

Gay Freedom Day 1994: Being There

by J. K. Bentley

On June 19, 1994, our ETVC contingent of more than three dozen turned a corner and received a fervent cheer. The corner was at Grove and Market in San Francisco, the launching place of the Lesbian/Gay Pride Parade. Capturing the moment - and many before and after - was ETVC's new Multi-media video crew, who will be putting together a highlight tape of our participation in the Parade for you.

Our contingent's centerpiece was a white convertible — its front lights adorned with false eyelashes, and cardboard red lips standing out like an expectant kiss on its grill. Behind the wheel, Ms. Tyrrell Morris curbed her racing instincts to a smooth 2 m.p.h. as her passengers, Mr. and Miss ETVC 1994, Francis and Lauren joined Miss ETVC 1992 and 1993, Billie Jean and Shawna as they waved to the crowd with the grace and aplomb of royalty.

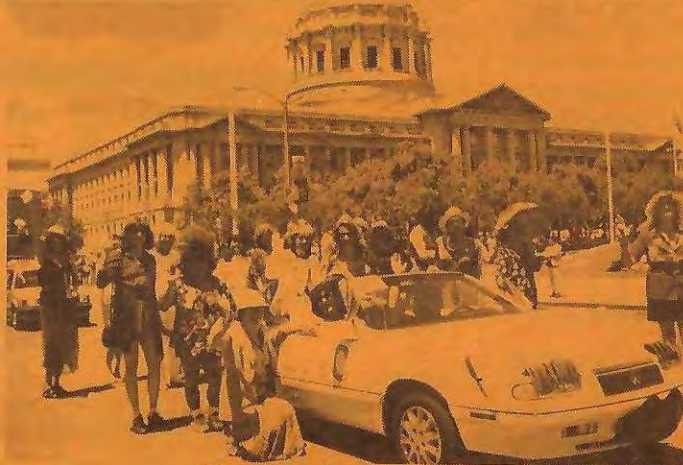
Many of those on foot, such as ETVC's new Vice-President, Lisa Maxwell, were marching for the first time. "If

anyone had suggested to me I'd be doing this a year ago, I'd have said they were crazy," said Lisa in the ETVC booth afterward. And what, she was asked, if she had been told that she would produce ETVC's most successful turnout as well? Ms. Maxwell laughed a soprano giggle that quickly lifted to ranges that make dogs bark.

"If somebody had told me I'd bake 1,200 cookies for this silly event, I'd have said they were raving lunatics," purred Social co-chair Jackie Conner as our booth volunteers handed free cookies and ETVC brochures to delighted passers by.

New this year in addition to the cookies was a hi-tech presentation on a television set in our booth of a video created by Jamie Faye Fenton of her pictures from the 1994 Cotillion. Very impressive!

To all the many volunteers who made our participation in this wonderful event a success, we thank you. Keep tuned for details on the availability of the video tape where you can see it all happen again.



Gay Freedom Day 1994
ETVC parade contingent SWIFTSILVER PHOTO

ETVC BBS ONLINE!

How to Use the ETVC Computer Bulletin Board

by Jamie Faye Fenton

The ETVC Computer BBS is up and running! All persons interested in the gender community are invited to call in. Callers can read and leave messages for other members as well as contribute and retrieve articles and pictures concerning our favorite subject. Our modem telephone number is (415) 239-8467. Your modem can be set at any speed from 300 to 14400 baud, using 8 bits, no parity, and 1 stop bit.

When you call in for the first time, you will be asked a series of questions. The system will want to know your name (your adopted name will do fine). It will also ask for your address, date of birth, and other personal information. This information will not be available to other callers. You can leave many of these items blank and your application will still be accepted.

You will be required to select a password. This is a secret key consisting of letters, numbers, and punctuation characters that you will use to tell the system that it is really you out there, sort

of like the Personal Identification Number you use at the ATM machine. You should have one in mind before you call in. Avoid obvious ones that would be easy for a hacker to guess, like your name, birthday, favorite perfume, etc.

Once past the questionnaire, you will see the main menu. This gives a list of commands you can use to navigate around the system. To select a choice, type the letter shown on your keyboard, followed by pressing the "Enter" key. The computer then types out a response and then asks you to make another entry. Generally you will be shown a menu of entries that you can make at each stage.

By making menu selections, you'll be able to read messages other people left for you or leave messages for others. Other options let you view announcements and submit or retrieve articles and photographs.

What if you type in the wrong thing? Usually the computer will let you know if you make a mistake. Don't be intimidated by this, all experts get confused and make mistakes rather often. If all else fails, just hang up the phone and call back in a few minutes. Also remember that there are people eager and willing to help. To contact one leave a message to SYSOP on the BBS or leave a voice mail message for me in box 5264.

THE CHANNEL

ETVC Inc., a non-profit corporation, is a non-sexual, membership based organization 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, article submission guidelines and classified ads, please write to: ETVC Secretary, PO Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486. Minutes of all ETVC committee meetings are available to members on request.

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President	Jane Kamper Bentley
Vice-President	Lisa Maxwell
Secretary	Barbara Bowden
Treasurer	Jano Bogg
Education	Ayme Kantz & Kristen St. James
Outreach	Lauren Hotchkiss & Francis Vavra
Social	Jackie Conner

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Membership (as of 7/31/94)	251
1993 Membership	247
New members this year	25

TREASURER'S REPORT

JUNE 1994

Revenues	\$ 1155.50
Expenses	\$ 1591.17
Bank Balance (unreconciled)	\$ 5618.95

Volunteers are needed for the fund-raising committee.
Please contact Jano Bogg...510-527-9109

The Channel, the ETVC Newsletter, is published the last week of February, April, June, August, October and December. Submissions should arrive at ETVC by the 25th day of the previous month. Contents reflect the opinions of the contributors and the editor, and are not necessarily those of ETVC. Other organizations may reprint or reproduce uncopyrighted portions of the newsletter for their members, provided ETVC is acknowledged. Copyrighted materials may be reproduced only with written permission of ETVC.

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AD RATES	Per issue	Per year
Business Card	\$20	\$100
4" X 5"	\$50	\$250

Personal ads from ETVC members: \$3 for up to 40 words. We will *not* accept ads with a sexual objective. Ad deadlines are the 25th of May, July, September, November, January and March. Send ad copy and check or money order to: ETVC, PO Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486

HOTLINE 510-549-2665
VOICE MAIL 415-334-3439

EDITORS NOTES

Kevin Horwitz

It's been a long summer, but the weather has managed to remain cool. - and the last few months have been dotted with freedom marches. The San Francisco Gay/Lesbian/Transgender Parade, the Aids Walk, and Stonewall 25 are three that are certainly noteworthy. These conglomerations of folks are great for building solidarity. However, I think we need to do the same in our daily lives. It's the incremental gains in communication that really add up, and pave the way toward true solidarity. I hope we continue to work toward reconciling gender, class, and racial barriers, and realize that these issues profoundly affect the ways in which we as a transgendered community interact.

Ginny is acting as "guest editor" for this issue of The Channel. I want to thank her, and all Newscom members for their hard work. I look forward to resuming my editorial duties in the fall.

LETTERS

Kim Stuart responds to the remarks of Sandra Brewer (who reviewed Kim's book, The Uninvited Dilemma in the July-August 1994 issue of The Channel):

I very much appreciate the kind remarks Sandra Brewer had to say about the book I wrote, *The Uninvited Dilemma*. Anyone who reads professional journals on a regular basis realizes that most researchers are very careful to define terms they use and what meaning they attribute to terms they are using. I only used two new terms out of the fifteen I defined.

The book was about **transsexuals** not just MTF's or FTM's. If Sandra were to look at the *Research Supplement* (an entirely different book), she would find that the statistics are broken down into two groups: 1. Male to Female and, 2. Female to Male. I think that perhaps Sandra has misconstrued what I said about transvestites and transsexuals. To begin with, the book is about transsexuals and their lives—not about transvestites or any other group. I tried to point out that transvestism and transsexualism did not mean the same thing, and I said that I disagreed with Harry Benjamin's continuum theory between the two conditions on a sexual and gender based orientation scale.

I don't recall saying anything about there being no middle ground. I devoted an entire chapter to the subject

of androgyny, and I did not intend to imply that other transgendered groups were not completely legitimate in how they defined themselves. It would be my hope, as gender roles and presentation become more flexible, fewer persons who experience some degree of gender dysphoria will seek solutions that do not necessarily include sex reassignment surgery.

I am not a therapist, and I was not aware that therapists are the only persons qualified to conduct research or write books about transsexualism. I wrote *The Uninvited Dilemma* because it was a book I wanted to read myself, and nobody, including a therapist, had written such a book.

I am a general writer and author; I am not an academic, and *The Uninvited Dilemma* was not written for the academic community. It is not customary for freelance writers and authors to list academic degrees, but I can assure Sandra that I have had extensive academic training in research at the undergraduate and graduate university level. My research is out there in print if any one wants to challenge its validity.

Kim Elizabeth Stuart

Dear ETVC:

I became aware today of a bill before the California legislature that may eventually be helpful if it passes. It is

AB 3571 (Margolin). It is designed to make it so insurance companies cannot arbitrarily declare some procedure experimental, and therefore not cover it. It would require the establishment of a procedure that allows expert testimony before a decision making commission, which then decides whether the procedure is experimental or not. If not, it makes it very difficult for the insurance company to deny coverage.

This bill, of course, was not written at all with gender issues in mind. However, it may help a lot because the rationale frequently used by insurers is that SRS is experimental. Since they generally now cannot find an expert to actually say that, if this bill passes, it may allow a challenge to previous policy that will help the community. I think you might wish to follow-up on this.

Robin A. Dea, M.D.
Permanente Medical Groups, Inc.
Redwood City, California

An Apology

We have received correspondence from our Texas friends pointing out our error in reporting on the Texas "T" Party in a recent issue of The Channel. The author of this article responds:

I incorrectly attributed the founding of the Texas "T" Party to Cynthia and Linda Phillips in the May-June issue of the Newsletter. The Phillips did not claim to have founded the Party. In my notes, I confused the Phillips with the "T" Party Committee and assumed a statement about the original "T" Party taking place at "a little back yard barbecue for our friends" referred to the Phillips' backyard. I am sorry for the mistake.

ETVC has gone through big changes in the past year, with more to come. Our long sought-after non-profit status is now recognized by both the Internal

Revenue Service and the State of California. For members it means being able to deduct a percentage of membership renewal as well and other contributions (hint, hint) from your federal taxes. For us as an organization it brings a host of financial benefits, everything from cheaper newsletter postage to advertising discounts to eligibility for grant moneys, and more.

Non-profit status also gives us instant credibility, sort of like having a prestigious university on your personal resume. Non-profit benefits, however, do not come without certain costs. For example, each year there are 15 separate forms to fill out for various tax collecting purposes, so our record-keeping must be detailed and exact. For the present, Sandy Kasten and Jano Bogg are handling our tax preparation. We need others with experience to come forward and help shoulder the burden. Leave a message with voice mail (415-334-3439, box S-A-N-D) to volunteer.

To more fully comply with non-profit requirements, we also need to update our by-laws. A draft is being drawn up by a committee consisting of Sandy, Jano, former presidents Cindy Martin and Trina Bloom and myself. When completed, it will be sent to the ETVC Executive Committee for review and recommendation. With ExCom approval, a final draft will be submitted for membership approval.

We seem to become more and more of a public presence all the time. Human Rights Commission Hearings, the Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day parade, joining the AIDS walk, ETVC is getting more and more OUT there, getting seen, making our voices heard.

At the same time that we are breaking barriers of silence, it's important to remember that many of our members for a variety of very good reasons must keep silent about their transgender status. Jobs, families, whole lives are on the line. ETVC has been for many a haven, a safe place within which to express our innermost selves. So it must remain. The couples group, Significant Others Support (open *only* to non-transgender significant others) and the poker game all meet in member's homes, and are all excellent places to share fun and friendship in a protective setting. If and when *you* are ready to become more public, opportunities for more open activities are available, but it's entirely up to you. Check the calendar for times of all events. Call Ginny at (415) 664-1499 for more information.

•••••

We've had a very full month, and we have had some very interesting activities in the Education, TS and general areas, including the Aids walk and the Hijra Seminar. We need to enroll volunteers for table duty on Social nights.

There is a core of volunteers who do this, and other fine work, on a regular basis, but this could be an area where YOU can help out and make it fun for ALL of us. We will be setting up a training session in the near future, and we would appreciate more volunteers.

Please let me know if you would be prepared to help out, either on a regular basis, or occasionally. Call me at home (408) 293 0823, leave a message if I am not there, and I WILL get back to you!

Secretary's Jottings

by Barbara Bowden

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Male to Female Therapy/Support Group Forming

This is a good group for people who have either just started Transition or are seriously considering it. This on-going group meets on alternate Monday evenings, 7:00 to 8:30 pm at a central Marin location. The fee is \$60.00 per month and a free pre-registration interview is required.

Call Anne Vitale PhD at 415-456-4452 for more information. If you get the answering service, please leave detailed instructions on when and how you want your call returned.

Special Events



ETVC Dance Socials at Kimo's

Wednesday, September 14 and
Wednesday, October 12

This is the night to kick up our heels, dance and have a great time! Upstairs at Kimo's (Polk and Pine Streets in San Francisco) is the perfect place. Michael and his staff do a killer job at making us feel beautiful and welcome. So come join us for an awesome time, every second Wednesday of the month. It starts at 8, so don't be late! No admission charge.

Skin Care - A Vital Foundation to Beauty

Wednesday, September 21

The secret's out! Laurie Conner (lovely and talented wife of our own lovely and talented Social Chair, Jackie) presents a detailed and informative look at taking care of that baby face, baby! Women the world over know how vital it is to take care of their skin, and often it is a woman's best kept beauty secret. Your face is like a canvas that you paint on, but unfortunately cannot be replaced as easily, so conditioning it to keep it pliant, supple, youthful and vibrant is essential to achieve the maximum effect you want in your makeup presentation. Come learn the essential beauty secrets of good skin care. Your face will thank you. Kimo's - 8 PM - \$3.

September Pleasure Faire

Thursday, September 29

Come ye, come ye to the "September Pleasure Faire Social" ..Noblemen, peasants and merchants alike! Wear thy finery, and thy royal garb. Be it known there will be held a Contest to crown the fairest Queen Elizabeth of them all! Ye Royal Throne Awaits at the Castle of Eichelbergers, 2742 17th St. at Florida, SF. Starts at 8 PM; \$3 for members, \$5 for guests.

An Elegant Afternoon at Sophisticated Lady

Sunday, October 16

Spend a delightful and casual afternoon learning the ins and outs of finding clothes that fit, that are well made and affordably priced. Located at 4020 Piedmont Avenue in Oakland, Sophisticated Lady is

an elegant ladies' consignment/resale clothing store. The owners (Manya and her husband) have graciously consented to close their boutique to the general public for the afternoon so that we might shop in complete confidence and discretion. The dressing rooms are ample and nicely appointed and Manya will be there with her courteous staff to assist you with all your questions. A light buffet and tea will be served. Bring some money, honey, because there are excellent bargains to be had in this lovely and wonderful establishment. RSVP recommended. Call (510) 654-1718 or (415) 648-0973 to RSVP as well as for directions and more info. 2 PM, \$3.

TS Seminar/Social - Voice Coaching

Sunday, October 23

For the self-identified transsexual one of the last things we "work on" during our stages of transition, is our voice. Some of us feel that, despite all the work we do, it's our voice that gives us away, and yet others will tell that very same person that her voice is perfect. Is there a way to tell? Can one relearn speech patterns? What can I do differently? Our very own Lucy Ann Jones (founder of our successful TS seminar series) will demonstrate, with a helpful volunteer or two, her knowledge and experience in refashioning the human voice. A potluck social will follow. Please bring an item to share according to last names as follows: A-G: salads H-M: main dish - N-S: desserts T-Z: paper goods. Kimo's - 2 PM - FREE!

October Halloween Social

Friday, October 28

Children of the night, I bid you welcome to the Dunfey Hotel in San Mateo. The Crystal Room beckons all you witches, warlocks and fantasy delights. Bewitched ... be fed ... be wild ... bewildered ... be weird ... be costumed ... BE THERE! Live music and a Halloween costume contest. Advance tickets and more details will be available at the August and September socials.

TV/TS Tapestry Journal

150+ pages of informational articles by peers and professionals and updated listings on conventions, hotlines, counseling groups, medical and psychological referrals, and other helping professionals.

IMAGINE! 2 years of *TV/TS Tapestry Journal*... 8 issues for only \$9.00 each. SAVE \$24.00 OFF THE NEWSSTAND PRICE with this special 2-year subscription cost of \$72.00. Remember, as a subscriber to *TV/TS Tapestry Journal* you can place a personal listing with its discreet mail-forwarding service.

If that deal isn't enough of a bargain, for a limited time, we will throw in a one size fits all "LOVE SEES NO GENDER" Stonewall commemorative shirt (puts new meaning into the name "T" shirt), while supply lasts. Support I.F. G. E. in its efforts by taking advantage of this special offer now.

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TV/TS/TG GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

A Calendar of Events for September & October



SEPTEMBER

2	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
2	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
6	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 849-4112
8	ETVC	Significant Others	Meets 7:30-10 PM	Pleasant Hill	(415) 664-1499
9	ETVC	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
9	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
9	South Bay	Gender Discussion Group	Meets 8-10 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-5619
10	ETVC	Executive Committee	Starts at 8 PM	TBA	(415) 750-1850
10	SGA	Dinner /Social	Starts at 7:30 PM	Sacramento	(916) 482-7742
11	ETVC	Education Committee	Meets at 1 PM	San Francisco	(415) 648-0973
11	FTM	Informational Meeting	Meets 2 PM	San Francisco	(510) 287-2646
13	ETVC	Outreach Committee	Meets at 7:30 PM	Berkeley	(510) 534-8407
14	ETVC	Dance Social	Starts at 8 PM	Kimo's-Upstairs	(415) 359-9180
16	ETVC	Bowling Night	Call for details	San Francisco	(415) 731-7032
16	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
16	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
17	ETVC	SOS Luncheon	Starts 11:00 AM	Richmond	(510) 934-0826
19	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 849-4112
21	ETVC	Skin Care Seminar	Starts at 8 PM	Kimo's-Upstairs	(415) 648-0973
22	ETVC	Couples Social	Starts at 8 PM	TBA	(415) 664-1499
23	RGA	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	Sunnyvale	(408) 732-7406
23	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
24	SGA	Dinner /Social	Starts at 7:30 PM	Sacramento	(916) 482-7742
25	ETVC	Cotillion Committee	Meets at 4 PM	Palo Alto	(415) 493-8099
25	ETVC	TS Committee	Meets at 2 PM	Kimo's-Upstairs	(415) 648-0973
27	ETVC	Social Committee	Meets at 8 PM	Pacifica	(415) 359-9180
29	ETVC	Pleasure Faire Social	Starts at 8 PM	Eichelberger's	(415) 359-9180
30	RGA	Girl's Night Out	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044

OCTOBER

2	ETVC	Education Committee	Meets at 1 PM	San Francisco	(415) 648-0973
4	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 849-4112
7	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
7	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
8	ETVC	Executive Committee	Starts at 8 PM	TBA	(415) 750-1850
8	SGA	Dinner /Social	Starts at 7:30 PM	Sacramento	(916) 482-7742
9	FTM	Informational Meeting	Meets 2 PM	San Francisco	(510) 287-2646
11	ETVC	Outreach Committee	Meets at 7:30 PM	Berkeley	(510) 534-8407
12	ETVC	Dance Social	Starts at 8 PM	Kimo's-Upstairs	(415) 359-9180
13	ETVC	Significant Others	Meets 7:30-10 PM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
14	ETVC	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
14	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
14	South Bay	Gender Discussion Group	Meets 8-10 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-5619
16	ETVC	Sophisticated Lady	Meets 2 PM	Oakland	(415) 648-0973
17	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 849-4112
20	ETVC	Couples Social	Starts at 8 PM	Pleasant Hill	(415) 664-1499
21	ETVC	Bowling Night	Call for details	San Francisco	(415) 731-7032
21	RGA	Halloween Party	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
21	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
22	SGA	Dinner /Social	Starts at 7:30 PM	Sacramento	(916) 482-7742
23	ETVC	TS Seminar - Voice	Starts at 2 PM	Kimo's-Upstairs	(415) 648-0973
23	ETVC	Cotillion Committee	Meets at 4 PM	Palo Alto	(415) 493-8099
25	ETVC	Social Committee	Meets at 8 PM	Pacifica	(415) 359-9180
28	ETVC	Halloween Party (Friday)	Starts at 8 PM	San Mateo	(415) 359-9180
30	ETVC	Newsletter Committee	Starts at 11 AM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
30	ETVC	TS Committee	Meets at 2 PM	Kimo's-Upstairs	(415) 648-0973

OTHER GROUPS

Pacific Center for Human Growth, a counseling oriented growth center, sponsors all-inclusive gender support groups on every Friday except the last one of the month at 8:00 PM. 2712 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley. Call: (510) 841-6224.

Rainbow Gender Association (RGA) meets 1st and 3rd Friday of the month 8:00 PM at the New Community of Faith Church, 6350 Rainbow Drive, San Jose. Write: RGA, PO Box 700730, San Jose, CA 95170. Call: (408) 984-4044

Sacramento Gender Association (SGA) Blue Rose Chapter meets 8 PM the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month at The Sierra Inn, at Fulton & Auburn Blvd. Write: PO Box 215456, Sacramento, CA 95821. Call: (916) 482-7SGA

Diablo Valley Girls (DVG) Meets 1st Tuesday and 3rd Monday of every month 8:00 PM at Just Rewards Nightclub, 2520 Camino Diablo in Walnut Creek. Write: DVG, PO Box 272885, Concord, CA 94527-2885. Call: (510) 849-4112.

The Tenderloin Self-Help Center (a project of the Central City Community Hospitality House funded by the Community Mental Health Services) TV/TG/TS Support Group meets every Wednesday, 3:30 - 5 PM, 191 Golden Gate Ave., San Francisco. Call: (415) 554-0518.

FTM, a support group for Female-to-Male crossdressers & transsexuals, holds both open, Informational Meetings, and closed, Support Meetings. Write: FTM, 5337 College Avenue #142, Oakland, CA 94618. Call: Voice Mail (510)287-2646.

ETVC Membership Application

Please Print

Mailing Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Preferred Name: _____ Family Member's Name: _____

Birth Date: Month _____ Day _____ (If Applicable) New Member: _____ Renewal: _____

How did you learn about ETVC? _____

Full year membership June 1 - May 31 is \$20.00 (Family - \$30.00).

Part year membership from January 1 - May 31 is \$10.00 (Family - \$15.00) (New members only).

Please remit by check or money order to:

ETVC, P.O. Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486

BE RENEWED... EFFECTIVE JUNE 1



Cindy At Large

Cindy Martin

Bimbo or "real" woman, what are you? In a recent letter to the Sweetheart Connection, the wife of an MTF transvestite who is active in ETVC took to task those among us who do the bimbo thing. The author rips the mini-and-six-inch-heel crowd for "mocking my gender by focusing your attention on aspects of appearance and manner that (some) men find attractive and (some) women find offensive." She also says that "if you must emulate a woman, don't be a bimbo."

I know that this kind of sentiment is going to tick off some of you who believe you have the right to dress anyway you like. And, of course you do. But bimbos are politically incorrect for good reason: a bimbo is a stereotype who equals a sex toy who is easily controlled and easy to exploit. Considering the realities for women, including being paid less than similarly qualified men, routine sexual harassment on the street and so on, it shouldn't surprise that some people find the image of the bimbo deeply offensive.

Sure, in a perfect world where everyone was treated fairly, where there was no gender discrimination, the bimbo would just be a joke. But right now some people take it as a message that you don't really respect women. That's a message too many women are still getting from too many men. But Cindy, can't I wear my mini? Of course you can, just wear it in a very sophisticated, stylish way.

Like I do.

PUMPED UP Carl Lewis, known for world records and Olympic medals in sprinting and "broad" jumping, is the Pirelli Tire poster boy...in heels. In an ad that Pirelli is running in Europe, Lewis is shown in a classic sprinter's pose wearing four-inch pumps. He has great legs, but what this has to do with tires is unclear. A Pirelli spokesman said the ad will not be used in the USA.

MUMMY DEAREST Long-time NYC drag queen Dorian Corey, who appeared in both Paris Is Burning and The Queen, died in August 1993 and left her clothes to a friend. The friend went to Corey's apartment in May 1994 and found a garment bag containing the "mummified" body of her ex-boyfriend, dead more than 25 years. Reported in the St. Louis Gender Foundation Gazette.

SURVEY SAID Not sure what this means, but a survey of MTF cross-dressers determined that a much higher than average number were first-born children. Meanwhile, two-thirds of the 100 respondents said they had a neutral to negative relationship with their fathers, again higher than a control group. Reported on the front page of the June newsletter of the Renaissance Gender Assoc. of Phila., Pa. And some unscientific survey results from yours truly confirm that we have more than our share of computer people, model railroaders and ham radio operators.

PICK YOUR NOSE Magazine, that is. The irreverent 'zine's July cover is graced by our own Tyrrell Morris, toting a double-barreled shotgun, no less. Who says all TVs want to do is look like their Moms? The accompanying article is really well done as Tyrrell, Terry Ann, and other Lost Girls talk about the serious issues faced by transgender people. Good pictures, though I could personally do without the guns, and solid information. The Nose does a good job with our story, thanks to Tyrrell and the LGs.

PAULA-JO HUSACK, M.A., M.F.C.C.
LIC. #MFC27864

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ETVC Members Walk to Fight AIDS

by Jamie Faye Fenton

Fourteen ETVC members participated in the AIDS Walk San Francisco event on July 17, raising over \$2200 to fight AIDS and to help those who have it.



SWIFTSILVER PHOTO

Nancy Ann's boots (6-inch heels) were not made for walking... but she did lots of outreach!

Our group rallied near the registration area in Golden Gate Park under our sign: "ETVC — Transgendered and Loving It." At 10:30 the walk began. The sky was gray, the air chilly, and the crowd is upbeat as we start out.

We spread out over several hundred feet and take turns talking with each other and with other marchers. Time to think about AIDS and the things we can do about it. At checkpoints we regroup. Volunteers throw granola bars to us, hand us popsicles, water, oranges, and cheer us on. We come up with a theme for next year's Cotillion.

Nancy Ann Martine attracts a lot of attention by walking the 6.2 miles in heels, as part of her agreement with her sponsors. It's a long way in flats. At around 1:30 we stream back into Sharon Meadow and quickly discover the free snacks provided for us. The sun has come out and the party is underway.



SWIFTSILVER PHOTO

ETVC's team at the AIDS Walk

All in all, good things happened this day, outreach and money raised for the cause. We all know we will be back next year, keeping at this until the need is no longer there.

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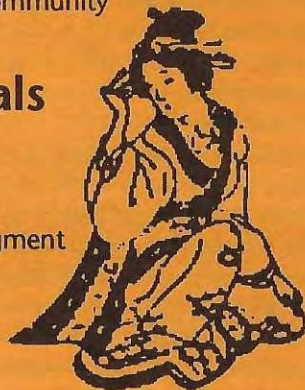
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The New Woman

Roberta "Bobbi" Dunne

It is no secret that many pre and post operative transsexuals, along with members of the greater transgender community, have banded together in a coalition of concerned individuals determined to acquire those same freedoms offered mainstream society. Those freedoms include, among others: the right to raise our own children; the right to hold a job free from discrimination; the right to rent or buy our own property; the right to health services; the right to privacy; the right to equal protection under the law. I am sure that each and everyone of us who lives true to our inner nature can add to this list.

We have grown to understand that Silence Equals Death, and we have spoken out. In places as far afield as Houston, Texas, where Attorney Phyllis Frye held the Third Annual Transgender Law and Policy Conference; to New York, where organizations are laboring to overturn that State's archaic regulations concerning the issuance of Birth Certificates; to Las Vegas, Nevada, where Shawna Steele fought job discrimination to overcome oppression. Here in San Francisco, we have worked with the Human Rights Commission to share information necessary to generate laws designed to insure our right to live and work without fear of exclusion, and a group of us with ties to the South Bay are preparing to work with officials in Santa Clara County to establish freedom there as well. Santa Cruz County, California, Seattle, Washington, Minneapolis, Minnesota and Canada have already enacted such legislation.

While legislation is important and will ultimately result in a strong foundation, it is also necessary to examine individual cases of job discrimination in an effort to determine whether or not they contain the elements essential to establish favorable rulings through the court system. Inasmuch as my own case appears to have reached resolution, we are looking for just such a case. If you feel that you or someone you know has experienced job discrimination, please contact me c/o ETVC, PO Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486. Thank you.

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PARADE DAY 1994

by Roberta "Bobbi" Dunne



ETVC's Bobbi Dunne (center, with fist raised in the air) marches proudly with other Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day Celebration Committee Board Members.

The Dykes started it when they fired up their bikes and roared down Market Street... the strength of their presence, and with it, the strength of everyone there that day was echoed in the power of their machines. The surrounding buildings vibrated with energy as over 300,000 participants, observers and visitors reflected the theme "Pride and Protest". The San Francisco Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day Parade and Celebration had begun!

There were 189 contingents participating, embracing a variety of groups and interests from employee associations to AIDS service organizations; from politicians to parents; from veterans groups to straights for gay rights. The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, The Imperial Court, Transgender Nation, FTM as well as ETVC represented various gender communities, marching with other contingents devoted to a variety of causes.

I was honored and privileged to be an Alternate Board Member and Chair of both the Site and Special Needs Committees this year. We hear a lot about the rewards of volunteer work — what it does for our lives — and for me it has been all of that and more. A lifetime ago, when I attended the meetings regarding the Parade name, that was my sole concern. I felt we needed recognition from the Gay and Lesbian community if we were to achieve any real protection against what I was convinced was an increase in violence and discrimination against us. At the time, my life was filled with attorneys and government agencies and the horrible pain one feels when one senses they have been excluded from the workplace solely because they are "different". I saw my involvement in the Parade as comic relief, balancing the seriousness of daily conflict with the satisfaction of helping to throw a party for tens of thousands of my closest friends. What I received in return was an opportunity to keep skills honed which mainstream society refused me the opportunity to use. And more than that, I received acceptance and encouragement when mainstream society refused to acknowledge my existence. While it appears the construction industry has agreed to once again make room for me and that my life has leveled out a bit, I know my involvement in the Parade served as a bridge, preserving stability when the world-at-large lost its balance.

This Parade is important. It is important to each and everyone of us — whoever and whatever we are. It serves as a vivid reminder of the magnitude of diversity in our culture. It is a day to celebrate our victories and to reflect on our losses. All who were a part of it — in whatever role — contributed to its spirit of Unity.

"Ask the Therapist"

Luanna L. Rodgers, M.A., MFCC

Transsexualism and the Tyranny of Shoulds

Individuals described by the term, "transsexual" are just that: individuals. This means that the way they conceptualize their situation, feelings and options are individual and varied. It is not possible for every transsexual to have the same history, behavior and goals and yet many people — transsexual and non transsexual — labor under the belief that there is a transsexual profile that fits all "true transsexuals", identifying, defining and legitimizing them. This results in a tyranny of shoulds which correctly describe only a small portion of all transsexuals and is a poor fit for many. Described in this article are five beliefs, frequently elevated to the status of shoulds, that many transsexuals encounter.

Should #1: "I've always felt like the opposite gender." Should #1 involves the belief that true transsexuals feel, from earliest childhood, that they are trapped in the wrong gender. My experience as a therapist in the area of gender has led me to believe that some felt that way as children, others did not. People vary in their coping strategies. Some openly reject gender roles that don't fit. Some try desperately to make them fit and live convincingly in the gender role of birth for many years. Others escape through schoolwork, sports or daydreaming. Everyone's upbringing gives them messages about what they can talk about or even admit to themselves. Some people may experience gender identity issues later in life because they have developed more fully or emerged from denial.

Should #2: "I really want to live in the world as a woman but I'm assertive and enjoy sports (or live as a man in the world, but I'm shy and artistic). I'll have to give these things up!" Should #2 involves gender stereotyping. Men are like Sylvester Stallone or Ward Cleaver. Women are like Marilyn Monroe or June Cleaver. Some FTM men are and some MTF women are, but others are not. It is no indication of who is "authentic". When one looks at genetic females, one sees small, delicate women who are nurturing individuals interested in children and crafts. One also finds large boisterous women river-rafting and running businesses. This diversity is just as true of men, who can be athletic, artistic, competi-

tive, introspective and come in all shapes, sizes and personalities.

Should #3: "I got on with my life and now I'm the woman (or man) I always was but couldn't reveal to others." Great, if that describes you! Others feel that although their soul is female (or male) that they want to acknowledge their experience in both genders. They may integrate their past gender into their current gender role. Others may feel that being transsexual is a legitimate identification in itself. People's life experiences and personalities lead them to conceptualize their situations differently. In my experience, no one philosophy characterizes individuals who make a successful gender transition. The important thing is that each individual find a conceptual framework that they are comfortable with.

Should #4: "I know I'm feeling like a real woman now because I find myself fantasizing about being sexual with a man (or, for F to M, feeling like a man now, fantasizing about sex with a woman)." This belief, if held as a Should, is heterocentric: a real woman wants a man and a real man doesn't. There are plenty of genetic men and women who give evidence to the contrary. Many transsexuals are heterosexual, many others aren't. This is a matter of sexual identity which is separate from gender identity and being a "real" man or woman.

Should #5: "I'm very sure about wanting gender transition and sex reassignment surgery. I have no doubts ... ever." This may describe a few people. Most, however, recognize that gender transition is about as complicated a journey of self-realization as there is. Being cognizant of these facts and expressing apprehension does not indicate that one is not transsexual or that gender transition isn't appropriate.

What we call "transsexualism" is a journey of inner definition. There are no absolute "Shoulds". Only the age old dictate of "To thine own self be true." It helps to have a friend, confidant or helper along the way, but there are no universal guideposts for any of us, transsexual or not. The essential criterion of gender expression and transition is, like that of any other successful life transition or activity, that it resonates with the essence of who we are and that it has good potential for being life enhancing.

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OTHER VOICES

Other Voices is a newsletter within the ETVC newsletter by and for Significant Others. Send letters and articles to: Other Voices, c/o ETVC, PO Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486.

hides the bruises, after all it's her fault that he hit her, she didn't do the right things for him, right? One day it all blows up and she maybe even lands in the hospital. The tension is broken, he is contrite, and promises never to let this happen again, she believes him and everything is rosy. Then the tension builds...

I'll leave the comparisons with the guilt cycle of the transvestite as an exercise for the student. Did you know on average, a woman will return to an abusive relationship eight times, knowing that she will be beaten again? Why? The answer is as complex as the personalities involved. She probably has no way to earn a living by herself, or to support the children. Neither wants to admit that something is wrong to the world at large. Strange as it may seem, they are probably in love with each other, and need each other, but they just don't know how to control this compulsion that is driving their lives. Perhaps she walks out for good at last, and starts a new life. Perhaps they work out the problems and find a new relationship based on mutual respect and sharing. No matter what the choice, it is a long, hard path to follow.

The split personality transvestite has to find a way to let those two personalities coexist in harmony. It's not easy. The TV is in as much of a bind as the woman trapped in an abusive relationship. Obviously, the answer is to allow the male and female sides to merge, but what about family, job, finances, and all the myriad aspects that will be affected? I believe that left unresolved the cycle of violence within a person will destroy that person and those they love. Maybe Joe will have to take the risks of a new career, or maybe Jean will have to begin to live more in reality than in fantasy. If it's really bad, counseling may be needed. For information, call the abuse center (in SF call 759-7923).

The Abuse Factor in Crossdressing

by Ricky Hunt

This article appeared in a recent issue of Crosstalk, P.O. Box 944, Woodland Hills, Ca 91365, and although it is addressed to the crossdresser, we thought it was an interesting and timely subject in light of the O.J. Simpson case. If there is physical, mental or emotional abuse in your relationship, hopefully these insights will help you to understand that societal pressures can be one of the sources of the rage, and enable you to deal with the problem more successfully. Please share with us any positive experiences you have had in coping with an abusive partner, maybe we can help someone else.

It always strikes me as odd when one of my sisters makes a big deal of the different lives and personalities residing in Jean/Joe. You all know the story of Joe, who works as a high powered executive, hiring, firing, motivating, and fighting the corporate battles, who comes home at night, puts on a lace slip and becomes Jean who has no responsibilities, sits there passively and accepts direction from the wife or girlfriend.

Why does this split personality transvestite have two such divergent personalities living in one body? How has Joe become entrapped in a career that requires him to hide Jean? He thinks he knows what would happen if he let Jean take over. The corporate sharks would gather and attack his "weakness". His subordinates would not pay attention to a polite request, his boss would wonder if he has the "right stuff" to be a high powered executive. Conversely Jean would not be able to be the wonderful fiction that she is if she had to think for herself, or take any action. Somehow it seems that the situation is out of hand, but all those decisions made in the past have led inevitably to the way things are today.

What we have here is a variation of the power and control cycle found in family abuse. If you haven't heard of it, it's not surprising; our society does its best to hide abusive relationships under the cover of the loving family pattern familiar to sitcom viewers. I am a trained rape and abuse counselor, and have been struck by the similarities between the two situations. For those of us men who aspire to the feminine, understanding this destructive cycle is essential.

An abusive relationship begins with distorted ideas of gender. The male partner thinks he must be supreme and in control, the female falls into the submissive and weak category. And yes, I'm afraid it is virtually always the male controlling the female. While there are exceptions, they are few. The male can use many techniques to enforce these roles; emotional abuse, financial and physical isolation, intimidation, threats to family members and sexual abuse of the female partner. The classic cycle of violence begins with everything rosy and the future is bright. But sooner or later something happens and he starts to find fault; he becomes abusive. She walks on eggs, never knowing what will set him off. The tension builds and physical abuse starts, gets worse; she

Significant Other Support Group

The Significant Other Support Group invites all Significant Others to attend our meetings. Group members define Significant Others as wives, lovers, friends, children and others close to TV/TS persons who are themselves not TV/TS. We encourage you to ask the SO in your own life to attend, particularly if she or he needs support from peers in dealing with feelings about the TV/TS in her or his life. All meetings are kept STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL to help insure that a safe, supportive environment is created in which all attendees feel secure enough to freely share and talk about their feelings. We are frequently assisted by a helping professional with a specialty in our area of concern.

Our next meetings will be Thursday, September 8 and Thursday, October 13. There will be a Saturday luncheon meeting on September 17. You are all welcome with open arms. For more information call Ginny at (415) 664-1499.



We've been contacted twice recently by mothers whose teenaged children are having difficulty in understanding and accepting their father's crossdressing or sex change needs. There seems to be a real need out there for these children to find peer support to help them over the rough spots, just like we do for each other in the SOS Group.

We can provide a space to meet and one of our favorite helping professionals, Luanna Rodgers, has agreed to facilitate such a peer support group meeting if we can find some teenagers who would be willing to share their feelings and experiences to help their peers on a somewhat regular basis.

We think this could be an important service to offer many frightened and confused kids. If your teenager would be willing to help, or is in need of this kind of support, please write me c/o ETVC, PO Box 426486, SF 94116 or call me at (415) 664-1499 (ask for Ginny).

• • • • •

On Saturday, September 17th our Significant Others will be meeting at the Hilltop Mall in Richmond at 11 AM for a luncheon get together. These Saturday luncheons have been lots of fun and very helpful to the SO's who can't make the evening meetings during the week. If you bring your partner, we ask that he comes dressed as a man and joins the other partners for lunch, so our S.O. discussions can remain confidential. Call (510) 934-0826 for details. This is a MALL, you know, so can shopping be far behind? Have fun!

Meet Community Leader Sheri Webb

Jane Kamper Bentley

(Part one of two parts)

Sheri Webb is the transgender counselor for the Tenderloin Aids Resource Center. ETVC got to meet her briefly at our Inaugural Ball in June. Following are excerpts from an interview conducted in July at the offices of TARC, 187 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco.

JKB: Would you tell us something about your experiences growing up?

Sheri: I was one of six kids. I also have a transgendered sister who is three years older than me. We were real close. Our biggest thing was "How can we do this outside the house?" It was all very natural. My father used to get very upset when people would say, "Oh, what a cute little girl!"

JKB: You never heard of transsexualism.

Sheri: Never. I grew up in the sixties and seventies. When I was fourteen I ran away from home. I started following a crowd in Oakland. Just like now, they had a tendency of taking young girls such as myself and mothering them, teaching them the ropes, the whole nine yards: prostitution, sex on the streets, survival, all this stuff. As I look back, it was all dress up. It was like a big playhouse twenty-four/seven. After a summer of that, I went back home.

I told my parents "I'll go back to school, but I won't go back as a boy." And my father said, "Well, then, you get your ass out." But we negotiated it, and Marin County is pretty progressive, so we came up with an agreement, and I went to school dressed as a girl.

The first year was really hard. But I'm a persistent person, and by my sophomore year it was no big deal.

After school, my dream was to become a secretary. So I took some secretarial and other courses at the College of Marin. But the streets are like a lure that keeps drawing you back. So I went back and forth until I got on a CITA job.

When I got paid I'd give the girls a couple of dollars and hang out and party with them, knowing I'm going home and they're trying to get their rent together for the night. So many girls out there are trying to make rent money. By the time you check in it's time to get out and make more money.

Anyway, working with the Department of Social Services really woke me up to a lot

of things. That's when the serious side of me started coming up in questions about hormones, surgery.

JKB: Up to then you hadn't thought about it?

Sheri: No, I was still getting the fine-tuning down - getting up everyday and going to work as a woman, living as a woman, associating with my family. All those things are really important. I got myself secure within myself so that nobody could make me doubt what I was doing. A lot of girls don't have that security.

JKB: A lot of people think that if they have the surgery it'll make everything right.

Sheri: But it doesn't. I'm constantly talking to girls about it. It's not going to change your life. If anything, it'll make it more complicated.

JKB: Did your Dad ever resign himself -

Sheri: My father used to say, "Why don't you just be a gay guy?" At the time I couldn't put it into words to tell him that I'm not gay. Over the years, especially after my surgery, he began to start coming around and being understanding. I'll never forget, it was such a touching moment to have my father call me his daughter, it made me break out into tears. He was in the veteran's hospital and the nurse was telling him "When you get home we're probably going to have to get you a care nurse." He said, "Why don't you pay my daughter to do it?" I was overwhelmed.

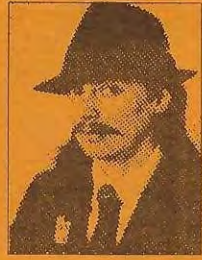
My mother always called me her daughter. We'd go out to lunch. Never once would she be self-conscious with me. The only problem my mother had was with me and those mini-skirts; and after I got my breasts done, me and them tops.

JKB: Which she wouldn't have wanted -

Sheri: For her natural-born daughter. Something I talk about to my group is having family members- having kids in your life. It's so important. Kids are so unconditional with their love. After a tough day it really is a good feeling getting off that bus and seeing my nieces, especially my little niece - she's seven - come running up to you and give you a hug: "Hi, how was your day! Let me tell you what I did at school!"



Sheri Webb



Night Man

© Francis Vavra

Oakland's Finest and Moi!

The Oakland Police knew I was running out of material for my column, so they recently sent a special task force out to give me an adventure to write about.

My evening began at Lily's bar in San Francisco, with Scott and Martini's last drag show (before it closed as a drag venue). I shared the stage with a procession of local luminaries and it was a night of glamour, beauty and fun. Scott and Martini's show was famous for trying out new acts to an appreciative audience, so instead of my usual crooner lipsynching, I decided on a dance piece. Appearing as a veiled lady belly dancer, I stripped out of skirt, bustiere and wild wig to reveal a black rhinestone studded flamenco vest and tight pants, ending the number as my gypsy male self. It was a surprise to everyone and well received.

I followed the show with a nightcap at the Motherlode "entertainment" bar, watching sexy transgendered girls gyrating to disco music on a tiny stage before driving to Oakland, where I live part time. Back across the bridge, I was in a male state of mind and didn't feel like going home, so parked on a deserted but well lit street to savor the evening's memories. Still wearing extremely tight pants from the show, I loosened the belt, unzipped and relaxed. Door locked, eyes closed, I was jolted from my reverie by a giant spotlight aimed directly at my face. An Oakland Police car had zoomed out of nowhere and pulled alongside me. I barely had time

to fasten my belt and zip my fly, which they observed (shades of Pee Wee Herman, no movie), when one officer motioned for me to roll down the window.

Bathed in surreal movie set lighting, I was determined to stay in role and remain calm. I handed him my driver's license and ETVC card, asking him to read the reverse side. The two male officers, one black, one Asian, commenced playing "Good Cop, Bad Cop" with me. They ignored the license and treated me as a man. The black officer leaned in the window and asked, "What were you doing there? How come your pants were undone?" "They were tight." "Why does this card have a different name than your driver's license?" "It's my stage name. I do drag shows." "You're waiting for someone, aren't you?" "No sir, I'm not", I said in a deep voice. "Yes, you are. You're waiting for a drug deal, aren't you?" (I did look like a Latino drug dealer, with sparkly tereador jacket, long, slicked back hair and gypsy earring). "No, I'm not." "Yes, you are. Get out of the car." I did so and the Asian officer had me "assume the position" facing my car while he frisked me. The Asian officer (Good Cop) played it safe, announcing where he was going to touch me before doing so, with the back of his hand. When he reached my crotch, from the back, he found my realistic pants stuffer and quickly ended the search.

They called in my car license, checked my name for priors, and finding none, let me go with a warning not to park on deserted streets at night. As I returned to my car, the Asian officer said "If you're not a man, you really did a good job fooling both of us. I still don't believe it. Drive safely and good night."

I headed home with a mixture of emotions — embarrassment, shock that this had happened, and a feeling of pride for going through a rite of passage, my first crossdressed encounter with police officers trained to "read" disguises, and passing. I couldn't help wondering if they would have treated me differently if I had been seen as a woman instead of a man.

LADY VERUSHKA

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Miss ETVC

Lauren Rene Hotchkiss

"I Love A Parade..."

...don't you? And this year's was especially exciting for me since it was the first time I'd actually gotten to see the Freedom Day Parade. Every other year I've either

been performing on stage and/or working the booth.

After reaching our San Francisco Bart station, which fortunately was but a 3 blocks jaunt from our destination, and experiencing but minor difficulty in finding our contingent, we spent the next two hours awaiting our turn in the parade. Being the creative and flexible organization that we are, however, we put our enforced delay to good use: Taking advantage of numerous photo ops., giving interviews, and, of course, staging the 1st annual "Mince" ETVC contest, narrowly won by none other than ...Maddy (keep your eyes on this girl, we might have 1995 Miss ETVC material here).

At last we got the word to roll, and we all piled into the royal Caddy convertible driven by Tyrrell. Within the car we had a veritable who's who of gender gentry. Next to where I sat perched on top of the back seat sat Francis, debonair in white tails (what a man!). Also with us were Shawna, Miss ETVC 1993, and the Miss ETVC who knows no year, the timeless Billie Jean. As we drove along, we became a sort of mobile outreach unit, Lisa and Jamie, particularly, being bundles of ambassadorial energy.

We got the chance to greet many of our friends along the parade route, such as Miss ETVC 1991 Teri, and Miss ETVC 1990 Tiffany, as well as several members of ETVC and FTM. After an hour and a half trip down Market Street we came to the end (or was it just the beginning) for from there we headed back to the ETVC booth to do a bit of outreach. By 5:30 or so, Mr. and Miss ETVC had a long day

and we began to wend our way homeward. But we'll be back next year, not as reigning monarchs, of course, but to support the lady and gentleman who will then hold our positions, and to promote the organization we are proud to be a part of.

To change the subject entirely, a brief word to correct the typo in my article of two issues ago. The next to last paragraph, second sentence should have read, "I have no intention of trying to be the best Miss ETVC ever. What I do promise is that I'll try to be the very best Miss ETVC that I can be."— There, we've finally got that settled. See you in September ...

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As Ye Sew, So Shall Ye Wear!

by Veronica Smith

The dress looked absolutely fabulous in the Frederick's of Hollywood catalogue, but when you showed up in it at the ETVc social you felt a little self-conscious because you had to wear tons of bracelets to "compensate" for the too-short sleeves, a belt the size of a girdle to "minimize" the high waist, and a tasteful scarf down your back to "camouflage" the safety pins holding the dress together. Then you notice Cindy Martin, as always, poised and confident in her immaculately tailored and perfectly stylish ensemble. How does she do it? What's her secret?

Well, if you wanted to know that you should have been at Kimo's on Wednesday, June 15, when Ms. Martin bared all her secrets (at least about sewing) in a well-organized presentation on the art of being a seamstress. Starting with helpful concepts and general theories about sewing, Cindy went on to more and more detail about good books, the necessary tools, their application, time needed, and reasonable expectations of results. As visual aids in this Home Economics Class for Cross Dressers, she had examples, works in progress, and fabric samples. She even brought her sewing machine for a hands-on demonstration and invited audience members to try out their skills. Many accepted her invitation and received specific training on sewing machine technique. Thanks, Cindy, for a valuable and fun demonstration.

The Hijra

by Barbara Bowden

The Seminar on the Hijra was well attended, by some 30+ people. I personally found the subject fascinating, as did most of the audience. Anne Ogborn gave an account of her time with the Hijra, and also imparted some of the social and sociological insights one can only get from being "in country". Accompanying the talk, Anne showed the audience a video of some of her experiences in the slums of New Delhi.

Anne also gave us information about the acceptance of the Hijra in Indian life, and how they were accepted at the "socially acceptable" times and were shunned at others. Anne was wearing a lovely Sari in Saffron and red. Her colorful attire added to her word pictures and explanations of the Hijra and their traditions, as did her traditional hairdo. Space does not allow a full description of the seminar except to say, if you missed it, you might want to consider buying her tape for more insight, and to help her defray expenses on her next trip.



Ann Ogborn leads the group in a traditional Hijra chant.

In all, it was a very informative time which could have gone on much longer except for the need to close the session and also Anne's apparent poor health. Anne has lost over 40 lbs in about 4 months due to the conditions in the slums of India, and she STILL plans on returning! Anne, GOOD LUCK there! Bon Voyage!

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An announcement to all ETVC Members:

ETVC members in attendance at the September 29th Social at Eichelbergers will be asked to vote on a change to ETVC's By-Laws which proposes to set Term Limits for elected positions of ETVC to be *no more than three years in the same office*. The following opinions have been presented for and against this By-Laws change for your information.

Yes on Term Limits

by Cindy Martin

We have a great new group on our executive committee, maybe the best ever. This isn't about them. It is about principles. So why do we need term limits? Let me count the ways: We hate fights. You will hear it argued that term limits aren't needed because we can always vote people out of office. Theoretically, this is true, but in reality it hasn't worked that way. Since 1989 no one has stepped forward to challenge any incumbent holding the offices of president, vice-president, secretary or treasurer. We're good, but not THAT good.

1. The truth is that incumbents have tremendous, overwhelming advantages in an organization like this. Their name recognition is very high but more important, as a group they have great respect among the members. As a result, putting up a challenge to an incumbent, even a bad one, is like taking on Mother Theresa. It seems kind of ungrateful and nasty.

2. Turnover is good. Good people flock to a winner, but if there isn't an opportunity for them to show their stuff they will drift away. It is very important for new people to get their chance at running the show, otherwise we stagnate.

3. This year was the exception that proves the rule. It will be claimed that all the turnover in the ETVC leadership this year shows that term limits are not needed. But what happened this year was no accident: there was a LOT of non-too-subtle talk all year about the need for new blood. More importantly, look what happened when all those spots opened up: great new faces stepped right up and volunteered to run for office.

4. Why NOT have term limits? I find it hard to fathom what the controversy is. This bylaws change simply limits a person to no more than THREE years *continuous* service in one office, but after that they are free to run for any office. So what is the problem?

Non-Answer to a Non-Problem!

by Jane Kamper Bentley

Term Limits presents itself as democracy's next big step. Maybe it is when you operate on a large scale like state government, where money, power and prestige are the prizes.

But we're talking about ETVC, where nobody gets paid (in fact, it costs money to hold office) and the only powers available are those of persuasion. Prestige? How many officers can *you* name without looking their names up?

We don't need an unnecessary by-law for term limits. We already have term limits. Self-imposed. Those who run for office seldom do it twice. Look at the record. In the past five years we have had three presidents, four vice-presidents, four secretaries, five sets of social co-chairs, almost the same turnover in education. Only the treasurer remained the same in all that time and this year we have a new treasurer. In fact, we have practically a whole new executive committee. Seven out of ten officers are brand new. Two of the repeaters, Francis Vavra and myself, are in new positions. Where is the evidence that ETVC needs term limits? Nowhere! A remedy should fix a real problem, not an imaginary one.

Mandating term limits is as absurd as prescribing a band-aid for a hyper-active thyroid. It's not just wrong, it's dangerously wrong. It invites us to think we've solved a problem when we haven't even identified the real problem.

Every new Executive Committee to some extent has had to reinvent its wheels, and just when it got going off came the wheels. *That's* the problem. If ETVC is to grow we need to recruit and keep good people in office long enough for them to get experience and train other good people to take their place. Giving present and potential members of the Executive Committee an undeserved slap in the face is not the answer.

What is the answer? Get active. Volunteer to help the treasurer balance the books, then run for treasurer; help with the newsletter, the membership list, the front table, then run for secretary; help with the Cotillion and the Gay Day Parade, then run for vice-president; help me with my duties as president, then run for president.

The key to *real* democracy is your participation. Reject empty symbols of democracy. Vote NO on term limits.

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Movie Review: by Ms. Tyrrell Allys Morris

Just Like A Woman

Just Like A Woman, a new movie from Samuel Goldwyn on what most of us aspire to be. If any of us are as human as the character portrayed in this film, it would be a better world. This is the first film of its kind that I know of, and the MAIN character is a transvestite (yes — that's right — a heterosexual transvestite is the focus) and the story is about him while living in London.

Let me tell each and every one of you who read this if you don't go see this movie I will hunt you down and *&@! you. This film runs the range of emotions from the fun that comes when he finally shares his secret with the other main character, to the anger and frustration he feels after being arrested and humiliated by the police. I will warn you there are several powerful scenes in this movie that every one of us in our lives have been through. You are best to bring a hankie and a friend to share with.

You will laugh, cry and cheer for Geraldine/Gerald, a wonderfully warm and really believable person, as well as all of the other people in this landmark film. If four stars is the top of the scale, this has just scored seven or eight on that scale.

Ms. Tyrrell says check it out !!!!

Book Review: by Barbara Bowden

A Tale of Two Sexes

ByCarolyn Jayne Munroe

This book is a sensitive, sometimes funny, sometimes sad, but always poignant view of the trials and tribulations of being a transsexual in another, supposedly enlightened country. There are some marvelous insights into the personality of the author and her struggles to "find" herself. She details her life from an early age and spares herself no pain in the telling. She writes with a forthrightness and honesty that will bring understanding, tears and some clarity to our own position.

When she writes of the untimely death of her son, and her opinion of the medical profession that presumes to know all things medical, we get a glimpse of the fervor of her feelings on these subjects, and also we get to understand more about ourselves too. The book also has an interesting chapter on the Law as relating to transsexualism in Great Britain, sometimes erroneously called England, and deals with the stupidity of a law where rape of a man is deemed impossible, and the ability to change one's birth certificate to reflect one's new "gender" is considered to be undesirable, and therefore not allowable. The chapter on the medical aspects of surgery is a good summary of the procedure, and should be read by all contemplating such surgery.

The author has a somewhat rambling style, which reduces the potential for dryness in her work to the barest minimum. One cannot help but laugh with her where she encounters funny episodes (all too few for all of us in this community) and cry with her as she goes through the frustrating process of trying to find a cure for her son's brain cancer, only to be thwarted by the medical profession at every turn.

This little book is not designed to be a definitive work on the subject, rather a single view, albeit a commonly seen view, of the condition. I recommend that all, who can, read this for another insight into their own condition and as a thought provoking view of how other countries deal with transsexualism and their procedures for defining and "correcting" it.

The review copy will be placed in the library for general use.

The 1995 Cotillion THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS

by Lisa Maxwell



The 1995 Cotillion is currently in the planning stages and will occur at the Russian Center on January 28. This is everyone's Cotillion, and we want to develop a creative, fulfilling experience for both the participants and the attendees. So we need your help, ideas, talents and energy to put this Cotillion together.

The theme: Through the Looking Glass, or, There and Back Again, the Lewis Carroll favorite we all know from our childhood as Alice in Wonderland, which is readily adapted for our purposes ("Alice in Genderland"?). It has wonderful allegorical and comic potential, and will serve well as a consistent running thread throughout the event.

We are staffing the Cotillion Committee with volunteers, and need people who have energy and want to help, people with stage and directing experience, people with technical video, sound and stage lighting skills, people who love and understand the basics of feeding 500 people, people with artistic skills for set and prop creation and mostly, people who just want to have fun in a very fundamental way by working on a common, rewarding effort. So come to LisaLand in sunny Palo Alto for our Cotillion meetings which occur on the 4th Sunday of every month at 4 PM. Potluck dinners are provided!

Contestants — now is the time to start thinking about what you would like to do, what you'd like to wear, and who you really want to be. Just think, you could be the next Miss or Mr. ETVC, a position of honor, high visibility and a spokesperson for our community. We had an excellent field last year, and would like another well rounded field for the 1995 event. Call me at (415)493-8099 if you're interested.

Together, we can make it all happen; And We Will...

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