ETVC

Educational TV Channel Newsletter
VOLUME NINE, NUMBER 1 JULY - AUGUST, 1990

Martina Elected ETVC's Second President

ETVC OFFICERS - 1990/1991

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

Martina, who has long been active as a volunteer and officer in ETVC, was elected president at the organization's annual business meeting in May.

Martina, a 49-year-old resident of Sunnyvale, succeeds Charlotte who was elected as ETVC's first president last year following reorganization of our club's leadership structure.

Martina said she plans "on increasing member participation in our committees; we need to broaden our base of volunteers. ETVC will also continue being a leader in the gender community and will maintain a heavy educational emphasis for both our members and the public."

The new president also said that ETVC will "continue to provide a safe place for folks to meet and plenty of opportunities to have fun."

Election night was a biggie for Martina. Besides being voted in as president, she and Ginny were named the Members of the Year in recognition of the devotion and many hours of work that they have unstintingly given ETVC. It was an honor that was richly deserved.

This election was marked by the first use of absentee ballots for an ETVC election. A total of 104 ballots were cast, and about 80 percent were mailed in. That represented a turnout of about one quarter of ETVC's 430 members, the largest response ever.

This year's leadership team is marked by an interesting mix of long-time members and relative newcomers which should provide both continuity and enthusiasm to our executive committee.

Our new vice president is Kristyn, 29, a member since January 1988. Married with two children, Kristyn lives in San Jose. She will have responsibility for organizing this year's Cotillion. Though she was just elected, Kristyn was also responsible for pulling together our contingent in the June 24, Gay Freedom Day Parade. Good luck, girl!

Nancy Ann, who will only admit to being over 30, was re-elected for her sixth term as treasurer. Nancy Ann has been with ETVC since 1983, has five kids and is the significant other of Ginny, our secret weapon in the fight for truth, justice and the feminine way.

Cheryl, 34, succeeds Donna as secretary, a job where she will oversee operations of the newsletter as well as handling the minutes of the executive committee and other chores. Cheryl joined the club in July 1987.

This year also saw the election of a founding member of ETVC to an executive committee seat. Diahanna, who helped create ETVC more than eight years ago, will co-chair the social committee with Jo Anne, who joined ETVC in November 1987.

Telzey was re-elected to the outreach committee where she will be joined by Kim Hellman, a long-time member and past ETVC coordinator.

Two relative newcomers, Jessica and Paulette, will head up the education committee.

Congratulations to all...or rather, congratulations to us for electing such a terrific team!

Editor's Notes

Do you know why you crossdress?

Were there problems in your family? Or perhaps a chemical imbalance in your mother's womb? Did a gene get knocked out of whack? Maybe something happened even further back: were you a different sex in a previous life? Or is this some kind of hobby?

The fact is that current research on the causes of transvestism and transsexualism is so thin that your guess is as good as mine. But I am certain of one thing: cross-dressing is no hobby.

There are those in our community who persist in promoting the "hobbyist" theory of cross-dressing. I guess they think this somehow softens the reality of their gender dysphoria. But the truth is that spreading such an absurd concept is very damaging to all of us.

The hobby theory implies that we have a choice over whether we cross-dress or not (Gee, I'm tired of stamp collecting; I guess I'll learn how to wear a woman's wig today). This is pure bunk because there is no choice. But what's worse is this line of reasoning makes it easy for those who do not understand us (or want to) to make us the target of their hatred and jokes.

Certainly, there are some elements to dressing that are somewhat hobby-like, like mastering the use of cosmetics. But we don't dress to get better at dressing, which would be what a "hobbyist" would do. We dress because of a fundamental need to express the feminine side of our personalities. It is as undeniable as the need to eat and breathe.

So why do I cross-dress?

I don't know exactly. But like the famous seaman said: "I yam what I yam and that's all that I yam." I like spinach occasionally, too.

And onward: Congrats to the new team that was elected to run your club (see story elsewhere on the elections). We had a turnout of about 100 votes, or about 24 percent of the membership, voting in this election. Hey, that's about the same as voted in the California primary.

The absentee ballot system actually worked pretty well, much to my surprise, as members from all over the nation and Canada responded by mailing back ballots. Nice job, girls.

More stuff: In an interview about his new book about turn-of-the- century female transsexual Jack Bee Garland (be sure to read Jane Kamper Bentley's review) author Louis Sullivan made this observation about how perceptions have changed about gender identification:

"In older days people looked at cross-dressing as an unusual social act. It wasn't thought of as a sexually-oriented gesture. Since addressing sexuality on any level was taboo, people assumed that cross-dressing was an odd, socially improper act -- an idiosyncracy. Today it is definitely seen as a sexual expression and transvestism is tainted by a dirty aura."

I don't know about you, but I would take idiosyncracy over the confusion we face now.

And speaking of history: In the May 1990 issue of Gender Euphoria, the Journal of the Boulton & Park Society of San Antonio, carries a charming story about the group's namesakes, Frederick William Park and Ernest Boulton. The story details some of the adventures of these two high society transvestites in the London of 1870.

But as the story strongly suggests, the two heroines may also have been high class hookers! I presume that this is one of the new "details" about B&P described in an editor's note about the story.

To wit: "(the story) includes quite a few details that none of us had heard before. I am not entirely pleased to hear every one of those new wrinkles, since I had always imagined the pair to be just like me. Oh well---''

Oh well.

ETVC NEWSLETTER

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

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

OFFICERS

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

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Membership (as of 5/31/90)	431
1989 Membership	424
New members this year	141

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance on 4/1/89	$3,942.51
April income	1,028.00
April expenses	1,753.68
	========
Balance on 4/30/89	3,216.83
May income	2,968.00
May expenses	1,122.92
	========
Balance on 5/31/90	5,061.91

The ETVC Newsletter is published in February, April, June, August, October and December. Newsletter contents reflect the opinions of the contributors and the editor, and are not necessarily those of ETVC.

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

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Editor:	Cindy
Design & Layout:	Donna & Julie
Photographer:	David Swanson
Production:	Donna

AD RATES

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

PERSONAL ADS

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

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

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

HOTLINE 415-763-3959

Bradshaw on Compulsive Behavior

The Bradshaw video series has been shown extensively on public television and by self-help groups across the nation. His remarks are relative to many of us. After watching excerpts of his videos, we will discuss how some of us fall into patterns of behavior he discusses. Addictions are ways to lose your "self." Come talk about how crossdressing helps find ourselves and recover from earlier addictions and how and in what ways crossdressing can itself act as an addiction. This will give an opportunity to share experiences and gain insight from others. Saturday, July 14 at the Chez Mollet, $3 members and guests.

Friendship Party

This party emphasizes forming new friendships, finding people who share a common interest and discovering the varied and interesting personalities that are a part of our unique organization.

To encourage you to meet as many new friends as possible, there will be FRIENDSHIP CARDS (the game is bingo with names). Fun, prizes and the best chance to meet lots of wonderful people. Thursday, July 26, 8 p.m. at the Chez Mollet, 527 Bryant St,, San Francisco. Members $3, guests $5.

A Chat with Lin Fraser

Lin Fraser is a well-known gender therapist in San Francisco and both a member and friend of ETVC. She will share her experiences of 18 years' work with the gender community in an informal session on Saturday, August 11 at 2:00 p.m. at the Chez Mollet. A question and answer session will follow her formal remarks. $3 members and guests.

Well, Do Ya Wanna Dance...

Then shimmy on down to the Chez Mollet on Thursday, August 30 for the best dance party of the year. Dig out those old 45's, 'cause we're going back to the 1950's. Here's your chance to wear your poodle skirt again, or maybe those penny loafers (with 4" heels). There will be a dance contest with prizes and also a prize for the best theme costume. The fun starts at 8 p.m. at the Chez Mollet. Members $5, Guests $8.

ETVC/RGA Rap Group

The most exciting rap group in the Bay Area meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at the New Community of Faith Church in San Jose. The address is 6350 Rainbow Drive. The next two meetings are Monday, July 9 and Monday, August, 13 from 8-10 p.m. There are only two rules: no one dominates the discussion and no mentioning the discussion outside the group. If you know the way to San Jose, join us. If not, contact Martina at (408) [redacted] or Kim at (408) [redacted] for more information.

Significant Other Support Group

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

The SOS group meets the second Thursday of each month from 8 to 10 p.m. in the homes of members. You are all welcome with open arms. The next meetings are July 12 and August 9. For more information, call Ginny at (415) [redacted]

Couples Group

The couples group is alive and well and having fun at its buffet dinners in the lovely homes of our friends around the Bay Area. The group will be meeting on July 19 and on August 23 (a week later than usual). Come and be a part of another party just for you and your loved one. To find out more, call Ginny at (415) [redacted]

Education Committee Meetings

Are held each month 90 minutes before the mid-month social at its location. Call Jessica at (415) [redacted] for more information.

BIRTHDAY GIRLS (and guys)

July

Amanda Susan, Amy D., Arlene R., Bobbie J., Brenda P., Charlotte D., Cheryl T., Chris S., Dana L., Denise S., Desiree, Diane Lorraine, Diane M., Dyanne B., Ginger J., Heather E., Heather P., Jessica A., Jessica P., Joanne W., Julie G., Juliette H., Kim H., Kimberly Ann, Leanna V., Leslie Ann, Lisa B., Lisa P., Lorraine H., Lucas, Marilyn W., Melanie D., Michelle R., Michelle S., Nepenthe, Nicole B., Pamela S., Paulette B., Phoebe P., Randi Ann, Roberta T., Roxanne C., Sharon R., Susan Jean, Sylvia P., Tara T., Teri P., Thalia G., Toni E.

August

Becki M., Cara S., Cindy L., Dawn B., Devan W., Dianne L., Ed C., Elizabeth R., Evelyn P., Evonne Y., Jennifer E., Jill W., Kay M., Laura C., Linda P., Luanna R., Melissa F., Natasha R., Patricia F., Robin C., Ronda B., Samantha C., Samantha O., Sarah C., Sarah T., Sheila M., Sheryl H., Stephanie S., Tracy F., Wendy P.

They're Back

The Outreach Committee co-chairs for 1990-91 are me (Telzey, re-elected) and Kim, who has been coordinator for several terms. Kim is overflowing with great new ideas and will, hopefully, want to do most of the work. The past year's activities have included setting up our Telephone Information Line, staffing it and publicizing it and the club generally. This increased publicity and ease of access to information about the club are part of the reasons we now have over 100 people at most of our monthly socials. The Speaker's Bureau, under Thalia's direction, brought a total of 16 to 20 club members, at various times, to at least a dozen events, mostly college classes. Many of the students had their beliefs radically revised, and what they learned will be spread to family and friends. Charlotte and Tiffany recently appeared on morning television talk shows and Zia and Debbie were models on "People are Talking." We're working on unconventional places to contact, such as rotary clubs, the VFW, the CHP, even the Peace Officers Standards and training center in Sacramento. We're planning a "Best of ETVC" video tape to be sent to the media, the law, therapists, other CD clubs, and anyone else who might benefit by knowing about us.

All these projects, and more, along with a lot of random discussion, are planned at Outreach Committee meetings, once a month, somewhere in the Bay Area. You're invited. Any member of the club can call us for the location and come share ideas and maybe some of the work.

Strongly recommended, very good reading, is the recently published "From Female to Male, the Life of Jack Bee Garland" by Lou Sullivan, a friend of ETVC. See the review elsewhere in this newsletter. An important contribution to the history of gender and sexuality in America. Available at local stores, at A Different Light Books on Castro, or send $10 to IFGE, PO Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778

The Transsexual Phenomenon

by Harry Benjamin

The Outreach Institute announces the reprinting of this classic publication on gender issues. This major work on transsexualism, which includes 16 pages of photos associated with important case histories, and the well-known Benjamin Scale of Gender Shift, is available in limited numbers.

The antique cover edition is priced at $39.95 and the standard edition costs $35.95. Please add $3.50 for postage and handling.

Please make money orders and checks payable to:

The Outreach Institute
Kenmore Station, Box 368
Boston, MA 02215

This project is being supported in part by the Renaissance Educational Foundation.

Calendar of Regional and World Events

Joan Sheldon's Tahoe Vacation. Two weeks starting Aug. 6. Condos in North Tahoe. Laid back, food, fun, hit the casinos en femme. Come for a few days or the whole time. Joan Sheldon: (408)[redacted] or c/o RGA, PO Box 700730, San Jose 95170

"Une Soiree d'Elegance" Sacramento Gender Association plans a formal cocktail party, with champaign reception, entertainment, and dancing. Saturday, Sept. 22. $18 advance, $22 at the door. Members of ETVC are especially invited to come get acquainted with the SGA. RSVP, please; they need an early headcount. Sacramento Gender Association, PO Box 417701, Sacramento, CA 95841 (916)441-8379.

The B.M. Gender Trust announces a two-day International Gender Dysphoria Conference to be held at the University of Manchester, England, Sept. 22-23, 1990. Classes, papers, workshops, entertainment. Of interest mainly to TG's, TS's and professionals. For additional info on the Conference and Gender Trust: Alice, c/o BM Charity, London, WC1N 3XX, England.

Paradise in the Poconos. September 20-23, 1990, and in May, '91. Party down with JoAnn Roberts and the Renaissance crowd. Creative Design Services, Box 1263, King of Prussia, Pa 19406 (215)640- 9449

16th Annual "Fantasia Fair" Oct 12-21, 1990. The BIGGEST, most extravagent, "change your life" event. Bring money. Ten days in Provincetown, Mass. Fantasia Fair, Lincolnia Sta. PO Box 11254, Alexandria, VA 22312

Fall Harvest Weekend and Moonshadow Ball Nov 1-4, 1990 Kansas city Crossdressers and Friends offer a very ambitious program of information and entertainment. CAF, PO Box 4092, Overland Park, KS 66204

Tri-Ess "Holiday En Femme" Nov 14-18, 1990 in Houston, TX. Join Tri-Ess and you WILL see the town. Write Tri-Ess Holiday, PO Box 194, Tulare, Ca 93275

3rd Annual Texas "T" Party, Feb 21-25, 1991. Coming back for more, over 200 attended in 1990 and they all had a wonderful time. Boulton and Park Society, PO Box 169652-I, San Antonio, TX 78280. (512)657-2540

Brochures for many of these events are available from the Outreach committee and at ETVC socials.

Miscellany

Everyone is invited to Outreach Committee meetings. Come have some serious fun with good friends. The next meetings are July 2 in Mountain View and August 6 in San Leandro. Call Kim at (408)[redacted] or Telzey at (415)[redacted] for more info.

Still available from the Outreach Committee are back issues of the ETVC Newsletter. We have them from January 1985 to the present for $1 each. Send orders to the club address or contact Outreach.

Nancy Ann Martine, ETVC's 5-term treasurer, has been named to the board of directors for the International Foundation for Gender Education. Straighten 'em out in Wayland, Nancy Ann and congrats!

— Telzey

TV/TS/TG GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

A Calendar of Events for July & August

DATE	WHO	WHAT	TIME	WHERE	FOR INFORMATION
JULY					
2	**ETVC**	**Outreach Committee**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Mountain View**	**(415) 964-3655**
4	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(415) 841-6224
6	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 988-0790
7	**ETVC**	**Executive Committee**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**San Francisco**	**(415) 282-2803**
9	**ETVC/RGA**	**Rap Group**	**Meets 8-10 PM**	**San Jose**	**(408) 984-5619**
11	**ETVC**	**Social Committee**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Richmond**	**(415) 235-8509**
12	**ETVC**	**Significant Others Support**	**Meets 8-10 PM**	**San Jose**	**(415) 664-1499**
13	**ETVC**	**Poker Social**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**San Francisco**	**(415) 664-1499**
14	**ETVC**	**Education Committee**	**Meets at 12:30 PM**	**Chez Mollet**	**(415) 731-5161**
14	**ETVC**	**Bradshaw on Video**	**Starts at 2 PM**	**Chez Mollet**	**(415) 525-4814**
14	**ETVC/RGA**	**Daybreak**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Mountain View**	**(408) 984-5619**
18	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(415) 841-6224
19	**ETVC**	**Couples Social**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Foster City**	**(415) 664-1499**
20	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 988-0790
26	**ETVC**	**Friendship Night**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Chez Mollet**	**(415) 282-2803**
27	Pac Ctr	Open Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(415) 841-6224
28	SGA	Dinner/Ice Cream Social	Starts at 7 PM	Sacramento	(916) 441-8379
AUGUST					
1	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(415) 841-6224
3	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 988-0790
4	**ETVC**	**Executive Committee**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Richmond**	**(415) 235-8509**
6	**ETVC**	**Outreach Committee**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**San Leandro**	**(415) 483-9458**
8	**ETVC**	**Social Committee**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**San Francisco**	**(415) 282-2803**
9	**ETVC**	**Significant Others Support**	**Meets 8-10 PM**	**TBA**	**(415) 664-1499**
10	**ETVC**	**Poker Social**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**San Francisco**	**(415) 664-1499**
11	**ETVC**	**Education Committee**	**Meets at 12:30 PM**	**Chez Mollet**	**(415) 731-5161**
11	**ETVC**	**A Chat with Lin Fraser**	**Starts at 2 PM**	**Chez Mollet**	**(415) 731-5161**
11	**ETVC/RGA**	**Daybreak**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Mountain View**	**(408) 984-5619**
13	**ETVC/RGA**	**Rap Group**	**Meets 8-10 PM**	**San Jose**	**(408) 984-5619**
15	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(415) 841-6224
17	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 988-0790
23	**ETVC**	**Couples Social**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**TBA**	**(415) 664-1499**
24	Pac Ctr	Open Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(415) 841-6224
25	SGA	Luau Dinner/Social	Starts at 7 PM	Sacramento	(916) 441-8379
30	**ETVC**	**50's Dance Party**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Chez Mollet**	**(415) 282-2803**

OTHER GROUPS

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

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

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

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

Honoring Lou Sullivan, A True Pioneer

I have to start with a confession of ignorance. I did not know who Louis Sullivan was when Ginny asked if I would buy a ticket to his testimonial.

"Lou is very important in the gender community," she said. "Especially among female to male transsexuals, and we're going to honor him with a luncheon on May 12. Aside from all the work he's done, he's just a special and wonderful person."

When somebody as special and wonderful as Ginny gives a recommendation like that, I bought the ticket--but attend? Yes, Louis was probably a good person, but from a different world, one of travelogue interest in a weird kind of way. He was exploring a country I knew too well: life as a male. What did we share, except the label, "Gender Dysphoric"?

It came down to a veritable toss of the coin, which came up, "Yes." Lucky toss.

What a surprise. I had never before met female-to-male transsexuals and crossdressers. Here at the German Oak Restaurant were perhaps a dozen in various stages of crossover, from shy beginners to...well, men. All seemed to stop at the head table to speak to a thin man with a mustache and light chin beard. Was that Lou? Silly doubts held me back from approaching. If he were a genetic male, how would he feel about being mistaken for a transsexual? If he was Lou, what would I say to him?

As questions rattled through my mind, the ceremonies got underway and it was soon evident that the man I wondered about was Lou.

Ginny began by acknowledging Marie Weiss, whose idea this testimonial was, and thanking both Marie and Jill Enquist for working so hard and well to make it a reality (a healthy share of the credit must go, as well, to Ginny herself, of course). Several ETVC officers read letters of appreciation for Lou from gender community leaders around the country, such as Dan Riley of IFGE (the International Foundation for Gender Education), Merissa Sherrill Lynn, founder and executive director of IFGE, therapist Milly Brown and gender community leader Ariadne Kane, as well as many female-to-male transexuals.

A dais full of distinguished speakers added their praises: Dr. Paul Walker, former director of Janus and J2CP, who recalled Lou's tireless efforts and unique insights, compassion and good humor; Lin Fraser, prominent San Francisco gender therapist, who cited Lou's success in persuading gender therapists to abolish sexual orientation restrictions from the DSM standards of care; and Jamie Green, a handsome, confident young man, who told how he found the courage to begin his transition after reading Lou's pamphlet, "Information For the Famale-to-Male Crossdresser and Transsexual." Jamie, as a member of ETVC's speakers' bureau, has appeared often before college audiences. Kim Hellman, four-time president of ETVC, added her praise and said there was one word for Lou: marvelous.

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Barbie, ETVC's vice-president, presented Lou with a plaque, which read:

THE EDUCATIONAL TV CHANNEL (ETVC)
ACKNOWLEDGES BY SPECIAL TRIBUTE

LOUIS GRAYDON SULLIVAN

IN RECOGNITION OF HIS INVALUABLE
CONTRIBUTIONS TO SUPPORT THE
FEMALE TO MALE TRANSSEXUAL
IN THE GENDER COMMUNITY

SAN FRANCISCO MAY 12, 1990

In response to applause and calls of "Speech! Speech!" Lou rose and thanked those who had spoken so well of him. He said he was grateful to have had the time he needed to write his pamphlet, organize FTM (the female-to-male counterpart of ETVC), publish its newsletter and complete his biography of turn-of-the-century female-to-male transsexual Jack Bee Garland. Alluding to his 3 1/2 year battle with AIDS, he said, "I now feel ready to die."

For the greater part of his speech he read excerpts from a diary he has kept for the past 27 years: recounting his struggle as a 19-year-old FTM transsexual to find a place within the fledgling womens' rights movement; of subsequent condemnation and rejection for "going over to the enemy," and the amazing strength he found within his solitude to affirm his quest for fulfillment.

There are people who stir because of their eloquence; others impress you because of their deed. Lou, it was plain, had both gifts...but something else, too. As he read his diary from 20 years ago, occasionally looking up at the audience, I watched his eyes and saw a gentle man full of love and wonderful clarity of purpose.

Hearing the words he had written at just 19, I was awe-struck that he had begun adult life at a level many never seem to attain, knowing his true self, with the courage to stand up for and be himself. From there he had reached out to others like himself to help them realize the authenticity of their secret hearts. Here was a visionary, a reality maker, a liberator of the human spirit. It was in his eyes. It was in his words and in his voice. And now, concluded, a roomful of those he had helped directly and indirectly stood and applauded their love and gratitutde.

Lou, since that afternoon, I have been reading everything I can find that you have written. I have been thinking about your contributions to FTMS, to all gender people and to humanity. As one of your admirers wrote, "You have led a life of quality which is far better than a life of only quantity."

Yes. And yet I can't help wanting to say, "More! More!"

– Jane Kamper Bentley

INFORMATION FOR THE FEMALE-TO-MALE CROSSDRESSER AND TRANSSEXUAL

48 page, illustrated book. Send $6.00 to:
L. Sullivan
1827 Haight Street #164
San Francisco, CA 94117

Left to right: Lin Fraser, Dr. Paul Walker, Lou Sullivan and Jamie Green.

CA LIC. #M8288

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Hirsute Irma

Dear Hirsute Irma,

As usual, the Germans make the best, if not the cheapest. For about $60 at Macy's you can get a fancy, two-setting Braun, by far the best-engineered of the electric razors. The best disposables seem to be the two-bladed Shick with a push gizmo to clean out the hairs as you use it; they are cheapest at the Drug Barn, but available in most discount drug stores. I strongly recommend Noxema Medicated shaving cream for sensitive skin, and finishing up with a stroke against the the growth grain of the hairs.

Dear Miss Renee,

I've been dressing as long as I can remember and it makes me happy. But I know there is more, and yet I'm afraid if I'm a TS my family would disintegrate, my life would fall apart. What should I do?
Pandora

Dear Pandora,

If you feel truly satisfied and at peace in your male role much of the time, you have probably already found then proper balance in your life: mostly male with some time and energy devoted to expressing your female side. The needs of your family are crucial, parenting is the most important thing we can do, and if you can enjoy being a father most of the time, count yourself fortunate. If you feel like an impostor, and daydream endlessly about shucking the whole male role, then you need to discuss your situation with a counselor who specializes in gender dysphoria.

No one choose to be a TS; it's something that you can't help. It has a compulsive, absolute quality about it that demands attention and prevents one from enjoying life as a male. There are lots of other ways to express feminine energy besides the TS route, and you might want to explore things like modern dance, Tai Chi, volunteer social work, more time spent caring for children, etc. There's lots more to being a woman than physical appearances and sexuality, and these more spiritual, feminist, nurturing, expressive aspects of womanhood are infinitely less traumatic to your body, your family and your career! Try them out before attempting the drastic and often lonely TS path.

Dear Miss Renee,

I've often heard you recommend wearing pants rather than skirts and I think you're out of your cotton-picking mind! Pants are totally androgynous; skirts are utterly feminizing!
Aghast Agatha

Dear Aghast Agatha,

Ever see a man in a kilt? Until you're truly comfortable in the female role, or until you are ready to wear inner tube hip padding, a skirt will just hang on your skinny hips like a pair of Mom's high heels on a 6-year-old. I suggest avoiding silks and dresses and heels because I want my clients to be comfortable in public, and that means attracting as little attention as possible, until voice and demeanor match appearance. The lovely outfits you see at ETVC help one feel feminine, and are wonderful, but are inappropriate for the beginner to wear in public, unless you happen to hang out in the financial district. For starters, wear what women your age and social class choose for everyday, casual street wear: be invisible until you're ready for the world's scrutiny. The same goes for wig, shoes, colors, make-up. Just blend in.

Dear Miss Renee,

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

Dear Miss Lonelyheart,

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

Got a question or a problem? Just Ask Miss Renee by writing her c/o the ETVC Newsletter, PO Box 6486, SF, CA 94101.

Over one-third of our members from last year have already renewed their dues. Are you one of them? If not, hurry and send in the membership renewal form on the back of this newsletter, you certainly don't want to be the last one in!

To dress, to speak, in grace to move...
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Martina's Closet

No, not her 10 x 50 mobile home that she refers to as either her closet or her treasure trove; this is a variation of a column that she attempted to start a year ago.

I have a dream and I have a nightmare. The dream tells me that we will have over a quarter of all ETVC members actively participating in committees and/or their functions (not including socials) by the end of this membership year. The nightmare tells me that we will have paid executives and hundred dollar memberships within five years.

How do we achieve the dream? Simple! Contact your new executive officers and trade phone numbers. They will contact you and discuss things that you can do and tell you when the committee will next meet. Or you can save them the phone charges by calling them. But first you must trade phone numbers. All members must keep this information confidential, so you can rest assured that it will not be given out unless you have expressly given your permission.

Which committee is best for you? What would you like to do!

Education Committee: primarily concerned with providing members with the educational materials we have available and with the presentation of monthly seminars intended to help you present yourself as you dream. This is a good committee for those who do not desire to go to committee meetings because many of its duties can be done by mail. Also the committee meetings tend to be on Saturday afternoon just prior to the seminars. Activities include article, book and video libraries, and scrap books and tip sheets. The tip sheets are a good activity for those who are out and about and doing our favorite activity (SHOPPING!).

Social Committee: primarily concerned with producing the monthly membership socials - including planning, decorating, and presenting. This committee is often out shopping for prizes, decorations, cakes, and much more. The so-called decorating committee meets the night before the social and (if many hands help) can become a party of its own.

Outreach Committee: primarily concerned with presenting educational materials and seminars to non-members. Many of us have appeared on TV and at a number of colleges about the area. We also advertise in a variety of publications and answer requests for general information.

There are the various subcommittees including the VP's committees that run the Cotillion and our entry in the Gay Pride Parade. The Newsletter (Secretary's) committee puts out the newsletter and involves a number of the facets of publication.

All committees need help. Social and Education and Newsletter have far too few regular members.

In closing, I wish to thank everyone who supported me for president and I pray that they will be out there doing their best to make this ETVC's best year yet.

With love,
Martina, your new president

Looking for fun and excitement in your crossdressed life? Join the Social Committee! Contact Jo Anne at (415)[redacted] or Diahanna at (415)[redacted]

Jennie's TS Corner

As I awoke, I saw the clock. The time was 10:20, and I was still on the operating table. My first words were, "Is it over?" Joe, the surgical assistant, replied, "It's all over. You did fine."

I remembered nothing from the time the anethesiologist had injected something into my IV at about 7:30. When I awoke, I felt relatively good considering what had just been done to me. I'd had an epidural anethesia, and it left me without the usual nausea and pain. Some pain came later as the anethesia wore off, but it was always bearable, Later I found out I was the first Biber patient ever to have an epidural. I'm glad they told me afterwards. After all, most epidural patients are awake.

Next they wheeled me to the recovery room and after a short time to my room. I had a catheter in me, the IV in my left hand and a little wire coming out of my tummy. I had a mirror so I couldn't resist looking at my new vagina. At that point it looked pretty good. It was later that the discoloration came. No one has been able to improve on the expression of one TS who had written that it looks like uncooked liver.

Though I had a double room, I was alone as my roommate would arrive later in the day. She would be operated on the next day. As the days passed, she always knew what they were going to do to her because it was always done to me the day before.

The nurses in Mt. San Rafael Hospital were always really good to us. "Ok, girls, time for vitals or time for hot soaks or time for your mineral oil and metamucil." You learn to make jokes about the laxatives. I took so many laxatives that when it came time to leave, I had the runs. When they give you hot soaks, they lower your head and raise your feet and place hot wet towels in your surgical area. It's not a very dignified position.

I could not get out of bed, of course, with the catheter in me. Like clockwork, the days came when IV came out, the tummy wire came out, the catheter came out, the packing came out and then I had to go into the bathroom and make sure I could pee as a girl. If you cannot urinate properly, they keep you there. It's scary because it's a bodily function that you do often and it has to work. It was a big moment and a big relief when I did it.

Once the catheter is out (five days from surgery), you are free to roam about the hospital. However, one does not roam far because you have to roam back and you will be weak. You are also free to shower and though it's great to wash your hair and shower, the hot water drains your energy. I ended up on a chair in the shower.

The day to leave finally arrived. It's an emotional time. One of the nurses came and taught me how to dilate. This is a procedure that becomes a permanent part of your life. It's scary and strange. Strange because you have never felt a sensation like that before. Something inside you in a place that was never there before! Scary because you are afraid you don't do it right or you will injure yourself. I quickly got the hang of it and it was not really painful.

A friend came and picked me up and drove me back to her house in Colorado Springs. I was post-op eight days.

Since that day in April, I have recovered and returned to a fairly normal existence. I really do not feel that much different. Oh, I look better in my underwear and can wear anything to my aerobics class. I use the regular women's room at work. But the important lesson is that when I started this transition two years ago, I set a major goal. That goal was to be a woman like other women, be comfortble in that role, and be reasonably happy. The notoriety of the transition, the excitement of the pursuit, the scandal; all of that fades. It's an adjustment that those of us who choose this path usually have to make.

Jane Kamper Bentley

I hate portrait nights. Some well-meaning soul asks, "Did you have your picture taken yet?"

And I must answer, "No."

"You'd better hurry up. There's not much time left."

"That's all right."

Her eyes widen. "You aren't having your picture taken?"

"No," I confess.

"Why not?"

"Why?"

Oh, I'll watch you or anybody having pictures taken. If it's an impromptu snapshot, I don't mind flashing my choppers or some leg. But please be quick and get it over with. Don't worry about composition or posing; while you pause at the shutter, I shudder. Ego alarms go off. I wonder if I shouldn't smile more--or perhaps less. My lips go up and down like blinking traffic signals. I worry: Is my head up? Should I raise my eyebrows? Am I sucking in my gut enough? Do my legs look like I just got off a horse?

We wait and wait. Finally--not the flash--an empty click.

"Oh...Darn!" says the snapshootist.

"Ohhh," says the group.

"Ahh," think I. "Off the hook."

"Just a sec, girls. I think I see what went wrong. Silly me. Don't go 'way."

So we all withdraw our hands from each other's waists and have a lovely moment laughing and chatting while the camera is examined from many curious angles, until--

"Now I've got it. Ok, girls. Get back together." So we snuggle up again for the second try. Another lovely moment.

"Smile!"

We smile and it's still lovely. But then comes...another wait...as I feel my face...melting into ghastly and unnatural shapes, while my innocent torturer says, "Hold it, hoold it," until the tension pops with the always surprising flash and a little light jerks and slides across blurry blackness.

It's bad enough like that--without anticipation, without rehearsal, without having to watch others watch me try to pose glamorously. Without the agony of waiting for results to develop. Without witnesses to the inevitable. Without having to share sweet lies:

"Oh, don't your, uh, teeth look lovely!"

"Oh, thank you."

But there in my hands is no sweet lie but the sound of barking captured on Polaroid emulsion. There HE is: The Man In A Dress.

His face all bumps and shadows...what an obvious wig!...are those his shoulders or football pads?...his gut would make him look like he's pregnant--if he had any hips...he should never wear a mini-skirt.

Kindly onlookers peruse my pictorial indictment, smiling painfully.

"Your teeth. I just can't get over them. They're gorgeous."

"Caps. They've always been my best feature."

"They're really lovely."

"Oh, you're so kind. Here, I want you to have this."

"I couldn't."

"Oh, please do. I have lots more like it." Unfortunately.

"No, I just--"

"TAKE it!"

"Well, if you insist..."

It isn't as though I feel sorry for myself. Truly. For as long as I don't have to witness documentation of my shortcomings, I enjoying seeing myself as a pretend female...in a mirror...the right mirror. At the right time, for instance, I don't mind the harsh lighting of a make-up mirror, so long as I'm using it to put on make-up. I need to look my worst so I can do my best.

Once my transformation is completed, though, I've done what I could with stubborn reality. Let fantasy fill in the gaps and blur the faults. Let me catch glimpses of myself en passant, while passing as it were, in the middle distance of a full mirror under soft lights.

And no cameras, please.

Nancy Ann models her winning Easter bonnet along with the rest of the Easter parade: Teri, Kim, Paulette, Louise, Ginny, Nancy Ann and Martina.

I could hear the two guys as clearly as if they were in the next room. They were working on a car near my motel room and I would have to walk past them to get to my car. But I wasn't going to let anyone or anybody stop me from what I had wanted to do for almost 20 years. I was going out en femme in public. Shopping. Alone. In the middle of a bright, sunny day.

A friend was supposed to meet and help me through this rite of passage, but she couldn't make it. Not that it mattered much, I was going to do this.

I had done some "practicing" for about a month, trying out my look on the public with a brief walk through Serramonte Shopping Center (Daly City) on a rainy day. The entire excursion took all of three minutes. No one said anything or even looked at me funny. Then came two brief early evening jaunts around Union Square that included a brief stop at Macy's. Again, no negative reactions.

But this was very different, I was going out for the day, not just a few minutes, into a high sun that would expose every flaw.

I'd read everything I could about passing and talked to some experts, especially Renee Chinquapin of Miss Renee's Charm School.

Renee really deserves the credit for getting me out of the closet. Her encouragement and practical guidance were exactly what I needed. Best of all, she took me out one early evening after one of her seminars. The time we spent really gave me confidence.

Renee and some of my other friends told me that most people are too wrapped up in themselves to pay strangers close attention on the street. They told me that most people don't see you or, if they do, are only likely to give you the most cursory glance, especially in a busy place like downtown San Francisco. Besides, with the possible exception of a gang of teen-age boys virtually no one wants to make a scene on a public street.

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Comforted by these thoughts I girded myself to go out the door. My working thought for the day became simple: If could pass, great. If not, I would take not being harassed.

I walked out into the sun, put on my shades and walked past the two boys to my car. Nothing. Not a word to me (or about me). They saw me and went back to their business. Excellent.

I headed towards the Castro. I wanted to stop at the Beauty Store there since I knew the place and assumed there would be no problem in the neighborhood. It would be a good warm-up.

There were people everywhere and the store was busy, but still no negative reactions. I tried out my best female voice on the sales girl, but I'm not very good at it yet. While it was clear that she had read me, she took care of me very politely and even gave me a special discount coupon and a beautiful smile as I left. The store is at 3600 16th St., right near Market.

Now it was time for bigger game. Union Square and the Financial District at 2 p.m. I parked in a lot and walked past a homeless guy who asked for "any spare change, ma'am?" I was flying then, but calm at the same time. The streets around the square were wall-to-wall with tourists, fashionably dressed women, teen- agers, suburbanites, panhandlers, you name it. And not one gave me anything close to an odd look. Oh, one street person asked cheerily "What's happenin'?" but that was it. I was amazed and starting to take things for granted.

Some of my best friends at ETVC have told me I pass (I said they were my best friends!) but objectively I don't think I can pass close inspection.

I found out that I was right (darn it). In Macy's and several other stores that I visited the sales people read me like the Sunday paper. That deflated my balloon a little at first, but since most were very discreet about it I didn't get upset at all. Besides I realize now that sales people are major people watchers. It's their job to closely check out customers to see if they're serious buyers and to get a fix on the customer's taste.

Okay, so some people who look closely do read me, so what? I've learned that if you are comfortable with yourself then others will be comfortable with you and getting read turns out to be no big deal. Learning that has been a major revelation for me.

As the day was ending and I walked back to my car I ran into the homeless person who'd called me ma'am. I gave him a dollar without his asking and he smiled and said "Thanks, lady, you're very kind." A guy like that should never be on the street.

Even now, months later, it is hard to describe the great emotional satisfaction that came from finally realizing my dream of going out in public. I spent so many years living in paranoia and anxiety, I thought I would never overcome my fears.

But now all those ghosts are deep in the closet, not me.

— Cindy

Ever Cautious!

For years, we, genetic women, have learned to be careful when we are out at night. We travel in pairs, check to make sure our car doors are locked, have our car keys handy, keep our purses secure, and generally try to avoid dark, lonely streets.

Our husbands, fathers, and brothers on the other hand always seemed to have more freedom, less fear when out. Parents who were very anxious when their daughters were late seemed not to be overly concerned when the teenage son was tardy.

As a result, unfortunately, crossdressers having been raised males may not always be prepared when traveling alone. For example, while a crossdresser was returning late to her car recently in a restaurant parking lot, she found herself noticed by two couples while searching for her car keys. One of the men read her and made a few insulting remarks to the others. Thankfully, the TV was able to find her keys, quickly get into the car and leave before any major confrontation.

It is obvious that we cannot become too complacent, too trusting. Just as we genetic women should always be aware of our physical limitations, so should TV's remember that prejudice and hostility may be present. Especially late at night!

– Julie

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Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Today as I wrote the check for membership renewal, I reflected back on the past year. Yes, it is hard to believe that only one year ago, I found ETVC. The first time out was the Willits Weekend; what great joy I found there. All the many activities, Cotillion, Las Vegas Night and socials have memories that will last a lifetime. The Tri-Ess Holiday was an experience like no other. I can only hope the 90-91 year will be as eventful and uplifting as the past year.

I wanted to take the time to thank all the club officers for a job well done. Also all the wonderful gals I have met. If not for a few special people who supported me when I first came out, I may have run back to the closet and spent a miserable life there. Because of the love and support of so many I am able to hold my head up and deal with who and what I am. I am proud of my feminine side, she runs my life now and I have never been happier. I feel I am a confident woman now and Janette thanks all of her sisters for that confidence. Each of you have had a part in my destiny.

Love,
Janette

Beauty Hints and Ideas

Everybody has their own ideas about beard covers, perhaps because covering facial stubble is so important to having an acceptable en femme appearance.

But in covering the beard, you don't want to use tons of paint. In my opinion, beard camouflage is really a matter of neutralizing and then adding color to match your foundation. I use a product called Dermacolor to do this job. Dermacolor is a wax-based, opaque colorant that was designed to help cover burns and major blemishes but is also widely used for stage makeup. It is available at California Theatrical Supply/Kryolan, 132 9th St., SF, second floor. I use two color combinations, one that comes close to my basic skin color, which has cool blue undertones, and a yellow that is used to do the actually neutralizing. Depending on your undertones red or even green may be more appropriate than the yellow that I use. You have to experiment.

Once the neutralizer and skin tone bases are on, I try to bring the overall color up to my natural skin tone. This is the hard part. I use a little lipstick (which is in a cool red shade) to do the job, but you have to be sparing.

That all done, I proceed to foundation.

Well, that's my tip, got one of your own to share with your sisters? Send it to Newsletter Editor, ETVC, PO Box 6486, SF, CA 94101.

– Cindy

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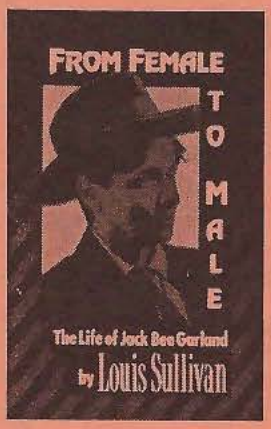
Book Review

From Female to Male: The Life of Jack Bee Garland
by Louis G. Sullivan



In his introduction to From Female to Male: The Life of Jack Bee Garland, Louis Sullivan recalls a slide and lecture presentation given by Allan Berube of the Gay History Project, "documenting the stories of several women who had dressed and lived as men in late 19th century San Francisco. These life stories were a revelation that moved me deeply: yes, it is true that women have passed as men from time immemorial, that female-to-male crossdressers and transsexuals are not modern-day freaks who have invented a new 'perversion.' That day, I resolved to learn more about one of Berube's subjects, Babe Bean, also known as Jack Bee Garland."

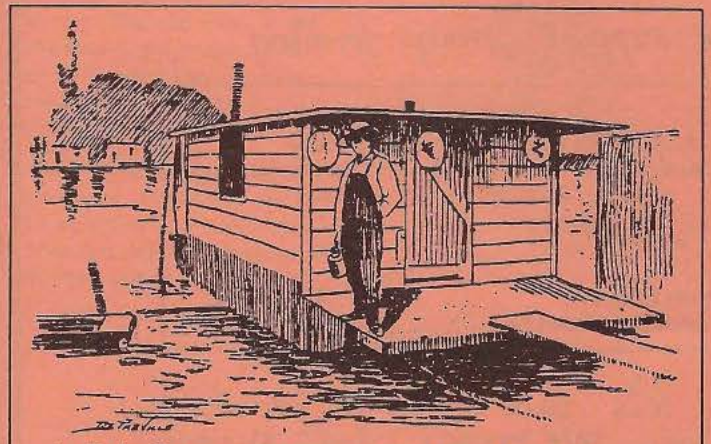
Documentation evidently was far from comprehensive, mostly newspaper articles (a good number written under the names Babe Bean, or Beebe Bean) covering the years from 1897 to 1901 and obituaries from 1936. As a result, From Female to Male is not an exhaustive birth-to-death biography. But it is needed and it is good. Reading it is like listening to a story about a wonderful uncle you didn't know you had.

I have almost nothing but praise. But let me take care of the almost first, so we can get on with the praise.

Much of the early part of the book consists of reprints of old newspaper accounts, but the stories quoted are not given dates, so I was never quite sure when days or months had passed between events. Also, at first I had a problem because turn-of-the-century prose, steeped in stilted artificiality and mustache-twirling gentility, tends to grate on my 1990 sensibilities. Soon, however, the necessity for reprinting these accounts in their entirety became evident as a means of recreating the social context in which an extraordinary soul struggled to realize its destiny.

The first story is from Stockton's Daily Mail, August, 1897, which bares a page one headline:

A WOMAN IN MALE CLOTHING



As Babe Bean appears in working clothes on the front porch of her floating home.

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The writer describes a young woman being spotted wearing "male clothing" and tells of the efforts of the police, aided by a reporter, to have her apprehended.

Three weeks later the suspect is caught and questions about her motives for dressing as a male.

"It is my only protection," she answers. "I do it because I am alone." The name she gives is Babe Bean. She seems innocent enough, but something must be wrong. Her houseboat (or "ark" as it is called) is searched; yet all officers can find is that "everything is neat as a pin (and) showed the feminine hand."

Babe mildly protests. "There is no mystery about me." With a great deal more chivalry than her interrogators, she says, "If the courtesy shown me by the police departments and the newspapers alike is a proof of what the sons of this pleasant little burg are, then you have more good and generous fellows together here than it has been my lot to meet in any other place."

Her patience and PR savvy pay off. She becomes a kind of friend and mascot to the police. Newspaper stories about her take on a more affectionate tone, though they are no lesssnooping. She even begins working for Stockton's Daily Mail, writing first, of course, about herself and answering "critics," but soon branching off into other interests. There are insightful opinion pieces about the sexes; an interview with Governor James H. Budd, a "native Stocktonian"; and sensitive essays about visits to society's outcasts: an insane asylum, a hobo jungle, a criminal court--and the home of a widower, whose twelve or thirteen year old son has assumed takeing care of a house and four younger siblings.

"Sitting in an old wooden chair," she wrote, "with his baby brother on his lap--his little face upturned so as to receive the tears that could no longer be restrained, his shirt open and his sleeves rolled up, showing how hard work was developing his young muscles, he sat there the picture of neglect and dejection..."

Years later, passing as Jack Garland in San Francisco, he searched out the homeless to empty his pockets--often of just bits of change. Almost his final act, before collapsing on the street, was to give "a scared runaway boy...his last dollar." This, to me, is what's most amazing: that he could dare to live his chosen life, enduring callous scrutiny as Babe Bean and, later, immense loneliness as Jack Bee Garland, while retaining and deeping a Christ-like compassion for others.

It is tragic that the story of a veritable saint must focus upon his transsexualism, but what a splendid job Mr. Sullivan does weaving quotes with his skillful narration to revive the memory--and surmise the motives--of one who was a transsexual before such a term was known.

Of Jack Garland and his contemporary FTMs, Mr. Sullivan writes, "Many pleasures of everyday living that others took for granted were out of reach for these people: they lived with a lack of physical intimacy, while wearing bindings and self-made undergarments in a desperate effort to alter their bodies. Peaceful daily living sometimes required the loss of family and friends...Medical attention was often impossible to obtain, and many female-to-males died of diseases because they could not risk revealing their secret to a physician; often if they did confide to a doctor, they were exposed to the public and ordered by law to give up their male identity..."

But are we so very far ahead of those times? Today, "Information for the female-to-male transsexual is practically nonexistent and few stories of their lives have been published."

From Female to Male: The Life of Jack Bee Garland is a worthy assault upon public ignorance. While informative, it is also a very readable--often exciting--portrait (wait until you read about "Lieutenant Jack in Manila"), but one which needs a companion volume. What is missing, which no skill can reproduce, is the kind of self-revelation that cannot come from stories about, but from stories within, told by one who has lived a valiant life and can articulate his heart.

I'm thinking especially of one who has kept a diary of his life and thoughts for some 27 years: Louis Sullivan.

From Female to Male: The Life of Jack Bee Garland is available for $10.00 (postpaid) from IFGE, PO Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778

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Dual DLs? - Bad idea

One question that seems to surface from time to time is whether there is a way to have two driver's licenses, one male and one female. I'm not talking about exchanging your old one for a license with your femme name on it after you have filled out the change of name forms, but having two at the same time.

It is physically possible to have two driver's licenses, but it is illegal in California and if you get caught you could be in serious trouble. The state vehicle code specifies that "No person shall have in his or her possession or otherwise under his or her control more than one driver's license." Having two is a misdemeanor punishable by up to six months in jail and up to a $1000 fine or both. It is also a separate misdemeanor to obtain license with false information - such as claiming a lost license to get another one, or pretending not to have ever had one. Beyond all this, the Department of Motor Vehicles can refuse to renew your original license if you get caught trying to get another in a femme name.

Giving false information also puts you in danger of being prosecuted for perjury, a felony. Offering false documents to be recorded in official records, in this case DMV files, also makes you guilty of a felony. State prison time is possible on conviction of these kinds of crimes.

If you want to shop en femme, pay cash or show your one and only driver's license. If you get stopped by a police officer you had better have only one license. He has seen crossdressers before, unless he is an extremely green rookie, and probably won't care - crossdressing is legal.

It is important for all of us to put our crossdressing activities in perspective. If having a license as a woman is that important to you, then consider the legal step of changing your name on your license to a female name. Staying on the right side of the law means you will get to continue to enjoy your personal freedom, including your freedom to dress as you choose.

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

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