ETVC

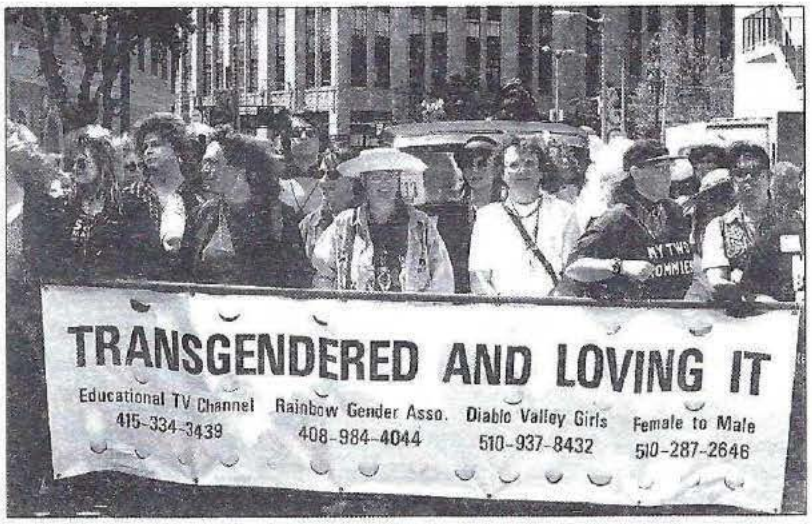
NEWSLETTER

VOLUME FOURTEEN, NUMBER 3, SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER, 1995

THE CHANNEL

Together '95

by Lisa Maxwell



The "Trans" contingent at the parade.

The Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender Pride Day Parade and Celebration, celebrated on June 18, in San Francisco, was a first for the entire community in many ways: The first year with transgender in the parade title, the first year that the parade was locally televised (on KOFY TV20), the first year that we had over 120 people marching, the first year that we had the oldest truck in the parade(?), and of course, the 25th Annual repetition of the event.

Our contingent was a combined effort, comprising all Bay Area transgender organizations, including a sizable FTM presence and marchers from DVG, RGA, SGA, and many people who affiliate with the general TG community. This year the ETVC contingent was part of a much larger effort; we marched as a community, as a group of people, united and together, with common interests within the gay community as a whole. We are gradually learning that we may have slightly different issues, but that there is only an expanding, ever growing, US. (Those divisions are so hard to remember, anyway!) We have so much in common with the gay community; self-awareness, pride, being who we are, working for compassion and against misunderstanding and discrimination.

By working as a part of the gay community, we can look forward to a day when no transgendered person must suffer from discrimination on the job, in housing, in the court system, or anywhere else. That day seems to be a long way off, but with all of us working, we can gradually effect change on a local, and a national level. (If anyone is interested, a group of us are going to Washington, D.C. to support others who will be working with Capitol Hill legislators on October 2 and 3rd - contact me through the Channel).

Another innovation for us was the staffing of not just one, but three booths. In addition to the Information Booth, where we passed out cookies, brochures, and volunteers, we also had a Beer Booth and a T-shirt Booth. The Beer Booth, coordinated by Nancy Ann and Ginny, sold a lot of beer. Our volunteers were behind the bar, serving beer while dressed in a fine array of costumes. We had a french maid, Wonder Woman, a debonair gentleman, fine royalty, and even a bathing beauty in a bikini, go girl!

ROXANNA ROCHETTE PHOTO

Mr. ETVC '95 Dillon King and Miss ETVC '95 First Runner-Up (filling in for Tammy) Pam Souza

T-shirts, T shirts, did we ever sell T-shirts. This booth, coordinated by Jane Bentley, outsold all other T-shirt booths at the Post Parade Celebration by a margin of two to one. We sold T-shirts, posters, buttons, chains, dogtags, and mugs to a throng of revelers, who quickly bought up every black oversize T- shirt in sight. This booth was staffed by a hard working group of volunteers.

Cookies, Cookies, did we pass out cookies - Our traditional information booth this year passed out hundreds, almost thousands, of homemade cookies baked by our Cookie Queen, Jackie O.Conner, who also coordinated the booth. We had many many people stop by, and had fun passing out cookies. Food is really great outreach!

The Annual Pride Day Parade is our best opportunity to appear before the public and make ourselves heard. This year, the parade had a Nielsen Rating of 4.2, which equates to about 10% of all Bay Area households with a television turned on during the parade. I want to thank all of the tireless, unnamed people who helped on the parade, which was our most successful ever! Your volunteerism is so wonderful, and I am so happy that we could all be a part of making this a success. Thank you all for everything !

[Note: Video tapes of entire Parade broadcast available for $35 from KOFY, 2500 Marin, San Francisco. Profits from sales go to AIDS hospices].

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	Trina Bloom & Diane Lask
Outreach	Lauren Hothckiss & Pam Souza
Social	Lulu Blau & Tedra Thomsen

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Membership (as of 7/29/95)	207
1994 Membership	456
New Memberships this year	14

TREASURER'S REPORT

June income	$ 1,225.00
June expenses	($ 2,264.27)
Difference	($ 1,039.27)

ETVC is a non-profit corporation. Donations to ETVC are TAX DEDUCTABLE on both federal and California income tax returns. Donations are gladly accepted. How about a file cabinet or 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

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Layout & Design	Kevin Anderson
Printing	Your Place Graphics

AD RATES

	Per issue	Per year
Business Card	$25	$125
4" X 5"	$60	$300

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

HOTLINE 510-549-2665
VOICE MAIL 415-334-3439
B.B.S. 415-239-8467

EDITORS NOTES

Francis Vavra

My annual high school reunion in St. Louis is coming up, I will not be attending, but it started me wondering about old friends. Where are they now, what are they doing? What do they look like? Are any of them transgendered? Maybe I'll attend the Big One (it's over 20) coming up in 2 years as Francis. Those thoughts became a stream of consciousness about ETVC, all the people I have known and met, criss-crossing paths we have had, perhaps even touching each other's lives in some small way. Remembering first impressions of the group, and later, their reactions to me when I first cross-dressed. All are growing, changing, doing what we need to do, reaching out, searching, sometimes withdrawing, experimenting, wondering.

Seven years ago, I attended an ETVC Halloween social with my partner Roxanna. I had fun because I love wearing costumes and role playing. We met someone disguised as a mannequin, who could not talk because of the rubberized head they wore, and I was intrigued watching her write notes, holding pen between 2 inch nails. I noticed an entire table cross-dressed as librarians, with blue-grey hair and matronly outfits. There were of course the outlandish and ghoulish. There was one man with short slicked back hair, smoking jacket and pipe, arched eyebrows and strange vibrations, sitting alone at a table, just watching. Later I realized he was a woman, and felt vaguely uncomfortable because he was manifesting the secret I would not show the world for another three years. It was a year before my partner and I attended another social. Does anyone remember when I was a yakky, friendly S.O. with a leather skirt and big hair? When we returned, there were new people, a few from the year before, and so on it goes. Occasionally someone comes back from a long absence, a founding member, or a former cross-dresser now living full-time in their preferred gender. We have a library of photo albums, articles, and earlier Newsletters. Where are those people now? What are they doing? Even if you no longer attend socials, or have moved out of the Bay area, send us a story, article, note or letter to the Editor and I'll be sure to include it in an upcoming issue. You are all part of our ongoing history, or should I say "herstory".

Letters to the Channel

Dear Editor,

I am keen to establish a video exchange relationship with someone in the USA. I am interested in films, television chat-shows, documentaries and beauty contests, particularly those featuring attractive, young and very feminine females, TVs and TSes. I have a very large collection of tapes from all over the world, including Thailand, the Philippines, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Brazil, Italy, Sweden, France and the U.K. I also have some U.S. material (especially chat-shows), but would like a regular exchange, especially of new material. Please write with details of what you have available, and what you would be interested to receive, to: Chris Williams, BM - Box 214, London WCIN 3XX, England.

TV/TS **Tapestry** *Journal*

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

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

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(617) 894-8340
FAX(617-899-5703)
(6% donation applied to all credit orders)

President' s Message

Jane Kamper Bentley

ETVC President Jane Kamper Bentley

Shelley Salieri is a pioneer. As a legislative aide to San Francisco Supervisors Hallinan and Alioto, she wrote transgender rights for city workers into S.F.'s charter, which earned her ETVC's Outstanding Achievement Award in 1993. In March of this year, Shelley suffered a stroke which left her unable to use her legs. She's home now, sooner than doctors predicted, determined to regain as much mobility as possible. All her friends wish her the very best, speediest recovery.

Another important and respected member of our community, Kim Elizabeth Stuart, author of "The Uninvited Dilemma" and "A Guide for Male to Female Transsexuals Considering Shifting Gender Identity" is also home after a stay in the hospital. In June doctors cleared obstructions in blood vessels in her legs. Recovery hasn't been easy, but she hopes in time to be able to be walking with minimal pain and fatigue. Get well soon, Kim!

Ten years ago, ETVC and RGA were just about the only Bay Area transgender clubs. Today, we're blessed with a variety of support organizations. FTM—the largest female-to-male support group in the world—headquarters in Oakland. Brothers Network, Asian AIDS Project, Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center and the Waddell Clinic serve transgender people in San Francisco. Sea Horse, a TG/TS medical clinic in San Jose is headed by Dr. Joy Schaefer, a transsexual MD. RGA in San Jose and DVG in Walnut Creek provide local support and socials. Yet we've only begun. Large areas go unserved.

Transgender activity north of the Golden Gate has been virtually nil. The newly formed Redwood Empire Social Club is helping to fill the void. RESC meets at 8PM on the 4th Tuesday. of every month at the Santa Rosa Inn, a gay and lesbian bar in Santa Rosa. Take 101 to Santa Rosa Avenue. Shortly after you exit you will see a small, unmarked street on your right. The first building on the left is the Santa Rosa Inn. Linda, one of RESC charter members, says that the Inn's owner welcomes us with open arms in a safe, friendly environment. For more information, phone (707) 938-8029 or (707) 938-9014, or write RESC/ POB 1531 / Sonoma CA 95476.

Charlene Hunter, who started RESC, deserves special recognition and thanks. A post-op new woman, she has committed herself to the community she could have abandoned.

ETVC Educational Report

by Diane Lask

This is my first column as Educational Co-chair and I can safely say that our first two months of educational activities have been very successful. Our TS/TG seminar with Dr. Moser last June was very well attended with over 30 people. Dr. Moser gave a most interesting presentation and to my surprise, ten years after RLT, I found out there was a thing or two about hormones and their effects that I didn't know. Many thanks to him for such a well informed talk. Also in June our educational seminar by Continental Wigs was well attended and quite a lot of fun. With an attendance of once again over thirty members we sat through a mini-fashion show of some of Louise's best styles. Quite a few of our own members participated as models creating new looks for themselves. I somehow managed to restrain myself as I was dangerously approaching a Marge Simpson "doo".

In July our "Really Little Shew" of local transgender comedy talent was a resounding success with over forty in attendance. Better then anyone could have expected, our friends within and outside of ETVC really came through with quite an enjoyable show. What a bargain for three bucks! So many thanks to Jane and Pam (our irreplaceable Mistress of Ceremonies) without whom none of this would have been possible - and double thanks to all our participants whose performances were flawlessly superb. Triple thanks to all our members who attended and, since this was a fund-raiser for the Educational Committee, we now have funds that can be used for some really neat upcoming events.

This September our Educational Committee will be presenting a first as we bring several transgender friendly religious leaders together on a panel to discuss various religious issues associated with transgender lifestyles. This is sure to be a hot topic and one of our most interesting and informative seminars yet so look for it on your calendar of events. Don't miss it!

Another big first for ETVC will be our first ever Gender Fair held early this October. Look out for this event! We will be bringing dozens of local transgender oriented businesses, community services and health care professionals together to provide you with a wealth of information and outreach. This is sure to be a fantastic source of information for all categories of transgendered individuals, so put this one on your calendar and if you go to nothing else come here for sure. Our new venue for this event is Jelly's, which is located in a nicely isolated location at Pier 50. Jelly's will be providing reasonably priced brunches for us by the pier with a wonderful view of the City and the Bay. Come, get informed, eat and meet with our wonderful community.

Some of you may have noticed a small change in the TS committee which is now renamed the TS/TG committee to better reflect the increased understanding of the commonality of our two closely related groups. Both groups are composed of individuals living full time within their chosen gender roles and the committee is designed to reflect their unique needs. Please, if you have ever been helped by anyone in the community, give a little back by coming to the committee meetings and helping others who need you so much. Of course we also need Educational Committee members to help us with so many upcoming events and projects.

Many of us are unaware that the Education Committee maintains a Transgender Library of which our own Ginny is librarian. We have hundreds of books, videos and pamphlets you will rarely find at the public library. Ginny maintains a monthly "open house" where you can come and browse the collection. A list of books is available anytime and members can check out books with just a call to Ginny. I encourage you to make use of this important and informative membership benefit.

I have Voicemail! I can be reached anytime through our ETVC information line (415 334-3439) at box "LASK". Any questions about educational events? Want to sign up for a committee? Call! Until the next issue... Be well, and be good to yourself and others.

Special Events

ETVC Mid-Month "Fun Nights at Kimo's"

Wednesday, September 13th and October 11th

Come to Kimo's for a "night of fun" socializing with good friends. If you like, you can watch selections from our club video library, various monstor movies, or short Laurel and Hardy movies with a crossdressing theme on Kimo's big television screen. No admission fee; two drink minimum.

Kimo's, Polk and Pine, SF, 8:00 PM

Education Seminar: Religious Issues

Wednesday, September 20th

We are very proud to present a panel of local religious leaders who will discuss various religious aspects and problems associated with transgender issues. Our panelists come from a wide variety of Judeo-Christian backgrounds and will be available to answer many of your religious questions and concerns. This is a very heartfelt topic for many of us so please plan to attend and benefit from a greater understanding of the issues involved as well as a message of hope. The standard donation of $3 for members, $5 for guests will apply. Kimo's, 8PM, Polk and Pine, SF

Empire Night Social

Thursday, September 28th

Would your face launch a thousand ships? Do you walk like an Egyptian or dance the dance of the Seven Veils? Then join with illustrious Ladies of Legend and impersonate your personal classy great dame from our classical past. Are you a reincarnated Nefertiti or Cleopatra, that other queen of the Nile? Or Helen of Troy, Jilting Jezebel, Sexy Salome, Athena, Venus, Medea, Medusa, Electra, Clytemnestra, Cassandra, Daphne, Diana, Juno, Naiad or Nymph, Sappho of Lesbos, Psyche, Euridice, Ariadne, Octavia, Pompea, Theodora? Or just a slave girl with an attitude ... impress like an empress, preen like a queen, oil up and shake it on down like Little Egypt to Eichelberger's, 17th & Florida, SF, 8PM, $3 members, $5 guests.

ETVC Gender Fair

Saturday, October 7th — Noon to 5:00 PM

In October, the regular Educational and TS/TG Seminars will be replaced by our first ETVC Gender Fair! This new event will bring dozens of transgender friendly organizations, businesses and social groups together in one locale in a trade show-like atmosphere. We have reserved a new location for this event which will be held at Jelly's, a bar/restaurant that is aware of and friendly to our community. Jelly's is located at Pier 50 with plenty of easy parking available. Feel free to come in face and meet with the many businesses and organizations. For this very special event a $5 registration fee for ETVC members ($7 for guests) will be requested. Please check the flyer enclosed with this newsletter for more detailed information.

Educational Committee Meetings

Monday, September 11th and Monday, October 23rd

Anyone interested in providing direction and/or support for future monthly ETVC Educational Seminars are encouraged to attend. For more information, leave a message on the ETVC Voice Mail (415) 334-3439, Box 5275.

8:00 PM - Kimo's, Polk and Pine, SF

TS/TG Committee Meetings

Mondays, September 11th and October 23rd

This meeting is designed to meet the goals of those living full time in their new gender roles. This committee plans bi-monthly TS/TG Seminars and TS/TG oriented events. . Please join us!

7:00 PM - Kimo's, Polk and Pine, SF

Halloween Social

Special Friday night event

Friday, October 27th, 8PM

Witches and wombats, faeries and fiends,
Crones and toddlers and homecoming queens
Come to the Dunfey
And make yourself comfie
And help cast a shadow on past Halloweens!

It's spell-casting time again and ETVC's doing it in style. Vampires, "bring-your-own-blood" — for the rest there will be fine bars and a free buffet. Dance 'til you trance in the faerie ring to magical rhythms from live (if loony) ladies. Stuff your bust and strut your stuff for the judges in a contest of comprehensive costume categories. Gender wonder, fantasy and frolic! More details and advance tickets will be available soon. They'll cost more at the door!

Coronations in September

Imperial Star Empire of Alameda Coronation

Saturday, September 2nd, 7:00 PM

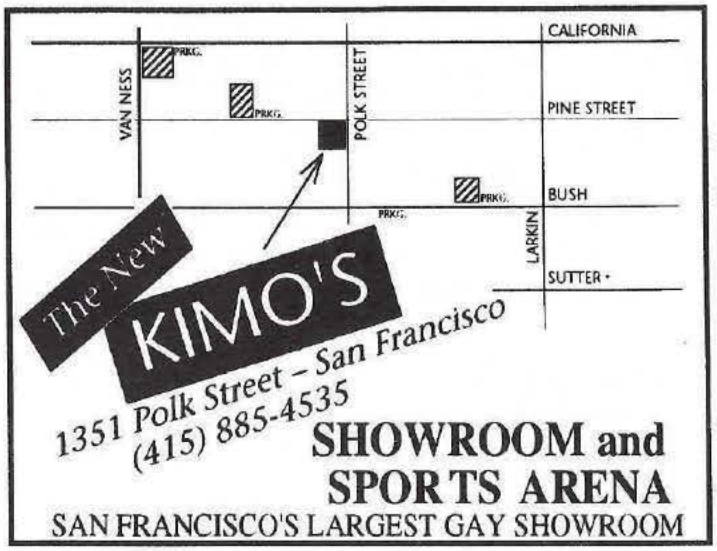
Centennial Hall, Hayward - $20 Admission

San Francisco Grand Ducal Coronation

Saturday, September 16th, 6:59 PM

Show Folks of America Hall, 827 Hyde St., SF $25 admission

The Alameda Coronation will feature the stepping down of our very own Miss ETVC 1990, Empress Tiffany and her Emperor, Taco Tony. Let's support Tiffany .. she's done a wonderful job this year with the Alameda Court raising many $$ for charity. Both Coronations should be great fun and ETVC will be reserving tables for each of them. If you want us to reserve a ticket for you, please call Ginny' at (415)[redacted] Send your check payable to and c/o ETVC, PO Box 426486, SF 94142-6486, Attn.: Coronation.



TV/TS/TG GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

A Calendar of Events for July & August

September					
1	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
1	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
2	Alameda	Coronation	Starts at 7 PM	Hayward	(415) 664-1499
4	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 937-8432
7	DVG	Pacific Center Rap Group	Starts at 7PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 939-7711
8	**ETVC**	**Poker Social**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**San Francisco**	**(415) 664-1499**
8	S.Bay	Gender Discussion Group	Meets 8-10 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-5619
8	**ETVC**	**Lending Library Open**	**Hours 7-11 PM**	**San Francisco**	**(415) 664-1499**
8	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
9	**ETVC**	**Executive Committee**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Palo Alto**	**(415) 750-1850**
9	SGA	Social	Starts at 7:30 PM	Sacramento	(916) 482-7742
10	FTM	Informational Meeting	Meets at 2 PM	San Francisco	(510) 287-2646
10	**ETVC**	**Newsletter Committee**	**Meets at 11 AM**	**San Francisco**	**(415) 664-1499**
11	**ETVC**	**TS/TG Committee**	**Meets at 7PM**	**Kimo's-Upstairs**	**Voice Mail 5275**
11	**ETVC**	**Education Committee**	**Meets at 8 PM**	**Kimo's-Upstairs**	**Voice Mail 5275**
12	**ETVC**	**Outreach Committee**	**Meets at 7:30 PM**	**Berkeley**	**(510) 883-1955**
13	**ETVC**	**Fun Night**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Kimo's-Upstairs**	**(415) 821-6509**
14	**ETVC**	**Significant Others**	**Meets 7:30-10PM**	**Pleasant Hill**	**(415) 664-1499**
15	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
15	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
16	**ETVC**	**Bowling Night**	**Call for details**	**San Francisco**	**(415) 731-7032**
16	Ducal	Coronation	Starts at 7:00 PM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
18	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 937-8432
19	**ETVC**	**Social Committee**	**Meets at 8 PM**	**Eichelberger's**	**(415) 821-6509**
20	**ETVC**	**Religious Issues**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Kimo's-Upstairs**	**Voice Mail 5275**
22	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
23	SGA	Social	Starts at 7:30 PM	Sacramento	(916) 482-7742
26	RESC	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Santa Rosa	(707) 938-8029
28	**ETVC**	**Empire Night**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Eichelberger's**	**(415) 821-6509**
29	RGA	Girls Nite Out	All Weekend	San Francisco	(408) 984-4044
October					
2	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 937-8432
5	DVG	Pacific Center Rap Group	Starts at 7 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 939-7711
6	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
6	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
7	**ETVC**	**Executive Committee**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**San Francisco**	**(415) 750-1850**
7	**ETVC**	**Gender Fair**	**Noon to 5 PM**	**Jelly's - SF**	**Voice Mail 5275**
8	FTM	Informational Meeting	Meets 2 PM	San Francisco	(510) 287-2646
10	**ETVC**	**Outreach Committee**	**Meets at 7:30 PM**	**Berkeley**	**(510) 883-1955**
11	**ETVC**	**Fun Night**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Kimo's-Upstairs**	**(415) 821-6509**
12	**ETVC**	**Significant Others**	**Meets 7:30-10 PM**	**San Francisco**	**(415) 664-1499**
13	**ETVC**	**Poker Social**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**San Francisco**	**(415) 664-1499**
13	**ETVC**	**Lending Library Open**	**Hours 7-11 PM**	**San Francisco**	**(415) 664-1499**
13	S.Bay	Gender Discussion Group	Meets 8-10 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-5619
13	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
14	SGA	Social	Starts at 7:30 PM	Sacramento	(916) 482-7742
16	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 937-8432
19	**ETVC**	**Teddy Bear Contest**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**San Francieco**	**(415) 664-1499**
20	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
20	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
21	**ETVC**	**Bowling Night**	**Call for details**	**San Francisco**	**(415) 731-7032**
23	**ETVC**	**TS/TG Committee**	**Meets at 7 PM**	**Kimo's-Upstairs**	**Voice Mail 5275**
23	**ETVC**	**Education Committee**	**Meets at 8 PM**	**Kimo's-Upstairs**	**Voice Mail 5275**
24	RESC	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Santa Rosa	(707) 938-8029
24	**ETVC**	**Social Committee**	**Meets at 8 PM**	**Eichelberger's**	**(415) 821-6509**
27	**ETVC**	**Halloween Social**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**San Mateo**	**(415) 821-6509**
28	SGA	Social	Starts at 7:30 PM	Sacramento	(916) 482-7742

OTHER GROUPS

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

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

Sacramento Gender Association (SGA) Blue Rose Chapter meets 8 PM the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month at the Townhouse, 1517-21st Street in Sacramento. Write: PO Box 215456, Sacramento, CA 95821-1456. Call: (916) 482-7SGA.

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

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.

Redwood Empire Social Club (RESC) Meets fourth Tuesday of every month, 8 PM at Santa Rosa Inn, 4302 Santa Rosa Avenue in Santa Rosa. Write: RESC, P.O. Box 1531, Sonoma, CA 95476. Call: (707) 938-8029 or (707) 938-9014

Please Print

ETVC Membership Application

Mailing Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Preferred Name: _____ Family Member's Name: _____ (If Applicable)

Birth Date: Month _____ Day _____ 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

"A World Without Borders"

A trio of personal stories from ETVC members participating in our events at the 1995 San Francisco Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender Freedom Day Celebration.

A Fine Day for a Parade - an Impression

By Roxanna Rochette

Arising from BART in Civic Center under soft cerulean skies dabbed with white clouds, warmed by the sun and cooled by a sea breeze typical of a San Francisco June, the City Hall background sets the stage for the assembled marchers. Their cars and floats await the signal of a legion of bike dykes, tough and soft, to lead the way. Swinging out onto Market Street to mounting cheers we proclaim transgendered and loving it to a hundred times thousands shouting, waving, rousing faces stretching all the way to the Embarcadero. We move smooth and slow, a band of denim blue and grey brushed in strokes of vivid color, some swirling skirts, a couple of lithesome dolls bikini clad, a singular strutting strumpet, and Wonder Woman herself. Our vintage Ford carriage glides like an arrow bearing a couple pairs of royal Misses and Misters gesturing to the layered walls of spectators growing in depth and height the further we move into a canyon of buildings full of echoing sound and spectacle. The moving eye sees nothing yet everything in a blur of countless faces, a look snapped, connecting glances, a stare, a smile or a laugh. Live television registers our 15 minutes in a few seconds, a knot of guys hold aloft Olympic scorecards giving us several "10's", high heel boobytraps are skirted every block by those of us foolish enough to wear them, and some nasty Kansas flies ready to be swatted are shielded by the City's finest. Like a movie thriller building to an extended coda the breath is deep, the heart pounds, all is a-gush in the joy of the moment as the parade seems to sail forth out over the Bay at the end without borders.

Freedom Day in the ETVC Information Booth

by Sandra Brewer

While the most stalwart of our members were defending our honor by bravely confronting the hard pavement and the (thankfully) cheering crowds on the front lines of the parade, our home front was not left unattended.

Jackie arrived early with the ingredients for the information booth in her truck. Donna, Janet and I helped Jackie erect the booth in short order. While Trina and I tended the booth all day long, several of our members joined us throughout the day to make this a true team effort. Our booth was a popular meeting place for members and friends after the parade, partly because we supplied food to replace all the calories worked off during the parade. It was a long but most rewarding day for all of us.

The efforts of Jackie, Lisa, Evette, and Kindra provided us with an ample supply of cookies to tempt our visitors with. We gave away 900 cookies and 600 copies of our information brochures; Wilhelmina wouldn't let them have a cookie unless they also took the information. The discrepancy is because we ran out of information before we ran out of cookies.

The most exciting aspect of the whole experience was, of course, the response we got from our visitors. While they were enjoying our cookies, we explained the nature and purpose of ETVC. This reflected the same resplendence I have experienced answering the ETVC Information Line, but with the added dimension that it was in person. Many apparently from the extensive but hard-to-reach closeted population came forward; some even joined ETVC on the spot. Though we didn't solicit any donations, we did collect a modicum of contributions that were freely offered to our organization.

Others from outside our community stopped at our booth to learn about our lifestyle; their interest appeared sincere so we found the discussions to be most enlightening. Some expressed elements of surprise that we presented ourselves as "normal" members of the opposite sex, instead of as stereotypical drag queens. In some respects we felt like goldfish in a bowl; in reality the "goldfish" were swimming among the crowds around all the booths. We are proud to have been a part of this magnificent event with the very appropriate theme "A World Without Borders".

ROXANNA ROCHETTE PHOTO

Sandra Brewer at the Info' Booth

Beer Booth Memories

by Lulu (move over Mae West, I'm feelin' more than friendly) Blau

After a long, hot march down Market in the interest of outreach (just the greatest excuse to show off my new sandal jellies), what better place to volunteer time, talents, and a helluva thirst than the beer booth? I could taste that cool genuine draft in anticipation. A little stop at our information stand for a sandwich, a Jackie Gender cookie, and a photo-op with Mr. F.T.M./E.T.V.C. (L.S./M.F.T.?) Dillon the King of Schmooz and, then, off to work. Parched? Lemme tellya, toots. So I get there and are they partying, "one for you, one for me" like? Not!! They're up on their little sore footsies selling suds with a mission. Wonder Woman Tedra shouting "Cold beer - hot babes!" bikini-bare barmaid Diane with one fist full of froth and the other full of dollars and here comes the change of shift and they don't want to go. So Ginny throws us each a money apron full of change and some dollars and we literally have to steal their customers and squeeze them off the stand. "Hey girls, your time is up."

The new staff starts swinging, getting into the flow, shouting "2 Becks, 2 Lites" and Roxanna and Francis doing the 2-step delivery pouring and crashing (we coulda used a traffic cop) and Bow-K on back-up, changing kegs as we squeezed them dry. Well, we're cruising and smiling and talking kinda husky (cuz we still haven't stopped for so much as a sip) and listening to "Your booth is the friendliest one here" and fishing the tips out of our bras and putting them in the bucket where they belong but heck, that's not as fun, when someone drops the news on us, kinda casual, "Hey, both other beer booths on the block are bust — they've run out!" Bbbbut Bubba, that means bbbusiness! Then here they come. Talk about locusts and were they thirsty! With one hour to go 'til closing time we kicked it into gear. You go, girls! The beer didn't flow, it flew. And like magic, exactly at 6, it stopped. We'd run dry, too! Not a drop for us hoarse little fillies (okay, large fillies) unless we wanted to drink the slosh from our pumps... and I'd worn sandals!

Gender Bowling Night

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Gender Skybox

By Pam Souza

Septober greetings from a partly cloudy skybox, where fog and mist shroud my view of the field. I have not relocated to Candlestick Park where such conditions are common. The fog and mist, dear gender fans, are in my head; a pre-dawn hangover following a four year long ego binge.

When I wandered into this cozy little outpost of genderland some 4-plus years ago, I was feeling incomplete. Something was missing, I did not know what. Have I found it yet? Not quite, I'm sorry to say. The opportunities have been here, but I have yet to take full advantage of them.

Don't get me wrong, I have experienced some growth. But much of my activity has been escape. Escape, after all, is quick, easy, painless. All I had to do was throw my energy into a personality that can get lots of attention. Attention is a great buzz; it helps you forget your real problems. While the personality is drinking in all that wonderful attention, the person beneath can still feel incomplete, and starved for more legitimate connections with people, and beyond. The trick is to learn to ignore these feelings and continue with the entertaining dream.

Then one day the wake up alarm screams through my well crafted scenario, and the snooze button no longer responds to my prodding. A voice in my head says, "Welcome back to you, Paul (oww! Why does it have to use that name?) and all the work you've left undone."

I stand somewhat dizzy, a little bit cold, and a lot scared. This work will entail laying down my many defenses of personality, making myself vulnerable and feeling feelings I don't necessarily want to feel. Part of me wants to dive back under the covers for another four years. A wiser part of me knows I can't. I've done that for too long already. Anyone else have mornings like this?

In news more typical to this column: Who says you can't go home again? July 9th marked my first return en femme to that glorious suburban paradise of my formative years, Hayward. With me were my Pin Princess teammates, Joanne, Laura Van Nuys, Everett and Kindra, all of us bowling for the glory of ETVC, at the ISE Bowl-a-thon. Empress Tiffany, (who along with being our 1990 Miss ETVC, also has to her credit an award winning mushroom sauce), Emperor Taco Tony and friends hosted a fun filled afternoon of bowling at Pro Lanes, followed by a sumptuous spaghetti feed at the Driftwood. (note to organizers of any events: never underestimate the drawing power and satisfaction quotient of food). We did not fare as well as we hoped, losing two out of three games to the Imperial Bride Grooms whose ranks included the Emperor and Empress, as well as our own renegade education co-chair Trina Martina Bloom. I'll have to recruit better next year, since Trina throws a pretty wicked ball, which is no small feat when you wear as many petticoats as she did. The bright spot for the Pin Princesses was Kindra, who walked away with the trophy for best individual average at 156. Not bad for someone holding back to avoid wrecking her nails. You go girl!

Freedom Day Post Script: As honored as I felt to have substituted for Miss ETVC '95 that day [in the Parade], I was disappointed to hear negative comments about Tammy Kingsley regarding her regrettable and unavoidable absence. Call of the Dobermans, ladies, that's not what ETVC is about. If we start turning on our own, we might as well pull up stakes and return to our respective closets.

Muchas hugz and kizzes by the way, in the direction of '94 Miss ETVC Lauren Hotchkiss, who loaned me her sash and tiara that I may look more regal during my pinch hitting appearance. Thanks Big 'Sis, you're always Number One in my book. Drop by the skybox and use my binoculars any time.

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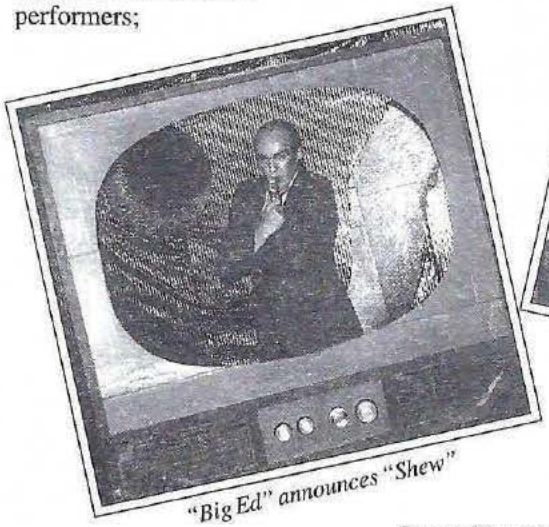
Big Shew Fits Perfectly

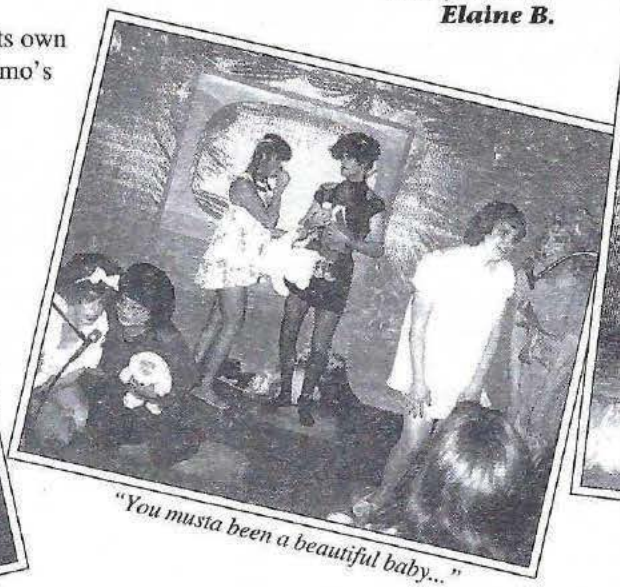
by Gelsey W.

Photo's By:
Roxanna Rochette
Cindy Martin
Elaine B.

After a year's hiatus, the ETVC showcase of its own talented performers returned to the stage of Kimo's on June 29th. Director Lulu Blau assembled a solid list of performers;



"Big Ed" announces "Shew"



"You musta been a beautiful baby..."

Connie Champagne

production by Laura Van Nuys and Kimo's staff was first rate; and Pam Souza kept the crowd cheering as an enthusiastic and humorous Mistress of Ceremonies. All live numbers (no lip-synching allowed), the show contained original music, several talented groups, two group numbers cleverly choreographed by Rainbeau, one of femme fatales fighting over one fella, the other as adorable baby girls, new comedy material from Mr. ETVC '95 Dillon, heart-stopping hula by Miss ETVC '95, Tammy, special duet by S.F. Empress Donna Sachet and Emperor Brian Benamati, hilarious

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info-mercial with Nancy Ann, and a surprise dance by Francis Vavra cross (cross) dressed as a belly dancer. When did he learn to do that?

From the opening appearance by "Ed Sullivan" to the last note, the Big Shew was really big. A surprise birthday tribute for V.P. Lisa was included in one of the skits, and the entire program was taped for future enjoyment. Director Lulu reached outside of ETVC to also include several wonderful talents connected to the drag and cross-dressing community, including Julie Rose and Connie Champagne (who admits to being a drag queen trapped in a woman's body) and whom, accompanied by Birdie Bob Watt on keyboard closed the evening with a group sing-along, plus encore. Thanks to all who helped make the evening such an entertaining and successful event!

Dale, Jasmine, and Birdie

Mr. and Miss ETVC with S.F. Empress and Emperor

Happy Birthday, Lisa...

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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.

Ask a Silly Question....Get Some Interesting Answers!

by Ginny Knuth

Over the years many fun couples group parties have taken place in the homes of our members in various parts of the Bay Area. In July, no one answered my appeal for a hostess for the meeting, so once again we opened our doors for the evening. Usually I try to make the parties a little more fun than just eating a potluck and socializing, by introducing some kind of game to play for which you can win little prizes, like fingernail polish or a compact mirror, etc.

We have played "my version" (somehow connected to crossdressing, hopefully) of "Let's Make a Deal", "Trivial Pursuit", "Jeopardy", "Gender Bender", and held contests for the best styled wig (created on a wig head at the party that night from old, beat up wigs picked up at a garage sale) and for the best makeup job created on a wig head done by a team at the party. Well, you are probably getting the idea and are now more determined than ever not to attend such strange events. But hold on kids; we've also had bridal showers, tupperware parties, picnics, jewelry parties, birthday parties, adult toy parties, and lovely lingerie parties. Have I got your attention again?

For our 11th Anniversary Party, I decided to put together a gender "Family Feud" as our diversion for the evening. Not being as easy to do as you might think, we were finally able to talk 25 great ETVC members into filling out a 32 question survey on which we could base our questions. Along with a lot of "silly questions", such as "how many times does a crossdresser purge in his lifetime?", "name a movie with a crossdressing/TS theme", or "what is your favorite hair color?", we threw in the question "What do you think is the main reason a person crossdresses?"

Of the 25 people who responded to these questions, five were significant others, ten were transvestites and ten were transsexuals. The answers we got for this "silly" question were so diverse and interesting, we decided to share with you why some of you think you crossdress.

1.	Sexual	3
2.	Emotional Fulfillment	2
3.	Personal/Self Expression	2
4.	The thrill of it	1
5.	To find inner peace	1
6.	The opportunity is there	1
7.	To pull my true self out of my soul	1
8.	I have to do it	1
9.	For personal life fulfillment	1
10.	To express my femininity	1
11.	It's a fetish	1
12.	I feel pretty	1
13.	To bring out feelings and the personality of other gender	1
14.	For self-satisfaction	1
15.	To contact my feminine side	1
16.	It feels good	1
17.	I was born with this	1
18.	To satisfy personal urge	1
19.	To free my spirit	1
20.	I have no idea	2
	Total	25

My favorite answer was number 20. In my mind, the answers to this question seem to support the statement, "no one knows for sure why they crossdress, they just do!" I'll bet if we asked another 25 this question without the benefit of hearing the above answers, we would get 10 to 15 different answers yet again.

About ten years ago I decided there was no clear answer to the whys of this ... and it appears nothing has changed . It really doesn't matter why a person crossdresses. It only matters that they are able to express their whole persona without guilt or shame or fear of some "friend" or even a stranger not "approving" of their ways to find contentment. Yes, we were able to "put this issue to bed" and get on with our lives a long time ago. You see, we finally decided that we didn't "approve" of the people who didn't "approve" of us. I mean, whose problem is this anyway?

We are doing our best to provide our wives and partners with any support they might need in dealing with the issues of our unique lifestyle. Both the SOS and couples groups were formed for the purpose of being there for all of you. All you have to do is participate. Please attend our meetings, use our libraries, and send us questions that we can pass along to our helping professionals who will answer them in our Other Voices newsletter. Think for a moment about the experiences you have had affecting your relationship and your interaction with others. Write a column for Other Voices sharing your stories and the different approaches you used to work out the problems you encountered. Any and all information can be important to someone.

Partners of Transsexuals Organize

Lesbian and gay partners of transsexuals, transgenderists and intersexed folk are forming a peer support/education group in the East Bay. The group is open to current and former partners who are concerned with issues such as:

Transphobia in the lesbian and gay communities
Meeting the needs of partners in transition
Sexuality
Isolation

For more information contact Diana R. at 510-[redacted]

Significant Other Support Group

The Significant Other Support Group invites all Significant Others to attend our meetings. Group members define Significant Others as wives, lovers, friends, children and others close to TV/TS persons who are themselves not TV/TS. We encourage you to ask the SO in your own life to attend, particularly if she or he needs support from peers in dealing with feelings about the TV/TS in her or his life. All meetings are kept STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL to help insure that a safe, supportive environment is created in which all attendees feel secure enough to freely share and talk about their feelings. We are frequently assisted by a helping professional with a specialty in our area of concern. Our next meetings will be Thursday, September 14 and Thursday, October 12. Everyone is invited to a Halloween Teddy Bear contest on October 19 in San Francisco — Bring your stuffed animal entries for admission. You are welcome with open arms. For more information call Ginny at (415) [redacted]

We need your support to give support to those who need support. Let's hear from you .... positive or negative, I will defend your right to think it, believe it, and to say it in writing on these pages.

• •

Announcing a Halloween Costume Party on Thursday, October 19, 1995! Yes indeed, Nancy Ann and I invite everyone to come to our home in San Francisco just a week before ETVC's big Halloween Party . Oh, we know you have been working all year on your special Halloween costumes for the big bash, but we hope we can entice you to sponsor one or two contestants in our Halloween Costume Competition, too. You see, **we will not be judging what you are wearing in our Costume Competition, but what your stuffed animal entries will be wearing.**

There is a very loving charity in San Francisco that provides a "care package" for Aids patients in various hospitals in the city. This package consists of a robe, a pair of slippers, toothpaste and .....a Teddy Bear. Our innovative little competition will be for the Halloween costumes you have created for any stuffed animal, any size, any theme, crossdressed or not, that can be entered as contestants in four categories:

The prettiest contestant — The sexiest contestant
The most creative costume — The scariest contestant

So put your artsy/crafty thinking caps on, go out and get a stuffed Teddy Bear or Giraffe or Elephant or Tiger or Dog or Crocodile and some sequins, boas, pirate hats, lace, leather, material swatches of chiffon, suede, denim, etc., etc. and bring your contestant(s) to the Party. We hope to have a representative from the Godfather Service Fund here to select the four winners, the sponsors of whom will receive a gift certificate for one CD at Tower Records (that's Compact Disc, silly). We will then donate all the "contestants" to the Godfather's Service Fund to include in their Halloween care packages. You may enter as many contestants as you wish in this competition. If you have a conflict that night, but still want to sponsor a contestant, simply get it to us before the contest and you, too, will qualify for the prizes. Remember, the more contestants we get, the more Aids patients' eyes will brighten.

Food, other "spirits" and entertainment will be provided. Instead of a buffet dish, bring a stuffed crossdressed hyena. So how could we tell if a stuffed hyena is crossdressed? We'll take your word for it! Everyone is welcome — this is a way to have fun and help someone in need. Party time is from 8PM to 11PM. The costume contest is at 9PM. Call me for directions or information at 415-[redacted] Mark this date on your calendar — Thursday night, October 19, 1995. Any contestant over 8 feet tall will be judged from the sidewalk, and will probably win a prize!

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The New Woman

Roberta "Bobbi" Dunne
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The Olson family purchased the first television set in our neighborhood. Sensing the historic significance of such advanced technology and respectful of the curiosity of their neighbors, it didn't take Bessie and Ollie Olson long to invite all of us, parents and children alike, to drop by and share in viewing some of our nation's earliest broadcasts. Those visits were special because television was such magic to us kids. It would draw us in. It would capture us. To our parents it was an object of pride, representing the creative genius of man and the wonders of nature merged in a marriage of mahogany and glass. Before long everyone bought their own set, and our community joined the world in its exploration of this new form of communication – this new media.

From the beginning there were those who viewed television as a responsibility. Many people appreciated its power to entertain and even more importantly, they realized its power to teach. People like Edward R. Murrow sought to bring the world and our hearts in focus with his often courageous telecasts. It was through those early efforts that we became aware of the tyranny of McCarthyism, enabling us to stop its spread. Later, television brought us visions of the war in Vietnam, recording its violence even in those last days on the embassy's rooftop in Saigon, filling us with images of the cost of war. There are scholars who feel television played a vital role in bringing that tragic chapter in our history to a close.

As a vehicle for educating the public about issues important to the Transgender Community, Television has been all over the board. There have been some excellent documentaries, and a few sensitive biographies, but much more needs to be done to resist exploitation while encouraging those engaged in the industry to represent us fairly.

Even as we continue this effort to bring about fair play in television, there is emerging a much more powerful tool of communication. That tool is the computer. As I have begun to explore the Internet, I feel that same sense of wonder I felt when sitting with the Olsons so many years ago. There is that aura of magic about it, as if we are once again poised to embrace new levels of experience. Experience that will have a profound effect on the future.

Individuals and groups of all types and interests are flocking to the "net," finding each other and loosely organizing to share information and to protect and further their common interests. The Transgender Community is no exception. And in this rough and tumble environment, at the edge of the frontier, we can only benefit by retaining that same clarity and awareness first exemplified by those earlier pioneers in their struggle to bring relevance to television. It does us no honor to flood the "net" with fights over whether the word "transsexual" has one or two s's in its spelling, while the militant right is organizing our destruction.

A disillusioned Edward R. Murrow said in 1958, "unless we get off our surpluses and recognize that television in the main is being used to distract, delude, amuse and insulate us, then television and those who finance it, those who look at it and those who work at it may see a totally different picture too late." He could have been talking about the Internet. He could have been talking about us.

Night Man

by Francis Vavra

Full Circle

For the past three months, since being "downsized" (polite term for your employer letting you know you've "outgrown" your surroundings, and need to "expand" elsewhere) out of my comfortable but creatively stultifying job of eight years, I have been slowly shifting. Again. After overcoming the shock, catching up on sleep, moving happily into creative ventures, organizing projects, meditating, traveling and reassessing my life I was starting to feel alive again. When the going gets tough... of course I have been shopping. I recently bought several summer dresses (for fun, you understand; after the Beach Blanket social, I can finally say "my S.O. is wearing my dress!", as Roxanna commandeered a new sun dress I hadn't yet altered to fit myself and wore it herself that night).

Then reality reared its ugly head when my ex-employer appealed and won a ruling against my collecting any further unemployment benefits. That was the rent. Since I am not living as male, but taking hormones has altered my appearance as too in-between for the comfort of some, I am presenting myself on job interviews as female. So now I am shopping for a "survival" wardrobe, which means "conservative femme". Well, not too conservative, but dresses of a certain length and style. I purchased "sensible" black pumps with 1 1/2 inch stiletto heels (no chunkies for me), and of course, regulation sheer black pantyhose (I like the color, but hate pantyhose). It also means wearing stronger makeup to de-emphasize more masculine facial features; and Derma Blend on my neck spots (where I recently had electrolysis - my skin is still soft and I was tired of razor burn - is this getting too confusing?) Now that my beard is coming in thick and black, I have to remember to always shave before an interview!

Night Man double-crosses the crowd as a belly dancer at the Really Big Shew

I'm proud of my own handlebar mustache that is slowly patchily growing in, and refuse to shave it. I've been trimming and bleaching the longer hairs so they don't show too much, then at night, applying waterproof mascara to go out as my male self. I have decided to go back into the closet (only on job interviews; once out always out, I feel) and not mention anything about being transgendered or cross-dressing. If I land a job with open minded people, I'll re-introduce my male clothes as I did at my last job; shirt and tie with a skirt (and pumps, not wing tips), "Annie Hall" with vest and shirt unbuttoned at the top, tie loose and non-corporate, and then, wing tips and big hair (and mustache)... What am I saying? That sure sounds like Drag to me! Guess I've come full circle... as Bob Dylan sang in one of his songs, "What do you have to pay to get out of going through all these things Twice?"

AIDS WALK '95

A stalwart number of hearty souls (and soles!) walked the 10 K (6.5 miles) through Golden Gate Park on July 16, having collected a goodly sum of money for AIDS benefits. We walked under a small placard "Transgendered and Loving It" for the second consecutive year. Nancy Anne again wore heels, although slightly more sensible than last year's 4 inchers. Although some straggled way behind the sign, while others raced ahead, everyone had fun and with a sense of accomplishment, ended the walk with a brunch hosted by Ginny and Jane Kennedy. Jane organized the march, and collected the amazing amount of $1,000 from a generous neighbor. Her 9 year old granddaughter, not to be outdone, collected over $100, making her eligible for the thank-you dance party in August. Thank you, Jane!

PAULA-JO HUSACK, M.A., M.F.C.C.
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Lou Sullivan Day Picnic — Kathy Jones and friends proclaimed the first Sunday in June to be Lou Sullivan Day, celebrating the life and achievements of the San Francisco FTM pioneer who died of AIDS in 1991. A festive potluck picnic and barbeque was held in Kathy's back yard, with a number of FTM and MTF attendees. The intent was to create an official TS holiday, so that the lives of those who have paved the way in the transgender community will not be forgotten. Kathy suggested that the first Saturday in December be a day celebrated in Christine Jorgenson's memory.

Project Open Hand Contribution — In mid-May, Vice President Lisa Maxwell officially presented San Francisco's Project Open Hand with ETVC's donation from the 1995 Cotillion in the amount of $500. This money will contribute to meals personally prepared and delivered to those in need with AIDS.

Call for Cotillion Candidates — It's never too early to start thinking about entering the '96 Cotillion, to be held in January at the Russian Center in San Francisco. If your have talent, like to strut your stuff in front of an audience, are a transgendered ETVC member, or thinking about joining and care about the group, you may have what it takes to become our next Miss (or Mr.) ETVC. Contact Lisa at (415) [redacted]

Errata — In the July/Aug. issue, credit for the officers photo, p. 2 was wrongly attributed to David Swanson; it was by our ETVC photographer, Elaine B. In the article on the logo designs, Bill Jones, and not Joan Sheldon, was a contest judge.

Gender Events Around the Country

Fantasia Fair '95 — Provincetown, MA, October 15-22; Sponsored by the Outreach Institute for Gender Studies. The Fair is basically a holiday experience for the crossdresser/crossgender community, a mix of practical, social and educational opportunities designed to help in the personal growth and heightened awareness of one's "femme" persona. Includes beauty program, seminars/workshops, cocktail parties, awards banquets, fashion show, and talent show, all in historic Cape Cod town. $250 deposit required per person. Write for information to Registrar of FanFair '95, P.O. Box 941, SE PA 19399, or call (207)621-0858.

Southern Comfort '95 — Atlanta, Georgia, Sept. 28-Oct. 1; Sponsored by South Eastern Regional Conference, Inc. Registration extremely reasonable (rolled back to '93 rates): $175 per person before Sept. 1, $200 after Sept. 1; rooms $59 per night. Held at newly renovated Holiday Inn, midtown Atlanta. Programs, seminars, shopping trips, evening entertainment, including local night life – FTMs welcome – one of the more fun events to attend. For information, or send payment to: Southern Comfort, P.O. Box 77591, Atlanta, GA 30357-1591, or call (404) 633-6470.

Holiday En Femme '95 — Calgary, Alberta, Canada, November 15 to 19; Sponsored by Tri-Ess, The Society for the Second Self, hosted by the Phi Sigma Chapter. Programs and sessions for bringing out your femme self. Taking place at a lodge in the Canadian Rockies near Banff National Park. Tours, hiking, skiing, support groups. Registration is $205, $275 Canadian (after Sept. 1). Phi Sigma, Box 81115, 755 Lake Bonavista Dr., SE, Calgary, Alberta Canada T2J7C9.

The Middle Way

By Lauren Rene' Hotchkiss

Pemarin
The Untold Story

Those of you who have read my column over the years, have seen my gender journey take me from transvestite to transsexual to transgenderist to androgyne. For much of this journey I have been on hormones, beginning in 1991 with Estrace, and switching to Premarin a year later.

Earlier this year, a concerned friend gave me an article that had appeared in the August/September 1994 issue of the PETA Times, a bi-monthly magazine published by the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals.

As many of you already know, Premarin is the most commonly prescribed estrogen replacement drug for menopause symptoms and is also one of the primary hormones of choice for the male-to-female members of our community. It's currently being taken by more than eight million women and who knows how many MTFs both by prescription and on the street.

There are many conjugated, synthetic and plant-derived estrogen drugs on the market, but only Premarin, produced by the Canadian-based Wyeth-Ayerst corporation, distills estrogen from the urine of pregnant mares.

According to the PETA article, the mares are kept on a "pee-line" — ranchers' slang for the rows of stalls where the horses have their urine extracted. They are fitted with rubber urinary collection bags and then confined to stalls for most of their eleven month pregnancies. These collection bags often chaff their legs, causing sores which remain untreated throughout the animals' lives.

The stalls are so small that the animals cannot lie down. As a result, they often develop "stiff leg" from standing, heavy with pregnancy, on the hard, cold, concrete floor for months on end.

Their foals are considered by-products — most are either kept as replacements for worn-out mares or shipped to slaughter houses or rendering plants.

Most of the mares have never been confined before. They whinny in terror and tug frantically at their ropes. Others develop repetitive movements seen in confinement-crazed animals in zoos and on fur farms, weaving their heads from side to side and pawing rhythmically at the concrete floor. Many become panic-stricken and begin to kick and gnaw their stalls in frustration and fear. These inhumane conditions and the medical complications that result have led to the premature deaths of tens of thousands of horses.

There are alternatives to this inhumanity, however. In addition to Premarin and other conjugated estrogens, synthetic and plant-based estrogens are also available.

Synthetics include such brands as Estrace, Estinyl and Estradiol, and are available only by prescription. In some ways these synthetics may be more natural than the conjugated or "natural" estrogens. Conjugated estrogens are synthesized from the urine of horses, cattle, or pigs, while synthetic estrogens are an exact chemical copy of human estrogen.

Plant-based estrogens such as Fem-50, or Woman Power (both manufactured by Michael's Pharmaceuticals), are available or can be special ordered through health food stores or vitamin supply houses. Others, such as Evanesce, can be purchased by mail order through ads found in Tapestry, Ladylike and other gender community magazines. These plant-based estrogens usually contain black (or blue) Cohosh, licorice root, Don Quai, and other natural ingredients. Pro-Gest, a cream derived from yams, and containing progesterone identical to that made in the human body, is also available in many health food stores. Though weaker in strength than conjugated or synthetic estrogens, some members of the transgendered community have reported modest results from these plant-derived products.

Other herbal preparations can often be found at homeopathic supply houses and Chinese herbal pharmacies. For fresh ingredients, nothing can beat the Chinese herbalists. There is one catch, though. You have to be willing to take an hour to boil down the herbs and then drink, as a tea, a concoction which probably doesn't taste much better than mare urine.

An advantage of both the synthetic and plant-based estrogens is that they contain none of the impurities found in animal waste. Because they are not made from an animal byproduct, they are consistent in concentration and quality, something not always found with conjugated estrogens.

In addition to synthetic and plant-derived form, Estrogen also occurs naturally, in trace amounts, in many soy foods such as tempeh, tofu, soy milk, etc., as well as in berries and citrus fruits.

Although I chose to immediately stop taking Premarin after reading the PETA article, I realize that it is an individual decision that each person must resolve for themselves. I do feel a responsibility, however, to present you with the facts as they were presented to me as an aid in helping you to make the decision that is right for you.

Copies of the PETA article plus a supplemental informational brochure are available from PETA, P.O. Box 42516, Washington, DC, 20015. Or call 301-770-PETA. After making an informed decision, you can also call Wyeth-Ayerst direct at 800-999-9384 and let them know your opinion.

[EDITOR'S NOTE: The preceding column expresses the views and concerns of the writer only. ETVC maintains no position on, and accepts no liability for the opinions stated herein.]

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News from the Redwood Empire

by Charlene Hunter

Believe it or not we had a drag show in Santa Rosa, yes that's right, Santa Rosa! It was put on by Rowland's Review. Randy Rowland brought us the Closet Ball back in September at the Ziggurat.

Bob and I checked out the F.I. Show held at the Heaven. The Heaven, located in Railroad Square, is made up of three rooms. The front one has a large bar in it. The two other rooms are about equal in size, and one has pool tables while the other has a good sized dance floor with seating on three sides and a stage at one end.

It was a young crowd with nonstop dancing until show time. The show was about 35 minutes late in starting. As it was more of a professional show there was not the interaction between members of the audience and the Female Impersonators as at Embers in Portland or Lily's in San Francisco. The music was very loud. Ear plugs are a must! It was a mixed crowd all having a good time. Do come and check us out next time. If that is not your scene, we have a great "believe it or not" museum.

[Ed. note: There is a new support group for the "Redwood Empire" area in Sonoma County - check calendar page for listing].

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— Press Release (From IFGE) —

IFGE Announces Major Changes in DSM-IV Regarding Transvestism and Transvestic Fetishism

June 22, 1995, Boston, Massachusetts.

The International Foundation for Gender Education's Director of Research and Medical Liaison, Sheila Kirk, M.D. has learned that through the help of George R. Brown, M.D., Associate professor of Psychiatry at East Tennessee State University, major criteria changes have been incorporated into the American Psychiatric Association's DSM-IV.

Until this change, the act of cross dressing or intense fantasy of performing such an act, resulted in a psychiatric diagnosis even if the crossdressing was not responsible for any problems or disabilities for the individual.

Under current guidelines, cross dressing does not in and of itself constitute a behavior that is pathological or diagnosable as a mental disorder.

In the redefined APA DSM-IV criteria for Transvestism and Transvestic Fetishism, for a cross dresser to merit a diagnosis of mental disorder, he or she must evidence one of the three "D's" of diagnosis:

1. Distress
2. Disability
3. Daredeviling - high risk behavior leading to physical injury, loss of job, family disruption, imprisonment, etc.

A fourth "D," Deviance, is specifically excluded by the APA DSM-IV as a basis for rendering a diagnosis. It was determined that although society does not accept crossdressing behaviors, that in itself is not sufficient reason to label a person with a psychiatric disorder diagnosis.

The DSM-IV represents a major conceptual shift in American Psychiatry. Implicitly, organized psychiatry has signed on the "Transgendered Bill of Rights", in supporting the right of Transgendered individuals to cross dress without a mental disorder diagnosis.

Some cross dressers do in fact have a legitimate psychiatric diagnosis. There are those whose cross dressing is currently troubling and has caused major problems in life, love, leisure or job, possibly because it is an aspect of their life that is totally out of control and poorly accepted within themselves.

But clearly those who cross dress without damaging their lives in any major ways and in fact may have now matured and grown to the point where being a cross dresser is celebrated as a gift do not deserve or need a diagnosis of any sort.

Similarly there are those whose cross dressing is neither troubling nor out of control, but it conflicts with spouse, family or some other part of society. They engage not in high risk behavior but dress discreetly. This group's conflict is with society, so no diagnosis is appropriate.

It is possible, however, to be legitimately diagnosed with Transvestic Fetishism without ever having actually cross dressed. All-consuming, obsessive, sexualized, disabling fantasy alone may be enough to merit the level of disability engendered in the psychiatric diagnosis.

It is encouraging that the combined efforts to educate and outreach of national gender pioneers and organizations such as IFGE, AEGIS, Tri-Ess and Renaissance have helped to bring about these positive changes in American Psychiatry. The transgendered community is equally indebted to Dr. George R. Brown for his long time, tireless efforts on their behalf in the education of his colleagues in the American Psychiatric Association.

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