

## Early Survey Returns: Most Members Are Straight, Well-educated

The majority of ETVC members are straight transvestites in their 40s with high education levels who crossdress an average of about 13 times per month, according to preliminary survey results of the club's membership.

These results are based on 62 responses to the survey that was mailed to all ETVC members two months ago. Because the club has over 400 members, all the results should be considered cautiously.

Among those who did respond some 60 percent said they were transvestites, 20 percent said they were transsexuals and 12 percent said they were transgenderists (people who live full-time as the opposite sex without intending to have reassignment surgery). The remaining respondents identified themselves as significant others and other.

About two-thirds of all respondents said they were heterosexual, 27 percent said they were bisexual, and four percent were homosexual. The remaining people said they were lesbian or other.

The proportion of transvestites who said they were straight was about 76 percent. The rest said they were bisexual. None of the TVs said she was gay, a result that may have more to do with the small sample size than reality.

All of the people who identified themselves as gay or lesbian also said they were transsexuals. About 18 percent of all TSs who responded said they were gay/lesbian, 55 percent said they were bi and 18 percent said they were heterosexual.

A plurality of 47 percent of the total respondents said they were married, but again there were significant differences among subgroups.

About 55 percent of transvestites were married, 12 percent were divorced, 15 percent were single, 12 percent were widowers and the rest were living with someone. The transgenderists were evenly divided between those who were married and those who were single. The sample was too small to determine anything else. For transsexuals, about one-third were living with someone, one-third were single, 18 percent were married and 9 percent were divorced.

ETVC is an overwhelmingly white, male, middle-aged organization, at least that part of it that responded to the survey. The average age of ETVC members was 47. The average TV was 49 and the average TS and TG about 45. Well over 90 percent of the respondents said they were white, or "gringo" as one humorist put it.

More than 60 percent of all members had some college education or a college degree. About 30 percent had post-graduate degrees.

The average member, not counting female significant others, dressed about 13 times a month, but marital status seems to influence dressing rates. Married TVs dressed an average of eight times per month while divorced TVs dressed 17 times and those who were living with someone dressed 16 times. Widowed TVs dressed 13 times. Oddly, single TVs dressed only five times per month on average.

For obvious reasons transsexuals and transgenderists were much more frequent dressers and averaged about 20 times per month.



**Tiffany (with microphone) and Thalia wowed the crowd at the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Parade. (See page 6 for related stories)**

### **Survey continued**

They were also the most likely to say they went out in public and did so during the day. Two-thirds of the TSs and 86 percent of the TGs said they had been out in public to something other than a TV/TS function and identical proportions said they had also gone out during the day. Yes, those are correct figures: there were a few TSs and TGs who had never gone out in public at any time en femme.

About half of all the TVs who answered said they had been out in public but a slightly lesser proportion said they had gone out during the day. This finding may indicate that the survey was skewed towards the more active, open members of the club or it may indicate that people in ETVC are out in public a good deal more than some have assumed.

Respondents were also asked to rate various aspects of club functions and to make suggestions for improvements. They were also asked to list their favorite stores and services. The response to these questions will be presented along with additional survey results in the next newsletter, but all other ratings and the most common suggestions for improvements have been communicated to our executive committee.

**- Cindy R. Martin**

## Editor's Notes

British researchers are claiming that they have found a specific "maleness" gene.

Scientists at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund in London announced in early July that they may have found a specific gene in the Y chromosome which tells a fetus to develop testes in about the eighth week of development. All egg cells carry the X chromosome and if the sperm cell that fertilizes the egg also contributes an X then the fetus will be female. It is only when a sperm contributes a Y chromosome that a male fetus develops.

There is controversy about whether a single gene or several genes in the Y chromosome cause masculine development, but according to news accounts of this research, it is believed that people who lack this gene (or genes) may be "only partially masculinized."

Obviously there may be direct implications to our community in this research, which is also being conducted at the Whitehead Institute in Cambridge, Mass.

Many of us have long suspected that genetic influences may be the root causes of transvestism and transsexualism, but proof has been elusive. I promise to keep you posted on this fascinating research.

Speaking of boys and girls: I wonder how many of us really listen to what women say to us?

Many of you have probably noticed that there has been a significant increase in the numbers of born women (I refuse to use GG or genetic girls when referring to people who were born female) who are attending our events. I really like this because it shows that our community is maturing (I didn't say getting old!).

I also find it interesting to get a woman's perspective on our group.

Those I have talked with give us high marks for friendliness and openness, but unfortunately a few of us do lose on style points. Ladies, listen up. If you're 45 years old and insist on trying to look like a 25-year-old streetwalker that's fine, but born women (and some of us part-time ladies) wonder what kind of a statement you're making. What my female friends say is it's okay to be trendy or ultra chic, but don't dress like a hooker unless you want to be taken for one. That's a closet look anyway.

My least favorite issue: which bathroom to use. Management at the Daybreak in Mountain View has made a very simple choice for us. Only born women can use the ladies' room there now. Transsexuals can still use the ladies' room if they prove their status with some documentation (I'm not kidding). We've been put on probation because of some complaints.

What kind of complaints? Let's just say a few people haven't exactly been discreet or very neat about their visits to the facilities. This same problem has also come up at the Chez Mollet, though it is still okay to use the ladies' room there. But several women have complained about the awful mess some people leave and eventually management there could take action. Clean up after yourself and leave the ladies' room spotless and DRY. You all know what I am talking about here.

Note to girls down in OC: Don't join Tri-Ess. I hear tell that there is a move afoot by a prominent member of the Power Puffs of Orange County to make that independent, open group a Tri-Ess chapter. None of my business, of course, but I cannot understand why a successful, growing club that has thrived as an open organization would want to close its doors to gays and transsexuals. As one PPOC member put it in the club's recent newsletter: If it ain't broke, don't fix it.

Letters, we get letters...but we don't print them without a name. To the person who sent me a letter with the salutation "Dear Sir, Madam or whatever" and discussed the use of the term dysphoria: resubmit it with your femme name and I'll be happy to print it. By the way, you can address me as Madam, but Cindy or Ms. Martin would be friendlier.

Congrats to the new social committee: your first effort, July's Friendship Night, was excellent. Keep it going!

Pain and Suffering Dept.: Kim Hyon Hui, the North Korean woman who blew up a Korean Airlines plane and killed hundreds of people a few years back said recently that she "punishes" herself by resisting the temptation to buy new dresses (she has some freedom of movement). Torture, torture...  
- **Cindy R. Martin**

## Reporters, writers wanted

The ETVC Newsletter is looking for reporters who can cover our socials and other ETVC events. We need reliable people who understand deadlines and can write clear, accurate stories. If interested, contact Cindy Martin at the socials. It's a fun and easy way to give something back to the club.

## 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	Martina
Vice President	Kristyn
Secretary	Cheryl
Treasurer	Nancy Ann
Education	Jessica & Paulette
Outreach	Kim & Telzey
Social	Jo Anne & Diahanna

### SECRETARY'S REPORT

Membership (as of 7/31/90)	226
1989 Membership	221
New members this year	15

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance on 6/1/90	\$5,061.91
June income	\$2,349.70
June expenses	\$2,219.75
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Balance on 6/30/90	5,191.85
July income	1,229.00
July expenses	528.21
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Balance on 7/31/90	5,892.64
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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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Production:	Cheryl

### 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**

# SPECIAL EVENTS

## Country Western Night

Get out your square dance dresses for the Country Western party on September 27, at the Chez Mollet. Any Dolly Parton mimics out there? 8 p.m., 527 Bryant St., San Francisco.

Members \$3, Guests \$5



## HALLOWEEN PARTY

8 p.m. Thursday October 25

Members \$8

Guests \$12

Chez Mollet,  
527 Bryant St  
San Francisco



It's TV/TS Xmas time! Yep, that special night when even you closet gals can come on out and no one will care! As always, we'll have our famous ETVC costume contest with all kinds of categories and prizes. But you better get there early 'cause this one packs 'em in. Thursday, October 25, at 8 p.m. Chez Mollet, 527 Bryant St., San Francisco. Members \$8, Guests \$12

### Conversations with Linda Thiele

Linda Thiele, a licensed clinical social worker in Walnut Creek, who provides both individual and relationship counseling for TSs, TVs and their loved ones, will facilitate a discussion on Saturday, September 15 at 2 p.m. at the Chez Mollet regarding the conflicting feelings of being in a relationship involving a crossdresser. This discussion is for both singles and couples interested in increasing their understanding of each other. \$3

### ETVC/RGA Rap Group

The most exciting rap group in the Bay Area meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at the New Community of Faith Church in San Jose. The address is 6350 Rainbow Drive in San Jose. The next two meetings will be on Monday, September 10 and Monday, October 8 from 8-10 pm. There are only two rules: no one dominates the discussion and no discussing the rap group outside the group. If you know the way to San Jose, join us. If not contact Kim (408) 243-3919 or Martina at (408) 984-5619 for more information.

### Hassle-free Transformation

Jolina, an image consultant, has been involved with hair and make-up for 12 years in the San Francisco area. On Wednesday, October 10, at 8 p.m. she will conduct a workshop on image development. "I will help people make themselves look better and find the easiest and best time-saving ways in which to do it," she says. So bring your make-up and mirror to the Chez for this opportunity to work with Jolina. \$3

### Why Go Public, Why Not?

October begins your new Education Committee's program to bring you not just one, but TWO education seminars each month. On Saturday afternoon, October 13, at 2 p.m., at the Chez, Jane Kamper Bently and Jessica Stang will host a rap session on going public. The whys and why-nots. \$3 Members and guests.

<p><b>Chez Mollet</b> PRIME RIB</p> <p>527 Bryant St. • 495-4527 (BTWN. 3rd &amp; 4th STS. • 2 BLOCKS SOUTH OF MOSCONE CENTER)</p> <p><b>OUR 22nd YEAR</b> SERVING SAN FRANCISCO</p> <p>CONTINENTAL CUISINE</p> <p>COCKTAIL LOUNGE</p> <p>DINNER 5:30 - 11 PM 7 DAYS A WEEK</p> <p>BRUNCH SAT., SUN. &amp; HOLIDAYS 10:30 AM - 3:30 PM</p> <p><i>Where dinner is a pleasure and parking is a blessing.</i></p>	<p>SUN., MON., TUE.</p> <p><b>Prime Rib</b> Dinner Soup or Salad <b>\$9.95</b></p> <p><b>Brunch Special</b> Ham, Bacon or Sausage 2 eggs &amp; toast <b>\$4.25</b> Plus our regular brunch menu.</p> <p>PARTIES ACCOMMODATED IN OUR BANQUET ROOM</p>
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# TV/TS/TQ GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

## A Calendar of Events for March & April



### SEPTEMBER

5	Pacific Center	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(415) 841-6224
7	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 988-0790
8	ETVC	Executive Committee	Starts at 8 PM	TBA	(408) 984-5619
8	ETVC/RGA	Daybreak	Starts at 8 PM	Mountain View	(408) 984-5619
10	ETVC	Outreach Committee	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 243-3919
10	ETVC/RGA	Rap Group	Meets 8-10 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-5619
11	ETVC	New Member Orientation	Starts at 8 PM	San Leandro	(415) 483-9458
12	ETVC	Social Committee	Starts at 8 PM	Richmond	(415) 235-8509
13	ETVC	Significant Others Support	Meets 8-10 PM	TBA	(415) 664-1499
14	ETVC	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
15	ETVC	Education Committee	Meets at 12:30	Chez Mollet	(415) 731-5161
15	ETVC	Couples Rap	Starts at 2 PM	Chez Mollet	(415) 873-7893
19	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(415) 841-6224
20	ETVC	Couples Social	Starts at 8 PM	TBA	(415) 664-1499
21	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 988-0790
22	SGA	Dinner/Social	Starts at 8 PM	Sacramento	(916) 441-8379
27	ETVC	Country/Western Night	Starts at 8 PM	Chez Mollet	(415) 282-2803
28	Pacific Center	Open Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(415) 841-6224
29	ISE	Coronation	Starts at 7 PM	Dublin	(415) 481-2484

### OCTOBER

1	ETVC	Outreach Committee	Starts at 8 PM	Oakland	(415) 849-4112
3	Pacific Center	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(415) 841-6224
5	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 988-0790
6	ETVC	Executive Committee	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 243-3919
8	ETVC/RGA	Rap Group	Meets 8-10 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-5619
9	ETVC	Social Committee	Starts at 8 PM	San Francisco	(415) 282-2803
9	ETVC	New Member Orientation	Starts at 8 PM	Daly City	(415) 483-9458
10	ETVC	Hassle-Free Transformation	Starts at 8 PM	Chez Mollet	(415) 873-7893
11	ETVC	Significant Others Support	Meets 8-10 PM	TBA	(415) 664-1499
12	ETVC	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
13	ETVC	Education Committee	Meets at 12:30	Chez Mollet	(415) 731-5161
13	ETVC	Rap with Jane & Jessica	Starts at 2 PM	Chez Mollet	(415) 731-5161
13	ETVC/RGA	Daybreak	Starts at 8 PM	Mountain View	(408) 984-5619
17	Pacific Center	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(415) 841-6224
18	ETVC	Couples Social	Starts at 8 PM	TBA	(415) 664-1499
19	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 988-0790
25	ETVC	Halloween	Starts at 8 PM	Chez Mollet	(415) 282-2803
26	Pacific Center	Open Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(415) 841-6224
27	SGA	Dinner/Social	Starts at 8 PM	Sacramento	(916) 441-8379

### 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 7PM 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.

## Gay Freedom Parade: a personal view

Strange but true, there once upon a time lived a San Francisco fairy princess who had never seen a Gay Freedom Day Parade.

In fact, I still haven't (well, I'm not a queen!). I was busy selling beer. Maybe I'd better explain. You see, I had agreed to help count the take at the Imperial Court's beer booth. I count about as good as I spel, so I didn't protest when they told me to sell beer instead and hand the money to Ginny, who seemed too busy exchanging bills with four frantic vendors to count.

From 1 to 3 p.m., I plunged my hands into ice-filled garbage pails and plucked beer for a thirsty gay world. My back hurt, my fingers were numb and I was wet, when finally relief showed up: Jessica. "It's easy, Jess. Buck fifty for the American. Two bucks for the German. Change your money with Ginny. Here's the apron."

"But it's wet!"

"Yeah, I broke it in for you. Bye!"

Barbie, who was working the booth when I arrived, was there when I left, and as far as I know remained throughout the afternoon.

But I'm getting way ahead of myself. The parade: actually I had glanced a little bit of it as I emerged from BART: Dancers dressed in nothing but rainbows of body paint.

"Has ETVC come by yet?" I asked a bystander.

"E—what?"

"If you saw them, you'd know."

Spectators streamed away from Civic Center, my destination. It was 12:42 p.m. The extra time I thought I had to parade watch before reporting to the beer booth seemed to shrink down to a countdown imminent to launch. So off I pushed, parallel to the painted dancers making more progress boogeying in place than I did fighting the tide.

Suddenly at Grove and Larkin the crowd thinned out; I had reached the dispersal area where paraders became onlookers and peripatetics, exchanging congratulations and fanning out in search of friends and booths. 12:50 p.m. Still time at least to find ETVC's booth.

"Ours will be somewhere around the Civic Center fountain," Ginny had said. But the fountain area was Booth City. Where?—"TRANSVESTITES AND TRANSEXUALS" announced a raised lavender board festooned with pink balloons, in contrast with its sober neighbor, "FOOD NOT BOMBS." And there they were, Melissa, Vanessa and Donna, handing out pamphlets to a parade of passersby as Telzey wrote phone numbers on handouts while Martina stood by presidentially and Rachael lounged in a parasoled beach chair like the Duchess of Windsor, reading *Miss Manners*.

It felt like home, but it was brief. I was due at the beer booth in five minutes and did not want to be late. I wasn't. Nor, after two of the most hectic hours of my life, did I waste a second in departing; as with our recent earthquake, it had been an experience neither to be missed nor prolonged.

I learned from Ginny that this was our fourth year with a booth, our third as parade participants. But it was also a year of firsts, individually as well as collectively: Donna's first in attendance; Miss ETVC Tiffany's first riding, and Vice President Kristyn's first walking, in the parade; ETVC's first time helping at the beer booth and first time appearing on one of the street stages.

Our 20 minute show at Golden Gate and McAllister was produced by Diane Richwine and emceed by Tiffany, who revealed the difference between vampires and transvestites: "Very little. They both come out at night." Thalia told why we're not as flamboyant as the drag queens: "By the time we came out of the closet all the sequins were taken." Our entertainers included the fabulous Randi Morriss (seven (!) albums out and two more in the works), who sang and played piano, and Dale Carson on sax.

Late in the afternoon, a special treat. We met a person who doesn't exist (or so we've been told by, ahem, experts): a female-to-male crossdresser. He had been wondering about his corporeality, too, until finding us. Too bad he hadn't been by an hour earlier, when FTM's founder, Lou Sullivan (who as a gay female-to-male transsexual, also once didn't exist) had dropped by. Still, with the help of an ad in our newsletter, we were able to give him FTM's address. Someday, perhaps, the experts will want his address.

I had been back at the ETVC booth for perhaps a couple of hours, taking a well-deserved rest, when suddenly a pair of cold, clammy hands clutched my throat: Jessica! Back from beer sales.

"Girck! Quit foolin' roun', Jessica"

"I'm not fooling! How could you do that to me?"

"But kid, I had to put in my time selling beer, too."

"It isn't that. Why did you tell them I was running for Empress next year?"

"Aren't you? Girck! Ok, so you're not."

But how lovely if she did.

— Jane Kamper Bentley

## Another Perspective on the Parade

What I like best about being in the Freedom Day Parade was the audience response. Dozens of times, spontaneous applause burst out from portions of the crowd as we passed, in a way that didn't happen for most other groups.

Last year I had been defensive and reserved, but this year, I tried to wiggle with the music from the float in front of us, and look at people in the crowd. Numerous times, I got warm smiles as I passed near people, mostly from women, who appreciate what we are doing as defending the right of people of both sexes to be who they want to be. I was not aware of a single negative response.

Normally in public, I am apprehensive and withdrawn because I fear people's reaction. Being in the Freedom Day Parade is an opportunity for each of us to appear in public in front of thousands of people and discover that not only are they almost all supportive, but many also genuinely like and appreciate what we are doing. That was a positive and empowering experience, which we will all have an opportunity to repeat next year.

— Ronda



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## Jane Kamper Bentley

Are you on a diet? Who isn't.

There's hardly a soul of us, TV, TG or TS, who, after finally admitting to herself that she is what she is doesn't receive a revelation: I'm FAT!

Fat and big. Male big. Big arms. Big neck. Big Tum. the only thing not fat is our behind. So we make a resolution: "I'm gonna DIET!"

In our years of all-male impersonation, we may have tried dieting a hundred times, with a hundred failures. But now, for the sake of feminine pulchritude, we are phenomenally successful. Those who remain bulky just don't care about becoming thin. They seem to have this strange idea that it's OK to be who you are even if you don't have the figure of a goddess. Those who do care endure the tortures of medieval monks for the sake of dropping a dress size or two.

"My normal weight," a six-foot-four TV told me, "is 260 pounds, but I'm down to 200, which I can maintain if I just eat 800 calories a day."

"I was 240 lbs. Now I'm 180," said a TS, "and I will get down to 165 dammit! The determination in her eyes was fierce and desperate. I hope she makes it.

My own success with diets is marginal. I'm not completely faithful in my campaign to avoid sweets. Every once in awhile I pounce on an Abba Zabba. But I exercise, which helps keep me at about 175—not bad for a 48-year-old man; but I wish I could drop 10 more pounds and lose a couple of inches from my waist. I carry all my flab in my gut, which makes me look barrelly.

I've tried eating what many of my friends eat—almost nothing—but then I feel headachy and sick, which is how some of my friends look to me.

An exception is my thin, healthy friend, Sadie. I visited Sadie recently. She's a half-inch shorter than I am (so she says, but I think she's a quarter-inch taller), but only 160 lbs.

"How do you keep it off, dear?" I asked.

"Keep what off?"

"The pounds."

"I don't; I eat like a horse all the time. I love to eat."

"How can you?"

"Honey, eating is life's greatest pleasure. What's more important?"

"Being thin," I said, weakly.

"Hmm," said Sadie, eyeing me as though my colors mismatched.

"Talking about food, I'm starved. Can you have some lunch?"

"Well, I said, weighing my breakfast of cold cereal and coffee (followed by a long morning helping another friend to move) against the roars of my stomach, "OK."

"Voila!" she said, removing a large salad from the fridge: lettuce, artichokes, celery, nuts and seeds, sliced black olives, pickles, jalapenos (!), walnuts and diced tofu. Which we accompanied with dark pumpnickel bread, washed down with spring water and glasses of delicious wine. It was not what I would have prepared: an Italian meatball sandwich (but no Hawaiian potato chips and no 16-oz. bottle of Dr. Pepper...probably. Calistoga maybe). But tasty. Really. I ate thirds.

"Sadie, thank-you. I needed that. All that washing and chopping though, how long did it take you to put it all together?"

She swallowed and looked up blankly. "I never timed myself," she said, then laughed. "Who cares? A lot of the enjoyment I get from food is in the preparation." "It looks like it would take forever." "So? It's a nice way to spend forever. What do you think, that food is just stuff to cram in your mouth and swallow fast so you'll get indigestion faster?" "That's the general idea, isn't it?"

"Silly. Food's not superfluous, like television. It's the sustenance of your life. Ranks way up there, right behind air and water. I want to appreciate it, don't you. I say, ritualize and enjoy mealtime, from preparation to dishwashing."

"But you make it sound like some kind of religious experience, like going to church." "Yes!" "So, every time I eat a Twinkie I should treat it like the Last Supper?"

"Sweetie, it could be your last supper. Who knows? If you knew it was going to be, would you stuff junk food? Wouldn't you want something you could savor rather than gulp? And wouldn't you approach your meal with reverence instead of silly apprehensions that it might make you two ounces fatter?"

"Well, sure," I replied, "but all this reverence stuff—c'mon, nobody approaches food like that." "I do."

"Wait a minute, Sadie, before this gets from the ridiculous to the sublime—you, yourself, said that food wasn't as important as water or breathing—I mean, breathing is something we have to do all the time. So that makes it more important than food, which means we ought to be having religious ecstasies with every breath."

You're getting the point." "Then how could I keep my mind on my diet?"

"Have some more of my heavenly salad, dear."

— Jane Kamper Bentley

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## Martina's Klosesent

Correct, that is doubly misspelled. Outrageous? NO! this month I'd like to cover a few items of note.

### San Jose Gay & Lesbian Pride Celebration & Festival

After a couple of attempts to interest people in participating in this event, things went downhill. Yes, I did fail to get even one RGA member to attend and only three ETVC/RGA members; two of whom helped at the front gate (Kim and myself) and Amy, who simply enjoyed herself. If I missed you, let me know. Next year I would like to see us sponsor a booth, just as we have been doing for four years in San Francisco. Perhaps we can even sponsor a few people in the walkathon that is held in conjunction with the event.

### SF Gay & Lesbian Pride Celebration & Parade

Despite the planning efforts of Nancy Ann, Kristyn, and Vanessa, our parade contingent had just enough people present (10) to represent us in a marginal way. Next year, Kristyn and I want 25 or more of us in the parade.

The booth needed more early arrivals and more people staying late. I'm talking 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. These people will help (dis)assemble the booth. Many hands make light work, especially when loading. Thank you Vanessa, Kim, and Nancy Ann for your efforts. One thing, next year we need more people to hand out information. I found it a great help to stand ten to

twenty feet from the booth and hand literature to those who showed an interest (especially the photographers), and next year we plan on having twice as much information as this year.

### News Flash

On July 2, I received a call from Sacramento. Their Significant Others Support group leader, whose spouse is a TS, has received an ultimatum from her employer, the Mather Air Force Base administration. Divorce or off the base and out of the service. I called a friend and he recommended several courses of action including contacting lawyers in the Sacramento area, getting in touch with Sister Mary Elizabeth and reaching several aid groups.

I relayed the advice on to the SOS leader. Stay tuned.

### Our Seventh Cotillion

This will be the event of the year. Please come forward and offer your services to Kristyn (or me). She needs your support to make this year's Cotillion the best and biggest ETVC event to date. We need people to plan, execute, perform, compete and more. Do you have ideas, services, hands, feet, vision, talent? ...That's what we need (everything). Now is the time to start planning for the Cotillion! We require ten planners each with a committee of six. And that's the absolute minimum!

— Martina, ETVC president

### Can You Come to Our Texas "T" Party?

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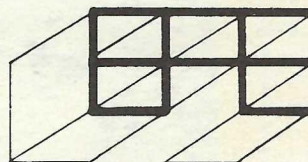
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### TV/TS Tip

Bill's The Eagle, 16024 East 14th  
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Leandro welcomes our gang.



Some of the recently elected officers posed at a recent event - from left are Jessica, Jo Anne, Diahanna (disguised as Joe), Martina and Telzey



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Dear Miss Renee, I don't like my husband's crossdressing, but I've come to accept it, like death, taxes and PMS. Now, at age 46, with kids soon out of the house, he's getting restless and has started dropping hints about hormones and crossdressing for entire weekends and on vacation. I'm starting to lose my grip on all this. I love him, but where will it end? -Worried

Dear Worried,

We cannot have a grip on another person's life; we can only support their coming into harmony with themselves. There is much more to your husband's behavior than crossdressing. These are merely the trappings of his unconscious attempt to express his repressed feminine side. If you were to view his emerging inner female as a potential ally, a friend, a counterweight to his no doubt often testy, inconsiderate and insensitive male side, perhaps what the neighbors and your friends think would become less important. It might be a golden opportunity for you, too, to begin exploring some long-repressed "male" behaviors, an independent streak perhaps that you stuffed in order to put up with your husband's need to dominate. This cross-dressing thing is actually a cloud with a silver lining, but you have to trust that the man you love will be so grateful for your support that your transformed life together might well exceed your wildest dreams! It's a waste of your time and energy to hold him back; get involved in the process, teach him taste and sensitivity to others and you won't regret it.

Dear Miss Renee,

I am 51 and have never gone out in public. I feel like my chance to be accepted in public is over. Am I just looking for an excuse to avoid the ridicule I fear or is it just too late for me? -Grandma

Dear Grandma,

It's too late to be cute and gorgeous, too late to be a model from Elle, too late to go to the prom in organza. But it's never too late to be a dignified, attractive 51 year old woman with your heart and soul. Anyone can pass, anyone can cross the gender line and enjoy at least some of the little joys of womanhood!

Dear Miss Renee,

I've been a fairly passable TV for a long time, and yet I feel like a second-class citizen around TS's. It hurts me, and I even get angry sometimes. What's their problem?

Sweet Sue

Dear Sweet Sue,

Labels such as TV and TS are crutches. Throw yours away and set the folks patronizing you a good example. Changing your body, as some people feel the need to do, is a difficult, lonely and utterly taboo path in our culture. It becomes crucial for such folks to distinguish themselves from people like you. It is as necessary a step in the development of their new and fragile self-image as is a teen's rebellious separation from Mom and Dad. So if they seem a bit haughty to you, it is because you may remind them of a time in their lives when they looked and acted much like you. But now they need to be validated for how far towards full physical and social womanhood they have progressed. Don't take it personally, Sue; at some level they may envy you the ability to be happy in both roles!

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

### TV/TS Tip

Both the Sunnyvale Shoe Mart in Sunnyvale and Rocsil's in Oakland are well-established friends of the TV/TS community. Both are former ETVC newsletter advertisers. They're listed in the phone book.

Among the difficult issues faced by all transgendered persons is who to tell about these feelings and how to go about disclosing this very private behavior. The advice I give my clients is not to tell someone unless there is a compelling reason to do so. This applies to wives, parents, children and friends.

How to decide whether or not to tell someone is not easy. Remember that telling them also puts a burden on them. This should never be done casually, thoughtlessly or selfishly. Informing others to relieve your guilt or to increase your freedom to crossdress are not good reasons. The fundamental question is "Will this improve my relationship with this other person?"

I believe that most wives should know, but that children, parents and relatives do not need to know unless you are a transsexual who is beginning the real life test.

When it appears necessary to divulge your crossdressing to someone, it should never be done hastily or without planning. Hopefully, you are not in a crisis situation (such as having been arrested) which will give you time for planning.

When and how to make such a disclosure about yourself is even harder, for you must put the other person's feelings ahead of your own no matter how scary this seems. You have to answer the question, "How will this other person feel about receiving this information?" Remember that such disclosure will often be shocking for the person. The closer that person is to you, the larger the potential for upsetting them. Personal, social and relational issues all have to be considered. Timing is also important. Certainly if there are other serious problems to be dealt with this issue should not be added to the burden.

You do not have to disclose everything at once. People can easily become emotionally overloaded with this information. They should be told at a rate they can manage, even if this means spreading out revelations over time. One approach is to let the other person ask questions since you cannot guess what is important to them. You must be honest, yet tactful, when you respond.

What should you do if you are the person receiving this information? First and most important, you have an obligation to keep the information confidential. This applies whether you are in an intimate relationship with someone or a member of a group of crossgendered persons. You have been given this information because the person trusted you. It is not appropriate, under any circumstances, for you to tell someone else about the behavior. If you do, it is highly likely that the other person will tell someone else and on and on it goes. Eventually, the "juicy gossip" will get to someone who will use it against the crossgendered person.

While disclosure is not easy, it is often the best course of action. Done with care it can improve relationships and lift the burden you are carrying.

- Roger Peo



To dress, to speak, in grace to move...  
To Think, to feel, perchance to love...  
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That sweet, delighted maid within!

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## **Emerald City's 90 in 90's Weekend Revisited**

The day after our May ETVC meeting, Ginger Johnson and I flew to Washington to attend the marvelous "90 in 90's" (90 dollars for a superb weekend in 1990) sponsored by the Emerald City (Seattle) CD group. The event was held at the Red Lion Hotel in Port Angeles, on the beautiful Olympic Peninsula, a truly charming haven, for an enchanting weekend. It was indeed a delight to visit with the cordial group of girls that came from near and far for the fun-filled weekend.

The affair was international in character, as many of the girls were from the nearby provinces of Canada. One of the most engaging events of the weekend was a ferry (boat) trip across the Straits of San Juan de Fuca to Victoria, B.C. (I know that sounds flaky, but it's true!) There, the girls were lavishly entertained with a tour of the city, taken in a horse drawn carriage. This was followed by High Tea, at the world famous Empress Hotel - the jewel in the crown of Victoria.

Upon returning to Port Angeles, there were dinner parties, and many other activities organized for the girls to kick up their heels. One highlight was a trip to "Hurricane Ridge" in the Olympic National Park, just five miles from the hotel. A short drive up the ridge yielded a spectacular view of the surrounding countryside, and the adjoining mountains gave one the feeling of being in the Alps. Although it was quite difficult walking in the snow in heels, none of the girls were heard to complain overly much.

Our Seattle sisters worked very hard to provide our community with a well-organized, fun-filled function, and they succeeded in every way. We thank them for their outstanding effort, and congratulate them upon their success. We are most certainly looking forward to next May, when "91 in 91" will be held in Portland, Oregon - another great weekend.

- **Joan Sheldon**

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### **BIRTHDAY GIRLS (and guys)**

Each month there will be a prize for a Birthday Girl at our social.

#### **September**

Alice B., Betty B.,Carolynn N., Charla C., Donna F., Doreen R., Franki F, Jillene S., Jocelyn J., Kathleen P., Kimberley B., Kris P., Laura C., Lauren O., Leslie L., Lisa L., Louise C., Michelle S., Misty, Ronnie M., Phyllis McC., Sharon S., Tamara V., Terry B., and Tiffany.

#### **October**

Alice C., Alison Z., Andrea B., Barbra Ann, Brenda J., Carol C., Carolyn Wi., Carolyn Wo., Christine D., Dana H., Dianne B., Frances N., Janelle Ailene, Jennifer A., Jennifer F., JoAn P., Joan T., John B., Kathy S., Kristine Y., Kristyn B., Leigha, Leslie F., Linda T., Marilyn T., Marlene C., Mary Bernice, Michelle, Michelle G., Nicole L., Pat W., Rae O., Renee C., Roberta B., Roxanne D., Sandra



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