ETVC Channel

July 1998 Volume 17, Issue 5

New Officers 98-99!

Story on Page 10

President
Leslie Bailey

Secretary
Veronica Smith

Vice President
Lulu Blau

Education Committee
Nancy Cupps and Juana Smith

Treasurer
Lisa Ronald

Outreach Committee
Sandra Brewer

Social Committee
Nicole Cook (Evette RoqueLaurie not pictured)

The Channel

ETVC, Inc., a non-profit corporation, is a non-sexual, membership based organization serving the educational, social, and recreational needs of gender-gifted 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.

ExCom 1998-99 Officers

(Fiscal Year: June 1 - May 31)

President ..... Leslie Bailey
Vice President ..... Lulu Blau
Secretary ..... Veronica Smith
Treasurer ..... Lisa Ronald
Education ..... Nancy Cupps / Juana Smith
Outreach ..... Sandra Brewer
Social ..... Nicole Cook / Evette RoqueLaurie

Secretary's Report

Membership as of June 10, 1998 143
Total Fiscal Year 1997-98 Membership 327
New Memberships this year 15

Treasurer's Report

Account Balance as of May 10, 1998 ..... $1,458.43
The "Home for ETVC" fund is now $2,017.50

ETVC is a non-profit corporation. *Donations to ETVC are TAX DEDUCTIBLE on both Federal and California income tax returns. Talk to your tax advisor for details.*

The Channel, the ETVC Newsletter, is published monthly. Submissions should arrive at ETVC by the 15th day of the month preceding publication. Contents reflect the opinions of the contributors 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 as the source of the material. Copyrighted materials may be reproduced only with written permission from ETVC.

Newsletter Staff

Editor and Advertising ..... Ayme Michelle Kantz
Photographers ..... T. Adams, Juana Smith and Jamie Fey Fenton

Ad Rates

	Per Issue	Six Months	Per Year
Business Card (3-1/2 x 2)	$ 25	$125	$ 250
4x5	$ 60	$300	$ 600
Full Page	$100	$500	$1000

Personal ads from ETVC members: $10 for up to 40 words. We will not accept ads with a sexual objective. Ad deadlines are the 15th of every month. Send ad copy and check or money order to ETVC, Advertising Dept., PO Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486

Hotline & Voice Mail
415-564-3246

From The Editor

More on Acronyms

OK, I've heard many of you muttering amongst yourselves, "so what does ETVC really stand for anyway?" Some would say it's a play on words – TeleVision versus TransVestite. When asked, even Ginny Knuth (Goddess rest her soul) couldn't give a straight answer. I mean if she didn't know for sure, who among us does?! So we've got Educational TV Channel as a handle...meaning er, what, exactly? How does the acronym ETVC identify us? What does it say about you and me? Some would answer that it means we're an educational and social organization for transgendered folk and their supporters. Okaaaaay...so why the TV? Are we just trying to be confusing or are we limited in our focus?

Name Change

So we realize we're much more open minded and broad in our scope after all, and ETVC as a name isn't cutting the mustard any more. Time for a change then (and many ExComs long since past are exhaling "finally!"). But don't more of you care to lick a stamp and cast a ballot? Do you really think we should change the name of our organization based on a return of only 20%? In the August issue of *The Channel* you will find a secondary ballot giving you a choice of the two acronyms that got the most votes in our recent election. We're going to take another crack at it, and this time pick up a pen and check a box, clip the form and put it in the mail lazy bones! Or is it that you just don't care what we call ourselves, as long as there's a decent place for you to wear your pretty dress once a month! Grrrrrr....

Reality Check

Sorry about that...I got carried away....guess my check bounced. And so will ETVC's (or whatever we're gonna end up calling ourselves) if we don't figure out a way to bring some money in. And that means attending socials and seminars and making your donation. It means a member who has never gotten involved before stepping forward and volunteering to join a committee, so that they can coordinate this great fundraiser idea they've got. It means that same

Continued on Page 3

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WWW.TRANSGENDER.ORG/TG/ETVC

President's Report

by Leslie Bailey

At the beginning of the new term for the ExCom, I think it would be appropriate for me to make a statement concerning how I see the current situation and how I see the ensuing year playing out. Heading into the 1998-99 term, the ExCom has not changed dramatically. Darcy, Erin and Telzey have stepped aside and have been replaced by Lulu and Nicole. Our outgoing ExCom members should receive a hearty vote of appreciation for all their hard work, accomplishments and dedication.

The fact that most of the ExCom members have re-enlisted I think speaks for the dedication and determination to get the job done. Although the last two years have not always gone the way we would have liked, I am very pleased to have been a member of the ExCom and to have been a part of a very heartfelt and dedicated effort to realize many exceptional events (education seminars, on the town events, pride participation, KQED fundraising and other outreach efforts, Cotillion and Cal-Dreamin' to name a few).

It is encouraging and important that our membership is closely following the current situation and that many of you are voicing not only encouragement but also your concerns and criticisms. The ExCom is to be held accountable by and to the membership. The opposite side of that coin of course is that we can not do it alone. We need the help of all who have time and/or resources to give.

There are many who could carry on their transgendered life without ETVC. But would it be as fun? Could we lose ground? What about our many sisters who depend on the strength of the group to help them sustain their awakening and to find hope? Imagine San Francisco without a leading transgendered group. The truth is that ETVC is a marvelous place to connect and to grow. The ExCom has no intentions of allowing this organization to go out of business.

So where do we go from here? We need to reverse our financial difficulties. We need to have a stable and attractive venue for our socials that can attract more response and that is worth the cover charge. We need to sustain the quality of our newsletter which is the voice of our group/community. We need to operate the cotillion without losing money and to be sure of what it is we are trying to accomplish with the event. We could be more visible in the community, take a leadership role in advancing the transgendered agenda and be a better partner in the LGBT community (we win or lose together).

Are we getting anywhere in regards to these issues? The response to our new venue (Charpes) in May was very positive. You'll have to come out to a social to see for yourself. Ayme Kantz has taken over for Elizabeth as the editor of The Channel and has been instrumental in cutting the cost dramatically. I also sense that the newsletter will be very lively under her editorship. I have reserved the San Francisco Design Center Galleria again for the Cotillion. The challenge is to make it work financially. The benefits are obvious to anyone who attended last year. Dianna is doing a great job as Miss ETVC as did Dale the year before. The Pride Parade was in June and the Aids Walk is on July 19. I'll see you at ETVC.

From the Editor

Continued from Page 2

individual calling the hotline or writing a letter saying they can't be more active, but what if you tried this idea and here's how it would work. We need volunteers on our Committees: Education, Outreach and Social. Surely there's somewhere that you can offer a contribution, no matter how small. Short on ideas but have a little spare change? Cut us that tax-deductible check - our Treasurer will be happy to send you a receipt.

But seriously folks, as an organization, ETVC is walking a fine line...sure, the bank account is growing again (and apologies are due here, as June's Treasury Report was unavailable by press time), but that's only because it's membership renewal time. What those fees represent is woefully inadequate for the annual budget we've been used to. Financially, we know what we need to do, but there's only a handful of talented and dedicated individuals willing to keep this 'ol boat afloat, and they're bound and determined to give her a refit and set her to rights again. A new name is a good start. And the new ExCom has a lot cookin' on the stove already. But this is YOUR club, not ExCom's and their peripheral supporters. Like I told a new member recently, you're only going to get out this as much as you put in to it (a clumsy way of saying you reap what you sow). So please, dear sisters...give of yourself if you can; it will all come back to you.

And Speaking of ExCom...

In an effort to keep all of us a little bit more up-to-date, I hope to coordinate ExCom's monthly meeting better with my publishing deadline so that we can print the previous month's Minutes instead of the two-month lag we're currently experiencing. By the August issue, we'll be a bit more caught up with current goings on.

And as you know, we have a new Executive Committee for 1998-99. The end of month social on July 30th would be the perfect opportunity for you to meet them. Charpes seems to show promise as a venue where we may be able to negotiate a more permanent recurring event for them (check out Nicole's article on page 10). If we can show up in strength and let their management know that we could provide similar numbers on a monthly basis (or more?), our search for Chez Mollet II may be over. But it'll only work if you show up - the more business we can provide them, the more inclined they'll be to help us.

I've Got Those Pre/Post-Surgery Blues...

For the TSs in our organization, check out not only Andrea Drane's article on her recent experience (bravely shared, for which we owe her our deepest thanks), but Jane Bolig's first in a series of articles based on her recent presentation at California Dreamin', which explore the many choices we have to make on this personal road less traveled to even get to a point of having surgery. These strike home a bit more for me than they may for most of our readers, as I myself have just returned from a week in LA recovering from a breast augmentation procedure. Even if these topics are not your cup of tea, they're still a good read and representative of our diversity.

Calendar of Events – July 1998

Other Groups

Pacific Center for Human Growth
A counseling oriented growth center sponsors all-inclusive gender support groups on every Friday at 8:00pm, 2712 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley. 510-841-6224

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

Sacramento Gender Association (SGA)
Blue Rose Chapter meets 8:00pm the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month in Sacramento. Write PO Box 215456, Sacramento, CA 95821-1456 or call 916-482-7SGA (7742) for meeting locations.

Diablo Valley Girls (DVG)
Meets 1st and 3rd Monday of every month. 8:00pm at Just Rewards Nightclub, 2520 Camino Diablo in Walnut Creek. Write to DVG, PO Box 272885, Concord, CA 94527-2885 or call 925-937-8432.

DVG Rap Group (RCC)
Meets 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month, 7:00pm at Rainbow Community Center, 2637 Pleasant Hill Road (@ Taylor Blvd.) in Pleasant Hill. For more information call 925-937-8432.

FTM
A support group for Female-to-Male cross dressers and transsexuals; Holds open Informational Meetings and closed Support Meetings. Write FTM International, Inc., 1360 Mission Street, Suite 200, San Francisco, CA 94103 or call 415-553-5987.

TGIF (TransGenderism Is Fun)
A social group for transgenders. Meets one Saturday each month at a private home in Santa Rosa for a potluck social from 4:00pm until early evening. For dates, location and reservations, call Diane or Anne at 707-[redacted]

Silicon Valley Gender Association (SVGA)
A new trangender support group meets at the Billy De Frank Community Center in San Jose on the 2nd and 4th Friday of every month from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. For more information, call 408-293-2429.

Far West Women (FWW)
A support group for TGs affiliated with the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Alliance in Humboldt County. Meets every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month at 8:00pm in the GLBTA Center at Fourth and "D" Streets in Eureka. For information call the Center at 707-445-9760.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 7:00 PM DVG Rap Group (RCC)	3 8:00 PM Pacific Center: TV/TS Rap 8:00 PM Rainbow Gender Assoc: Social	4
5 3:00 PM ETVC ExCom Meeting @ LuLu's	6 8:00 PM Diablo Valley Girls: Social	7	8 8:30 PM ETVC: Mid-Month Social @ Cafe Mars	9	10 7:00 PM Silicon Vly Gender Assoc: Support Grp 8:00 PM Pacific Center: TV/TS Rap	11 8:00 PM Far West Women: Meeting 8:00 PM Sacto Gender Assoc: Social
12	13	14	15	16 7:00 PM DVG Rap Group (RCC)	17 8:00 PM Pacific Center: TV/TS Rap 8:00 PM Rainbow Gender Assoc: Social	18
19 10:30 AM AIDS WALK!	20 8:00 PM Diablo Valley Girls: Social	21	22 8:00 PM ETVC Education Seminar: BDSM @ Kimo's	23	24 7:00 PM Silicon Vly Gender Assoc: Support Grp 8:00 PM Pacific Center: TV/TS Rap	25 8:00 PM Far West Women: Meeting 8:00 PM Sacto Gender Assoc: Social
26 12:00 PM ETVC Outreach Workshop @ Charpes	27	28	29	30 5:30 PM ETVC EOM Social @ Charpes	31 8:00 PM Pacific Center: TV/TS Rap	

ETVC Membership Application

Full Year Membership June 1 – May 31

Please Print / Check all that apply:

❑ New Member with ❑ Family Member ❑ Renewal ❑ Member # _____

Member Birth Date _____ / _____ Family Member Birth Date _____ / _____

Preferred Name: _____

Mailing Name: _____

Family Member's Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

How did you hear about ETVC? _____

I am enclosing a Check or Money order for:

❑ $30.00 Full Year Membership

❑ $40.00 Full Year Family Membership (Note: only one copy of the Channel will be sent to this address).

❑ $_____ Pro Rate; start Month _____ (see chart)

Send Check or Money Order to
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PO Box 426486
San Francisco, CA 94142-6486

IF PAID IN	THEN SINGLE PAY	THEN FAMILY PAY
JUN	30	40
JUL	27.5	37
AUG	25	33
SEP	22.5	30
OCT	20	27
NOV	17.5	23
DEC	15	20
JAN	12.5	17
FEB	10	13
MAR	7.5	10
APR	5	7
MAY	2.5	3

May 98 ExCom Meeting Minutes

The monthly meeting of ETVC's Executive Committee was at 2:00 on May 10 at Lisa Ronald's. In attendance were President Erin Souza, Vice President Leslie Bailey, Secretary Veronica Smith, Treasurer Lisa Ronald, Outreach Co-Chairs Sandra Brewer and Telzey Adams, Education Co-Chairs Nancy Cupps and Juana Smith, and Social Co-Chairs Darcy Leopard and Evette RoqueLaurie.

The Meeting was called to order at 2:15 p.m. Communications and Announcements: There were very few announcements. The Closet Ball had been postponed. Darcy moved that April's Minutes be approved, Sandra seconded; they were unanimously approved.

President's Report

The storage locker had been cleared out. A lot of things were dumped and Erin now has some posters that were housed there. Erin thanked everyone for their help during her administration for the last two years and also for their participation in California Dreamin'.

Vice President's Report

Leslie's tax accountant could do ETVC's taxes for around $600, cutting the tax preparation fees in half. But it was pointed out that the present tax person was an attorney with expertise in tax law. Leslie saw her budget to be around $12,500 with almost all going to the Cotillion and around $500 going to the Parade. She wanted to get an earlier start for next year's Cotillion. She had reserved the Design Center for February 6, 1999 (and was placed on the waiting list for January 30). The subject of concessionaires was broached. Nancy wanted to get the food preparation out of ETVC hands. It was a headache and not remunerative. Because the Cotillion was being discussed, Sandra passed out a critique of the Miss ETVC judging process. The ExCom did not discuss Sandra's critique at the meeting.

Secretary' Report

Membership is 327 total with 83 new. Veronica passed out her projected budget. Depending on what shape the newsletter would ultimately take and what breaks the new editor could get on copying costs, the Secretary's budget varied widely (between $4,252 and $8,104). It was again suggested, but again not definitely decided, to alternate an eight pager with a sixteen pager, thus maximizing the postage savings but at the same time providing monthly service to the club. If this is indeed the final decision of the ExCom and Editor, then the Secretary's budget should be around $5,437 (or about half of what it was two years ago).

Treasurer's Report

Lisa wants yearly budgets and 60-day projections of expenses by the 5th of every month. Nancy asked if she wanted projected revenues also. Lisa said she wanted everything, every month. Juana wanted a donations list and Lisa printed it out. A break was taken from 3:45-4:15

Outreach Committee

Melissa, Sandra and Telzey had met to discuss advertising. It has become very expensive in some of the usual local publications. The Guardian would come to around $2,500 yearly. The Bay Times was free but did not bring many in. TV Epic brings people in and is cheap. Frontiers has ETVC listed. Juana wondered what the cost was in neighborhood newspapers such as The Independent. Sandra proffered the concept of having sympathetic reporters (if any could be found) who would profile ETVC, thus providing a lot of free publicity. Nancy suggested that hot line volunteers should routinely ask, "How did you hear about us?" Erin brought up Bob Davis' suggestion about post card sized ads to be left in bars and promising locations. Erin asked about getting listed on the Web under City Search or Sidewalk.com. TG Forum lists ETVC. Telzey had no specific figure, but her experience has been that half of the callers she talks to on the hot line had discovered ETVC on the Web. Nancy emphasized again that the Net was the future and suggested that the officers make better use of the valuable service Q was willingly providing. The officers should give Q as much information as often as possible for the web site. Miss Q has been energetic, proactive and diligent.

Leslie, Melissa, Sandra, Diane and Anne have had recent speaking engagements. ETVC was invited to participate in a panel discussion on Saturday, June 20. ETVC will participate with KQED's pledge night on Wednesday, June 24, 1998 (and she would like 100 envelopes to do a mailing to interested parties). ETVC and FTM will share an information booth in the Civic Center during and after the Gay Freedom Day Parade, June 28. Sandra had penciled in July 25-26 for her Outreach Speakers Workshop Program. Juana had arranged for ETVC to be listed in the Lavender Pages.

Education Committee

Nancy and Juana tentatively sketched the next 10 months of educational programs. June – Robin Dea and Hormones; July – Dr. W. Henkin and S/M; August – C.C. Parrot and Shoes (at the Holiday Inn); September-October – Dr. Meltzer/Dr. Ousterhout and SRS/facial surgery; December - off; January – Cindy Martin(?) and fashion; February – Juana wanted to create a TG panel discussion; March – Augusta Moore and deportment. Juana wanted to create a study group to discuss TG issues and writings. She would like to meet one Sunday a month at a coffee house starting in July. Erin asked if ETVC would still use Kimo's, but Leslie wanted to plan some events at Charpes to establish more fully the club's relationship there.

Continued on Page 8

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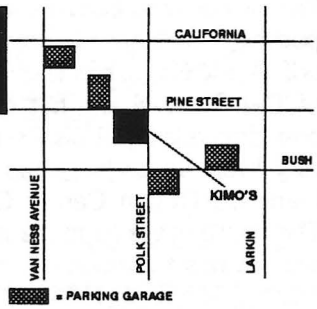

ETVC Events in July

WEDNESDAY / JULY 8TH

Mid-Month Social 8:00pm

We will once again be meeting at Cafe Mars, 798 Brannan Street at 7th. If you have not been to this venue now is the chance to join us there. I'm looking for new adventures for the mid month so it may be a while before we return.

SUNDAY / JULY 5TH

ExCom Meeting 3:00pm

You may have noticed that this shows up in the news letter now. Would you like to help? We have a number of programs we would like to implement this year to better serve the club. You can participate in a project that only lasts a month or so (no long term commitment). One way to do this would be to show up at the ExCom meeting and say "I want to do something". Call LuLu at 415-[redacted]

SUNDAY / JULY 19

AIDS Walk

Call Erin Souza for registration and information: 415-[redacted]

THURSDAY / JULY 22ND

Education Seminar: Are you a Bad Girl?

Do you need discipline? Have you ever thought maybe you needed a good spanking? If you answered yes to one of those questions, then join other naughty ETVC members on July 22 at 8:00 pm. William Henkin and Sybil Holliday will discuss S/M and B/D as methods you can use to explore your transgendered self. If you've ever been curious, you will be there! Kimo's, corner Polk & Pine; 8:00 pm. $3.00 - $5.00 donations appreciated.

SUNDAY / JULY 26TH

Outreach Workshop

Call Sandra at (925[redacted] See Sandra's article in this issue for more information about this workshop. Speakers to give talks on behalf of the group and the communicty are strongly encouraged to attend!

THURSDAY / JULY 30TH

End of Month Social 8:00pm

We will once again be meeting in what we hope to be our new home. Charpes which offers great food, and a private room in the back for our meetings will be the setting. Charpes is located at 131 Gough, not far from Marlenas and The Blue Muse. If you have not experienced this venue you need to. If we can get enough people there we will get them to staff the bar in the back room.

Attention Pub Crawlers!

Looking for something exciting to do in The City ? Nicole is looking for Social Coordinators. The job entails each coordinator to organize a club excursion once a month. How hard can that be? I will even help you set it up and attend them. The group will be from 4 to 10 members interested in trying new night spots or visiting old favorites. If you want to be a Coordinator or a member of the excursion group email me [redacted]**@tgforum.com** or talk to me at the socials.

Registered Intern No. IMF2594
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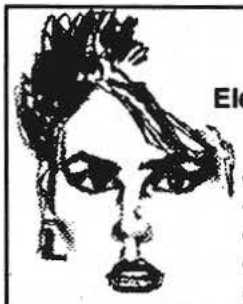

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Our Readers Respond...

What's In A Name? Plenty!

by Q

Ever gotten annoyed when dressed femme and people call you "he" or "sir"? What if they do it deliberately while you're dressed? Does it matter to you which pronouns people use for you? For a transsexual, ever had a day when you feel like if one more person refers to you as the wrong gender you're going to lose it?

Now let's consider something even more practical. The ETVC name. It essentially says "this is a group for transvestites".

Now let's get personal. I don't identify as a transvestite, but I have in the past. Would it bother me if people think I'm a TV? Not really, but they'd be getting a more limited idea of me based on a label. They'd miss out on the fact that I'm a femme, questioning, bisexual, pansexual, part drag queen, part glam queen, part tomboy, part gay, male-to-female pre-transition transsexual! (The last term, p.t.t., is one I just recently started using and feel fits me the most. 8-) So, is this group for me? Well, I feel it is and other members tell me it is even though the name does not. It's like San Francisco's LGBT Community Center — their online website is "http://www.sfgaycenter.com", which speaks primarily to those who identify as gay. Do I care if people think I'm gay? No, but they miss out on my richer more accurated self-identifications. So please, I urge everyone who is an ETVC member to strongly consider changing the name to TGSF. Let's make this club a more diverse and open place where transgenders of any and all persuasions can come to a place they can call home.

Chris From Benicia Writes In

Hi!

A check of my bank account revealed that my check for dues, written April 17, 1998 and mailed on 4/20/98, has not yet been cashed. Since I do not intend for my membership to lapse, enclosed is another check to pay for my renewal. If the first one show up somewhere in a stack of something, go ahead and deposit it too and put me down as happily overpaid. At least I'll be current.

I'm not much of a joiner and I don't know if I'll ever actually show up at any event. A habit of avoiding contact with other people, formed over a lifetime, is hard to change – no surprise to anyone in this group. However, I am glad to have joined ETVC and certainly feel more connected to the TG community as a member, if only a stay-at-home one. Even with my level of participation, I feel a need is met.

Thanks to all of you for your efforts in making ETVC a great organization!

Dear ETVC,

Jennifer Hastings

To help solve our financial problems, I support the following:

- Increase membership dues to $100.00
- Charge $5 to attend events
- Charge $60 for Cotillion tickets
- Set up a credit card contribution program so members can automatically send you $20 – $50 – ?? each month.

Cheers!

(Editor's note: Jennifer sent this little note along with a $70.00 donation - thanks ma'am!)

Roxanna Replies...

I appreciate your response to Ms. Robinson and agree with most of what you write. This continual drawing of divisions between different TG expressions and approaches which make some more important or "serious" than others is both tiresome and counter-productive. Just because one is a part-time CD doesn't necessarily mean a lack of serious concern and involvement with TG issues and activities. Yes, I know there are plenty of silly and self-indulgent social TG's (read crossdressers) , but I also know many flaky TS's and other 24/7 TG's. So what. All of us, regardless of category or style, pursue that which is most meaningful and important to ourselves. To be directed or scolded by a uniform code is just more of the same B.S. Isn't it some kind of oxymoron to be a conforming TG?

As to ETVC's financial woes, it's a good first step with a far less expensive newsletter. Maybe the current June issue is lacking in some graphic arts flair, but what is really important is the content, the information and communication, and especially the "Our Readers Respond" pages. Having readers' points of view helps to break away from the month to month sameness of the "official" point of view.

I also commend you and the other Officers and members who have been so generous with your credit cards and moneys to keep ETVC afloat. But unless some of you are independently wealthy I see this at best a temporary stopgap measure. What must be realized, and this is where I am critical of the Executive Committee and other prime movers, is that ETVC has been in a state of emergency for the past several years with a declining membership and shrinking revenues. It has made no financial sense to me then that it has been a business as usual approach and a smaller and smaller bank balance. To continue with $10,000 Cotillions,

Continued on Page 8

Meeting Minutes

Continued from Page 5

Social Committee

The ExCom definitely wanted to make end-of-the-month socials profitable again. $5 and $7 will be charged at the door from now on or a hat will be passed about for donations. Sandra and Nancy both felt that club business and announcements at socials helped foster a sense of community within the club. The idea of having a theme each time was discussed, but it was hoped that future themes would be more participatory, with the members bringing the elements. For example, Nancy suggested that ETVC could have a Black and White Ball (as another club has done); that way the members could model their "thematic" outfits. Erin suggested that "modeling" itself was a theme with which some of our members could definitely involve themselves (did someone say DiDi Mau?). Leslie discussed a complex fundraising scheme involving beans and bowls which she will need to explain more fully sometime later. The May social is ETVC's birthday social and cake should be served. It was also suggested that rather than charging for this social, requests for contributions should be made.

Old Business

Erin wanted to know how the ExCom felt about California Dreamin'. It was reported that most of the vendors had a good and profitable time. The few exceptions would probably not be asked to participate again. Darcy was pleased with organizing the club crawls. They just about broke even and were thoroughly enjoyed by the girls who went on them. Nancy said that at $10 a person, the rented mini-bus with four locations was a bargain and if ETVC did something like this in the future more could easily be charged. Darcy will create an outline for the person who might put it together for California Dreamin' 2000. Juana, who organized the seminars, made a lot of friends and got to know some previous acquaintances much better. She was happy to work with Joan Goodnight and would love to do so again for California Dreamin' 2000. Veronica suggested that Juana and Nancy use their education seminars as auditions for the seminars at California Dreamin' 2000.

New Business

Nicole Cook wanted to run as a write-in candidate for Social Chair. Sandra pointed out that, according to the Bylaws, with or without any votes, Evette could ask Nicole to be her Co-Chairperson. Juana moved that The Widow Norton, Jose Saria, be given honorary membership. He had been a very good, long-time friend to ETVC and had performed great service. Leslie seconded and it was unanimously passed. Sandra pointed out a TG family article in Pacific Sun. Leslie announced that she was going to have a presidential dinner at her house so she could consult with past presidents. It was the hope of the ExCom that the former presidents would offer tangible, helpful, constructive advice and not just mouth a lot of "you shoulds."

Sandra moved to adjourn at 6:30 p.m.. Evette seconded it, the motion was passed, and the ExCom disbanded. But Leslie, Lisa, Erin, Darcy and Veronica stayed another twenty minutes to distribute the accumulated mail, applications and checks.

Roxanna Replies...

Continued from Page 7

poorly attended Halloween parties in out of the way closeted hotels, a couple of semi-isolated Gender Fairs seen mainly by the members, make me wonder who is minding the store. Not that these events don't represent the potential for good outreach and fun times, but at what cost? Can any occasional or annual event take the place of regular active socials and educational seminars? I still feel that only well attended monthly socials in that evidently impossible to find space will create the foundation and continuity of members who will care whether or not ETVC lives or dies. Without this foundation of a vital and active membership, Cotillions (etc.) become a moot point.

Though I remain a bit alienated from ETVC, for a number of reasons, I do hope it recovers financially and would feel more inclined to help when there is greater common sense practiced.

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Sandra Reaches Out

by Sandra Brewer

We had a good turnout for our first social at Charpe's. This venue was discovered at an outreach presentation we made for the Castro Lion's Club in April. The owners were agreeable, and we had to think if it's good enough for the Lion's Club it might be good enough for ETVC. Soon we will decide if our name should be TGSF. The SF will still be a reminder of our San Francisco base no matter what it stands for; so to further signify our function, and to extend our borders to encompass all our members I would prefer to think of TGSF as 'Transgender Support Foundation'. Let us know your thoughts.

With another busy June pride month behind us, the long promised **Outreach and Speakers Workshop is scheduled for Sunday, July 26th at Charpe's.** A brunch starting at 12:00 will precede the workshop. Most selections on Charpe's excellent menu are reasonably priced in the $5 to $10 range so please come at 12:00 to share brunch with us. The workshop is expected to last three or four hours starting at 1:00 PM. Our last workshop held nearly two years ago was a cherished experience for all who attended. We expect to share our outreach speaking experiences and expectations, and to discuss other outreach activities of interest to attendees. Please mark your calendar for this enlightening event.

In my outreach chair statement that wasn't published this year, I observed that our visibility as members of the transgendered community, and our level of acceptance by the world has continued to increase gradually but steadily in recent years. Our outreach efforts, and our community involvement have helped to make this happen. In the next year I will strive to maintain and increase our membership, and continue to represent the diverse interests of our members while maintaining our positive image to the public. This effort can be enhanced by your fresh ideas as well. If you're inspired by these principles, please consider joining me as Outreach Co-chair. We can work together to achieve common outreach goals, as you too become a valuable part of our leadership team.

The letters published in the last issue of our newsletter featured a lively discussion of how to adjust priorities in a period of declining membership, and worse a very limited budget. Everyone on the ExCom is exploring all available means to meet expenses while not losing sight of our mission. We have learned some hard lessons from experience, but recently we have all made good progress; this is nowhere more evident than in the production of the newsletter you are now reading. While we need to maintain our membership level, we can't neglect the activities that make members want to be members. More than ever before we need to all pull together. We appreciate your concern; keep the letters coming.

Media exposure continues to feature transgender topics. In the season-ending episode of NBC's Suddenly Susan, Mattie meets a former lover whom she learns she had driven to such heights of passion that he had undergone surgery to become the woman she inspired in him. The cover story of the April 29th issue of the North Bay's Pacific Sun featured our own Diane Giles as the subject of an in-depth article on transgendered parents. Check the San Francisco Film Festival schedule. Among other films of interest is 'Vera', a moving Brazilian film about a FTM; it's at the Castro at 4:00 PM the day of the Freedom parade.

New Online SO List!

There is a new online mailing list for wives and significant others (SO's) of crossdressers and men who consider themselves to be transgendered. It is not affiliated with any group or organization, and no topic which the women consider to be important to them is off limits. The list currently consists of over 40 women from 3 countries (all speak English!). The attitudes of these women range from complete acceptance and support to not accepting and really struggling. The list was started to provide a place for women to talk to other women who are dealing with this often complex, sometimes confusing, and sometimes scary world of crossdressing and transgendered behavior, lifestyle, and desire. It is also a place for women to celebrate finding the love of their life, and the joy of being with someone who is gender gifted. The list is open to women only—no crossdressers please! Women need a place where they can feel safe to discuss these issues. To find out more about the mailing list, or apply for membership, write to Jenni at **www.aluckywife@aol.com** and explain a little about your situation.

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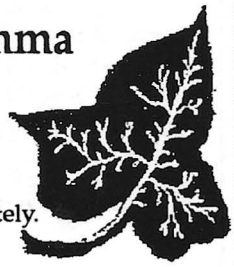

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Dewey Wins!

by Juana Smith

Well, it really wasn't that much of an upset. On Thursday, May 25, 1998, ETVC had its first social and annual membership meeting at Charpe's Grill. Mail-in votes had been counted (thanks Susie), on-site votes were added, and, because the figures were calibrated on ETVC's advanced computer system, the totals were announced that very night. The following are the final results of this year's election:

Officers elected

President	Leslie Bailey
Vice President	Lulu Blau
Secretary	Veronica Smith
Treasurer	Lisa Ronald
Outreach	Sandra Brewer
Education	Nancy Cupps and Juana Smith
Social	Evette RoqueLaurie and Nicole Cook

(Just a little note: Veronica Smith won the Ken Griffee award for being unanimously voted-in while Nancy and Juana tied.)

Bylaws: 64 accepted, 2 rejected

Name Change

A total of 66 ballots were received, which means 20% of the membership participated in our election process. As a result, there was no clear winner for the Name Change Election, with no choice receiving at least 50% of the votes. The two most popular names were: Educational TV Channel (ETVC) and TGSF (Transgender San Francisco). Because there was no clear winner, there will be a run-off election. Please look for a clip-out ballot in the August newsletter.

Although 20% of ETVC members returned their ballots, which by any standards isn't great, please consider voting for the name change when you get your August *Channel*. Don't be one of those people who sits back, doesn't do anything and then complains about those who did do something. If you want ETVC to still be ETVC, vote. If you like TGSF and would like to see the organization update its name, vote. If you don't vote, please don't complain.

One out of five made all of the club's decisions in this election. We are now considering changing our name. Our name is our representation. It expresses who we are. Please express yourself about who you are.

RhythMystress

Darcy Leopard

Certified Massage Therapist

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mystrthm@sprynet.com

Charpes Shows Promise

by Nicole

On May 28th the end of month social was held at a new venue, Charpes. Charpes (pronounced like Sharps, I think) is located on Gough Street near two other TG friendly establishments, The Blue Muse and Marlena's. When I arrived near 8:00 there were about 10 ETVC members already there including Leslie and Sandra. By 10:00 the crowd was over 40, not bad for a new venue.

Several of us began by having dinner. Charpes serves a variety of entrees in the $10.00 range and quite a few looked good. I had a tasty chicken-fried steak. As it turned out, it was lucky we ordered early. Our table was already served when something resembling fireworks starting going off outside. A few moments later there was a loud pop and suddenly we were eating by candle light. I guess we were too much for the neighborhood because the transformer supplying Charpes with power blew up. As a result, from before 9:00 to after 10:00 the social was romantically lit. This made for great ambiance as long as you did not want your Margarita blended.

Charpes has a great set up for our meetings. There is a dining room and a bar in the front, the kitchen and restrooms are in the middle and there is a private room in the back. The private room also has a bar, and looks like as if it could accommodate 50 or more people. The staff was very friendly and I had a good time. The next end of month social will also be at Charpes. So if you missed the May or June socials, you owe it to yourself to check out this excellent venue on July 30th.

Most of the social, including the announcement of new officers and awards for the previous year's service, was held in the dining room due to the lighting (or lack thereof). The Ginny Knuth Member of the Year Award went to **Elizabeth Walters** for her exemplary editorial efforts with *The Channel*. The President's Award went to **Brenda Altman** for her complete revisions of the Bylaws. The Vice President's Award went to **Deann Parkinson** for her contributions to the Cotillion. Secretary Veronica awarded **Miss Q** for her creation and maintenance of ETVC's web site. The Treasurer's Award went to **Andrea Drane** because of all her donations both in time and money. Sandra Brewer gave the Outreach Award to **Valarie** and **Toni** for their efforts in Tucson, Arizona. And the Social Award went to **Bree Wood** for her help with the Cal Dreamin' pub crawl.

After the awards came the announcement of new officers. Some of these should not be a surprise if you read your ballot. Leslie Bailey was elected our new President and Lulu Blau was elected our new Vice President. Veronica Smith, who evidently received a record number of votes, will continue being Secretary for a third year in a row. Lisa Ronald will return as Treasurer. Sandra Brewer is again chairing Outreach. Education Co-Chairs Nancy Cupps and Juana Smith are back. And Evette RoqueLaurie will share Social's responsibilities with her new Co-Chairperson, me, Nicole Cook.

Continued on Page 11

May Social at Charpes!

Newly elected Prez, Leslie, reveals her plans for coming year. With Q, Dianna, Sandra, Veronica and Erin (outgoing Prez)

Outgoing Social Chair, Darcy, presents committee award to Bree (Evette and Erin in back)

VP, Leslie, on right (with lipstick mark) presents VP Award to DeAnn

Charpes...

Continued from Page 10

In my ongoing effort to remember peoples names I'm going to try to mention who I saw. If I make any mistakes, let me know about it; eventually I will get them right. I saw Melanie from the South Bay, two Brendas (I remember this because I heard something about a good Brenda and a naughty Brenda — have you ever heard this characterization Didi?) I also saw two Cindys: one of whom I've seen several times this month at Cafe Mars, the SGA meeting at Josephs, Faces in Sacramento and the DVG Birthday Party, and the other Cindy who helps run TGForum. While we are on TGForum, I also saw Jamie Faye, who has provided TGIF with a web site — thanks Jamie Faye. I also saw Deanna and Alison, whom I have met at DVG a few times, but this was their first ETVC meeting in a couple of years. Of course most of the officers and celebrities were there: Erin, Leslie, Lulu, Veronica, Darcy, Sandra, Q, Diana, Dale and Didi (yes, if you pop out of cakes at birthday parties, you're a celebrity). There were a few more people I sort of saw in the back room lit only by the street light and the occasional flash of a camera. Bree was back there talking to Darcy and I think it was Betsy back there talking to Cindy. Oh yes Juana was back there with a group of people counting votes with a flashlight.

Barbara J. Anderson

Ph.D., L.C.S.W.

Clinical Sexologist
Certified Sex Therapist

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July's Birthday Girls...

0702	Sandra Heck	0717	Joanne Wilson
0708	Jessica Ames	0717	Juliette Holiday
0708	LeChara Johnson	0718	Carmen Gomez
0709	Ayme Kantz	0719	Tom Cole
0709	Leslie Bailey	0721	Jennifer Hastings
0709	Sharon La Rose	0721	Paula Chapman
0709	Teri Pack	0723	Marianne Tai
0710	Lorraine Hall	0724	Julie Goggin
0710	Theresa Allison	0724	Kelli Wellington
0711	Danielle Murphy	0724	Nicole Harris
0711	Linda Fick	0725	Dana Bates
0713	Nepenthe Kepner	0727	Clarissa Jane Parr
0716	Lauren White	0728	Donna Stickley
0717	Bob Davis	0728	Ronni Jean

0731 Erin Souza

Many Happy Returns of the Day, Ladies!

Confessions of a Straight Girl

by Andrea Drane

Chapter 9: The Morning After

Waking up with a body that was finally right was the most wonderful experience of my life. I had had so many dreams and desperate hopes of just such an occurrence going back to childhood, but this was real. True, I was in a hospital, far from home, a bit uncomfortable, and connected to more than a few alien devices, but it was over and I had made it.

Day 2:

Eat, sleep, read, sleep, read, eat, ... While everyone should have the opportunity to experience life as a cat, there must be an easier way! Still, it was nice to have no responsibilities other than to rest and sail the dreamy Demerol seas.

Day 3:

My first taste of freedom. With the compression device off my legs and my IV disconnected, I could finally leave my bed and take a shower (those cotton-mesh hospital panties itched!). While my mind said that I was ready to stand on my own two feet, my body had other ideas. As soon as I finished bathing, I all but collapsed into the chair as the world wobbled precariously under my feet. So, it was back to being a cat for most of the day.

Day 4:

My morning shower left me tired, but the floor remained solidly underfoot. Officially discharged and now a "guest", it was time to start managing my own recovery. Following the advice of one of my "big sisters", I began a routine of walking the corridors for 15 minutes or so (the world-famous "Portland Shuffle"), returning to bed for a short nap, reading another chapter in my book, and then back to walking.

Day 5:

As my strength slowly returned, I continued my routine, but found that the nap was unnecessary - simply resting in the chair was enough. That evening, the enormity of what I had been through caught up with me at last. As I let go of the extreme focus that I had maintained over the past two years, relief washed over me, releasing the pent-up tension. Who I was before was now gone forever, and I was irrevocably committed to life as a woman. While this was a time of new beginnings, it was also a time to mourn what had been - after all, he did have his good points. So, I had a really good cry, and went to sleep.

Days 6 and 7:

With increased freedom comes increased responsibility. Time to assume more aspects of my care, which meant learning all those aspects of personal hygiene that my mother never imagined she would ever have to teach me. I finally understood what the words "front to back" truly meant, and they quickly became my new mantra. I also realized that I had never realized nor appreciated just how ridiculously easy men have it.

Day 8:

"I'm free!" That refrain from the rock opera Tommy was the day's theme song. With the catheter finally removed, I at last felt fully human. What a joy to be able to move more than a meter in any direction without having to re-attaching my tether, or hang the infernal contraption off my waistband.

Day 9:

Homeward bound. It was a happy/sad occasion. The nurses and Dr. Meltzer's staff had been so wonderful to me, and I was sorry to say goodbye. Still, I was eager to be home and start my new life.

I had expected that my surgery would give more confidence in the public restroom, facilitate joining a gym, and open the door to the possibility of an intimate relationship. What I had not expected was the extent to which I felt changed. Finally I was complete, and no one could deny my femaleness. While I still get a questioning stare now and then, I really don't care anymore whether anyone is reading me or not.

Things Your Mother Never Told You About SRS

Recuperating after SRS both in the hospital and at home can be rather unpleasant at times, but a little knowledge and preparation can significantly facilitate recovery. The resources on the Internet and the information supplied by your doctor or hospital are very helpful, but they can be out of date and they don't always tell you everything that you need to know. The following observations and suggestions are based upon my experiences at Eastmoreland Hospital in Portland, Oregon during the first two weeks of April 1998. Your results may vary.

Before – things to do and bring:

If the hospital offers a guest or convalescent option, take it! Your meals are included, you avoid trips to the doctor's office for removal of stitches, packing, *etc.*, and it's very comforting to know that help is immediately at hand should complications arise. Even if someone is going to stay with you, it's not that much more expensive, better for you, and easier on them. However, if you do take the guest option, be sure to let your friends know - technically, you will be officially discharged, and so calls and floral deliveries may not go through.

Eating a low-residue, high-fiber diet (fruits, breads, plenty of water) for several days prior to surgery can help make the bowel preparation regimen less of an all-or-nothing proposition, and might even avoid a middle-of-the-night dash for the bathroom.

Those infamous hospital "gowns" are not what you want for walking the corridors to get your exercise. A loose skirt and top is nice, but a long, one piece nightgown is easier to manage – particularly during those first few days out of bed.

The cotton-mesh "panties" supplied by the hospital are very uncomfortable. In fact, they *itch dreadfully* after only

Continued on Page 13

Gender Talk in July

The next Gender Talk with Juana will include *Conundrum* by Jan Morris and two articles that someone who is interested may have to contact Juana about: *"Blending Genders"* by R. Ekins and D. King; and *"Celebrating, Deconstructing, Historicizing and Theorizing Transgenderism and the Transgendered"* by Eleanor Miller. The next meeting will be on **Sunday, July 12 at 3:00 at Cafe Commons** on Mission near Precita, in San Francisco.

Confessions of a Straight Girl

Continued from Page 12

a few hours. Kotex makes *Personals* disposable panties that are much more comfortable. Bring at least nine pairs, and remember that you will be quite swollen, so choose the larger size if in doubt.

Once you begin caring for yourself, you will be washing your hands every few hours, so be sure to bring a supply of your favorite hand lotion.

During your stay in the hospital or at a nearby motel with a friend:

As soon as you can stand on your own two feet, start walking. Listen to your body, but try to walk for at least fifteen minutes every two hours. This will not only speed your recovery, but also make your stay less boring. And don't worry if they threaten to charge you for wear and tear on the carpet – they're just kidding.

Walking around with your catheter bag exposed is considered a *faux pas*. The trick to hiding the bag involves hooking it to your waistband, and covering it with a long, loose nightgown or skirt and top. The cotton-mesh hospital "panties" won't support the weight of even an empty bag; the Kotex *Personals* will. A skirt waistband also works well, as does a safety pin through your nightgown near the waist.

Between the pre-surgical bowel preparation, continuous administration of various antibiotics, and stool softeners, most girls will develop a mild to moderate diarrhea. Yogurt will help replenish your internal flora and fauna, and baby wipes will not only make clean-up easier, but also protect against and sooth any resultant irritation.

After you go home:

Keep eating at least one container of yogurt per day until things return to normal, and use baby wipes as needed.

Moderate exercise is still important, so get up, get out, and take a walk. Continue to listen to your body, and avoid anything strenuous - especially heavy lifting.

By now you know why women use at least twice as much toilet paper as men, and you consider it to be perfectly normal. Make sure that you have at least six rolls on hand when you get home, and don't wait until "the next time" to change an empty roll! You will also want to have a supply of panty liners, and the Kotex *Personals* are still a good idea until the oozing subsides.

Having a handheld shower unit is a true blessing, and something that men just can't appreciate. If you don't already have one, get an add-on kit at your local hardware store – they vary in price between $40 and $60, and take less than fifteen minutes to install.

Whatever you do, *do not neglect your dilating*! Walgreens sells "multi-purpose disposable underpads", similar to the "Chux" pads used in the hospital. A package of 40 "chair size" pads retails for about $7.50 plus tax. Surgilube can be ordered through your local pharmacy without prescription. A case of twelve 4.25 ounce tubes retails for about $12.75 plus tax – significantly less than the cost of most "personal" lubricants, including plain *KY*.

Our Online Resources

by Q

ETVC Website at http://www.transgender.org/tg/etvc

It's admittedly quite basic right now, with a general statement about who we are and a calendar of upcoming and past events. I'd like to expand it with more content like articles from the ETVC newsletter, submissions from online users, and graphics. For those of you who'd like to add to the website, please contact me or try joining the TGSF mailing list (below). Send me some text/graphics you'd like me to turn into a web page. My personal email is: [redacted]*@yahoo.com*.

tgsf@list.findmail.com

It is a *mailing list*, simply a list of email addresses where members on the list post messages which get automatically emailed to all the other members of the group. Since we started a few months ago, we have over 50 members just from word-of-mouth and a pointer from the website above. This mailing list also archives all messages so any list member may go to a website page (each message is stamped with the location) to see a list of all previous messages and do neat things like sort messages by email address, etc.

We use it to keep in touch, stay informed, share articles (like the recent passing of the California bill inclusion of anti-transgender crimes as being classified as hate crime), alerting others of events of interest and more. Right now we're using it for planning the Pride Parade ETVC float. Please join us!

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Choices

by Jane Bolig

(the first in a continuing series)

Introduction

Few of us plan our transition. It just seems to happen, as if we had turned a corner and bumped into ourselves coming the other way, though there were signposts all along the way. Suddenly it is impossible to go on with life as it is, yet we are un-, or under, prepared for whatever comes next.

If you question whether you are a candidate for living full time as a woman, put aside your doubt; the very fact that you wonder means that you are. This isn't to say that living full time as a woman is inevitable, only that its possibility should be considered with as much foresight as possible.

If you were going to take a solo sailing voyage around the world, you wouldn't wait until just before departure to sign up for sailing lessons. Well in advance, you'd learn all you could, consult with experts, buy and outfit a vessel, and practice. Should the greatest voyage of your life be taken with any less preparation? Yes, it's been done. The successes make for great stories; but they are rare compared with the abundance of shipwrecks that you don't hear about.

This presentation will not tell you how to solve your life's problems, but to pass on some lessons I learned through dumb luck, other people and a little study and thought, and to encourage you to make your life's choices—especially this *most* important one—as conscious as possible.

ELEMENTS OF TRANSITION

...Personal Resources

The Beginning Before the Start

Does transition to womanhood begin with living full time (or, as the therapists call it, "The Real Life Test"), or does it start with the realization that crossdressing does not resolve, but only intensifies, your gender conflict; that perhaps the fantasy of living as a woman isn't just a fantasy but a cry from within. Does transition really begin with a thought?

I prefer to think of transition as having two parts. The first starts with all the preparations that lead up to full time living, ending as you launch the second phase: your first day as a woman. The journey may end with any number of possible out-comes, happily or unhappily, from returning to life as a man to sex reassignment surgery; but the ending is often told in the beginning, and the beginning is a thought.

A couple of years ago, I ran into a friend I had lost contact with nine years earlier. "Joel," I said, "what are you doing these days?" "I'm a medical doctor," he said. "A doctor! I had no idea..." "I know. I never said anything because it always sounded pretentious. I was in my mid-thirties and just felt like a loser. Then one day, I opened up to my cousin about my silly dream and she said, 'Why don't you just go for it?' And I said, 'But by the time I became a doctor, I'd be 42 years old!' And she said, 'How old will you be if you don't become a doctor?'"

You may, or may not, some day live as a woman, but you can start your voyage of discovery right now. In ways that nobody but you has to know, take a step, a little, tiny step. If it feels right, take another step, and another. Who knows where the road will lead.

Look for Part II in the August issue of The Channel

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Lisa Hoyt

Sexual Orientation And Gender Identity

by Barbara F. Anderson, Ph. D., LCSW

(reprinted with permission by Diablo Valley Girls)

There seems to be a tremendous amount of confusion surrounding the dimensions of sexual orientation (gay, straight or bi-sexual) and gender identity (transsexual, transvestite, cross-dresser, drag queen). In doing trainings of professionals and talking with lay audiences I explain that these aspects of human beings are completely independent of one another. Just as non-transgenders can be gay, straight or bi-sexual, so to can transgenders.

The question that persists in many people's minds, even TGs, is whether transgenders are gay, straight or bi- sexual when they are crossing (living, dressing, etc.) as compared to their orientation when living in their societally-assigned gender role. Have I lost you yet?

The confusion is due to our language as well as the poorly understood concept of the immutability of one's sexual object choice even as the expression of gender identity changes. I suggest people forget the terms gay, straight and bi- for the moment because they are purely relative to the the person's gender. If an individual is in transition it is difficult to get a handle on this concept. Instead, let's focus on the gender of the trans-person's desired object - male, female or either.

At this point, we need to address the varieties of transgender expressions. Transvestites (also referred to as crossdressers), are almost always males who are attracted to females, although some may also find men attractive. When they crossdress they maintain their attraction to the gender they enjoy when not dressed.

Transsexuals may be men or women who may be attracted to men, women or either. As the transition from their societally-assigned gender to the role they are more comfortable in, their sex object usually remains as it was pre-transition. The exception to this pattern occurs in the case of individuals who are so homophobic that they had only allowed themselves relationships with those of the opposite sex. Transition may release these people to experience a relationship with the gender they truly are attracted to, and ironically, to maintain a heterosexual life style. Now, I'm sure I've lost you!

Let's see if we can tackle the language that identifies sexual orientation. A male-to-female individual who lived a heterosexual life before transition will most likely continue to find women sexually attractive. However, her sexual orientation will appear to have shifted from straight to gay, though she remains attracted to women throughout. A female-to-male who was attracted to women and identified as a lesbian, will usually maintain this attraction, but will re-identify as straight. Trans-people who were attracted to both sexes have the easiest time of all, linguistically-speaking, for they remain bi-sexual.

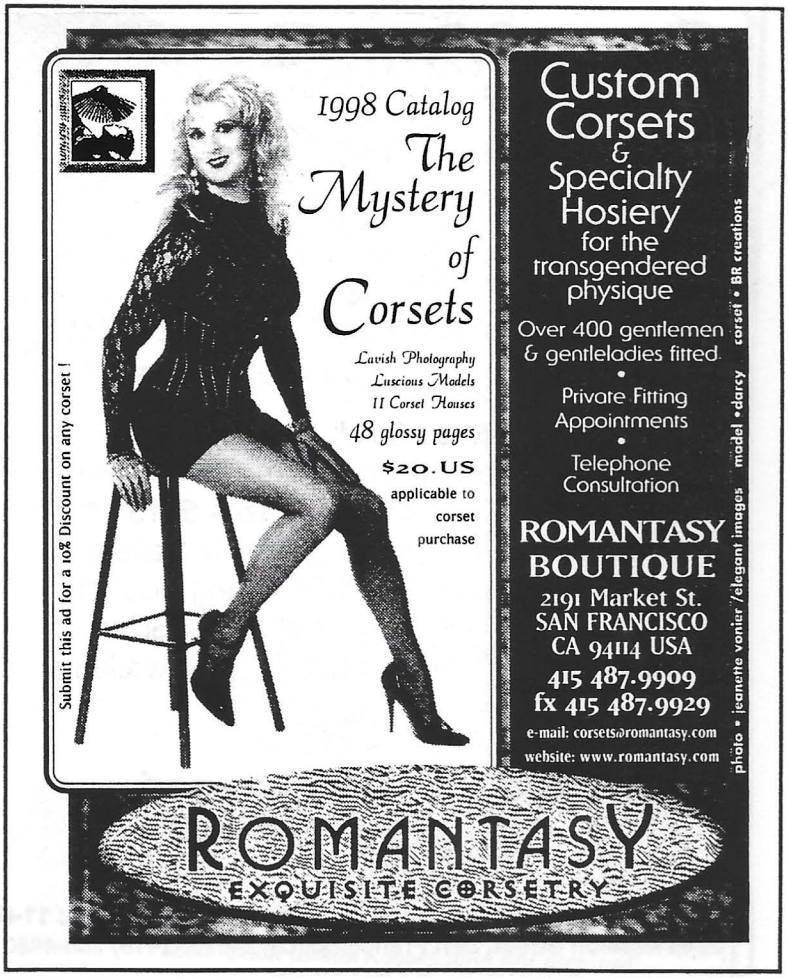
Of course, transitioning is a complex process which throws many aspects of one's life out of kilter and requires a re-balancing of many systems. Certainly, sexual orientation is not immune. Next month's article will deal with the impact of this process on sexual orientation.

Tedra Checks In!

Trannyshack Review

Just a little note to let you all know that I am back. I was displaced for a few weeks and forced to live in the Peace van, the Grateful Ted mobile, Hotel de VW Bus. I am working again and live in the Presidio thanks to a connection made by Stoner Girl (formerly known as Miss Q). It's very cool here and I hope to have a party (probably a backyard barbeque) real soon. There's tons of parking and a baseball field across the road. DRAG sloshball could be quite a good time.

Having read all my E-mails for the first time in a long while, I noticed a note from LuLu. She was querying about people going to Trannyshack. And, I am reminded that not too many of us ETVCers (maybe, and hopefully soon to be TGSFers) go to Trannyshack. I have gone almost religiously for the last 4 months. It's a great time. Wells and drafts are only $2 for us tall beauties, the shows are usually great, and the dancing is full of energy. Stoner Girl and I have made a ritual of enjoying a nice Belgian ale (Scaldis at 12% alcohol has been our favorite so far), a little dinner, and getting ready at her place....every Tuesday night. Other regulars include Nikki, Kristen, Bree (sorry for being so insistant on driving, but we love you baby), Chrissy, and the Cameo by LuLu was awfully nice. On a scale I give the Shack a ten. Hope to see more of y'all there sometime. See Ya!



The Sacramento Freedom Fair

By Nicole

On a warm Saturday in June, Debbie and I ventured east to Sacramento to attend the 1998 Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered Freedom Fair. The fair was held in Southside Park, which was quite a nice setting with a lake and plenty of shade trees. We had a great time walking around and viewing or shopping at the many vendors who had set up booths in the fair. There were lots of jewelry and some rather interesting looking leather garments. There was entertainment from the large stage in the center of the fair during most of our stay.

After strolling around we stopped by the SGA booth and assisted in the effort to get people signing petitions for AB 1999. This is the bill that adds the classification "Transgendered" to the laws protecting Gays & Lesbians from hate crimes. All in all we had a great time and I would highly recommend the event. After we left, we headed to Joseph's for the SGA dinner & social.

One of Nicole's views of the Fair

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