



A scene from the February Fashion Fling.

Candidates Named Elections Near

With ETVC's annual elections only weeks away, several races remain uncontested. Incumbents Trina Martina Bloom, who is after a second term as President, and Nancy Ann Martine, who is seeking another in her long series of terms as Treasurer, are running unopposed.

The only candidate for vice president is Michelle Stevens, best known for her work with the RGA group in San Jose, where she hosts the Poker Social and operates the computer bulletin board.

Carol Clark and Rusty are contesting the race for secretary.

Telzey, current co-chair of the Outreach Committee, and Lauren (formerly Laura, see article elsewhere in this newsletter), a finalist in the 1991 Miss ETVC contest, are running to be Outreach chairpersons.

Shauanna, also a finalist in the 1991 Miss ETVC contest, is running together with Quillie for the Social Committee chair. Zia, who has been active in a wide range of volunteer efforts for the club, is also seeking the position.

Paulette, who is now a co-chair of the education committee, is running for the office again. She will be running against Erica and Evette.

Getting to Know Us

"Your talk in our class was very interesting and informative. I really didn't know what to expect. You showed that transvestites are really just "normal" people and not someone who is weird, just different."

"I would have been very uncomfortable sitting next to a cross-dressed man, but after spending this class with you I reached a deeper understanding and won't feel uncomfortable now."

These are quotes from response papers written after ETVC Speakers Bureau presentations in Bay Area college classes. In the first three months of 1991, we have made presentations to over 1000 people. We did this up close, answering their questions and being personable, not sandwiched between detergent and dog food commercials on some Geraldo show. We may reach a lot fewer people than a talk show, but I feel we really touch many of our audiences and they respond.

College professors and community groups ask us back again and again. We have helped train the service providers and switchboard volunteers at the Pacific Center in Berkeley - helping them to help our community. To see a roomful of people get our message is amazing and gratifying.

We aren't polished, slick presenters with ready jokes and perfectly worked out stories. What it takes is honesty, a respect

continued on page 7



Editor's Notes

A lady who knows our community well told me recently that she was really getting fed up seeing men strutting around at our social events in cheap mini-skirts and other attire that no respectable woman would ever wear in a public place.

She said she understood that these people probably were not consciously trying to mock females. She also said that the people wearing them probably thought they were "sexy." She said she was aware, too, that it takes some people a long time to figure out how to dress appropriately.

Yet, she was still bothered because of the symbolism she saw in men wearing clothes that would only be associated with the most powerless

and least respected women in society. Interestingly, she said that a dress code would be a stupid way of doing something about all this. Who decides what is appropriate? Besides, a dress code doesn't get at the real issue: male attitudes.

There was more, too. What made her most angry wasn't seeing a man pretending to be a hooker. What really got her was knowing that these same people could play act at being French maids for a few hours then simply go home, take off their makeup, put on suits and have all of the authority, respect and power that men can command in this society. When women take off their makeup, they are still women, still the people who make three dollars to every five a man makes.

By no means are the fake hookers the only "men in skirts" in our community. Far from it, some people may be less obvious than others, but there are plenty of us whose "femininity" boils down to an occasional night out in drag.

The good news is that as this community has become more mature, as more of us have grown beyond the just coming out stage, a lot of people have begun to realize that crossdressing is far more than putting out a great feminine appearance. Many of us now realize that crossdressing is only the outward manifestation of femininity. As a result, there is a lot of discussion going on about how to a "integrate" their male and female personality into a unified whole that draws from the best of both. That, it turns out, is a lot harder than figuring out which makeup works.

All of us, no matter how far advanced in our dressing abilities, must eliminate the chauvinism and sexism that is part of our male history.

We cannot be hypocrites in heels.

Onward: March was a very sad month for the San Francisco gender community with the loss of three important and prominent people: Lou Sullivan, Beatrice O. and Lily Street. They will all be missed greatly. Full obituaries are elsewhere in this newsletter.

Happier stuff: I want to congratulate Caresse and Michael Bowman, the new Empress and Emperor of San Francisco. The San Francisco Court has been very friendly towards ETVC (as we have been to them) and we have a great relationship. There is strength in numbers.

Mea Culpa: Last time out we didn't credit the author of a "Top 10 Reasons to Have a M-F Sex Change." We didn't put in the author because there was none shown on the particular version we obtained. But now we know who actually wrote the thing: Sonia and Company of the Twenty Minutes newsletter in Massachusetts. We know because we received quite a letter telling us so. We promise to NEVER, EVER mess-up like that again.

Jerk Alert: KNBR Radio syndicated talk show host Rush Limbaugh, a blatantly homophobic right-wing hate-monger made this statement on February 4, while talking about the gay community (as reported in the Bay Area Reporter): "I keep thinking I've heard it all from this bunch. I keep thinking there's nothing more these people can do to shock me. And every day I'm proven wrong. We're going to talk about the gay community. One of the (SF) city supervisors Harry Britt, will introduce a resolution which will protect gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transsexuals and transvestites against discrimination. Now I think there are other sexual minorities that have not been mentioned here, like child molesters and necrophiliacs. I think they need to be mentioned and protected here, too." Of course child molesters and necrophiliacs commit criminal acts, so you can see the regard Limbaugh has for our community and other sexual minorities. If you have a problem with this, write to Tony Salvatore, Vice President and General Manager, KNBR Radio, 55 Hawthorne, Suite 1100, SF, CA 94105.

- Cindy R. Martin

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 3/31/91)	431
1990 Membership	414
New members this year	117

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance on 2/1/91	\$6,237.72
February income	853.00
February expenses	1,847.85

Balance on 2/28/91	5,242.87
March income	916.00
March expenses	1,020.64

Balance on 3/31/91	5,138.23
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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

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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

P E R S O N A L A D S

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

Obituaries



Lily Street **SF Empress XXIII**

Richard Wellner, an educator and gay entertainer, known best in our community as "Lily Street" died March 15 from the complications of AIDS.

A good friend of ETVC, Lily was a native of Iowa who moved to San Francisco 12 years ago. A decade later, in 1988, Lily was voted Empress XXIII of San Francisco.

Shortly after her election, SF Chronicle columnist Herb Caen wrote that Lily was approached at a local watering hole by a man who asked, "Are you the Queen of San Francisco?" to

which Lily replied, "Honey, in this town anyone can be a queen...I am an Empress!"

Lily, an urbane and witty person, raised thousands of dollars for the AIDS Food Bank. Last year, she was given very positive reviews for her performance in the female version of "The Odd Couple" at Theatre Rhinoceros.

Louis Graydon Sullivan, **FTM Pioneer Dies at 39**

Louis Graydon Sullivan, an author and a pioneer in the female-to-male transsexual community, died Saturday, March 2 at his home in San Francisco from the complications of AIDS. He was 39.

Mr. Sullivan gained widespread notice in 1990 for his book, *From Female to Male: The Life of Jack Bee Garland*. Garland was a turn-of-the-century female crossdresser who served as a male in the Spanish-American War and was a journalist in Stockton and San Francisco.

Mr. Sullivan was the founder and director of San Francisco's FTM, the first and only international support group for female-to-male transsexuals. Researchers have estimated that about 1 in 50,000 females is a transsexual while about 1 in 20,000 men is a transsexual.

He worked very closely with ETVC in his many endeavors in the gender community. He was the publisher of several gender community newsletters, a regular speaker at the Institute for the Advanced Study of Human Sexuality and a frequent contributor to the Advocate, a national gay publication.

Mr. Sullivan was also active in the San Francisco Gay Historical Society.

He leaves his grandmother, Erna Cush, of Milwaukee; his mother, Nancy L. Sullivan, of Milwaukee; a brother, John E. Sullivan Jr., of Milwaukee; sisters Bridget D'Amico, Elkins Park, Pennsylvania, and Maryellen Hanley, Oakland, and six nieces and nephews.

- Reprinted from the San Francisco Chronicle

(He is an irreplaceable loss to our community - Ed.)

Beatrice O., Scholar **Couples Group Founder**

Beatrice O., an internationally renowned Celtic scholar and co-founder of ETVC's Couples Group, died March 17 at home in Berkeley from cancer. She was 63.

Beatrice was best known to our community for establishing our couples group with wife Laura in 1985, but in male life she had worldwide recognition as the most distinguished American expert in both Celtic and Anglo-Irish studies.

A professor of English at a major university, Beatrice published two books on James Joyce and had recently completed a major work on Joyce's Finnegans Wake.

Author of numerous articles on Anglo-Irish and Celtic literature, she was also an expert in medieval Welsh literature.

She is survived by her wife, Laura, of Berkeley; a son who lives in San Francisco; a sister in Florida and by many relatives in Ireland.

Her ashes will be scattered off the tip of Dingle Peninsula off Ireland's west coast in early June.

Tribute to Lou

On a sunny mid-March afternoon at the San Francisco columbarium, family, friends and admirers gathered in memory of Louis Sullivan, who had died the week before from AIDS.

Mr. Sullivan had been a pioneer, innovator and leader, not just among female-to-males, but the gender community as a whole, whose accomplishments are noted in the San Francisco Chronicle obituary reprinted elsewhere in this newsletter. That afternoon, however, it was the private persona who was remembered and celebrated.

Maryellen Hanley, Mr. Sullivan's sister, recited the words of a favorite Judy Collins song ("...be not too hard, for life is short.") She recalled the good times she and her brother had shared with each other from early childhood, and then, how she and Lou had come full circle since the day together they learned from a clinic doctor, "Who just flipped us off, saying--'Hey, you've got AIDS.'" The circle closed when, on her birthday, her brother died.

Mr. Sullivan's mother, Nancy Sullivan, remembered her son as, "friend, confidant...mentor, who always set me straight." He was the third child she had lost to death, and she felt that she had lost him twice. Once, when at age 20 she learned of her daughter's decision to change gender, and now with the loss of her son to AIDS.

Female-to-male transsexuals - one now married with children - testified to the life-changing, sometimes life-saving influence Mr. Sullivan had had upon them. A female crossdresser recounted that when she had expressed doubts about her place as a non-transsexual within FTM, she had been reassured that there were no requirements. "Just take it as far as you want."

A friend of Mr. Sullivan, who introduced himself simply as Walker, said that while cared for round the clock by volunteers during his last week of life, "Lou never got it that this wasn't because of who they were, but because of who he was."

- Jane Kamper Bentley

May - June 1991 3

SPECIAL EVENTS

Voice Seminar

May 11

If you want a convincing femme voice, you will find this seminar very helpful. On Saturday, May 11 at 2 p.m. speech pathologist, Yvonne Gordon, will be speaking on the pragmatics of the femme voice and will be demonstrating a program to develop it. Yvonne has worked with the transgender community in San Diego. A donation of \$3 is requested.

Pajaro Dunes

May 17-20

Experience a wonderful weekend in Pajaro Dunes with Joan Sheldon and friends. This is a super event May 17-20 in a comfortable atmosphere with delightful companions. For more information, write to Joan Sheldon, PO Box 7761, San Jose, CA 95150-7761.

SF Sex Info Hotline Panel

May 22

The SF Sex information Hotline provides valuable, basic, factual, non-judgmental information regarding all aspects of human sexuality. For more information, call 415-621-7300 or write PO Box 881254, SF, 94188-1254. SFSI will give a panel discussion headed by Ann Justi at 8 p.m., Wednesday, May 22 at the Chez where they will discuss their work and their relationship to the gender community. A Q&A will follow. A donation of \$3 is requested.

Awards & Elections

May 30

Mark your calendar for ETVC's annual Awards & Elections night on May 30 at the Chez Mollet. This is a free evening for members who will be voting for a new executive committee. Members free, Guests \$5.

Ari Kane

June 8

Ariadne Kane, one of the national leaders of the transgender community and director of Theseus Counseling Services will discuss our community and its issues on Saturday, June 8 at 2 p.m. at the Chez. A donation of \$3 is requested.

Education Fair

June 15

On Saturday, June 15, at the Chez, the Education Committee proudly presents itself. We will make available the many libraries and services that are offered, all in one location. Don't miss this opportunity to greet or even volunteer to help the newly elected co-chairs and committee.

Marcia's Sixth Annual Lacing Table

June 22

Marcia's Sixth Annual Lacing Table will be held at the Chez Mollet Saturday, June 22 from 2pm to 6 pm. Guests may include Ruth Johnson of B&R Corsets, Ann Grogan of Romantasy, and Barbara Louis, who is starting a BBS for corset people. Hear and meet corset wearers relating true experiences. View historic and contemporary corset-related literature. Enjoy yourself while laced to the maximum (optional, of course).

Really Big Shew

June 27

Will Ed Sullivan return? Probably not, but don't be too surprised if Topogigio shows up. Live entertainment is planned and plenty of fun. Celebrities in the audience will be introduced. Chez Mollet, June 27. Members \$5 Guests \$8.

Gay Freedom Day Parade

June 30

June is Gay Pride Month culminating in San Francisco's Gay Freedom Day Parade on Sunday, June 30. This has been a good outreach event for us over the years and we plan to be well represented again this year. Volunteers are needed to serve as parade monitors so we can have a car in the parade. We also need marchers and people to man (woman) our booth. We will have 10 minutes on stage again this year and are also looking for talent performers. This is always a fun event. If you would like to help in any capacity, please give Nancy Ann a call at (415) 664-1499.



**JONI EVELING ISRAEL
COUNSELOR & DIRECTOR**

GENDER & SELF
ACCEPTANCE PROGRAM
POB 4447, SF. CA 94101

(415) 558-8058
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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, May 13 and Monday, June 10 from 8-10 pm. There are only two rules: no one dominates the discussion and no one discusses 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.

TV/TS/TC GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

A Calendar of Events for May & June



MAY

1	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(415) 841-6224
3	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 988-0790
4	ETVC	Executive Committee	Starts at 8 PM	San Francisco	(408) 984-5619
6	ETVC	Outreach Committee	Starts at 8 PM	San Leandro	(415) 849-4112
7	....	Foxy Lady Social	7:30 - 9:30 PM	San Francisco	(415) 285-4980
8	ETVC	Social Committee	Starts at 8 PM	Richmond	(415) 235-8509
9	ETVC	Significant Others Suuport	Meets 8-10 PM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
10	ETVC	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
11	ETVC	Education Committee	Meets at 12:30	Chez Mollet	(415) 873-7893
11	ETVC	Speech & Language	Starts at 2 PM	Chez Mollet	(415) 873-7893
11	ETVC/RGA	Daybreak	Starts at 8 PM	Mountain View	(408) 984-5619
13	ETVC/RGA	Rap Group	Meets 8-10 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-5619
15	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(415) 841-6224
17	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 988-0790
22	ETVC	Ann Justi of SFSI	Starts at 8 PM	Chez Mollet	(415) 873-7893
23	ETVC	Couples Social	Starts at 8 PM	Foster City	(415) 664-1499
24	RGA	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	Sunnyvale	(408) 248-2043
25	SGA	Dinner/Social	Starts at 8 PM	Sacramento	(916) 441-8379
30	ETVC	Anniversary Party	Starts at 8 PM	Chez Mollet	(415) 282-2803
31	Pac Ctr	Open Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(415) 841-6224

JUNE

3	ETVC	Outreach Committee	Starts at 8 PM	Oakland	(415) 849-4112
4	....	Foxy Lady Social	7:30 - 9:30 PM	San Francisco	(415) 285-4980
5	Pac Ctr	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	Education Committee	Meets at 12:30	Chez Mollet	(415) 731-5161
8	ETVC	Ariadne Kane	Starts at 2 PM	Chez Mollet	(415) 873-7893
8	ETVC	Executive Committee	Starts at 8 PM	Montara	(408) 984-5619
8	ETVC/RGA	Daybreak	Starts at 8 PM	Mountain View	(408) 984-5619
8	....	Gay Pride Days	Noon - 10 PM	San Jose	(408) 243-3919
9	....	Gay Pride Days	Noon - 6 PM	San Jose	(408) 243-3919
10	ETVC/RGA	Rap Group	Meets 8-10 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-5619
12	ETVC	Social Committee	Starts at 8 PM	San Francisco	(415) 282-2803
13	ETVC	Significant Others Support	Meets 8-10 PM	Pleasant Hill	(415) 664-1499
14	ETVC	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
15	ETVC	Education Faire	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	ETVC	Corset Lacing Table	2 PM - 6 PM	Chez Mollet	(410) 984-5619
22	SGA	Dinner/Social	Starts at 8 PM	Sacramento	(916) 441-8379
27	ETVC	Really Big Shew	Starts at 8 PM	Chez Mollet	(415) 282-2803
28	RGA	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	Sunnyvale	(408) 248-2043
28	Pac Ctr	Open Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(415) 841-6224
30	....	Gay Freedom Day Parade	10 AM - 5 PM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499

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 8PM on the fourth Saturday of each month at the Town & Country Inn's restaurant, 2060 Auburn Blvd., Sacramento; call (916) 441-8379 for directions. Write: SGA, PO Box 215456, Sacramento, CA 95821-1456 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.

Outreach

More than a dozen ETVC members have stepped forward to be Big Sisters and will be matched with new members or anyone else who feels the need to start with basics as a Little Sister.

The Speakers Bureau needs reliable people who have occasional weekdays free to get the word out about our community (see article elsewhere in this newsletter). Thalia, who coordinates the bureau, says that over 25,000 students have seen our presentations in the last nine months.

The ETVC Hotline has been in place for over a year with live people to answer inquiries about the club four nights a week, and an answering machine, which takes messages the rest of the time. We will probably start new Hotline volunteer training in the fall. Desperately needed are people who can write up our major events in a semi-professional manner, to be submitted with pictures to the various crossdresser, or even mainstream, publications around the country. Free publicity, if people will volunteer their time. If any of these projects interest you, please contact the Outreach Committee, come to one of our meetings, write the ETVC club box or even call the Hotline at 415-763-3959.

Next Outreach Committee meetings: May 6 in San Leandro, June 3 in Oakland. For more call Kim 408-243-3919 or Telzey 415-849-4112.

A columnist in the Bay Area Reporter says there will definitely be a Closet Ball in May, after missing a year, produced by former Emperor of SF, Steve Rascher. If so, ETVC will probably take a table again. Call Ginny, if interested. In this event the 10 or 12 contestants first appear as men, then after barely an hour's break, as women. With their former pictures displayed on a screen, the change can seem incredible. A good show, with plenty of additional entertainment besides the contest.

An alarming trend has appeared in newsletters from around the country. San Diego, New York, Philadelphia and Ohio have all reported the murders of crossdressers apparently working as prostitutes. And in each case, the deaths appear unrelated, the work of many men. No arrests reported. This hasn't happened in SF and certainly shouldn't happen to us, but as you've heard before, if you are out dressed in an area where there are hookers on the street, especially if somewhat wildly dressed yourself, use extreme caution.

A new type of club has started in Canada. The TCDC, Toronto CrossDressers Club, is a privately owned, for-profit, registered business. With twice a week meetings at a store, nights on the town and weekends at a hotel, they seem to be quite successful.

The owners do all the hard work, charge modest fees, and have ready customers for their clothing business. With our solid bank account and profound lack of people eager to be club officers, perhaps ETVC should look into leveraged buy-outs...

Lost and found: Lost at the Cotillion a pair of black leather gloves and a gold pearl drop earring w/5 pearls. Found there: a gold earring of three intertwined loops. Lost at the Fashion Show, February 28: a pair of sunglasses. Any information or claims see Telzey or call 415-849-4112

The drag shows at Club Deco have become very irregular. Call them at 411-4007 before going to that area. But try this new one. Backed by the Imperial Court of SF, the Mint, 1942 Market St. presents a variety and talent show, first Sunday of every month, party at 8, show at 9, call 626-4726. Hosts are the well-known and reliable Diamond John and Miss Alexis.

Some new publications I can recommend are: "The Crossdresser's Quarterly," now with three issues out and getting steadily better. News, events, photos, fashion and beauty guides, long pieces on the more unusual shopping areas of So. Calif., the centerfold "Quarterly Girl," all in good taste and very informative. 44 pages, \$7/ issue or \$28/ year. The Crossdressers Quarterly, J.M.P.G., PO Box 7217, Burbank, CA, 91510-7217. From the same address, for \$8, the 1991 edition of the Crossdressers International Shopping Guide, all the addresses you've ever wanted and how to use them. 52 pages.

You don't have to belong to Tri-Ess to get "The American Crossdresser", a successor to "Transvestia," and put out by Carol Beecroft. Heavy on fiction, evocative drawings, members photos, scrapbook items. \$11/issue \$30/3. Write first for the complete Chevalier Publications list. Chevalier Publications, PO Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275.

- Telzey

<p>Chez Mollet PRIME RIB</p> <p>527 Bryant St. • 495-4527 (BTWN. 3rd & 4th STS. • 2 BLOCKS SOUTH OF MOSCONE CENTER)</p> <p>OUR 22nd YEAR 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. & 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>Prime Rib Dinner Soup or Salad \$10.95</p>  <p>Brunch Special Ham, Bacon Or Sausage 2 eggs & toast \$4.25 Plus our regular brunch menu</p> <p>PARTIES ACCOMMODATED IN OUR BANQUET ROOM</p>
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Big Sisters Revamped

Due to lack of interest in orientation meetings for new members, the Outreach committee has revamped the Big Sister program to make it easier for new people to get to know us better. Now, if a new member or prospective member telephones the ETVC Hotline (415) 763-3959, she may request to be assigned a "Big Sister" to telephone her and go into more detail about the group.

This new system is already paying off as some Big Sisters, in addition to answering questions, have escorted their new Little Sisters to ETVC and RGA group functions. We are currently seeking volunteers to become "Big Sisters" for the Outreach program. If you are interested contact Telzey or Kim, co-chairs of the Outreach committee.



CAMEO ELECTROLYSIS STUDIO

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Let's Talk

The Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association, Inc. provides sex reassignment surgery and other services focusing on sex reassignment, according to Judy Van Maasdam, executive director of the organization. In a recent visit to our group, she said that this program is now the longest continuously running one in the nation. This association sets the guidelines for transsexual surgeries for surgeons. It was originally founded at Stanford University by Dr. Donald R. Laub, a plastic surgeon who left the University in 1980 to reorganize the program to continue the work through a nonprofit foundation. Their first surgery was performed in 1968; the first surgeries in the U.S. were in 1965. Other programs require counseling prior to surgery, but Van Maasdam said her program does not. Two-thirds of the patients come from outside California. Individuals are required to have a minimum of two years of cross-living before undergoing surgery.

Overview of the two procedures offered for male to female surgery:

- Penion Surgery, \$14,000. Requires dilation of the vagina for the rest of life.

- Rectal Sigmoid Transfer, \$18,000-19,000. Part of colon is used to create a vagina, advantages are that it will not ever shrink, makes a large vagina and is self lubricating. Dilation is only required for the first four weeks. Disadvantage: small incision is required in the abdomen.

Rectal Sigmoid Transfer is now the preferred procedure. Both take six weeks to heal. The complication rate is less than 1 percent. For female to male surgery the cost of procedures ranges from \$30,000 to \$35,000. Average age for the surgery is 30, cutoff age is 60.

For more information write to the Gender Dysphoria Program, Inc., 1515 El Camino Real, Palo Alto, CA 94306 or call 415-326-4645.

In another recent panel, several members of the Society of Janus explained that their organization is an educational and support group for those who want to express and experience their feeling and fantasies about sadism/masochism, bondage and dominance, and dominance and submission. The group was founded in 1974 by Cynthia Slater.

Cathy, the group's education coordinator, held a panel discussion for our group on March 20. Also present on the panel were Sybil Holiday, Bill Henkin, Chris and Mike.

Panelists discussed various topics and agreed that S&M is essentially games of power, erotic in nature for many. Safe, sane and consensual exploration are the key elements of Janus Society activities. "Confidential and non-threatening" are the guidelines that greatly differentiate S&M from violence and abusive behavior. S&M is not about brutality, rather it is about theatrics and intensity of sensation. Accepting and releasing power, playing with sensation and directing pain toward a growing experience of self-identity are also important facets of Janus "play."

There are some similarities between this community and ours. One is the role of submission to achieve a sense of freedom from responsibility. They use bondage to be free from being in charge and to trust the other person. In comparison people in our community step into a feminine and sometimes submissive role. Another similarity is the shared need to achieve a higher level of consciousness by acknowledging behavior and motivations that diverge from the social "norm" which may mean paying deep attention to these needs within oneself.

There are also distinct differences between us. Janus people need to find partners, which forces them out of the closet. By its very nature, Janus "play" is a social activity. Crossdressing is not necessarily a social activity.

Society of Janus meets twice monthly and is open to all orientations. For more information call the Society of Janus at 415-848-0452 or write to PO Box 6794, SF 94101.

- Jessica and Robin



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Getting to Know Us

continued from page 1

for the audience, a little self-confidence and, most important, the ability to listen. Questions that at first seem confrontational or demeaning often are the questions that bring out the best answers if the speaker listens to what the questioner wants to know. Not losing your head and responding to the question rather than the tone is the key. Remaining calm helps calm the audience - they are afraid, too. Ask Melissa some time about 800 students getting rolling towards a major argument and how a lot of it was their fears coming out.

We have gone from doing two or three engagements a year to averaging almost one every other week. Right now we have the potential to speak almost as often as we can possibly do it. I need help. I need people who are committed to deliver our presentations. I need people who can do the "behind the scenes" work - sending out letters, helping put together panels and searching out new places to speak. Speakers and panel leaders need to have time flexibility - engagements range from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. I'd like to have a wider representation of our community, too, with more transsexuals, significant others, older and younger people.

Talk to me at a social or drop me a note at the PO Box if you are interested. I appreciate your ideas and enthusiasm.

- Thalia

Politics In the Transgender Community

Our community has done very little in the way of activism to help itself out of the muck that we are in! That is a fact. As a matter of record our community has done very little to support even those persons or groups "within our community" who have chosen to fight for "their" cause and for "their" freedoms in the past. Sister Mary Elizabeth has been trying for years to change the laws in this state and U.S. to help our community gain civil rights. Has anyone raised a hand to help her in her endeavors? She is, last I heard, leaving California to do something else. IFGE wanted to open an office on this coast. They have decided against it due to lack of interest. The Gender Alternatives League, a national political activist organization is being formed - and is having much success and interest from people who are out of state and even out of this country.

In California, the gay and Lesbian community receives more support from the transgender community than the community gives to its own. We are willing to fight for gay and lesbian rights. Queer Nation (an activist group) is showing support for us. That is also good. But I keep wondering when will we start to introduce bills and legislation that improve our lot and show our point of view?

We really can't ride on another group's coattails. The Gay Civil Rights Act is being introduced in this state. Although one of the board members of the sponsoring group was a TS, and although they understand our situation and agree with us that we should be included, they rejected adding a line including our community because our issue was "too controversial."

Oppression, in any form, against a minority has been conquered only after that minority got together and agreed to fight for a common cause, under a common banner for their freedom. Women, seeing that they were treated as chattel became "feminists" and gained and are gaining their rights. Negroes became "blacks" and gained their rights. Homosexuals became "gays" and "lesbians" and not only got the onus of the mental illness label removed but are now, through activism, gaining their civil rights. The transgender community now has an opportunity, in the somewhat liberal civil rights climate, to gain their rights and reflect their views to society in the process. Are we willing to do so?

The main goals of the Gender Alternatives League are: 1. To eradicate the notion that we are mentally ill by having the mental health profession take us as a group out of the mental health manuals and add the TS segment of our group to the medical manuals. 2. To attain our civil liberties and change any

legislation that discriminates against us. 3. To reeducate the public about us. What they are learning from others is tainted with bias, bigotry and even hate.

The League's board has written and signed the Gender Activist Declaration of Independence. They are ready, willing and able to fight for our community. Is our community willing to get together and do for ourselves what no one else is really willing to do for us? Are we going to fight for others, hope and pray we can ride along, and only give lip service to our cause?

You can make a difference. You can sign the declaration and become a "genderist." You can become a freedom fighter. Are you ready and willing?

- Cynthia Howard

(For a copy of the declaration and more information call Ms. Cynthia Howard, E.D. at 707-257-1973 or write to the Gender Alternatives League, P.O. Box 3392, Napa, CA 94558)

SGA Elects New Officers

The recently elected SGA Executive Committee has begun work with renewed vigor. The new officers are:

President:	Kim Cornett
Vice Pres:	Pam Sevigny
Secretary:	Renee Closs
Treasurer:	Roberta Schoos
Security:	Sue McCulloch

The Sacramento Gender Association meets on the fourth Saturday of each month at the Town & Country Inn's restaurant in Sacramento. Board meetings are held in the Marilyn Monroe Room on the first Friday after the general meeting. Both meetings are open to all. For more information, call their answering machine at (916) 441-8379, or Renee at (916) 645-2738 or Kim at (916) 485-5930. SGA is also forming an SOS group. Write SGA, PO Box 215456, Sacramento, CA 95821-1456. Please note that this is a new address.



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Life in The Femme Lane

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to live (and work) full time as a female? I know I have, and as both my job and my marriage had ended recently, I decided this was my opportunity to find out.

During the time I've been "out," I've developed a good deal of confidence in my ability to present myself as a woman, both in terms of dress and mannerisms, and also in speech, but this was something quite different. My experience had been one of passing through life, i.e. going shopping, dining out, going to movies and events, etc., but going to interviews, selling myself to an employer as a woman – wow! This was scary stuff.

My first step was to begin calling about jobs I had found were available and asking more information about the positions. Eventually, I became more confident in my "business woman" voice, as I realized that I was getting "Ma'am'd" even before I told them my name.

Before I could apply for jobs, however, I needed to do something about my name as "Laura" had no work history. What I decided to do was to legally change my name to one I could use in either gender, thus both covering the past and providing for the future. I chose "Lauren" because it was as close as I could get to "Laura" and also because I've always admired Lauren Bacall. I then called all my past employers and informed them of the change. I also decided to go back to school part-time to study word processing and other computer applications so as to have transferable skills no matter what gender I ended up working and living in.

My next step was to type up a new resume under my new name and begin to send it out with cover letters and also to leave it with employers when I filled out applications in person. Before long, what I was looking forward to, and also was a little frightened of, occurred: the first call came in to schedule me for an interview. It was with mixed feelings of excitement and fear that I made arrangements to meet with the personnel manager later in the week.

Soon the big day arrived and after selecting my best business dress, applying my makeup as expertly (and conservatively) as I could, and styling my wig, I was ready for this, the latest installment in Lauren's adventures in Genderland.

After driving to the interview, and spending a few minutes working up my nerve in the parking lot, I got out of my car and went into the building. I gave my name to the receptionist and told her the name of the woman I was there to see. So far, so good. She didn't bat an eye. I breathed a sigh of relief and began to feel more confident as I realized I had successfully passed this first obstacle. Before long my interviewer appeared and led me to a small conference room where the interview was to be conducted. She told me all about the company, explained the position and then asked me questions about myself and my background. I momentarily toyed with the idea of telling her that I was not, strictly speaking, a female, but she was such a sweet old lady who looked like she was maybe two days from retirement. I just couldn't do it. Soon the interview was over and I had survived. She thanked me for coming in and said she would be in touch soon. I thanked her for interviewing me, said goodbye, and took my leave. That was that, mission accomplished. I made a follow-up call the next week, and found that another candidate had been selected, but was never sure if this was due to my gender expression or other reasons.

Since that first time I have had several interviews as a female and have grown increasingly comfortable with the process. I've also explained my crossgendered existence to the various employment agencies I've registered with and found them to be quite supportive.

Lately, I've been trying a new approach to the interviewing process, which is, if I feel the situation is appropriate, to let the interviewer know about my gender expression. I've done this

twice now. The first occasion was during an interview (as a male) for a position with a repertory theater company. As the world of the theater is traditionally rather Bohemian, I decided to share the way in which I currently express my histrionic skill through my living in both genders (and sometimes somewhere in between). The theater manager seemed to take it all in stride and even mentioned that there was someone in the administration department that I should talk to, which led me to suspect that perhaps there was another crossdresser on the premises.

The other time, I did just the opposite. I came to an interview for a medical receptionist position as a female and only at the very end of the interview did I reveal that I was genetically male. The scene was a classic. She apparently had no idea during the 45 minutes or so that we had been talking that I was not what I appeared to be and when I told her, her jaw almost literally hit the floor. I have to hand it her though, she recovered her aplomb quickly and told me that the two doctors in the practice were both progressive thinkers and she didn't feel it would be a problem. We both agreed that I had the same skills whether I was wearing a dress or a pair of pants. She told me she would be getting back to me at the beginning of the next week concerning the setting up of a second interview, this time with the two doctors in attendance. By the middle of the next week I had still not heard from her. I was unable to connect with her by phone and my calls were not returned. Perhaps the two doctors were not as progressive as she thought.

All in all it has been an interesting adventure. I don't know whether I will end up cross-living on a permanent basis or not. For now, I've decided not to live full-time as a female, at least not until I've had electrolysis. It's just too hard on the face to have to shave that close every day, to say nothing of the difficulty of concealing five o'clock shadow toward the end of the work day.

So for now I will continue to live in both genders, and to further explore the androgynous synthesis and integration of my male and female sides, a lifestyle with which I seem to be feeling more and more comfortable.

– Lauren Hotchkiss



Celebrate Flag Day June 14!

Dustin Hoffman in "Tootsie" Columbia 1982 From the Ralph Judd Collection
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Edited by Ronda Schneider Copyright © 1990 by Lin Fraser
(Final excerpt from a talk given by Fraser in August, 1990)

The most common person who comes to see me is someone who says, "I don't know if I'm a TV or a TS. I thought I was a TV and now I'm wondering." That's very typical.

Crossdressers who are not uncomfortable with crossdressing generally don't come to see me. I think a lot of people like that are members of ETVC. I'm talking primarily about people who do come to therapy.

Many people who are seeing me feel confused. One day they think they're one way and one day another, and it's shifting and fluid and there are a lot of variables and a lot of things happening in your life that can change the direction you want to go. That's why it is usually a developing diagnosis.

That's not always the case. I do see people who know for sure they're crossdressers who are not leaning toward transsexualism and people who know they're transsexuals and have never had any crossdressing associated with sexual arousal, or any crossdressing that is a response to any kind of trigger, the way TV's do. In terms of complexity, the most complicated situation is when you don't know, and that usually takes the longest, and is very common.

Why is this so complicated? Sexual identity is broken down into biologic sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender or sex roles. We know almost nothing about any of those four. We know very little about etiology, about how they develop, and in this community we see fluidity and change in all these areas. So you can see how, in each person sometimes, you can have one gender identity or two gender identities, one gender role or two gender roles. Sexual orientation can be towards men, it can be towards women, and it can be toward your image of yourself as a woman. And it can be changing.

There's a lot of controversy, too, as to how crossgender identity develops. Is it nature; is it nurture? Again, nobody knows. So we just have to start with you, and what you want and what direction you want to go because I don't have the answers. Nobody does.

TRANSSEXUALISM

What classifications do we have within transsexualism? There are in my practice over the years essentially three types. Some of you may exhibit characteristics of more than one type, so if you're confused about yourself, that's also common.

One type is early onset crossgender identity. The person is pretty much asexual, always. There is almost no sexual arousal associated with crossdressing. The person is usually a loner as a child, somewhat inhibited, may have tried marriage and family. Their presentation in the male gender role is not particularly effeminate. They're quiet people, and their sexual orientation seems to be changing, but really they are pretty much asexual. A lot of their psyche is taken up by crossgender identity.

So these people have one gender identity, and that is female. Two gender roles, though, with the male presentation seeming like a guy, and the female presentation seeming like the same person, but also seeming like a woman too, someone who is sort of androgynous, but not in the Michael Jackson sense — someone who is undifferentiated. Their sexual orientation can change as they shift roles, as they start living in the female gender role.

Another type is someone who appears in the male gender as an extremely effeminate homosexual. They are the sissy boys, who have always had a crossgender identity at the extreme end of effeminate homosexuality. They seem like girls, and they are very talkative and uninhibited and talk about sex all the time.

They have always been interested in men; there is never a change in their sexual orientation.

The third type is a person who starts out as a transvestite. The crossgender identity is a late onset one. The person for many, many years has assumed that he was a garden variety crossdresser, whose crossdressing was associated with sexuality, sometimes tranquility, but there were triggers to it. Maybe he didn't know what the pattern was, but when he undergoes therapy he realizes there were triggers to the crossdressing.

What happens as he gets older is that the female gender identity, which used to be a subordinate part, starts taking over, and he becomes she. There were two gender identities that were quite split, with sexual orientation usually toward women. As the female identity takes over, whereas he originally thought he would be a lesbian, she goes into the female gender role, and often, with time, she becomes interested in men, but never has been before. This is the late onset. A lot of these people are at ETVC.

In terms of outcome with these three, I can't tell any difference. All three types do just as well following sex reassignment surgery. At least that is what I've seen in my clinical practice, but many researchers disagree. Many refuse to authorize surgery for secondary (late onset) transsexuals because they fear that the chances of making a mistake are too great.

Then there's the person who comes in and says they're transsexual and they're not, or I don't think they are, and what I have to do with that group is set up a therapeutic alliance with them, otherwise they will just leave therapy. In other words, help them to realize that I am on their side, and that my job is to help them even though they might not be transsexual.

What is sometimes going on in this case is a multiple personality disorder which I see infrequently but I do see. There are usually several personalities, with at least one a male and one a female, so the experience is that "I might be transsexual." Another possibility is a psychotic experience.

More common, though, is the crossdresser who is under extreme stress, has a big loss in his life, and then escapes into the female temporarily. That's where he is used to going for comfort, safety, and security, and he believes then that he is transsexual and what happens over time with psychotherapy, and just time really, is that he eventually realizes he is still fundamentally a crossdresser. So if you are a crossdresser, one thing to be careful with if you find yourself moving in the direction of the feminine is to see how much stress you are under; see if you've had any experiences that could be causing you to want to escape into this other identity.

Treatment for transsexualism is supportive psychotherapy and help with referrals for hormones and sex reassignment surgery if that is what you want. A lot of people don't; a lot of people just cross live and feel comfortable without changing their anatomy. Such people are often termed transgenderists, although the term is a relatively new one.

One of the things I can do for clients is to be a female role model for them. I was raised as a woman and I can refer you to image consultants, electrologists, endocrinologists, surgeons, speech therapists, and other providers to help you with your socialization into the female gender role.

The Standards of Care are essentially that you be in therapy for three months before getting a referral for hormones and for six months with the same therapist prior to surgery, and that you cross live for at least a year, preferably two, so you can go through a transition similar to adolescence, to find out what it is like to be a woman full time.

Therapists - What is Gender Role Transition?

Gender role socialization begins with the determination of the genital sex of an infant as male or female. For example, from birth a girl is taught to publicly present a feminine gender role. Then early in her life, within the first 18 months or so, she develops a matching feminine gender identity, or private, basic experience of socially feminine feelings, thoughts, motivations, etc. As she develops, she is likely to become generally comfortable with her public presentation and her private experience as a feminine person. Thus, a person ordinarily develops a gender identity that matches their sex and the gender role they are learning as a member of a culture.

But a person who is significantly gender dysphoric develops a gender identity that is opposite of their sex and the gender role that their parents and other social agents are attempting to teach them. Furthermore, a person who is gender dysphoric may also resist learning a clearly defined gender role that matches cultural expectations for their sex. In addition, as they develop, the person is likely to become very uncomfortable with their primary and secondary sex characteristics. The significantly gender dysphoric person has a feminine gender identity, but a male body, or alternatively, a masculine gender identity but a female body.

Counseling may help the person to decide whether or not to change gender roles, and if desired, plan and proceed with transition to the alternative gender role. Successful transition requires that the person learn to manage and reduce fear and stress, and solve the various adaptation and adjustment problems that naturally occur as the person learns a new gender role. Hormone therapy will facilitate the development of appropriate secondary sex characteristics, but certain aspects of the preferred gender role involving dress, grooming and behavior, can only be acquired through a process of socialization that may take several years or more.

Early stages of transition may be especially stressful because there is probably comparatively little experience in the preferred gender role to build upon. Relationships with family and friends, those who knew the person in his or her original gender role, may be disrupted. The person may struggle with fundamental appearance, behavior, and relationship issues that are automatic and largely unconscious for the non gender-dysphoric person.

But with practice, varied experience and perhaps occasional help from others, the new gender role can be gradually acquired.

People who interact with the person in transition can help by using the correct pronouns and by being sensitive to the person's efforts to blend with other women or men. As time progresses, the person normally experiences less stress and becomes more comfortable personally and socially. Living becomes easier. Self confidence increases. If the new gender role fits better than the old one, gender dysphoria will show a marked decline or may cease entirely. Socialization is the primary mechanism of change. The result is a person whose gender role finally comes in harmony with gender identity. The person may make application for genital reconstruction after a minimum of one year of continuously living in the preferred gender role.

- Rebecca Auge, Ph.D.

Rebecca Auge is a clinical psychologist with offices at 3637 Grand Ave., Suite C, in Oakland.

Free Workshops

Being transgendered doesn't mean having to be alone, without friends or companions. Learn more about being transgendered and single at a special workshop conducted by therapist Joni Eveling Israel. The workshop will be on Saturday, June 22, 1-4:30 p.m. Ms. Israel is also sponsoring free workshops on June 1 and June 8 from 1-4:30 p.m. on "Coming Out." Learn how to reduce the risks of "telling" in this workshop, which will focus on exploring methods of disclosure. For information and location of the workshops, call 415-558-8058.

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 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. This is to help insure that a safe, supportive environment is created in which all attendees will feel secure enough to really be able to share and talk about their feelings. We are frequently assisted by a helping professional with a specialty in our area of concern.

The SOS group meets the second Thursday of each month from 8 to 10 p.m. Our next meetings are scheduled for May 9 and June 13. You are all welcome with open arms. For more information call Ginny at 664-1499.

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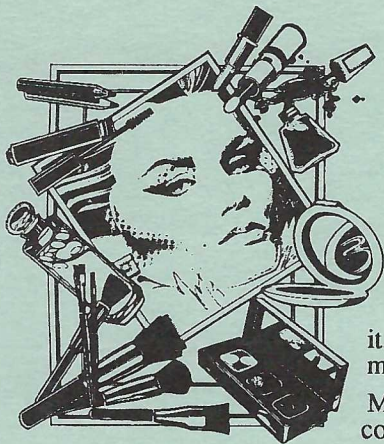
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Using Light and Dark To Shape Your Face

A lady friend once mentioned to me that one of these days, she was going to ask a TV how to put on makeup, "Because some of them really know how to do it." As they say, necessity is the mother...

Most of us need some kind of corrective work on our faces to approximate a woman's countenance and that means learning how to use dark and light effectively and subtly.

Highlighting, the use of light colors to make an area stand out, and contouring (or shadowing) to make an area recede takes some practice, but the basic concepts aren't tricky.

If you can think of the way you would draw a realistic-looking curved surface you well on the way to creating a whole new look. Say you wanted to draw a surface that curves outward. To create that illusion you would draw the object with a gradation that goes from dark to light to dark. Try this with blusher on a white piece of paper: create a smear that begins at one end very darkly and then gradually lightens to white in the middle and then gradually darkens again. The middle should appear to stand out. To make a concave surface, you do just the opposite.

There is one other simple principle to remember: For the very best effect never create a dark shadow without highlighting at least one side of it. Conversely, never highlight without shadowing to soften it.

Most TV's when first learning makeup just sort of smear blusher on their cheeks. Most women do it the same way. But we want super looking cheeks, right? Put your blusher on where you like it best as you usually do. Then take highlighter (a lighter blusher, or a special product specifically used for highlighting) along the edge where you want your cheekbone to appear. Blend the heck out of the edges and you've created instant cheekbones.

There are a lot of variations to this depending on your face shape. If you have a round face make a vertical sweep (yes, vertical) straight down center of your cheek. Blend the bottom of the line upward and out toward your eye creating a soft triangle towards the center of your face. Put highlighter on the edge of this shadowing to create prominence out on the perimeter of the face. A square face is corrected in a very different manner. With this face you want the middle of the face to stand out (though not necessarily highlighted), so you blush under the center of the cheekbone and sweep out angling up to the ear. Put highlighter above this shadowing to really make the cheeks prominent. For the long face add blush at the outside of the cheekbones, sweeping it across in a straight line. Corner it up to the temples. Never place blush in the center of the long face.

(Condensed from the book "Making Up by Rex", 1986)

TV's and TS's in a New World Order

In the wake of the Persian Gulf war, I would like to share some thoughts addressing our personal place as TV's and TS's in a militarist society.

The military seems to contain more than its share of gender people; I think the reason for this is clear. As TV's/TS's we grow up fearful of "being caught with our pants down" (and our skirts up). We feel shame and fear regarding our feminine nature and we want to make sure that no one will be able to see through the masculine front we present. Some of us become "hypermasculine" in the process, developing a tough personality, engaging in aggressive hobbies, or pursuing careers in the military or in other occupations traditionally considered masculine. It's because society drills into us, long before we even get to kindergarten, that "masculinity" in all areas of behavior is superior, while "femininity" is, at best, a mixed blessing for females, and downright disgusting in males. They are polar opposites, so that traits like aggression and competitiveness, or gentleness, compassion and cooperation, are lumped in with the clothes you like to wear and the way you hold your hips.

In other words, our fears, our years of pain, and the oppression we suffer as TV's and TS's are a direct result of the sexism of society. And military values perpetuate that oppression, because militarism is a sexist ideology - not just incidentally, but at its core. The military could not exist without sexism. I believe the point is proven by the number of different ways it can be illustrated:

- In basic training, new soldiers are mockingly called "girls" or "ladies." This is meant as a put down, to shame them into proving they are "real men," not weak or feminine.
- Historically, the women of the "enemy" were legitimate prizes of war, rewards to the soldiers for their sacrifices. The reality of modern warfare still includes rape among its atrocities.
- Militarism glorifies aggression, violence and winning over gentleness, compassion and compromise, i.e., the "masculine" over the "feminine."
- The rallying cry of war is often used to distract attention from intractable domestic problems and the costs of war draw money away from solving those problems. This certainly affects women disproportionately. Women make up the bulk of Americans living in poverty and women still suffer discrimination in the work place.

It is often argued that women, as mothers, have a greater appreciation for the value of life, since they are responsible for bringing it into the world and nurturing it. In a nonsexist society in which men shared these values, militarism would not be possible. Perhaps this is why the military must perpetuate sexism - for its own survival. When TV's and TS's accept the self-hatred and shame that often mark the early part of our lives (when we don't know any better), it is a self-sacrifice to sexist ideology. The converse is also true. As mature TV's and TS's, we may have found the road to peace of mind and self-respect, but if we accept militarist (and therefore sexist) values, we risk being accomplices to our own collective victimization.

- Steve Minsuk/Sharyn Stevens



Barbara A.

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Martina's Klost

Nominations have been advanced for the new executive committee. Did you get your name in the hat? No! Well! At least you can vote for those who you feel can best advance the purpose of ETVC - Educate the members and the public and have fun doing it. So vote and then VOLUNTEER YOUR SERVICES TO HELP WHENEVER AND WHEREVER YOU CAN. Remember this club (and most volunteer groups) has a tendency to depend upon the services of a very few (find out who at the May Annual Membership Meeting).

Speaking of elections - congratulations Kim C., Pam S., Renee C., Roberta S., and Pam M. on your election to the Sacramento Gender Association (SGA) Executive Committee. Imperial elections: Michael and Caresse as Emperor and Empress of San Francisco; Sammi and Sue, Emperor and Empress of San Jose; and Greg and Chantilly, Emperor and Empress of Stockton. Congratulations, one and all.

I could not make the Stockton coronation as the SGA elections were that night, but I have been assured that Tiffany (Miss ETVC 1990) and Bridgette enjoyed themselves. And Tiffany was recognized during the Awards session at the victory brunch the next morning. Tiffany's number Friday night was beautiful beyond measure. I pray that it will not be lost but will be performed again and again and...and that tips will be presented separately.



Empress Caresse pays a visit to an ETVC social

Jane Kamper Bentley — The Final Frontier

One year ago, I was afraid to meet the everyday world as Jane. Today, thanks to friends and new found courage, en femme excursions are routine. Do I pass? I don't know. I mean, nobody yet has shouted out, "Hey, it's a dude!" Maybe that's because I haven't run into somebody who wanted to share his discovery. Or maybe most people are more interested either in what they're doing or in what the pretty young women are doing rather than wondering whether an unusually tall middle-aged woman might or might not be a true female.

If I'm not passing, at least I'm getting by. Sometimes I know I get read, but only once was there anything like a scene.

It happened in line at a Marshall's. The checker's fingers danced over the keys, totalling purchases - until my turn. She looked at me, gasped and hit two keys at once, jamming her register. I smiled as her manager freed the register and completed the transaction. Smiled, but did not - dared not - speak.

It was then I realized that voice, not space, was the Final Frontier. Oh, I cross it occasionally, briefly, but feeling as if I am wearing sandwich boards that read: "M-A-N."

Voice is something we cannot pad, drape or put on, like foundation, trusting that preparation will sustain results. Instead,

each breath must be measured, every resonance harmonized with our imaginary woman's voice; still, we cannot know how we will sound until the words fly out. If I understand what Zen is about (which if I say I do, I don't, right?), voice might be called the Zen moment of crossdressing. Either you are the person you are portraying or you are not.

It isn't that we can't work on our voices. Why else would God have created speech pathologists? But even those who have had voice training can and do choke under pressure.

As someone dressed to the nines recently said in a troubled baritone, "Speaking like a woman doesn't feel natural."

Which brings up a fascinating paradox. Somehow it is not unnatural to wear a bra stuffed with anything from socks to birdseed, but it is to raise our voices half an octave? Why? Why isn't the compulsion to dress so seldom matched by a determination to speak as a woman?

In my case, I think its partly because dressing is primarily visual and tactile, partly because - well, not just that speaking in a high voice feels unnatural, but because my male voice has been for so long a shield and assurance of power and guarantor of approval. Until age 13 or 14, my voice was rather high and, as I recall, effeminate, the proper accompaniment for my skinny, frail body and small, pale, face. It just didn't happen to fit any of the 1950's requirements for males. Then, a miracle: Overnight, phone callers no longer mistook me for my mother, but sounded puzzled and deferential. I even got called, "Sir." At 14, Sir. My new, strong voice made me feel like somebody, not just the lonely boy who had been crossdressing in secret for two years.

Over the years, however shameful I felt about crossdressing, there was always The voice to advertise that, hey, here was an American male at his best: A Regular Guy. "Conscience" might convict, but voice reassured. Now that that conscience is dead, it is my voice which convicts, and not reassurance which is wanting, but a new courage that lies just beyond this seemingly final boundary of shame.

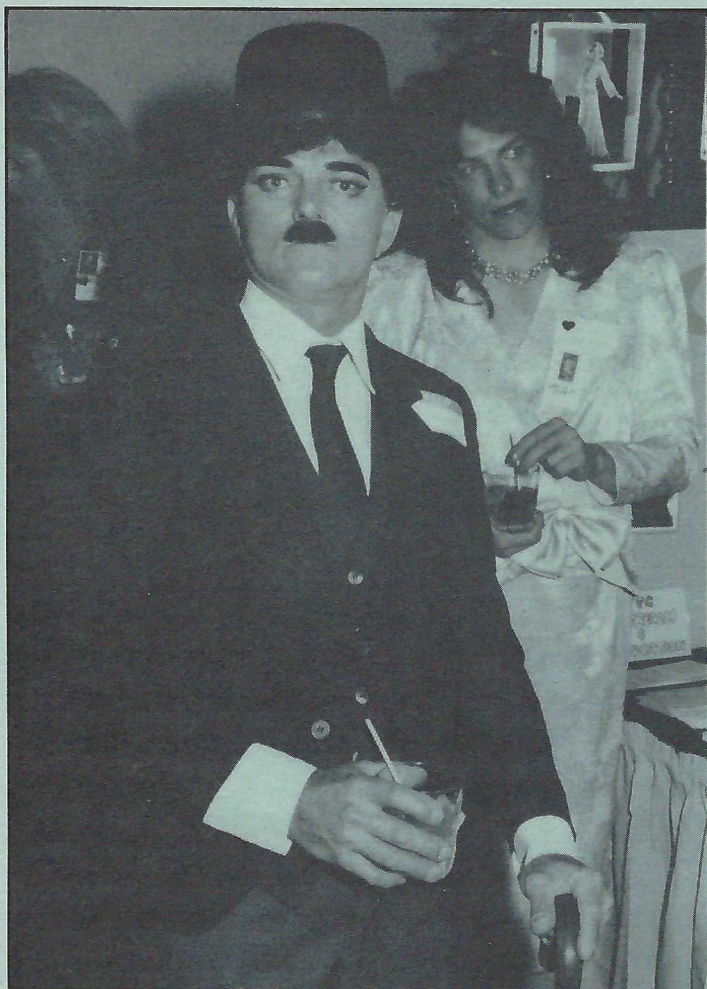
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From left are Charlotte and Angela, Annie and JoAnne.

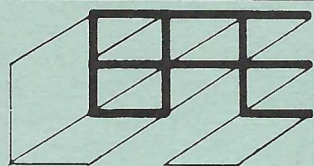


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