

Groups like Androgeny in Santa Monica, the Valley Girls, and the Powder Puffs of Orange County as well as at least four Tri-Ess chapters have helped fill what remains a huge need. If you are interested in more info about them, check your International Support Directory.

— Cindy

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SGA ELECTION RESULTS

On March 24, the Sacramento Gender Association held its election of officers for the coming year. There were few nominations and only one contested race. In that one race the vote was unanimous. The new officers are:

PRESIDENT - KATHIE
VICE PRESIDENT - LAURA
SECRETARY - JENNIFER
TREASURER - PAM
SECURITY - MARTINA



The models from Fashion Night strike a smiling pose: Lori, Zia, Meagan, Diane, Jessica, Tiffany, Sandy, Venus and Paulette.

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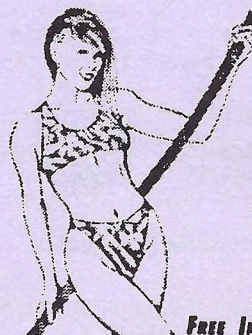
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Election Format Changed - Absentee Voting Introduced

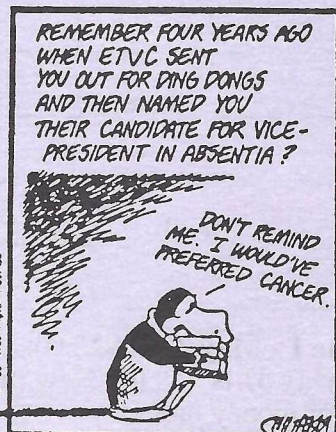
May is ETVC's anniversary month and the May social is election night. This year will be our eighth anniversary party. In the past, any member attending the social had the right to vote.

Earlier this year, the membership passed a bylaw amendment which was intended to give more of our members a voice in the decision making process of the club. That amendment changed the voting process by introducing absentee voting.

By now, you should have received an envelope containing a notice of the annual meeting, statements of the candidates and a ballot. We would prefer that you return the ballot by mail, if you can be sure it will reach us by May 26.

Otherwise, you may bring it to the social on May 31. You must come in person, as the bylaws do not allow voting by proxy. The polls will remain open until 9:00 p.m. and the results will be announced as soon as possible. We don't have a computer yet, so there shouldn't be any delays.

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J2CP Information Services

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J2CP Information Services provides information/referral services formerly provided by the Erickson Educational Foundation and JANUS Information Facility. J2CP Information Services is a separate entity and is not affiliated with either of its predecessors.

J2CP Information Services provides an information package consisting of pamphlets and literature concerning gender dysphoria syndrome, transsexualism and transvestism. This information package is available at a cost of \$25.00 to cover research, printing postage and secretarial services. Additionally, J2CP Information Services will attempt to provide referrals to reputable counselors, psycho-therapists, or gender programs, and peer counseling groups near your home.

Certified checks or Money Orders should be made payable to J2CP Information Services. Please specify whether you are male-to-female, female-to-male, or transvestite when writing. If transsexual, please provide your place of birth.

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South Bay Gender Event Information Line

Martina has changed her hotline to a gender event information line with emphasis on South Bay events. Due to technical difficulties the message is not as long as she would like. However, she has promised to advertise any event concerning crossdressing. Call anytime (408) 984-5619. Don't be surprised if the recording becomes live during the evening hours.

ETVC Membership Application

5/90

Please Print

Mailing Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Preferred Name: _____

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

How did you learn about ETVC? _____

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

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

Please remit by check or money order to:

ETVC, PO Box 6486, San Francisco, CA 94101