

THE CHANNEL 39

Tammy Kingsley and Dillon King Take Titles at 1995 ETVC Cotillion

by Cindy R. Martin

Crowd favorites Tammy Kingsley and Dillon King were named Miss and Mr. ETVC at the 11th Annual Cotillion, taking the coveted titles over a very impressive and well-balanced group of contestants.

Ms. Kingsley and Mr. King succeed Lauren Renee Hotchkiss and Francis Vavra who wore the titles of Miss and Mr. ETVC 1994 with great aplomb in the last year. The two winners were selected by judges Betsy Bell Ringer, Doris Robinson and Sherri Webb.

Produced by vice-president Lisa Maxwell and directed for the second year by Jacqui Jewels, the show featured nine contestants: Robin Barrett, Sandra Brewer, Charlene Hunter, Mr. King, Ms. Kingsley, Heather Lamborn, Sandy Parker, Pam Souza and Tedra Thomsen. Ms. Souza was First Runner-up and Ms. Thomsen Second Runner-up.

Staged on January 28 at the Russian Center in San Francisco, the Cotillion drew a large crowd of more than 320 who watched a dazzling display of beauty, talent and wit that also featured presentations honoring three people who have contributed mightily to the cause of transgender civil rights.

This year's Community Leadership Award went to Kiki Whitlock, chairperson of the Human Rights Commission's Transgender Task Force. Ms. Whitlock was a major driving force behind hearings that led to the enactment of the transgender civil rights law that took effect on January 30, 1995 in San Francisco.



SWIFT SILVER PHOTO (DENISE HOWES)

Miss Etvc 1995 Tammy Kingsley and Mr. ETVC 1995 Dillon King

Larry Brinkin was given our Friend of the Community Award for his unstinting advocacy of transgender people in his role as a staffer at the S.F. Human Rights Commission. Though not transgendered himself, Brinkin was our tireless champion at City Hall, and a key player in getting the new law to the S.F. Board of Supervisors.

Supervisor Terence Hallinan authored the new law and mounted an impassioned effort to get it passed. With little to gain politically and much to lose, Hallinan championed our cause to his colleagues and rallied their support. For his efforts Hallinan was given our Community Empowerment Award. In an electrifying speech that brought the crowd to its feet, Hallinan called upon us to continue our battle against the discrimination both here and in other, less enlightened, places.

Two other great friends of our community, State Senator Milton Marks and his wife, Caroline, also graced us with their presence and kind words of encouragement.

Each year ETVC honors those who contribute the most to the success of the Cotillion with the Joanna Caron Award. This year the award went to Gloria Peters and Cathy Crossgrove for their volunteer work in creating the outstanding Cotillion show program. In show awards, Ms. Barrett was named "Miss Congeniality", Ms. Kingsley took the Talent Award for a spectacular hula, and Ms. Thomsen was named winner of the Active Wear Award for her unique Wonder Woman outfit.

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.

OFFICERS

| | |
|----------------|---------------------------------|
| President | J. K. Bentley |
| Vice-President | Lisa Maxwell |
| Secretary | Jamie Faye Fenton |
| Treasurer | Jano Bogg |
| Education | Ayme Kantz & Evette RoqueLaurie |
| Outreach | Denise Howes & Francis Vavra |
| Social | JoAnn Handa |

SECRETARY'S REPORT

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Membership (as of 1/31/95) | 409 |
| Membership (as of 1/31/94) | 417 |
| Total Membership last year | 454 |

TREASURER'S REPORT

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| 11/30/94 Balance | \$ 6,600.36 |
| December income | \$ 2,259.69 |
| December expenses | \$ 2,046.60 |
| 12/31/94 Balance | \$ 6,813.45 |
| January income | \$ 5,060.11 |
| January expenses | \$ 6,515.54 |
| 1/31/95 Balance (unreconciled) | \$ 5,358.02 |

ETVC is a non-profit corporation. Donations are gladly accepted. How about a Fax machine?

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.

NEWSLETTER STAFF

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Editor | Francis Vavra |
| Associate Editors | J.K. Bentley, B. Dunne, Jamie Fenton, Ginny K., P. Souza |
| Copy Editor | D. Sexton |
| Advertising | "Your name could be here". |
| Photographer | Jamie Fenton |
| Layout & Design | Kevin Anderson |
| Printing | Your Place Graphics |

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
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EDITORS NOTES

Francis Vavra



I just stepped down as the first Mr. ETVC, but as stated in my departure speech, I'm not stepping away, so here I am as the new Editor of The Channel. Our busy secretary Jamie Faye co-produced the last issue, and along with Ginny Knuth, is assisting me with this one. Another FTM editor! I would like to thank Kevin Horwitz for the great job he did on all the previous issues he edited. The vision I have for The Channel is seeing more dialogue between members of our organization, in print. What are you experiencing in your lives around gender? I would like human interest stories, letters to The Channel, new regular or guest columns, as several contributors have recently had to drop away. ('Night Man' will continue as long as I have material). If you have an interesting story, happy or sad, please send it to me; or contact me at a social if you would like to write a column, review a book or gender event, or interview someone (see Kevin Horwitz' interview in this issue as a good example). Hoping to hear from you! Address correspondence to "Francis Vavra", P.O. Box 8182, Berkeley, CA 94707.

P.S. I was deeply touched by everyone who congratulated me on my year as the first Mr. ETVC at the Cotillion. I don't cry easily now, but I broke down the next day and want you to know I love you all; I am truly blessed to have such friends. I now have a successor to carry on the "Mr." tradition, but I will still be around, kissing hands, which is my tradition.

Letters to the Channel

Editor:

I would like to extend my highest compliments to Lisa Maxwell and her staff for the unfathomable amount of hard work that went into this year's Cotillion. My attendance this year holds special significance, for as I am in the finishing stages of completing the Recommended Guidelines for Transgender Care, I was in the company of personal friends and assistants whom I took to the Cotillion as a gesture of appreciation for their hard work and unwavering personal support. We truly had an enchanting evening!

On another note, in past years ETVC has had the reputation of being comprised of a very tight knit social circle. This year's continued inclusion of and warmth extended to *all* transgender individuals, with special recognition of our highly valued FTM, African-American and Asian-Pacific Islander community members, sets the stage for much needed healing and empowerment. We

should not "only" thank James Green, Tammy Kingsley, Doris Robinson, Sheri Webb and Kiki Whitlock for their individual endeavors, which whether we are closeted or not we benefit from, but also extend to them our deepest respect for bringing together fractured segments of our community.

Sincere Regards,
Gianna Eveling Israel

So Near and Yet So Far

As Halloween approached, I labored on my costume at my sewing machine. Earlier, dreams of a lavish gown had materialized with shivers of excitement tingling on my bare shoulders. Too expensive. During some private sessions I pushed and pulled, stuffing flesh and found that I could create a swelling which resulted in noticeable cleavage. Tall and thin, I've always possessed shapely legs, and a flash on TV of a Dallas cheerleader made up my mind. A pair of white short shorts from Ross, appropriately padded, looked great.

Hours at the sewing machine produced a satin, royal blue, long sleeved blouse that tied with two long tails in front. More sewing yielded a petite white vest, fringed, with blue stars. White knee-high boots finished the outfit. Blue and white pom-poms, long red fingernails, carefully applied makeup, and I was ready. Or was I? Excitement was tinged with fear as the day approached. Could I do it? What would my S.O. say? Her daughter lives with us and knows nothing about Jo Anne. My S.O. fears my discovery and dislikes Jo Anne, although she was aware of her existence before we married. For years, I dreamed about each Halloween Ball, and felt empty when it passed without me. The day before, I drove to the Dunfey Hotel and inspected the parking, the entry, the ballroom. In town, I checked a few motels and felt satisfied with two. It could be done!

That night, I steeled myself and mentioned it to my S.O. A pall hung for a moment, her head shaking, a sigh escaped

Continued ...see Letters, page 6

In Memory

Ellen Summers

On December 17, 1994, Ellen Summers, after a long illness, passed away quietly in her home in Portland, Oregon. Ellen has been a dedicated member of the transgendered community for more than twenty years. She was co-founder of the Northwest Gender Alliance in Portland and a member of IFGE's Board of Directors since its inception. Ellen has also been an active member of ETVC since 1986.

In 1991, this extraordinary lady became the first recipient of IFGE's Trinity Award and in 1994, she became the eighth recipient of the Virginia Prince Outstanding Service Award. Her many acts of love and caring extended to those of us who were fortunate enough to know her in ETVC. Ellen Summers will remain in our hearts and our history as one of the most beloved members of the transgendered community.

A memorial fund has been set up for Ellen with contributions to go to IFGE's Winslow Street Endowment Fund. A grant will be presented in Ellen's name at the Coming Together Convention in Atlanta on March 16, 1995. Ellen's wife, Pat, will select the purpose of the grant and the recipient. If you wish to contribute, please make your checks out to the Winslow Street Fund, and send it to: The Ellen Summers Memorial Fund, c/o IFGE-WSF, P.O. Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778.



President's Message

Jane Kamper Bentley

After the Battle of Britain was won in World War II, Winston Churchill said "It is not...the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning." Our new civil rights law in San Francisco is not the end of prejudice. It gives us the tools for victory. Now we must use them in a battle against ignorance and bigotry.

Instead of bombs we use words. Instead of hate we use love, as we go out to schools, jobsites, police stations, hospitals, colleges — wherever people need to learn about our new law and to learn about us. That is, everywhere. Sign up with the new Transgender Task Force, which meets 5:30 p.m. every fourth Tuesday at 25 Van Ness, eighth floor conference room. For more information call Larry Brinkin (415) 252-2510.

Elections for the 1995-96 Executive Committee are only three months away. First, though, we need nominations. New to ETVC? Never served on a committee before? Neither had our current Vice-President, Lisa Maxwell. Think of yourself as too far out of the ETVC "mainstream?" Francis Vavra, as an FTM, is on a stream going the other way, yet he's made a distinguished contribution as Education co-chair last year and Outreach co-chair this year. Too busy? I challenge any two members to be half as busy as our Secretary, Jamie Fay Fenton. If you're a

member of a racial minority, perhaps you feel that ETVC is just for white, middle class people. Get on the Executive Committee, as JoAnne Handa and Evette RoqueLaurie did, and add to our palette. Dissatisfied with the club's general direction, disagree with certain policies? Run for president! Nominations will be held at the March 23 social.

ETVC's logo is getting a facelift. Ayme Kantz's entry in our logo contest (remember the logo contest?) was the unanimous first choice of our judges (Geri Handa, Bill Jones, Cindy Martin, Joe Pulido and Melinda Whiteway), needing only minor refinement to be completely satisfactory. I'm writing this late in January, so I'm not sure if we'll have the final version in time to display on our cover. Thanks to all who entered, also to our judges and to our judge coordinator, former ETVC Secretary and DVG co-anchor Donna Freeman. My apologies to the other finishers for not listing your names, but I don't know who you are yet. We'll see that you get your share of fame next issue.

P.S. If you hear a rumor that Ayme is using her \$100 prize money as a down payment for facial surgery to make her look like our old logo, remember that I didn't say it first.

The next time you're shopping for a product or service, please check to see if it's provided by one of our advertisers. The money these folks pay for ads provides a hefty percentage of our publishing costs. Patronize them and tell them you read their ad in the Channel so they'll feel encouraged to keep supporting us.

Special Events



ETVC Mid-Month Dance Socials

Wednesdays. March 8th and April 12th

These events offer the opportunity to socialize in a smaller group setting. People who have attended say they have a great time! Dancing is available, so come on down and party if you are looking for something to do on a Wednesday evening. Upstairs at Kimo's * 1351 Polk at Pine, SF * 8PM * Free Admission.

Education Seminar: PFLAG

Wednesday, March 15th

Continuing our efforts to expand ETVC's association with prominent and interested organizations, we invite you to come meet Julia and Sam Thoron, local representatives for PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians & Gays). This well-established national non-profit is keenly interested in providing much-needed support for parents and friends of lesbians, gays and bisexuals, and recently have begun to express their need in expanding their understanding and services to the transgendered community as well. Having this referral available to ETVC will further strengthen us as we continue to provide vital information to our community. Please come and give us your input. Kimo's * 8 PM * \$3.

Leather and Lace Nite

Thursday, March 30th

Come on down and have a fun evening out. Wear leather, wear lace, or wear both. Come see — no, YOU be the show! Theme door prizes. Eichelberger's * 2742 17th St. @ Florida, SF * 8 PM * \$3 Members, \$5 Guests.

Educational Seminar: A Presentation from Joyce's Perfect Fit

Wednesday, April 12th

OK girls, we're going to try this one again. Due to an unfortunate scheduling conflict, we had to cancel this seminar in January, but Joyce (a saint in this writer's mind, for her patience and understanding) has graciously consented to give it another go! Come meet her and learn everything you always wanted to know about brassieres, fittings, prostheses and, of course, the new Wonder Bra! Combining with the monthly Dance Social, it's going to be a fun and informative evening. * Kimo's * 8 PM * \$3.

TS Seminar and Social: HBIGDA

Update with Alice Webb

Sunday, April 23rd

The HBIGDA (Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association) is now legendary within the transgendered communities, and not without (often heated) controversy. Known for publishing the Standards of Care, much has been aired about its validity, its restrictions, its mandates and its benefits. It's time

for a fresh look at HBIGDA and who better to give us an update than the Executive Director herself, Alice Webb, LCSW. Speaking for myself, I have a lot of questions for Alice that I need answers for, and I'm sure there are a lot of you out there who feel the same. Mark the date on your calendar now and plan on being there! A Potluck Social will follow. Please bring an item to share according to your last names as follows: A-G: salads * H-M: main dish * N-S: desserts * T-Z: paper goods * Kimo's * 2 PM * FREE! Donations gratefully accepted.

FTM Fundraiser

Thursday, April 27th

ETVC will help raise some funds for the FTM group. We are excited to tell you they will hold their first Convention in August and it will be in our City, San Francisco! So, let's get out and have fun. A bake sale, auctions and raffle items are planned. Let's support this good cause and help our friends. Eichelbergers, 2742 - 17th Street at Florida, SF * Starts at 8 PM * Members \$3, Guests \$5.

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TV/TS/TG GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

A Calendar of Events for March & April



MARCH

| | | | | | |
|----|-----------|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 3 | Pac Ctr | TV/TS Rap | Meets 8-10 PM | Berkeley | (510) 841-6224 |
| 3 | RGA | Social | Starts at 8 PM | San Jose | (408) 984-4044 |
| 4 | ETVC | Executive Committee | Starts at 8 PM | San Jose | (415) 750-1850 |
| 5 | ETVC | Education Committee | Meets at 3 PM | San Francisco | (415) 648-0973 |
| 6 | DVG | Social | Starts at 8 PM | Walnut Creek | (510) 937-8432 |
| 8 | ETVC | Dance Social | Starts at 8 PM | Kimo's-Upstairs | (415) 282-2803 |
| 9 | ETVC | Significant Others | Meets 7:30-10 PM | San Jose | (415) 664-1499 |
| 9 | ETVC | Outreach Committee | Meets at 7:30 PM | Berkeley | (510) 534-8407 |
| 10 | ETVC | Poker Social | Starts at 8 PM | San Francisco | (415) 664-1499 |
| 10 | Pac Ctr | TV/TS Rap | Meets 8-10 PM | Berkeley | (510) 841-6224 |
| 10 | South Bay | Gender Discussion Group | Meets 8-10 PM | San Jose | (408) 984-5619 |
| 11 | SGA | Social | Starts at 7:30 PM | Sacramento | (916) 482-7742 |
| 11 | ETVC | SOS Luncheon | Starts at 11 AM | San Jose | (510) 934-0826 |
| 12 | FTM | Informational Meeting | Meets 2 PM | San Francisco | (510) 287-2646 |
| 15 | ETVC | PFLAG | Starts at 8 PM | Kimo's-Upstairs | (415) 648-0973 |
| 15 | DVG | Social | Starts at 8 PM | Walnut Creek | (510) 937-8432 |
| 17 | ETVC | Bowling Night | Call for details | San Francisco | (415) 731-7032 |
| 17 | RGA | Social | Starts at 8 PM | San Jose | (408) 984-4044 |
| 17 | Pac Ctr | TV/TS Rap | Meets 8-10 PM | Berkeley | (510) 841-6224 |
| 19 | ETVC | TS Committee | Meets at 2 PM | Kimo's-Upstairs | (415) 648-0973 |
| 23 | ETVC | Couples Social | Starts at 8 PM | Pleasant Hill | (415) 664-1499 |
| 25 | SGA | ocial | Starts at 7:30 PM | Sacramento | (916) 482-7742 |
| 28 | ETVC | Social Committee | Meets at 8 PM | Eichelberger's | (415) 282-2803 |
| 30 | ETVC | Leather & Lace Nite | Starts at 8 PM | Eichelberger's | (415) 282-2803 |

APRIL

| | | | | | |
|----|-----------|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 2 | ETVC | Education Committee | Meets at 3 PM | San Francisco | (415) 648-0973 |
| 3 | DVG | Social | Starts at 8 PM | Walnut Creek | (510) 937-8432 |
| 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 | 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) 282-2803 |
| 12 | ETVC | Joyce's Perfect Fit | Starts at 8 PM | Kimo's-Upstairs | (415) 648-0973 |
| 13 | ETVC | Significant Others | Meets 7:30-10 PM | Palo Alto | (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 |
| 19 | DVG | Social | Starts at 8 PM | Walnut Creek | (510) 937-8432 |
| 20 | ETVC | Couples Social | Starts at 8 PM | Foster City | (415) 664-1499 |
| 21 | ETVC | Bowling Night | Call for details | San Francisco | (415) 731-7032 |
| 21 | RGA | Social | 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 | Social | Starts at 7:30 PM | Sacramento | (916) 482-7742 |
| 23 | ETVC | TS Seminar -HBIGDA | Starts at 2 PM | Kimo's-Upstairs | (415) 648-0973 |
| 25 | ETVC | Social Committee | Meets at 8 PM | Eichelberger's | (415) 282-2803 |
| 27 | ETVC | FTM Fundraiser | Starts at 8 PM | Eichelberger's | (415) 282-2803 |
| 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 the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, and last Friday 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. Write: PO Box 215456, Sacramento, CA 95821-1456. Call: (916) 482-7SGA. Now held at The Townhouse, 1517 - 21st St., Sacramento (no dinners served).

Diablo Valley Girls (DVG) Meets first Monday and third Wednesday of every month. 8 PM at Just Rewards Night-club, 2520 Camino Diablo in Walnut Creek. Write: DVG, PO Box 272885, Concord, CA 94527-2885. Call: (510) 937-8432.

The Tenderloin Self-Help Centre (a project of the Central City Community Hospitality House funded by the Community Mental Health Services) meets every Wednesday, 4-6 PM, at 191 Golden Gate, 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) 827-2646.

ETVC Membership Application

Please Print

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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

Secretary's Report

I am pleased to welcome Francis Vavra to his new job as Channel Editor. Having helped edit the RGA Rainbow, and with my guest stint last issue, I know that the editor's job is a big one (and a rewarding one). Even though he was quite busy participating in the Cotillion, he has things well in hand as I write this.



Many of us were quite busy at the Cotillion. A considerable amount of volunteer time, donated money and materials goes into our premiere annual event. The volunteer crew list is two pages long and includes everyone from the Emcees to the roadies who carried the loudspeakers up the stairs.

Congratulations to my friend Lisa Maxwell, who has done the best job I have ever seen anyone do putting on an event like this. Thank you! Congratulations and thanks to everyone else on the list, and to those who pitched in at the last minute as problems came up.

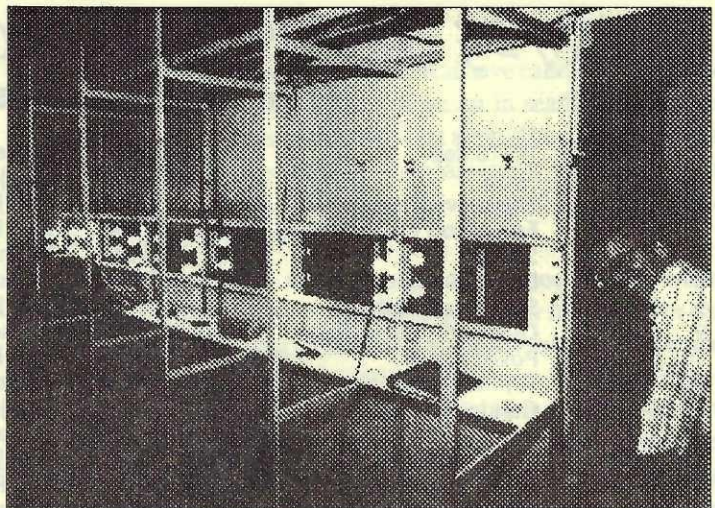
We on the Cotillion committee are already thinking about next year. Let us know what we did right and what we did wrong, and what you would like to see us do next time.

Denise Howes has been officially confirmed as the new Outreach Co-Chair, as Lauren Hotchkiss relinquished this position. *Congratulations, Denise!*

Thank You From Lisa Maxwell

To everyone who worked on the Cotillion in any way, I want to thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

- To our awesome contestants, thank you for your display of personal courage and commitment.
- To an intrepid and incredible stage crew, thank you for your attention to detail, wonderful sets, and help.
- To our technical crew, you made this show technically the best ever - thank you so much.
- To our judges and judge coordinators, thank you for all of your extended efforts.
- To our Food people, thank you for incredible service and culinary delights.
- To everyone who helped with facilities, ticket sales, decorating and clean-up - you were great.
- Thanks to our marketing group, who sold more ads than ever in the face of torrential rains.
- Thank you to our directors Jacqui Jewels and Bob Johnstone, you did an incredible job.
- Alice, White Rabbit, Mad Hatter, March Hare, Dormouse and Genderpillar, thank you for being so much in character.
- And finally, to my dear friends Jane Kamper Bentley and dearest Jamie Faye Fenton - I wouldn't have been able to do any of this without you. And thank you, Mom.



Final preparations underway at the Cotillion as the "state of the art" dressing room nears completion.

Jamie Fenton Photo

Letters...continued from pg. 2

her pretty lips. "I don't know why you have to do this? Aren't I enough for you?" I tried to explain that she was all I could want in a woman, but this was different. I recalled my telling her of my feelings years ago. Her hurt was evident, her lack of understanding loomed like a thunder cloud. Finally, she said, "I just won't come home from work tomorrow. I'll do something, but I don't know why you have to do this to me, and I don't want to see you dressed up."

Sadly, I read about the Ball in the Newsletter, the Ball which was so wonderful, and which brought happiness and excitement to so many, and which I missed again. In my mind it was so near. In reality, so far. But some day, some day.

Jo Anne Owens

(Ed. Note: A very poignant story. Tell your S.O. Halloween comes but once a year, and everyone dresses up as their fantasy, yours just happens to be a woman. Next year, ask her to accompany you dressed as her favorite creation. If she won't go, allow yourself the pleasure; after all that sewing, you deserve it; besides, we'd all like to meet that pretty cheerleader! Also, tell her about the S.O. group, she is not alone.)

Mr. ETVC 1995 Can Party!

The new Miss ETVC Tammy Kingsley, contestants, producer, backstage crew, and former Mr. ETVC were invited to a champagne Super Bowl/post-Cotillion party hosted by Dillon J. King, newly crowned Mr. ETVC '95, in his luxurious S.F. hotel suite on Sunday, Jan. 29. Tammy was unable to attend. Five contestants, including runners-up, a stress-free Lisa Maxwell and crew partied and watched the victorious Niners. High points were the half time extravaganza, with a cast of thousands in Egyptian drag (plus Tony Bennett), endless toasts to the newly crowned Mr. and Miss ETVC, the game outcome, and a secret male bonding initiation between past and present Mr. ETVCs (attendees' lips are sealed). A sixties atmosphere pervaded the room as all joined hands and held a group "love-in". A great start for the new reign!

[Ed. note: Received anonymously from a participant].

Victory Brunch

by Francis Vavra

A week after being crowned, the new Mr. and Miss ETVC, Cotillion contestants, and crew were treated to a wonderful celebration brunch held in the Blue Muse Restaurant atrium. Everyone was made to feel like a winner (which they were), as a tremendous team effort went into producing the show. The especially beautiful programs were used for collecting autographs from each other. Great prizes were given to the Runners-up as well as to Mr. and Miss. Lauren and I were surprised by a presentation of amazingly beautiful gold engraved watches, a project Evette undertook. (Can we collect pensions now? Looking at our shining successors, I felt a bit old). The tireless Jamie Faye took photos and had reprints from the Cotillion available. This felt like a real closing for the Cotillion, with acknowledgements, toasts, new friendships, and a feeling of fun and comraderie between all participants. Our new Mr. and Miss ETVC pledged to continue to represent the group in their best style, and Lauren and I feel the group will be on hand to assist them in their new reign, if they need us.

DVG Socials Change Nights

Due to new events at JR's in Walnut Creek, DVG has changed their social nights to the first Monday and third Wednesday of each month. On Wednesdays there will be a DJ playing 70's disco music in the dance area. See you all on the new nights!

Outreach Speakers Bureau Seeks Voices

Anyone interested in public speaking as part of our Outreach Speakers Bureau, please contact Denise Howes or Francis Vavra. Especially needed are transgendered people with free daytime hours, as that is when many schools and groups have classes or meetings. It's fun, it helps instill personal poise and confidence while bringing needed education and information to interested others. Thanks.

[letter to ETVC Pres. Jane K. Bentley]

Dear Ms. Bentley,

Thank you for your invitation to the ETVC Cotillion, Alice in Genderland. The event sounds truly festive and I am very disappointed that I will not be able to attend due to a prior commitment.

Please keep me informed of your group's events and activities. The work that ETVC does on behalf of the transgender community benefits all San Franciscans. Thanks for all you do.

Sincerely,

Susan Leal,
Member,
Board of Supervisors

[Ed. note: Ms. Leal was one of the Board members responsible for the recent legislation on transgendered rights in San Francisco.]

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Miss ETVC Chronicles

Hail and Farewell... A Reign Wrap Up

by Lauren Rene' Hotchkiss

What a year. I feel blessed to have been a part of so many exciting events and to have had the opportunity to meet so many wonderful people. The period of my reign holds fond memories that I will cherish all my life.

I attended royal galas, coronations, and investitures in imperial courts throughout the Bay Area, and had the honor of receiving the title of "Ambassador" from Empress Tiffany of the Imperial Star Empire. I also made diplomatic visits to DVG, RGA, FTM, and other gender and sexual minority organizations.

I rode in the ETVC convertible in the Freedom Day Parade, greeting old friends and making new ones along the way, and then did further outreach with the crowd at our booth.

I also attended Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Task Force meetings and testified before the Human Rights Commission.

In the spiritual community I have also been active with gender outreach, where I am studying to be a minister, as well as at Berkeley, where I attend classes, giving several speeches, one of which was taped by our own newly formed Multimedia Committee.

Perhaps, however, my greatest honor has been that of serving as co-regent with the first Mr. ETVC ever, Francis Vavra, whose courage, charm, and commitment to both the transgender and sexual minority communities has been an inspiration to me throughout the year.

This will be my last article as a regular columnist in the Channel, though I will still submit articles on an occasional basis. I've had to make the decision to lessen my involvement in the gender community for awhile. Not because I care any less about ETVC and all of you, for you hold a very special place in my heart, but because I am facing some physical and emotional challenges right now which I need to put energy into healing, and because of my growing realization of my gender journey becoming more and more of a spiritual one. Worry not; I am a survivor. Miss ETVCs and former Miss ETVCs are made of pretty sturdy stuff, after all.

Although you may not see me at socials and other ETVC events as often, I'll still be there in spirit, for I love you all. I won't be disappearing completely, however, for I'm definitely planning to be at the next Freedom Day Parade and am already working on ideas for the next Cotillion.

Though I am stepping down as Outreach Co-chair as well, I will continue on as a member of the committee, devoting myself to musical performance and writing projects, such as the completion of an article on ETVC's role in the gender community that I am planning for the national magazine market.

I may not have accomplished everything that I had hoped to during my reign (one is doing well if one accomplishes a quarter of one's plans, I am told), but I did achieve much that I feel proud of, and did my best to make a difference.

I want all of you to know how proud I am to have been your Miss ETVC. As I step down from the position I have felt honored to hold over this past year, let me reiterate what I said at the Cotillion. "Long live Mr. and Miss ETVC '95, may they reign in happiness, in love, in honor and in peace."

And now it is time, not to say goodbye, for we shall meet again, but rather, adieu. See you in Genderland.

Love, Lauren

P.S. - Billie Jean, Shaunna and Teri inform me that the Wuzzy Home (the home for former Miss ETVCs) is very nice, and that they have reserved a pink rocker for me.



Mr. & Miss ETVC, 1994

Sandy Kasten
MBA
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Night Man

Francis Vavra

You Can Leave My Hat On

Over the past six months, many of my transgendered adventures have been of a more introspective nature, or else x-rated, limiting my options for an appropriate column. However, I couldn't resist recounting one recent escapade that hopefully won't offend anyone's sensibilities too much. Please bear in mind I am going through a second (male) adolescence on hormones, and occasionally need to let off steam in order to continue upholding my gentlemanly image the rest of the time.

I have always been fascinated with unique individuals, and what might be termed anomalies. Coupled with my interest in exotic dancers, it should come as no surprise that I would discover "Amazonian headliners" (my term). These are beautiful young women who augment their upper anatomy with basketball sized implants, advertising themselves as 36FFF, 38ZZZ, etc., dance around the country and do magazine photos, make lots of money and eventually return to their original tiny C or D shapes.

One evening found me at a small downtown dance theater watching such a headliner. Tawny was especially pretty, and gigglingly playful as she cavorted on stage during the three numbers allowed. Unlike the other dancers who completely strip, headliners keep their panties on, to focus on their special attributes. For her second number, Tawny took baseball caps from the audience, which all the guys were wearing, and hung them two at a time on herself like a goofy strapless bra, before tossing them back to the elated owners. As the final number began, she pranced down the runway to where I had placed my black gypsy fedora hat, along with a couple of dollars. Smiling at me, she asked if she could borrow it for a few minutes. I said sure, and to my surprise and secret joy she proceeded to dance the entire song with my fedora on her head, after the strapless bra routine with it, looking chic with her long hair and man's hat. Ending her dance with a cartwheel and split, she placed the hat back on my head and disappeared behind the curtains. Several guys had been looking at me with envy, probably wondering what I had that they didn't. Well, a classier hat for one thing, and a little secret between us for another (she knew I was a woman from an earlier show last year).

Afterwards, I stood in line with her fans, who read me as a man. We exchanged "man talk" in our common appreciation of Tawny as we waited for her agent to take polaroids of us each posed with her. I brought a calendar fold-out for her to autograph which Roxanna found for me, knowing she was my favorite dancer, and when we posed for our polaroid, she put my hat back on. That hat is now a true fetish object, with the scent of her perfume still faintly on the inside sweatband. My brother bought it for my birthday when I first came out as Francis, I wore it on Geraldo (we also posed for a polaroid, but I wore the hat), it is the one in my bi-line photo above, and I wore it when I stepped down as Mr. ETVC. What did you say? Can you borrow it? Of course not, but you can admire it on me!

Barbara J. Anderson

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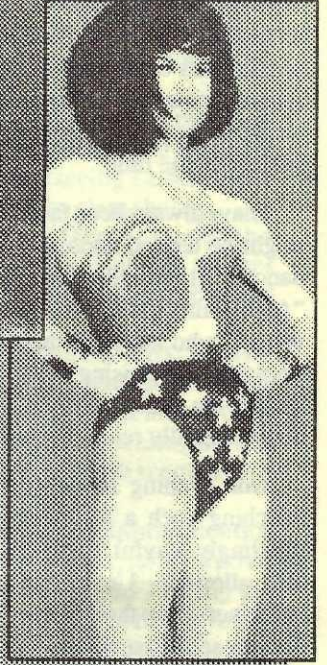
< Dillon and Sandra Brewer in Formal Wear Competition



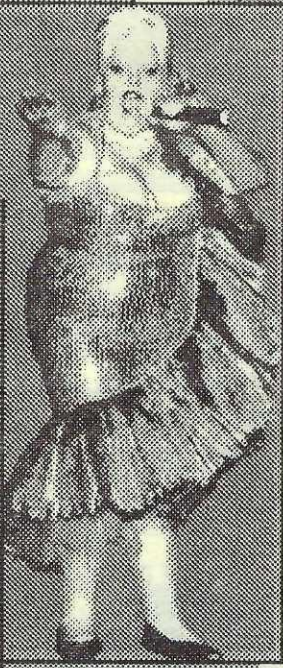
< Dillon and tool belt Active Wear Competition



Charlene — Torch Singer, Talent Competition



Second Runner-Up Tedra in winning Active Wear outfit



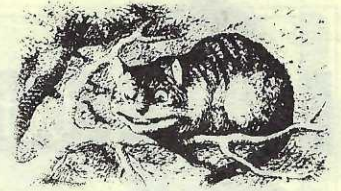
< Irene Soderberg — M.C. and Entertainer

< Pam Souza — First Runner-Up

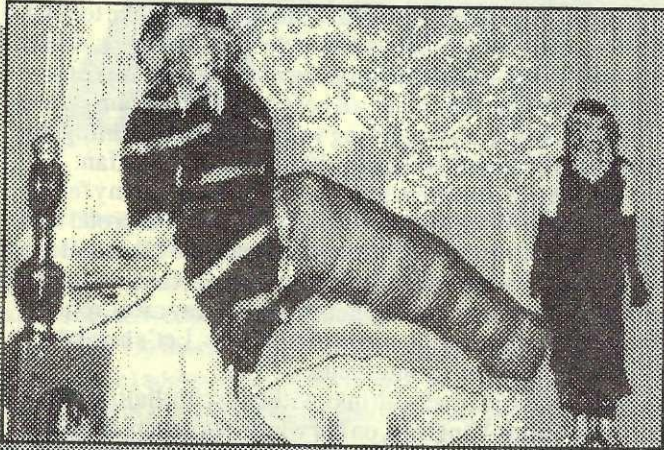
The Contestants: (l-r) Heather, Robin, Sandy P., Tammy, Dillon, The Genderpillar, Sandra B., Pam, Charlene, and Tedra



The 1995 ETVC Cotillion



Genderizer Bunny crashes Mad Hatter's Tea Party



Genderpillar Nancy Ann smoking hookah as contestant Heather looks on.



Judges (l-r) Doris Robinson, Betsy Bell Ringer, Sherri Webb, and coordinators Robyn Midnight, and Jano Bogg.



Tammy in Tahitian Hula Dance for Talent Competition



< Alice and the White Rabbit (Lauren & Francis)



Mr. & Miss ETVC 1995, Tammy & Dillon



Cotillion Skybox

by Pam Souza

Welcome to the sequined RV that is the temporary skybox. The 1995 ETVC Cotillion so thoroughly rocked the house that my regular post has closed for a seismic upgrade. Congratulations to Mr. and Miss ETVC 1995, Dillon King and Tammy Kingsley. The regal sounding last names fit well. Congrat's and thanks as well to my fellow contestants, the production and house staff, and all who attended for making the evening memorable.

Producer Lisa Maxwell and contestant coordinator Lulu Blau scouted from Sonoma to Santa Cruz for contestants with the right chemistry to nurture into a cohesive, fun loving group. Perhaps too fun loving. Jacqui Jewels was more than up to the challenge of working us goofballs into performance shape. Lesser directors would have sought refuge in a federal witness protection program. Jacqui stood her ground. The confidence she instilled in us has proven to be more valuable than any prizes or titles. Choreographer Rainbeau and style consultant Wilhelmina Beins also shared their expertise to help us move more like models and less like a moose herd.

Saturday night, we each had our moments, on stage and off. Heather Lamborn drew the difficult first slot for the talent showcase. She blew away the pressure and the crowd with her solid rendition of "I Will Survive", complete with three-foot tall feathered "Priscilla" headdress. Not bad for someone who had been up all the previous night stringing beads on her friend Tammy's costume.

Sandy Parker savored the modeling segments in her bathing suit with lace cover-up and later in a stunning turquoise evening gown. Backstage, she had the quip of the evening, when asked if she had brought a friend to help dress her. "My friends have enough

trouble dressing themselves", she said to a chorus of laughs.

Dillon, who cut quite the figure in a classic 1918 tux, made sure I will never think of power tools or duct tape as before. He was brave enough to be first respondent to the dreaded Genderpillar, an awe-inspiring day-glo worm from a batch of radioactive tequila.

Watch out for Tedra Thomsen/Wonder Woman/Snow White. The second runner-up and active wear winner is a creative force to be reckoned with. She made all her props and costumes, and made rehearsal history by joining yours truly in modeling dry cleaning bags. I like this kid, even if she is a Chargers fan.

Winning the audience back after intermission was my fellow Cotillion veteran Robin Barrett, who did the Lost Girls proud with her soulful performance of "I Have Nothing (If I Don't Have You)". And she did more than alright by the rest of us throughout rehearsals and performance, by helping us all stay calm, relaxed and focused, more so by example than by words. Let's hope she's backstage for next year's contestants.

Melting the ice in several drinks with her scintillating island dances was Tammy Kingsley, on her way to becoming the talent winner and Miss ETVC. The rest of us, upon seeing Tammy in her sexy island attire decided we would rather be clam shells.

Sandra Brewer touched hearts in a different way with a poignant monologue about transgendered life. Nervous at times in rehearsals, Sandra rose to the occasion that night and charmed the audience with amusing gems of truth.

Charlene Hunter went retro and "Double Dare(d)" us to indulge her love for vintage music and fashions. Charlene genuinely loved being in the Cotillion. She showed it in her attention to details like her homemade Thirties microphone bearing the call letters ETVC, and her beach ball on a string (which seemed even more charming when it got away from her).

No recap of the Cotillion would be complete without mention of Francis and Lauren who, to paraphrase Francis, stepped down but not away, in style. New regents Dillon and Tammy are fortunate to have them as predecessors. They, like the rest of us, will benefit from their continued support. Thanks for a great year.

[Ed. note: Too humble to mention it, Pam herself was first runner-up. Goodgoing!]

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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.

A Community With Tears In Its Eyes

If you are lucky, every so often in your lifetime you will meet someone very special who will have a profound influence on your thinking and perhaps even in the direction your life is going at the time. Just such a meeting happened for me in 1983 when Nancy Ann and I were invited to attend the first weekend outing at Pajaro Dunes which Joan Sheldon puts on three or four times a year. This weekend was my first experience other than a meeting at the Chez Mollet with "other transvestites", and I was apprehensive and totally confused about what this "strange and new to me" lifestyle might entail. Nancy Ann was so excited she packed twenty bags in every nook and cranny of the car, and my over the shoulder bag only fit on the floor between my legs in the front seat. Believe me, I didn't know what to expect. At that time there were very few books available on the subject and most of the TV's I had met were pretty closeted.

When we arrived, we were greeted warmly by Joanie and introduced to some of the people already there, including Ginger, Betsy, Linda and Celeste from LA (hooray, another SO), Dorothy from Canada and Ellen Summers from Portland. It didn't take me long to figure out that these people were the "state of the art" of the community. These intelligent, sensitive, loving people shared their feelings with me in candid, open-minded and sincere conversation throughout that weekend.

Most of all, Ellen Summers entranced me with her golden aura, charm and patience as she answered question after question that I know now she had answered many times before to many others. For me, though, it was the kindest gift anyone had ever given me — to listen to my fears, to care about them and to try to help me sort it all out. We were instant friends, a blessing for which I will always be grateful. Over the years we met again at Pajaro Dunes and at IFGE Conventions all around the country. I learned how esteemed she was to everyone in the gender community, and rightfully so. Ellen was a positive person. She only said good things about others and she was the most giving, together person I have ever met.

Ellen passed away last December after a long illness. My sadness over the loss of such a wonderful friend knows no bounds. We last sat and talked together in Portland last March at the IFGE Convention, during which she was presented with the Virginia Prince Outstanding Service Award. Her wife, Pat, who was supportive in so many ways, and her daughter were there to watch the presentation with pride.

So why am I telling this story in the significant other column of our newsletter? If over the past ten years I have been helpful in any way to any of you, the person who taught me to listen and care about you, who inspired me to become involved with ETVC and to work as hard as I could to help you and your SO's to deal with the transgendered lifestyle was Ellen Summers. She not only showed me how to reach out a helping hand to others in this community, she showed me why it was so important to do so. This lesson that Ellen taught by example became my goal for the past ten years. If there had been no Ellen Summers, there would have been no Ginny Knuth for ETVC. With all the rewards and joys I've experienced in that time with this organization and its members and the beautiful friendships we have made through our SOS and Couples Groups, it is with the deepest humility and respect that I bid adieu to Ellen Summers. She has always been and always will be our community's gender angel.

On Saturday, March 11th, there will be a Luncheon Meeting for Wives and Significant Others in San Jose. For those of you who cannot make our evening meetings, this is an opportunity for you to meet with us in a pleasant atmosphere to share your feelings. You may bring your partner with you to the restaurant, but he will sit at another table with the other "Insignificants" dressed in DRAB (dressed as a boy). This rule is made for the new significant others who might feel uncomfortable otherwise. These luncheons have been very successful this past year and we encourage you to take part. For reservations and actual location, please call 510-934-0826.



(for partners of gender-gifted males). That's us! This year the meeting will take place in Memphis, Tennessee. Again, crossdressers attending are asked to remain in DRAB. If you are interested in details, you may write to Linda Peacock, PO Box 24031, Little Rock, AR 72221, or call (501) 227-8798.

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, March 9 and Thursday, April 13. There will be a Saturday luncheon meeting on March 11. You are welcome with open arms. For more information call Ginny at (415) 664-1499.

Just a note here to let you know there is a SPICE Convention planned again this year in July, from the 27th to the 30th. SPICE is the Spouses, Partners International Conference for Education

The Doctor Is



*The first of two parts,
Kevin Horwitz interviews
gender specialist Dr. Lin Fraser*

KEVIN HORWITZ: You've been in practice for 25 years; during that time, have a number of those years been working with transgendered people?

LIN FRASER: My very first client was transsexual. As a beginning graduate student, they immediately throw you into a clinic where you learn by doing. The first person who walked in the door was transsexual.

KH: Did it freak you out?

LF: Well, I didn't know.

KH: You didn't know they were transsexual?

LF: No.

KH: Were they male-to-female?

LF: A male-to-female, she was scheduled for surgery the following month, at the Stanford program. She came to Fort Help, where I was doing my internship, in 1971. She wanted to work on her anger, and I was relieved, because I was hoping my first client would be someone I could connect with, and have an issue that I had some experience with. I felt that was something a beginning therapist could handle. About two-thirds into the first session, she mentioned she was a pre-operative transsexual scheduled for surgery. I don't know if I had ever heard of it. I can't remember. It didn't freak me out, I just felt unqualified.

KH: So, you sat there thinking...

LF: No, I told her I was unqualified but also that I was very interested. When she started talking about what it was like being transsexual, I could relate from a feminist perspective. I'd had the experience of being treated differently than I experience myself, not related to body image, but to gender role. I told her I would try to find another therapist who was more experienced because even though I could help her with anger, I didn't have any idea how to help her with gender. She insisted on seeing me, and I said, alright, you can teach me, and she did.

KH: Did you feel that you were guided in a particular direction?

LF: Certainly. And I still am. At that time, there was almost nothing in the literature. Almost everything I know about this field comes from the clients. I wound up, at her request, being in the operating room for her surgery. They didn't offer ongoing therapy at the Stanford program (and still don't), so they were relieved to find somebody who was genuinely interested, and who the clients liked. They started referring clients to me, and that's how I started out. In 1977, I went into private practice, and I've been right here, at 2538 California Street, since 1977.

KH: Since all that time? Boy, talk about grounded! Let me ask you this, you are also a Jungian therapist, right? How does this figure into your work with transgendered clients?

LF: The central tenet in Jungian analysis is something called "individuation" whereby the client is enabled to find his or her most authentic self. The Jungian perspective has less to do with the collective, i.e., society,

.....

*"...Jungians don't
spend a lot of time
on diagnosis. We're
not interested in
pathology, but in
consciousness,
growth and
healing..."*

.....

what the norm is, what the cultural imperatives are, and more to do with looking inside yourself and finding your own voice. The goal of Jungian analysis is individuation, finding and listening to your own truth.

KH: That's what people are doing anyway, when they are on this kind of journey?

LF: Right. So it's absolutely consistent. The Jungian perspective is also very spiritual. What that means is finding your inner truth, which is connected to all of life. In Jungian terms, it is called the Self, with a

big S (greater than ego). It includes becoming conscious of all the different parts of the psyche: the ego, which is consciousness, and the contrasexual part (the anima or animus), and getting in touch with the shadow, the dark side of the Self. It also has to do with both the personal and archetypal unconscious, which connects us to all other human beings.

KH: To get at this, do people bring in dreams to work on?

LF: Oh, absolutely. Jungians don't spend a lot of time on diagnosis. We're not interested in pathology, but in consciousness, growth and healing. It's a one to one relationship. A Jungian therapist will be a guide on your journey.

KH: They bring in some clues that you can go with, and you try to take them further?

LF: The thing people get stuck with is something called "complexes". You are not acting like yourself, or are caught in a part of you that is blocking your path to individuation. For example, with a crossdresser, we have to look at whether crossdressing is an obstacle or part of the path to individuation. It is different for each person, so I can't just say that crossdressing is healthy; it is for some individuals, and for others it isn't.

KH: Well, say for some people it was healthy, how would that differ from someone it wasn't healthy for?

LF: I would look at the function of the crossdressing. Is the function an expression of who the person is, an expression of identity, or is it an avoidance of identity?

KH: So it can actually be an avoidance?

LF: For some people, it's an escape of assertion. Some people feel trapped, and are afraid to deal with it, so it functions like an addiction. One of the ways out is to learn more assertiveness and self-confidence. Most of us feel better when we have confidence, self-esteem, the ability to assert, to feel grounded and connected. The majority of people I've worked with over the years, who are differently gendered, find that crossdressing is healthy. What they have to learn is to feel o.k. about being different.

KH: Which is very hard in our culture.

LF: Very.

KH: So, it's actually kind of a strength, especially for a guy, to be willing to express that feminine side.

LF: That's right. But, then the question is,

do you express it via crossdressing or by integrating the feminine. Some people do much better by going the full route on their path to individuation, winding up living full-time in that gender role, and even having surgery. There are many paths and many ways that people can express their feminine side. Some people are bigendered and crossdress part time. Other clients stop crossdressing completely, since it's no longer a part of their need to be whole. It served a function that's no longer needed in their lives.

KH: So what you are saying is you see a variety of people, and some of them go all the way to having surgery; and for some of them crossdressing becomes an obstacle. So the goal might be to completely stop.

LF: They make that decision. I never tell

anyone what they should or shouldn't do, because it's not up to me. I'm just a guide on their path.

KH: Right. What I'm getting at is not so much the client counselor relationship, but that there is a wide range of behaviors. Do you believe in evolutionary transsexualism?

LF: Absolutely. I think I see it more frequently, because what happens is when people are evolving, that's when they seek psychological help. Some people don't seek help, and some people I see are absolutely sure of who they are when they walk in the door.

Part 2 of Kevin Horwitz's interview will appear in the next issue of the Channel.

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The New Woman

by Roberta "Bobbi" Dunne

We sat across from each other at the restaurant, the owner of the company along with a mediator on one side, and me on the other. During lunch we kept it to small talk, swapping gossip about old friends and co-workers, talking about the history of construction in the valley, and even touching on how we ourselves became involved in the sheet metal trade. It was a comfortable conversation devoid of complex maneuvering, and after lunch, when we got down to resolving issues of discrimination which might hamper my return to the industry, there seemed to be a genuine interest on all our parts to work together. This meeting was predicated by a desire of the Union, myself and my employer to avoid further outside influence and attempt to reach an equitable arrangement for those of us directly involved. Only time will tell whether we succeeded or failed.

I have been frequently asked whether the new San Francisco law which among other things, establishes protection for transsexuals transitioning in the workplace, would have served me in my struggle. Unfortunately, I work in Santa Clara County, beyond the reach of the legislation. If I had been employed in San Francisco, I think that while perhaps helpful, it would not have by itself prevented the discrimination which led to my dismissal. We are all familiar with the great strides other minority communities have made in gaining recognition of their civil rights. Yet, when these rights are translated into the reality of the workplace, the benefits are often unnoticeable. As much as I love construction, it is not unlike many other fields in its lack of diversity. Recently, a friend who happens to be gay and work in the electronics industry, confessed over coffee that he is leaving a job he has held for many years. The company he works for has been absorbed by a much larger, older company riveted to the ways of the "good old boy's network" - a network which in this case is uncomfortable with the realities of diversity. While refusing to dwell on the daily acts of bigotry he is now enduring, he prides himself on being the last holdout of what was once a vital and diverse workforce. But the time has come, he's prepared a resume and some of the old group

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from when the company was still ethical have called him with leads. He's decided to quit his job, to move on in search of a healthier environment. The discrimination that altered his life was couched in subtlety, hidden in words like re-organization, new direction, and revitalized leadership. We all know the words. Exclusion is easy to see and difficult to prove.

I am still unsure as to my own future as a sheet metal worker. It appears that my situation has stabilized and may remain so for some time to come. But past experience has taught me that appearances can be deceiving, and I have no doubt that my life could blow up again. Inasmuch as there were no specific laws to protect me in the workplace, and seeing the limited influence existing laws have in protecting other minorities, I am convinced the most powerful force available to all of us is education. In my case, it has been the source of my survival. Within both the Union and the Employers Association, knowledge of our community has served as the building block toward acceptance. In keeping with that belief, and aware that innate knowledge can carry me only so far, I have returned to night school in Labor Studies with emphasis on diversity in the workplace. What a shock - they actually teach people how to effectively deal with discrimination! What I learn can only help me be a better employee.

If education is the key to our survival, there is a way we can help ourselves as well as the entire community. The Transgender Task Force meets on the fourth Tuesday of every month at suite 800, 25 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, at 5:30 p.m., and lasts two hours. In light of the new law, the Task Force was born of the need to educate employers, organizations, service groups and all others about who we are. We need volunteers from the community to help with all aspects of this ambitious undertaking. Please pitch in and help. Your job may depend on it.

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New SF Law Protects TGs

J.K. Bentley

On January 30, 1995 a diverse group got together at the San Francisco Human Rights Commission to celebrate the debut of civil rights protections for the City's transgendered.

Supervisor Terence Hallinan, author of the new legislation, was present to give and receive congratulations. Robert Oakes, of the mayor's office, presented a proclamation issued by Mayor Jordan naming January 30, 1995 Transgender Rights Day. Kiki Whitlock, receiving the proclamation in behalf of the community, held it up high amid a torrent of applause. On hand were others who labored hard and successfully for passage, including HRC staffer Larry Brinkin, Transgender Task Force, Shelley Salieri, an aide to Supervisor Hallinan and our community's "woman inside City Hall" and James Green, newest chair of the Transgender Task Force (whose co-chair is our own Bobbi Dunne).

The ceremony capped a process that began over two years ago when the HRC's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Advisory Committee began preliminary investigations into prejudice against transgendered people. Throughout that time, a momentum built that surprised the most optimistic. After years of suffering violence and ridicule, transgender citizens were amazed to find support among City staffers and elected officials that only got more solid with time.

After giving thanks to all who had participated, Ms. Whitlock said a number of complimentary things about the efforts ETVC is making to diversify and become more truly inclusive of the entire transgender community. She then called Miss ETVC Tammy

Kinglsey up to the podium, who pledged "to represent both ETVC and the entire transgender community."

Luanna Rodgers, an early advocate for legal protections, said that she saw new confidence among her transgendered friends and clients, "even weeks before the law took effect. The psychological benefits of this law are every bit as important as the legal ones."



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Gender Reference Book Review

by Sandra Brewer

The book *Gender Dysphoria - a Guide to Research* by Dallas Denny, published in 1994 by Garland Publishing Company in New York. This is the first gender-oriented book in the Garland Gay and Lesbian Studies series; it is strictly a reference book with a 550 page bibliography and another 100 pages of appendix. The appendix cross-references some of the topics, and lists the Harry Benjamin Standards of Care.

The book is perhaps mistitled because in addition to dysphoria, it covers a broad range of gender-related topics. It includes references to clinical, case studies, and motivation for gender-dysphoric behavior. It also includes references to books and articles on the history of gender bending, female impersonation, the effects of hormones, sharing gender problems with loved ones, cross-cultural studies, sexuality, photographic essays, masculinity and femininity.

The references are listed in two sections, one for books about gender, and one for journal articles and chapters in books with several authors. The book is made all the more valuable by the author's comments about many of the references. An example of this is her discussion of the "seriously flawed" study reported in a 1979 article by Meyer & Reter. The study resulted in the closing of the John Hopkins Gender Identity Clinic after 13 years of operation.

The author is the founder of the AEGIS organization in Atlanta. She admits the list of references is not complete; but it is quite extensive. It is priced at \$99; so until a less expensive version is released, most of us including myself will have to settle for finding it in the library.

FTM International to Host First National FTM Convention

Our S.F. FTM group has received a matching fund grant to hold the first national convention for FTMs in San Francisco!. The event is set for the weekend of August 18, 19 and 20, 1995, location yet to be determined (may be New College Law School, it will not be a hotel). The first 100 registrants will receive a free copy of Dallas Denny's book *Identity Management and Transsexualisam*. Registration will be approximately \$100. You can get on the pre-registration list by writing to "FTM, 5337 College Ave., #142, Oakland, CA 94618, or to ETVC, c/o Francis Vavra. ETVC donated \$50.00, and several individuals also contributed, including one donation for \$100, which helped make this happen. However, FTM needs more funds in order to host the event, and welcomes further contributions of any amount. You can make checks out to "FTM", and mail or give them to Francis Vavra. ETVC plans to have a fundraiser for FTM as part of its April social.




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6th Annual Fall Harvest In St. Louis

Sponsored by MAGGIE (Mid-America Gender Group Info. Exchange), the regional Fall Harvest Convention will be held in St. Louis from October 26-29, 1995 at the Ramada Henry VIII Hotel, near the Airport. Many guest professionals, national leaders and organizers will be featured, and there will be a "Meet Me in St. Louis '1904 World's Fair" theme pageant with period dress and memorabilia from the fair. Contact for more information: Jennifer Richards, Chair; 242 Church Street; Bonne Terre, MO 63628-1810, phone (314) 358-0410.

Support Group for Intersexed Persons

There is now a peer support, educational, activist group, with a newsletter, for intersexed persons in the Bay area. In its Feb. 1 issue, The S.F. Weekly ran an insightful cover story article about intersexed people, which included an interview with the founder of the new support group here in San Francisco, Cheryl Chase. If you are intersexed, or know someone who is, this group, which is the only one of its kind in the U.S., is for you.

For information, contact ISNA, attn: Cheryl Chase, P.O. Box 31791, S.F., CA 94131. There are confidential monthly meetings for intersexed persons only.

Transgen '95: Law Conference In Houston

The International Conference on Transgender Law and Employment Policy (ICTLEP) will be meeting for their Fourth Annual Conference in Houston, Texas on June 14-18, 1995.

The conference is entitled "Your Jobs, Your Rights, Your Health and Your Documents." ICTLEP has accomplished a great deal since its inception to educate other attorneys, lawmakers and professionals. If you are interested in attending (and you don't have to be a lawyer to do so), contact Phyllis Frye, 5707 Firenza Street, Houston, Texas 77035. (713) 723-8368.

Closet Ball Set For May 6TH

The 1995 annual Closet Ball, put on by the gay community, and always an entertaining show, will take place on Saturday, May 6, 1995 at Bimbo's, 1025 Columbus Street. (For reasons unknown, there was no show for 1994.) This contest is for amateurs who have not appeared "professionally" or publicly in drag (excepting Halloween), and are only allowed one hour to be transformed behind stage by a dresser. This is one of the recent perks for Mr. and Miss ETVC, who can attend free. Several years ago, Donna Strout walked away with the prize as the first woman to do male drag in the show. ETVC is planning to reserve a table for this event. Tickets will cost \$30.00 each. If you would like to reserve a seat at ETVC's table, please call Ginny at 664-1499 before April 15, 1995.

Program Printing Error

On the last page of the 11th ETVC Cotillion Program, the advertisement for Louise (Continental Wig) should not have pictured Tiffany (Miss ETVC 1990), as she did not use Louise's services. We should have included a picture of Stephanie instead. We apologize for the error.

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Self Empowerment

by Luanna L. Rodgers, M.A., MFCC

• January 30, 1995 was the first day transgendered individuals' civil rights were protected by anti discrimination legislation enacted in San Francisco.

• For more than one year dedicated transgender and non-transgender individuals worked toward the passage of transgender equal rights legislation.

• Since the announcement of the anticipated passage of civil rights legislation for transgendered individuals, virtually every transgendered person I've spoken with has stated that they feel a greater sense of self worth and freedom. Many are experiencing, for the first time, the feeling that they are valid, full members of society and can expect to be treated with the dignity and respect accorded any other citizen. In other words, they are empowered and proud. All of this before the legislation began it's first days work. All this from transgendered individuals, many of whom don't even reside in the protected locale. What, then is operating here? *Self-Empowerment*.

Self Empowerment emanates from within. It is the cognitive shift that any of us can make by letting go of shame and embracing our personal and collective power, by knowing deep within that we are worthy. Social change occurs when we enter the larger community with a feeling of worth and expect nothing less than equal and fair treatment. The relationship between self empowerment and social change continues as positive gains occur in society and transgendered

individuals benefit from the gains. Self worth and social change feed each other.

The current legislation hopefully will provide a truly protective function for those in San Francisco. In time, with effort, such legislation will be embraced by other counties and states. The legislation has already begun its work spiritually and psychologically, empowering transgendered individuals to view themselves as worthy of consistently positive regard and fair and equal treatment: no more harassment, no more jokes, no more bashing, no more demotions, no more intimidation, and no more living in fear. What has changed already is the confidence and sense of self worth that comes from knowing absolutely that fear and hiding and second class citizenship is never right.

The legislation is working already like a string tied around each of our psychic pinkie fingers to remind us of our right to be treated fair and equally. Let us pause to realize that it is working because of our inner empowerment; the ability each of us has to be lifted from within and to design a vision of hope and a better future: Let us remember that we each hold within us the power to recognize our own inherent self worth. It is the sense of personal empowerment that allows us to be free and proud.

In order for the current transgender civil rights legislation to work effectively, and in order for our lives to be enhanced, recognition of self worth must come from within and grow outward to touch the larger community. We need to have the personal power to speak up about the injustices suffered by ourselves in a way that commands fair and equal treatment. Social and political advancement and personal empowerment go hand in hand.

Personal empowerment and social empowerment are available to all of us. Indeed, they are the responsibility of each and everyone of us.

Luanna L. Rodgers is a Bay Area psychotherapist specializing in work with the transgender community.

Denver News - "The Center"

by Cori Farrell

Denver, Colorado - the capital of what some call the "Gay Hate State", the center of the old "wild west", and the home of "The Center".

"The Center" I refer to is The Gender Identity Center, the focus of the gender community in the Denver area. This is not ETVC-East, a fact which I noticed at the first meeting I attended. No chatting over a glass of chardonnay. This is serious, cerebral, personal stuff.

Peer support is the basis for the activities of The Center. Meetings are organized with regard to addressing the needs of specific subgroups in the community. Some nights are specifically for crossdressers, some for transsexuals, some for everyone. All attendees are encouraged to ask questions, make comments and to foster an atmosphere of constructive participation. All meetings are smoke and alcohol free.

Do not, however, accuse these people of not knowing how to

have fun. The Friday night meetings are known to break up early enough for a trip to one of the local gender friendly drinking establishments and one can count on a group of GIC-ers to show up at a Denver watering hole known as "The Outlet" (a great little cabaret style bar very reminiscent of Lily's, for those of you who remember it).

Anyone planning a trip to the Denver area should most definitely contact the Gender Identity Center, 1455 Ammons, Suite 100, Lakewood, CO 80226, telephone (303) 202-6466.

(Ed. Note: In correspondence to me, Cori mentions running into Zia (of the "Fabulous Foxes"), who also moved to Denver. We miss you both, please hurry back and visit).

Classified Ad

My name is Jessie and I would like to start a group here in the Eureka area. Call me at (707) 725-4217 after 4:30 p.m. Or write to 835 Maxwell, Fortuna, CA 95540