Educational TV Channel ETVC

N E W S L E T T E R

VOLUME TWELVE, NUMBER 5, *MARCH - APRIL, 1994*

Record Breaking 10th Cotillion A Smashing Success

By Cindy Martin

A record crowd of more than 320 people saw history made at the 10th Annual ETVC Cotillion as Francis Vavra was named Mr. ETVC and Lauren Renee Hotchkiss was crowned Miss ETVC. It was the first time that both a male-to-female and a female-to-male transgender person were named recipients of ETVC's highest honorary titles. First runner-up honors went to Angelique Hardy. Second runner-up was Nina Rage.

Mr. ETVC 1994

PHOTO:JOE PULIDO

Francis Vavra

The 10th Cotillion also saw honors bestowed on Shelley Elvira Salieri. Ms. Salieri was given ETVC's first Outstanding Achievement Award for efforts in getting language into Proposition L (on the November 1993 ballot) outlawing discrimination against San Francisco city workers who are transgendered. Easily approved by the voters, Proposition L is the first such law in California.

Recognizing this great achievement, State Senator Milton Marks declared Cotillion Day, Jan. 29, 1994, as Shelley Salieri Day. Salieri used the occassion to announce her formal candidacy for supervisor in San Francisco.

The show was unquestionably the greatest Cotillion staged so far by ETVC, primarily because of the work of Producer/Vice President Dianne Summers, director Jacqui Jewels, technical director Paul Haines and judges coordinator Jano Bogg, who went on to win the Joanna Caron award for his contributions to the show.

It was Summers who made it all possible. Our Vice President chose the Russian Center for this year's show, a move that turned out to be inspired. Blessed with great parking, good acoustics, a huge bar and a great theatre, the Russian Center was an instant hit with the audience. Summers also put together the team that staged the show, including recruiting Jewels, Haines and Bogg.

The fast-paced, suspense-filled show was emceed by the hilarious Tommi Rose and the suave Steve Rascher. Their great banter and ad libbing was the glue that held it all together, even when things got a bit sticky at the end.

Pam Souza, a former social co-chair, won both the congeniality and talent awards, the latter for an incredibly funny comedy performance that filled the hall with peels of laughter. Deanne Parkinson's drum solo also thrilled the audience.

Miss ETVC 1994

PHOTO:JOE PULIDO

Lauren Hotchkiss

The activewear award went to Nina Rage, who drew wolf whistles from people of all genders as she strutted her stuff. Angelique, Nina, and Lauren had them gasping during the evening wear competition as each displayed stunning gowns that truly were fit for queens. Jennifer was stunning in a form-fitting swimsuit. Lulu, beaming like a child at Christmas, sang a live number. Robin strutted her stuff as admirers whistled and whooped approval and encouragement.

The finalists came down to Angelique, Nina, Lauren, Deanne and Francis and it was a brutal choice for the judges when the all-important final question came up. Their answers on this question were worth 50 percent of their total scores. Actual scores are confidential but the judges said later that it was extremely close.

ETVC NEWSLETTER

ETVC 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	Cindy Martin
Vice-President	Dianne Summers
Secretary	Jane Kamper Bentley
Treasurer	Nancy Ann Martine
Education	Evette LaRoqulaurie & Francis Vavra
Outreach	Lauren Hotchkiss & Telzey Adams
Social	Cori Farrell & Martina Bloom

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Membership (as of 1/31/94)	417
1993 Membership	409
New members this year	69

TREASURER'S REPORT

12/1/93 Balance	$ 4,279.26
December Income	$ 2,282.00
December Expenses	$ 2,305.45
12/31/93 Balance	**$ 4,255.81**
January Income	$ 9,352.00
January Expenses	$ 7,706.89
1/31/94 Balance	**$ 5,900.92**

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

Editorss	J.K.Bentley , K. Horwitz
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Copy Editor	D. Campbell
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Photographer	Jamie Faye Fenton
Layout & Printing	Your Place Graphics

AD RATES

	per issue	per year
Business Card	$20	$100
4" X 5"	$50	$250

Personal ads from ETVC members: $3 for up to 40 words. We will *not* accept ads with a sexual objective. Ad deadlines are the first day of June, August, October, December, February and April. Send ad copy and a check for the appropriate amount to: ETVC, PO Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486

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

EDITORS NOTES

Kevin Horwitz & J.K. Bentley

At the recently-formed *NewsCom*, Jane Bentley announced that she would like to find a new editor for the ETVC Newsletter. After a great deal of lively discussion - and numerous warnings about possible job hazards (such as exposure to the black hole of modems ,110-degree political water, etc.), I agreed that this might be just the job for me! I'll be co-editing the next 2 issues with J.K. Bentley, whose seasoned abilities in this regard are of inestimable value to me. During this transitional period, I will also write most of the Editor's Notes, for the purpose of "introductions."

It might be of interest to note that I am a female-to-male transgenderist (rather than a crossdresser or transsexual). What this means is that I'm a biological female who lives most comfortably in the male role - but I'm also aware of a smaller (but potent) percentage of female energy which requires expression as well. I am hoping that my own transgendered expression will give us some common ground, and perhaps add a new perspective to the newsletter. As regards background, I am somewhat eclectic, and have pursued study in art and music before settling more solidly into the writing realm. I have, additionally, been a contributing writer to the FTM Newsletter since 1984, and served as Editor for a 9-month period during 1993-4.

It seems to me that ETVC is one of the few organizations in the Bay Area which really works hard on networking, information-sharing, and outreach. Certainly, it has become known as a group which balances activism with enjoyable social activity. During recent years, the transgendered community has also been growing - and becoming a more focused and coalescent movement. The January 29th Cotillion, for example, declared a tie between Francis Vavra and Lauren Rene Hotchkiss. This is the first time that both a Miss *and* a Mr. ETVC have gotten elected! These are exciting times, both because of the potential for positive change, and the chance to initiate dialogue. And speaking of dialogue, it would be great to hear what you think - whether its general input, or maybe a complaint, or even an idea that you want to run by me. I look forward, also, to getting articles from all those who are so inclined (we particularly need articles by significant others for the *Other Voices* page).

Kevin

The ETVC Newsletter and its readers are very lucky. Kevin Horwitz is an accomplished writer and a skilled editor. I was happily surprised when he joined our newly formed NewsCom in October, and delighted when he agreed to be our new editor. Under his direction, I look for the ETVC Newsletter to become more lively, diverse and informative than ever before. It will be a pleasure to help him in any and every way I can. Welcome, welcome, welcome, Kevin!

All was not perfect with our Cotillion this year. Our annual apology to judge coordinators Sandy Kasten and Jano Bogg, who for the second year in a row were unlisted in Cotillion program credits. Sandy, Jano, it isn't that we take you for granted. We just wanted an excuse to mention you in the newsletter, which has a larger circulation than the program, though I grant you that the readership of this part of it is smaller.

I have one farewell wish before the editorship passes completely out of my hands: to give our newsletter a name, "The Channel," which would retain part of our organizational name while proclaiming its - and our - educational/informational mission as "that by which something passes or is transmitted." Not everyone in the NewsCom agrees with me. Some say that the ETVC Newsletter is a name that is established and known. To change it would bring confusion, not clarification. To me, keeping the name as it is would be somewhat like calling myself Ruth's Daughter, instead of Jane. What do you think? At our March 31 social we will hold a referendum for you to help us decide.

Special thanks to Bobbie Dunne, Francis Vavra, Roxanna, Ayme and others who have attended LGBAC (Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Advisory Committee) and Transgender Task Force meetings. LGBAC next meets Tuesday, March 15, 5:30 p.m. #25 Van Ness, 8th floor. On April 18, ETVC and FTM will address the LGBAC. We need speakers who can talk from first-hand experience about discrimination they have suffered as transgendered people. Call ETVC Voicemail, 334-3439, Code J-A-N-E, if you would like to participate.

JKB

Farewell and Hail

JKB

PHOTO: TINA MARTINA BLOOM

Ginny K. & Lenny Mollet

The "end of an era" came on December 30, 1993, as ETVC held its last end-of-month social at the Chez Mollet, its home almost since its founding nearly 12 years ago.

Ginny, making her first public appearance since late last spring, thanked Lenny Mollet, owner of Chez Mollet, for all the "wonderful and generous help" he has given ETVC. His farewell present was an air travel gift certificate, small repayment for all he and his restaurant have meant to us over the years.

The next night, New Year's, was the very last the Chez Mollet Restaurant was open for business.

However...the end of an era, although it has meant the closing of the famous back room and restaurant, is not the end of the Chez Mollet. In mid-January the Chez re-opened, this time just as a bar - but with a few changes. Some of the tables have been cleared out to make way for a full-size pool table and a dart board. There's a real pinball machine (replacing that evil little quarter-eating "game of chance"), and you can now bring food, or have Bill, the bartender/manager, order it delivered for you from any one of scores of fine restaurants. Well drinks, American beer and wine are just $1.75 from 4 - 7 p.m. Drop in sometime soon. Our old friends will be glad to see you.

Eichelberger's: "I Think I'm Gonna' Like This Place"

JKB

January 27. By all accounts, our new friends at Eichelberger's, Cornelius, Dennis and their hardworking staff, were happy to see us for our inaugural social at their elegant two-story restaurant and bar. The servers, weaving precariously balanced trays through celebrants perched on high heels like tall timber in a stiff wind, bore all adversity with gracious fortitude. The ETVC members who dined that evening reported that the food was first class, the service excellent.

Thanks to all the Miss ETVC Cotillion contestants and crew who joined us at Eichelberger's after their rehearsal, especially Miss ETVC 1991, Tiffany Woods, whose playful quips and high energy perked the crowd for the merriment on Saturday evening.

If you've never been to Eichelberger's, don't wait for a social. Give yourself and somebody you like - or, better yet, love - a treat. The atmosphere is elegant, yet congenial.

The clientele is a mixture of straight, gay and transgendered, mostly young, light spirited and open.

Sincere Thanks...

To All in ETVC,

There is no adequate way for me to express my gratitude to ETVC for making me recipient of its first Outstanding Achievment Award at the ETVC Cotillion, or to State Senator Milton Marks for designating January 29, 1994 as "Shelley Salieri Day."

No one person, no single group, can accomplish all that needs to be done to achieve our community's goals of dignity, equality and justice. Without individual participation and commitment, however, nothing can be done.

I look forward to working with you in the coming months to secure equal protection under the law for all transgendered San Franciscans, as well as to serving as San Francisco's first self-acknowledged transgendered supervisor after the November election.

Together, I know we can claim ultimate victory.

With deepest appreciation,

Shelley Elvira Salieri

I would like to thank everyone for the tremendous support I felt from all of you at the Cotillion. I feel that I am representing not just ETVC but DVG, RGA, SGA and the entire gender community.

Both my co-regent Francis and I are planning some exciting media outreach activities for 1994. Watch for details in a new column.

In order for us to do this as well as we can, we need the expertise, the advice and the counsel of those of you with media background. You can contact me at ETVC Voicemail (415)334-3439, Code 5-2-8-7

Lauren Hotchkiss

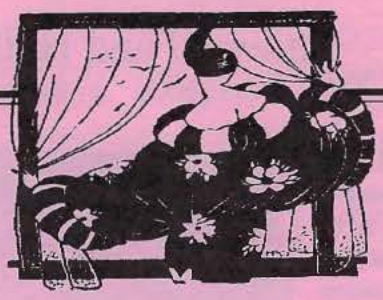
I want to thank everyone for their support. I've had this idea for the past year and this was the time to do it. Thanks to all in ETVC and FTM.

I am really happy to have won. It's still not sinking in. It will be an even better opportunity to be out not only in the community but as an ambassador of good will for the group and hopefully as a liason between the crossdressing and gay communities. I am very happy and proud to reign with Lauren and I'm looking forward to our serving together this upcoming year.

This is history in the making and I hope that I have opened the door to a new tradition of Mr. and Miss ETVC. I was part of a wonderful group of contestants. I have made lasting friends. We had a good time together behind the scenes. I also want to thank everyone involved in the production of the Cotillion, especially our hardworking, inspired choreographer, Rainbeau, and Kevin Horwitz and Alexander Graham Bell, the suave gentlemen who escorted our debutantes.

Francis Vavra

Special Events



That Certain Something - Wilhelmina Beins

Wednesday, March 9, at Kimo's Upstairs

Have you got IT? That certain something that tells the world you're a woman? Learning the secrets of femininity takes lots of practice and a good teacher. Wilhelmina Beins is one of the best. Let her help you as she has helped hundreds of others to transform yourself into the woman you want to be by discovering the woman you ARE! 8 p.m. $3

Coming Together - Working Together - IFGE Convention

March 12 - 20, Portland, Oregon

This is THE convention to attend, where the biggest names in the trangender community come together to party, politic and educate - and it's happening practically in our back yard. You can fly round trip for less than $150. Hey, this could be your first flight en femme!...or en homme! It looks as if ETVC and FTM both will have sizable contingents. You come, too. For more information, call The Northwest Gender Alliance at (503) 774-8463 or Ginny at (415) [redacted]

Mid-Month Dance Socials at Kimo's

Wednesday, March 16 & Wednesday, April 13

Extra space in your social datebook? Come join us at Kimo's (Polk at Pine, S.F.). Thanks to our friend Michael Bowman, manager of Kimo's, ETVC will have the upstairs room ALL to ourselves on March 16 and April 13 starting at 8 p.m. We will also be borrowing their house DJ for both evenings, so there will be all the elements of a great party. This is your opportunity to check out a terrific nightspot in a setting that is exciting, friendly AND secure. See you there!

ETVC's Spring Cocktail Party

Thursday, March 31, at Eichelberger's

Our 1994 social season continues as we celebrate the coming of Spring with a party at one of the most intriguing cocktail lounges in the City - Eichelberger's. Show off those cocktail dresses and dinner jackets for the "in" crowd of San Francisco's gender community. Starts 8 p.m. $3.00.

Shopping Safari

Saturday, April 9

Load up your plastic and wear your hiking heels, as we track down rare bargains and high adventure in the jungle world of vintage clothes shopping. Meet at noon at the Crossroads Shop, corner of Fillmore and Bush. We spend the afternoon stalking everything from furs to top hats to lace in a variety of vintage shops and shoppes. Bag your limit in the ETVC Shopping Safari. 12 p.m. $3.

Gender Bowling Night

All levels welcome
Third Friday of each month
Call (415) 731-7032

Transsexual Seminar - Dr. Edward Falces

Sunday, April 17

Dr. Falces was to be our speaker for the first TS Seminar in October, 1993, but had to cancel. We've invited him again to discuss sex reassignment surgery. His 40 minute slide-lecture, covering topics of interest to both FTM's and MTF's, will be followed by a question and answer session. For anyone contemplating SRS, this is a must. For self-identified transsexuals. Kimo's - Upstairs. Starts 2 p.m. Free.

Tight Lacing and Other Corset Pleasures

(A Fashion Show of Victorian Corsets)
Thursday, April 28, at Eichelberger's

Ann Grogan of Romantasy, a North Beach Boutique, will be joining us to hostess (as the title suggests) a corset fashion show. If you're in the market for some mechanical figure refinement (or if you just want to watch) come see our curvaceous models showing off some of the highest quality corsets available. Starts 8 p.m. $3.00.

3RD ANNUAL
TRANSGENDER LAW AND POLICY CONFERENCE

TRANSGEN '94

August 17-21, 1994
Houston, Texas, U.S.A.

- Conference a **MUST** attend for **EVERYONE** — it's **about your job, health, rights, and documents!**
- For more info or to order 1992/1993 proceedings write **Phyllis Randolph Frye, Attourney, 5707 Firenza St., Houston, Texas, 77035-5515, U.S.A.**

PRESENTING
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COMING TOGETHER - WORKING TOGETHER CONVENTION

Portland, Oregon
March 12th - 20th, 1994

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617-899-2212

The International Foundation for Gender Education
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1994
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HOSTS:
The Northwest Gender Alliance
P.O. Box 4928, Portland, OR 97206
503-774-8463

&

Emerald City
P.O. Box 31318, Seattle, WA 98103
206-284-1071

TV/TS/TG GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

A Calendar of Events for March & April

MARCH

1	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 849-4112
2	**ETVC**	**Education Committee**	**Meets at 7:00 PM**	**Eichelberger's**	**(510) 534-8407**
2	**ETVC**	**Social Committee**	**Meets at 7:30 PM**	**Eichelberger's**	**(510) 865-8963**
4	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
4	RGA	Rummage Sale	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
7	**ETVC**	**Outreach Committee**	**Meets at 7:30 PM**	**Berkeley**	**(510) 849-4112**
9	**ETVC**	**Wilhelmina Beins**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Kimo's - Upstairs**	**(510) 534-8407**
10	**ETVC**	**Significant Others**	**Meets 7:30-10 PM**	**Pleasant Hill**	**(415) 664-1499**
11	**ETVC**	**Poker Social**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**San Francisco**	**(415) 664-1499**
11	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
11	South Bay	Gender Discussion Group	Meets 8-10 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-5619
12	**ETVC**	**SOS Luncheon**	**Starts 11:30 AM**	**Serramonte**	**(510) 934-0826**
12	**ETVC**	**Executive Committee**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**San Francisco**	**(415) 750-1850**
13	FTM	Informational Meeting	Meets 2 PM	San Francisco	(415)534-8407
14	IFGE	National Convention	All Week Long	Portland	(415)664-1499
16	**ETVC**	**Dance Social**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Kimo's - Upstairs**	**(510) 865-8963**
18	**ETVC**	**Bowling Night**	**Call for details**	**San Francisco**	**(415) 731-7032**
18	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
18	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
21	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 849-4112
24	**ETVC**	**Couples Social**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Oakland**	**(415)664-1499**
25	RGA	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	Sunnyvale	(408) 732-7406
26	SGA	Dinner/Social	Starts at 8 PM	Sacramento	(916) 482-7SGA
31	**ETVC**	**SOCIAL**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Eichelberger's**	**(510) 865-8963**

APRIL

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
5	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 849-4112
6	**ETVC**	**Social Committee**	**Meets 7:30 PM**	**Eichelberger's**	**(510) 865-8963**
6	**ETVC**	**Education Committee**	**Meets at 7 PM**	**Eichelberger's**	**(510) 534-8407**
8	**ETVC**	**Poker Social**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**San Francisco**	**(415) 664-1499**
8	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
8	South Bay	Gender Discussion Group	Meets 8-10 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-5619
9	**ETVC**	**Shopping Safari**	**Starts at 12 PM**	**San Francisco**	**(510) 534-8407**
9	**ETVC**	**Executive Committee**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**TBA**	**(415) 750-1850**
10	FTM	Informational Meeting	Starts at 2 PM	San Francisco	(510) 534-8407
11	**ETVC**	**Outreach Committee**	**Starts at 7:30 PM**	**Berkeley**	**(510) 849-4112**
13	**ETVC**	**Dance Social**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Kimo's - Upstairs**	**(510) 865-8963**
14	**ETVC**	**Significant Others**	**Meets 7:30-10 PM**	**San Francisco**	**(415) 664-1499**
15	**ETVC**	**Bowling Night**	**Call for details**	**San Francisco**	**(415) 731-7032**
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
17	**ETVC**	**TS Seminar**	**Starts at 2 PM**	**Kimo's - Upstairs**	**(415) 697-2314**
18	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 849-4112
21	**ETVC**	**Couples Social**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**San Leandro**	**(415) 664-1499**
22	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
22	RGA	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	Sunnyvale	(408) 732-7406
23	SGA	Dinner/Social	Starts at 8 PM	Sacramento	(916) 482-7SGA
28	**ETVC**	**SOCIAL**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Eichelberger's**	**(510) 865-8963**
29	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044

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 4th Saturday of each month at The Townhouse. Write: Blue Rose Chapter, PO Box 215456, Sacramento, CA 95821-1456. Call: (916) 482-7SGA

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

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

FTM, a support group for Female-to-Male crossdressers & transsexuals, holds both open, Informational Meetings, and closed, Support Meetings. Write: FTM, 5337 College Avenue #142, Oakland, CA 94618. Call: (510) 832-7202.

ETVC Membership Application

Please Print

Mailing Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Preferred Name: _____

Birth Date: Month _____ Day _____ New Member: _____ Renewal: _____

How did you learn about ETVC? _____

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

Full year membership June 1 - May 31 is $20.00

Please remit by check or money order to:

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

Cindy At Large

Cindy Martin

I told my daughter that I was transgendered the day after the Cotillion.

I had brought some promotional flyers for the show in from my car and my daughter saw them. She asked me what ETVC meant. I told her it stood for the "Educational TV Channel", which is our legal name. But I felt uncomfortable about this bit of sidestepping. She asked me if I was the president. I said, yes, that's why I get so many phone calls. She then asked if it had to do with public television.

I felt that I couldn't lie. I told her that the TV in ETVC stood for transvestite and asked her if she understood the word. She did, and a big smile crossed her face. I told her that I had been a volunteer for several years with the group and that I had wanted to tell her for years about my activities. It surprised her that I had been involved with ETVC for a long time. I also told her that nothing I did would ever interfere with her life or embarass her, particularly with her friends. She got a little indignant about this part, saying she didn't care what they thought. You should also know, I said, that a person doesn't choose to be transgendered, they are born that way. She nodded in understanding.

I could tell that I was beginning to overwhelm her. She's 15 and was giving me the "I'm cool with this" look that teen-agers use when they really aren't sure if they are cool with something. I told her I loved her, and she hugged me and told me the same. She hadn't said much so I let her know that all she had to do was ask me what she wanted when she wanted. I let her know that nothing was going to change and that she would not see anything different in either my behavior or in her home life.

She hasn't said anything to me about it since, a reaction that some people tell me is normal for some kids. We still talk and laugh and argue the same as before. But something is different. And it's okay.

KINDA BIG NEWS FROM WALTHAM, MASS is that the International Foundation for Gender Education wants to hire an executive director/business manager. Meanwhile former Executive Director Merissa Sherrill Lynn is calling herself a "founding director" who will be "better able to pursure my responsibilities as a founding director, and give greater attention to the educational and charitable objectives of IFGE" after a replacement is found.

Here is a strange thing. IFGE has been putting out information for most of the last six months that it is having financial difficulties. If so, the recent trip by the former executive director to Europe for a transgender convention seems a bit odd. It is clear that IFGE needs professional management if it is ever to go beyond being a purveyor of conventions and meetings. Current Board Chair Linda Buten is trying to make some things happen. Go, girl!

P.S. No word on the salary for the job but if you want to apply send your resume, etc., to: IFGE, 6 Cushing St., Waltham, MA 02154, or call them at 617-894-8340 for more information.

WORD FROM SYRACUSE, NY is that the well-established EON group is about to buy their own facility. The building will include boarding home-style rentals for up to six transgendered people plus short-term visitor's quarters and meeting space. And get this: the place is a Victorian with 15 rooms and 8,700 sq. ft. that is selling for $65,000 plus about $10,000 for rehab! EON is looking for contributions for this project. If you are interested, send your donation to: EON, Inc., 523 W. Onondaga St., Syracuse, NY 13204

MANY THANKS TO JUDY OSBORNE, president of Seattle's Emerald City group for the nice mention about our Cotillion in her Jan. 1994 column. Judy is also leading the transgender community's effort in an expected battle with fundamentalists who are trying to get a hate initiative on the ballot in Washington state. As this fight shapes up I guarantee you that I am going to help our Washington sisters and brothers as much as I can. What about you?

DUMB IS DUMB. In a long Washington Post story last October about her tranformation from a woman into a man at a school for Drag Kings, writer Paula Span said that women have a "nearly anthropological interest" in finding out how the other half lives. For men however "...the motivations seem different. Do the drag queens vamping at downtown clubs or sashaying through Greenwich Village on Halloween have much interest in looking like or figuring out ordinary women? Unh-uh honey. They're in it for the glamour and fun..." Of course the motivations seem different if all you know about transgender people comes from night clubs and Halloween. That's like forming your judgment about all women by going to strip shows. And, oh yeah, she didn't pass as a guy...what a surprise.

WORKS FOR ME: "The first thing I did was to send money to the people I knew who need it. The other thing that I did was what I call the 'Grand Slam': new tits, a big stereo and a painting I've wanted for a long time." - Brett Butler (NOT the baseball player), star of ABC-TV show "Grace Under Fire" on achieving success.

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The New Woman

Bobbie Dunne

Fighting Back at Job Discrimination

In the warmth of the Cotillion, an evening which so clearly brings together the many elements of San Francisco's gender community in celebration of our complex and varied natures, it is difficult to imagine a world, a cold world, determined to deny us access to the essential tools of survival. However, for many of us who have grown up on the reality of transsexualism, that world nips constantly at our heels.

In my own case, I learned at an early age to protect my identity from everyone: friends and family; those with whom I played; those with whom I worked. Over the years, while denying myself self-expression, I became proficient in the field of commercial construction Sheet Metal, and rose to the level of Shop/Field Foreman in this male-dominated occupation.

I was not thrilled with the prospect of transitioning before retirement. Therefore, when the pain of isolation became unbearable - and I first began the arduous task of building a bridge of communication between my inside and the outside - I carefully chose to share my life with an ever-widening circle of friends "who knew." I had no intention of divulging my identity to anyone outside that circle - least of all, anyone at work.

On April 23, 1993, I was outed at work. To be "outed" is to have our private and personal lives publicly exposed - oftentimes by questionable people for questionable purposes. In my own situation, the "outing" embraced the most tragic of human failings, fear and ignorance. It was charged that because I exhibited female characteristics, therefore I must be gay; and if gay, most probably had AIDS. From April 23, 1993 until November 11, 1993, when I was "laid off," I experienced the terror of discrimination.

Within a short time of my lay-off, I was told that due to the improprieties of our former Union General President, I might lose all or part of my pension, and then on the 15th of December, I received a copy of my "new" insurance policy excluding transsexualism from coverage. After twenty-five years of faithful service to the Sheet Metal Trade, I felt abandoned because of an obscure medical condition - transsexualism. This was the last straw. I became determined to fight back, and in so doing discovered a sense of purpose and dignity.

Because of the conduct exhibited by my employer during the month of December, I was able to file charges in January 1994, and remain within the thirty day statute of limitations. For all of us faced with discrimination, this time limit is important to remember. I have filed charges with the Human Rights Commission, in San Francisco, and also with the California Department of Industrial Relations. I have also retained an attorney, Lisa Aguiar, of San Jose, and am determined to take whatever steps are necessary to protect my right to live and work in peace. At the time of this writing, the tables are starting to turn, as we drift toward court in what may prove to be a landmark case.

Those of us fortunate enough to have attended this year's Cotillion heard Cindy Martin and Shelly E. Salieri's eloquent call to action. It is in that spirit, in the twenty-fifth anniversary of the transgendered uprising at Stonewall, that each and every one of us must examine our responsibility to ourselves and to the community we represent. If you feel you have experienced discrimination, and choose to fight for the right to live and work in peace, the following list of organizations is for you:

Sexual Orientation Discriminations

If your employer perceives you to be gay or lesbian, (Even if you're not), you are protected under sexual orientation laws.

California Department of Industrial Relations
Division of Labor Standards Enforcement
30 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 703-4750
Statue of Limitations: 30 days

San Francisco Human Rights Commission
25 Van Ness Avenue #800
San Francisco, CA 94102-6033
(415) 252-2500
Statue of Limitations: 1 year

AIDS/HIV Discrimination

If your employer perceives you to have AIDS, (Even if you don't), you are protected under AIDS/HIV laws.

San Francisco Human Rights Commission
(See previous listing)
Statute of Limitations: 2 Years

California Department of Fair Employment and Housing
30 Van Ness Avenue, #3000
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 557-2000
Statue of Limitations: 1 year

Dept. of Health and Human Services
50 United Nations Plaza, Rm. 322
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 556-8730
Statue of Limitations: 180 days

(She has donated so much of her own time in support of our struggle, that she merits inclusion here):

Lisa E. Aguiar
Employment Rights Attorneys
111 North Market Street, Suite 900
San Jose, CA 95113
(408) 971-9993

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Luanna Rodgers

Change

As we go forward in the New Year, change will enter many of our lives. For some, it is carefully planned and welcomed, the fruition of efforts toward gender reassignment or the culmination of efforts in career, communication within a relationship or personal growth. This is what New Year's resolutions are intended to bring into our life: meaningful and desired changes. It is easy to feel good about this kind of change.

Change is sometimes unexpected and unbidden, however. Enormously disruptive and disorienting change is much more difficult to see as positive. But it can be . It is challenging to retain balance while life is in flux. The Chinese regard change philosophically. Their symbol for "change" is the same as that for "opportunity." While in the depths and muddle of uninvited change, though, one might feel like Pollyanna in attempting to regard it as an opportunity. Yet, it is valid and useful to ask ourselves, "What potential opportunity can this change bring into my life?"

The experience of handling change can develop flexibility and resiliency, leading to inner balance as new opportunities are explored.

People with gender issues often experience more than the average amount of change. For the transsexual, change is inherent: disclosures to significant others, friends and family. Disclosures may be made at work, or new employment sought. There are physical and emotional changes, changes in living situation, lifestyle, self-image and sexuality. Much of this can be planned for, but there is always potential for the unexpected. How can discrimination in the work place,- or loss of a job - be regarded as an opportunity? What about the loss, through lack of acceptance, of a partner or parent? Certainly, this is a time to grieve loss and feel anger, but ultimately healing involves reframing the unexpected change into opportunity. It may be an opportunity to reflect upon the self and the quality and nature of interaction with others. It may catapult one toward finding a job or partner that is a better fit with one's needs, strengthening ties with supportive others and building a new support network.

Uninvited change is no stranger to the part-time crossdresser either. As disclosures to significant others are made, the quality, nature and strength of the relationship may be challenged. This is most assuredly true when unexpected discovery of crossdressing by a spouse occurs. Such a change, although extremely distressing, may call upon the couple to develop better communication and trust, qualities which may enhance the relationship over time. It may also encourage the crossdressing partner to explore and improve their own feelings about being a crossdresser, leading to less shame and a greater ability to maintain an open and loving connection to significant others.

I have seen both planned and unexpected change transform the lives of many individuals with gender issues in a positive direction. The experience of handling change can develop flexibility and resiliency, leading to inner balance as new opportunities are explored. May change enter your life when you need it and be experienced with an open mind and heart as a transformative opportunity.

Luanna L. Rodgers, M.A., MFCC, is a Bay Area psychotherapist specializing in work with the gender community.

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Night Man

Francis Vavra

On Broadway

It was a warm Saturday night in San Francisco, summer of 1991. Too warm for a suit, but I wanted to look good for my first night out on the town in my male persona. I knew if I didn't go when I finally had the courage, the car, spending money - and was in the right mood - I never would. I did a final comb through my theatrical mustache, knotted my tie, readjusted the anatomically correct dildo in my pants, put on a black fedora hat and hit the road. I miraculously found a parking spot on Columbus, only three blocks from Broadway, my destination. With one hand in my pocket, I started walking with a long relaxed stride from the upper leg (not the hip, as women do). I could finally look at women the way I had always wanted to, out of the corner of my eye, or directly, as a man. I started to smile, but remembered men smile less than women, and I didn't want my mustache to pop off and have to do a makeover in some dark alley.

Broadway was jumping with people as it often was on Saturday nights - Midwest tourists, business men and young couples going to clubs jammed together with local seedy characters, aging Bohemians and military men on leave. I stopped and listened to a barker pitch the show inside his club - "Only $5 cover! Live girls! Dancing! Come in and see it all!" Determined to have my adventure, I stepped into the club, which was dark except for the stage. There were only two girls in the place, one nude dancer on stage (I had missed the strip), another in a black negligee sitting with a customer. The waitress immediately took my drink order, another $5. Then the woman in black joined me and asked me to buy her a drink. The stage dancer was crawling in front of my table; she was plain and lacked grace, and spread her legs in a "V" leaving nothing to the imagination. This was truly a clip joint, I thought. I excused myself, and returned to Broadway.

It was time for my real fantasy, to see the infamous "peep shows", where one can stand in a dark booth and watch beautiful dancers put on a show, keeping the window open with a flow of quarters. I walked down Broadway toward Kearny and the Lusty Lady. At the intersection, two young men with Marine haircuts yelled "Hey, what's with the suit?" and "Nobody wears hats anymore." I should have ignored them, but my adrenaline was pumping, and I shot back "Why not? It's Saturday night, time to dress up" and kept walking. Then one guy yelled loudly, "My God, it's a chick!" and gave a whistle. Not my role model, I thought, and hurried into the Lusty Lady. Changing two $5's into quarters, pockets bulging like Las Vegas, I stood in line with the men waiting for a booth. Staring into space with the others, I couldn't help noticing all the low-lifes, badly dressed losers and assorted perverts surrounding me in the dark hall, which smelled of Pine-sol, sweat and cheap cologne. What was I doing there? I hoped for a one-way booth, where the dancers couldn't see me. Sweat ran down my hat band as a corner booth opened up, and a man gestured for me to take it. In two seconds, I left Hell and arrived in Heaven. The dancers were some of the most beautiful young women I had ever seen, and they all had lingerie on, to my relief. Stiletto heels, bright red lips, smiles and gorgeous figures. Several redheads (my favorites), blondes, and a few exotic brunettes undulated and teased the men watching them through tiny space-ship windows. The dancers instantly put me under their spell, and I didn't care if they could see me, in fact was glad they could. One strikingly beautiful redhead approached and did an entire dance number in front of my window. An old wise soul in a young body, she looked deeply into my eyes and seemed to see all of me, the man, the woman and the fantasy. Then she brought another dancer over, and they put on a show together. They embodied the essence of the Goddess in all of us, which that night I began to appreciate even more from the other side of the coin. Later I met the red haired lady, who had guessed I was a woman, not from my appearance, but from my hands and the way I gestured as I watched her dance. She too had a fantasy to meet a woman dressed completely as a man, and we became friends. She inspired me to try more activities crossdressed, and we passed one night as a "straight couple" allowed into a woman's dance club. Perhaps my reason for getting out of my fantasy closet and into the world of real adventures is the same as some of my brave sisters - the Goddess made me do it!

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Miss ETVC Cotillion 1994

Photo: Janie Faye Fenton

Welcome to the 1994 ETVC Cotillion!

Photo: Joe Pulido

Deanne applauds Mr. & Miss ETVC 1994

Cotillion emcees Tommi Rose and Steve Rascher

Photo: Joe Pulido

Cotillion Skybox

Pam Souza

Welcome back to the Skybox, where Mr. and Miss ETVC get free seats, as long as no one's view is blocked by a top hat or tiara. Congratulations to Francis, Lauren and all Cotillionites. People tell me it was the best show I've never seen. But I'm not complaining. Backstage was at times a show in itself.

Thursday, January 27, while ETVC has its housewarming party at Eichelberger's, my fellow contestants and I arrive for dress rehearsal at the appropriately named Russian Center. The upstairs dressing room is as cold as the snow palace in Dr. Zhivago, but nowhere near as luxurious. Lauren, a veteran of three winters at the California Club (to my two winters and Robin's one), tells me, "We fell for it again, Pam. And *we've* been through this before." Steep stairs to the dressing room will impede

Photo: Janie Faye Fenton

Finalists (l–r) Nina, Francis, Lauren, Deanne, & Angelique

Photo: Janie Faye Fenton

Judges (l–r): Kaye Fisher, Joe Pulido, Joan Sheldon, Julie Freeman and Krystal Black with Judges Coordinator Jano Bogg

Ginny welcomes Alameda's Timmi Ryan

Jennifer, strutting her stuff in the activewear competition

last second dashes to the wings in heels. Costume changes have to be quicker to allow for this extra travel time. Next year we want a fire pole installed so we can slide down ahead of our cues.

Director Jacqui Jewels and choreographer Rainbeau complete their fine tuning. This is the last time we see Jacqui standing still. She will be a blur of motion on Saturday.

Saturday night, while the judges ask the finalists thoughtful and insightful questions about ETVC and the gender community, contestants backstage are asking thoughtful, insightful questions such as, "Why are Cokes in the dressing room when we're jittery enough as is?", "How come there's only eight seats but nine contestants?" and "Why did this Press-On choose NOW to come unstuck?"

Still, amidst this chaos, moments of individual heroism and humor shine through. Jennifer had kept us loose Saturday afternoon by demonstrating the proper way to negotiate the then wobbly runway steps: bending at her hips and descending backwards on all fours. During the show, we are disappointed when she chooses the more conventional forward bipedal technique. Angelique, veteran of several pageants, big and small, shares the mirror with Lulu and also shares makeup tips. Lulu's bright smile throughout the evening reminds us why we're there, to have fun. Francis too, class act that he is, gets into the spirit of things by wishing his fellow contestants well with roses and cards. When the original Lost Guy discovers he has left his lucky hoop earring at home, it's only fitting that a Lost Girl, Robin, lends him one of hers.

Nina Rage (saying her full name is more fun than saying either one alone) is the model of poise throughout the evening, and proves that, yes, it is possible to look good in polka dots. She actually has me going for a moment when she mentions using knives and fire in her talent number.

I feel an eerie tingling inside as Deanne takes her sticks to the stage, literally as well as figuratively. No glitz, no technology, no tapes; just one light + two wooden sticks + solid surfaces + one talented redhead = music in its purest, most original form. I know I've always marched to the beat of a different drummer, I just didn't know who she was until now.

By evening's end, (which turns out to be the start of the next morning) excitement gives way to exhaustion. We wish the Sunday victory brunch could be postponed to sometime in mid-March when we've caught up on our sleep.

To all involved, be you contestants, crew or audience, thanks for a memorable evening.

Come back next year...

Alexander Graham Bell assists two of our lovely debutantes

1994 ETVC Cotillion Director Jacqui Jewels and Producer Dianne Summers

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.

Significant Other Support Group

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

Our next meetings will be Thursday, March 10 and Thursday, April 14 There will be a significant others luncheon Saturday, March 12. You are all welcome with open arms. For more information call Ginny at (415)[redacted]

The Value of Education

Julie Freeman

When we were young, the value of education was always impressed upon us. If we were going to succeed in life, it would be because we took the time to do our homework, study, complete projects, and in general prepare ourselves for the future. I took this adage seriously and was filled with guilt and fear if I did not do my homework as religiously as I thought was expected. There were times when even my well-educated parents tried to get me to relax a bit, but that maxim was so deeply ingrained, I never let up. Although, today, I realize that I could have relaxed a bit more, I am glad in many ways that I was so motivated even if from fear of failure.

Education frees us from prejudice and restrictions. Education enables us to cope. Education allows us to make intelligent choices. So important is education that I encourage any member of the gender community who is having trouble trying to understand the T syndrome to read *Brain Sex*.

Upon reading *Brain Sex*, a detailed reporting by Anne Moir and David Jessel of the relationship between the brain and hormones at various stages of development, it becomes apparent that many of our preconceived notions about the sexes need to be reevaluated.

Many believe that the sexes really are not different - that it is cultural conditioning that causes differences. Many believe that conditions such as homosexuality, bisexuality, heterosexuality, transsexualism, etc., are choices. And many believe that the more feminine a woman is or the more masculine a man, the more successful that person will be.

In the light of studies of the relationship of hormones and the wiring of the brain, it appears that these notions are not statements of fact. The brains of men and women differ significantly, and no amount of cultural conditioning can overcome that. Nor can cultural conditioning overcome genetic and sexual behaviors that are biological, not environmental.

It is amazing how shortsighted and naive the human race has been. Rather than allow ourselves the freedom to be what we are genetically predestined to be, we restrict ourselves because it appears to be better not to act on what is true but "to maintain with the best will in the world that what is true has no right to be."

We should be concerned with the truth, not with what might have a detrimental impact on society. And the way to truth is through education. And through education lies hope for tolerance and understanding for all of us regardless of our lifestyles.

What Is Love?

Ginny

When we get married or commit to a long term relationship we are well aware of the meaning of love, the excitement of finding someone with whom we can share our lives and build a future together. We recite our wedding vows - yes, even write our own vows to one another - to express our sincere feelings and promises to bring happiness to the family we hope to create and the life we will share.

Life goes on, then, and brings with it many joys and some adversity, such as family illnesses, deaths, challenges of raising children, natural disasters...sad but acceptable as part of life itself. We cope with them and conquer them with courage and determination.. and our love grows stronger.

Then one day you discover your loved one is a...what? A transvestite? A what? A crossdresser? What? This is an unexpected adversity! Surely, you jest! This is unacceptable! How can I love someone "like this?"??

This is one of the times of your life you need to be reminded of what love is. Cut the next paragraph out and paste it to your refrigerator so you may both remember what the Bible tells us love is:

A Letter From St. Paul to the Corinthians:

Love is patient, love is kind, it is never jealous,
Love is never boastful or conceited: it is never rude or selfish: it does not take offense, and it is notresentful.
Love takes no pleasure in other people's faults but delights in the truth: it is always ready to excuse,to trust, to hope, and to endure whatever comes.

(2Cor13:4-7)

Ginny's Tales From the Other Side

Our January Saturday afternoon luncheon was well attended and an interesting, enjoyable time together. So we are going to do it again! Mark your calendars for Saturday at 11:30 AM on March 12, 1994. We will be meeting at a restaurant in Serramonte for lunch. For those of you who are bringing along your "insignificant others" (just kidding, guys ...), who will, as usual, be in drab (Dressed As a Boy), there will be a side trip after lunch to tour a world-famous Orchid Farm, which is about a mile away from the restaurant. If you've never been to the Orchid Farm, you MUST plan to go. The flowers and plants are breathtaking, the prices are wholesale, and, since we are lucky enough to have SO's who appreciate beauty, they, too, will be mesmerized by the enchantment of the lovely orchids. For reservations and information, call (510) 934-0826.

• • • • • • • •

The delightful couple in Texas who have been working hard over the past few years to encourage couples to participate in the Texas "T" Party (a successful gender convention held in February), also put together a newsletter for couples called "Partners." It includes articles written by wives, significant others and their partners from all around the nation. "Partners" was created and is published by Cynthia and Linda Phillips, a couple married over 38 years, who have been dealing with all phases of crossdressing for all of those years. Surely, for many of you (in particular those of you who are new to this community) this newsletter would be well worth the $12 annual subscription (for 4 issues). If you'd like to check it out first, send $2 for a sample issue to the Boulton and Park Society, c/o Partners, PO Box 17, Bulverde, TX 78163.

• • • • • • • •

Along these lines, for many years the SOS Group affiliated with ETVC has considered creating our own newsletter, but no one was ever able to contribute the time and effort such an endeavor demands. If there is any interest by anyone out there to spearhead such a challenge, please call me at (415) [redacted] and let me know what you would like to do. We will discuss this matter at the April SOS meeting which will be held in my home in San Francisco. Let's do it...let's work out a format, work up a budget and try to help someone over this often bumpy road. Remember, we've all been there, too! Please do try to come to the April 14th meeting as it will be the beginning of our tenth year of love and support for one another... truly a cause for the celebration of our commitment to our loved ones and to the special spirit of comraderie we have shared. Maybe we'll pop a cork or two!

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The Middle Way

Lauren Hotchkiss

Owww!

©1993 by Lauren René Hotchkiss
(Second of three parts)

I heard the sound of a heavy piece of equipment being wheeled toward me, and glancing over I saw a complicated looking apparatus with an elaborate array of knobs and dials. A blood-red wire led from it to a rather intimidating needle-like instrument. It could be none other than the dreaded...electrolysis machine.

She asked me if I wanted Galvanic, Thermolysis or Blend, which I learned later were the three modalities available in electrolysis. At the time I didn't know one from the other however, so I said simply, "Whichever one hurts the least."

"To hell with that," she said. "They all hurt."

She shoved a wet grounding contact into my hand and then donned strong magnifying glasses that she said she needed to help guide her in the insertion of the wire-like "probe". They distorted her eyes so much that she looked like some kind of Psychotic Martian Doctor from Hell. Igor then placed eye shields over my eyes, supposedly to protect my pupils from the glare of the bright light Manoosh had turned on to use during the treatment, but I realize now that it was really so that I would remain unaware of her look of sheer delight as she committed indignities upon my person.

She then turned on the juice.

As much as it might sound like the opening of a new Stephen King novel, I swear that as I lay there on the table, screaming, while being jolted with electricity as the needle jabbed again and again into my face, I kept hearing the echo of the immortal words of the illustrious Dr. F. as his monster first opened his eyes, perhaps while lying on the very slab upon which I now reclined. "It's alive...alive."

After a few of the longest seconds the world has ever known the hair root was destroyed. But then how could it have lived, considering that there was smoke coming from my face. With a chuckle Manoosh ripped the dead hair out of my face with a pair of dull tweezers.

I'd read all the official propaganda, that to be licensed in California an electrologist must complete 500 hours of instruction in skin and hair structure and growth, neurology, angiology, bacteriology, disinfection, dermatology, and blah blah blah...and that at the end of their training they are then required to pass a written, oral, and practical test administered by the state's cosmetology board before they are issued a license, but personally I think that this one was just given the chance to take a few swings at a dead pig with a cattle prod and then sent out to prey upon an unsuspecting public.

I had actually been ingenuous enough to believe the brochures I'd read that had said electrolysis wasn't painful. Some had described it as "a mild tingling sensation," others as "a slight sensation of heat." BULL...SHIT. None of the brochures told it like it was. It hurts.

But I'm getting away from my story.

"Stop, I've changed my mind," I began to scream. But she did not answer.

(to be continued)

Multiple Personalities© Review

Francis Vavra

On Jan. 12, 1994, William A. Henkin, Ph.D spoke to a small but enthusiastic group on the complex subject of multiple personas. He defined "multiple personality disorder" (MPD), as a state of consciousness where a person may have blackouts or memory losses, cannot control which personality acts out in life, and is disassociated from self. Often it is a creative survival response to an overwhelming trauma, or to a situation from which one cannot escape. William likes to refer to "multiple personality order" as a state where a person has co-consciousness, and is aware and in control of various facets of their overall personality. He sees personality, or personas, as the many sides or facets of a jewel, all part of the whole, acting together as a team, but manifesting in different ways depending on the situation. No one is the same when they are with their parents as they are with friends, lovers, bosses, strangers. Everyone has multiple needs and desires which often can be satisfied by bringing out these different facets. The familiar "child within" was given as an example. Personas can be different ages, as well as different genders, within the same person. William pointed out that not all crossdressers and transgendered people become the opposite gender when they crossdress, although many do. He touched on the psychological history of multiple personalities, and its growing acceptance as a mental phenomenon, which can be treated and brought into a healthy state of co-consciousness. William noted that most people with multiple personalities are creative and intelligent, and that bringing out different facets is a very creative way of escaping without having to leave, much as an internal fantasy life can help get one through a boring or difficult time. Regarding gender, William felt that the personality of one gender receded as the other came forward, that no persona "dies" or disappears, but rather goes to sleep or is less conscious when the other is more present in the body. Those with personalities of both genders can operate as a team, whether or not they always agree. If one sees gender as a spectrum, and explores what one's purpose is in coming out as one gender or the other, anxiety can diminish, by understanding what needs that personality handles. There was a question and answer session after the talk, with some interesting discussion, and personal examples given by the audience. Sybil Holiday, William's partner, added her insights and experiences, including how her various personalities interact with his.

A tape of William's talk will be made available to the ETVC library.

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Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about Wigs

by Kevin Horwitz

The "Care and Feeding of Your Wig" seminar was a bright spot in early December, counteracting the seasonal rain and fog. Approximately 11 wig enthusiasts ventured out to Studio International, a cozy Potrero Hill hair salon. Hosted by owners Michael Clark and Dennis Rae, the evening consisted of intermittent nibbling and sipping of refreshments, lively discussions about the different kinds of wigs on the market, styling tips, and information on how best to maintain each particular variety of wig.

The two main kinds of wigs, machine and custom-made, are quite different from one another, in appearance as well as price. The main difference is that the custom or hand-made wigs are actually created by knotting each strand of hair individually through the nylon underside. This time-consuming practice creates the illusion of scalp and therefore enables its wearer more flexibility in terms of creating parts on the side, etc. A machine-made wig cannot offer quite the same natural look, but if styled and cared-for properly, it might be just the thing for an evening's wear. Clients who must wear wigs everyday - for instance, cancer patients who are undergoing radiation treatments - are more likely to purchase a custom-made wig with either synthetic or natural hair.

Natural hair wigs require greater overall care, partially because the strands are no longer alive and attached to the root. They therefore lose their bounce, so to speak, and require more frequent styling. Synthetic strands are preferred in many instances, because they are stronger, last longer, and will hold their styling indefinitely.

Those who utilize wigs primarily for evening wear might select a high quality synthetic, machine-made wig. Styled without a part, and carefully matched with skin coloring, these wigs are attractive and realistic in appearance. In addition to the usual array of wigs, Studio International offers such things as hand-crafted eyelashes, mustaches, and natural-looking hair pieces which are small enough to simply fill in balding areas.

Owners Michael and Dennis, originally from Boston, said that it was a pleasure to include the transgendered and crossdressing communities in their hair salon business, and mentioned also that they would reserve one evening bi-monthly for ETVC members who wished to make appointments for maintenance of their wigs (or natural hair). For further information, please contact them at: Studio International, 2100 18th Street, San Francisco, CA. 94107, 415-626-5583.

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Beauty Tips

Bill Jones

Some thoughts on wigs.

I know you all love tons of curls, but try to keep them off your face. Many in our community tend to wear their wigs too far forward on their faces. Most synthetic wigs have too much hair. Your wig will be more flattering if it doesn't cover you up too much. I know that when you push it back it doesn't feel as secure, but pulling it down to your eyebrows is not the answer. A few pincurls in your own hair, to which you can securely pin your wig, will help you to feel comfortable. You can also glue your wig to your forehead and temples with spirit gum or eyelash glue; however both glues must be cleaned from the wig afterward. The spirit gum dissolves with alcohol (DON'T use acetone, it will eat your wig!). The eyelash glue, if used carefully and sparingly, will peel off the hair. This is a good place to use the Kryolan water soluble spirit gum, and it allows you to glue wisps of hair onto your temples to hide your natural sideburns.

We are not as young as we used to be, so be very careful with dark wigs, they can be aging! They will be more flattering if the hair near the face is lighter or frosted. It's not easy to find a dark wig with lighter hair near the face, but if you are clever with your hands you can make one by carefully removing some rows of hair from a frosted wig or hairpiece, and sewing it by hand onto the edge of your darker wig. With a little work, you can be gorgeous!

If you have questions or suggestions, give me a call at (415)[redacted] I'll be happy to help in any way I can.

LADY VERUSHKA

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CROSSDRESSERS beginning or experienced are welcome to learn new makeup tips and how to walk that walk and use a feminine voice. hese are important things. You are welcome to consult with me on feminine issues as well. I do not provide a "sex" service for you, but instead I will help you with your image, feelings and looks. #10 SASE to: A.G.A.E.,[redacted] S.F., CA 94109.
Call to hear my voice: 510-[redacted]

Transsexual Seminar Resounding Success

Kevin Horwitz

ETVC's newly-organized transsexual series has drawn a full crowd every time, a fact which indicates community interest - and probably reflects on the Bay Area penchant for events which are free of charge.

At the December 12 seminar, at least 30 people crowded into the 'red' room at Chez Mollet, to hear a small, scrupulously-groomed man by the name of Dr. Ousterhout speak about his experiences in the plastic surgery field. His training, both as a dentist and a plastic surgeon, gives him a rather unique perspective on facial corrective surgery. As a plastic surgeon, Dr. Ousterhout says he owes much to his mentor, Paul Tessier, a French cranio-facial surgeon who works mainly in the Boston area. From him, he learned many of the techniques he utilizes to remove bone and cartilage from the forehead, nose, and chin in order to create a more female-appearing face. He pointed out the importance of measuring cranial areas so that a realistic alignment can be achieved. Skull size and shape, for the human female, tends toward a smaller, more rounded configuration, with a pointed chin. Therefore, he pays a great deal of attention to the profile when he is measuring and re-aligning specific facial areas.

In addition to speaking initially about his surgical knowledge as regards the male-to-female transsexual, he presented photographic slides illustrating his work (which covered various surgical procedures he utilizes in his private practice). Many of the slides were quite dramatic, especially the before and after overheads of the cleft palate clients, whose upper and lower lip had to be re-positioned and closed up. The transsexual before-and-after slides were equally transformational, demonstrating what can get accomplished with the help of a skilled surgeon. Nearly all of these slides were of male-to-female clients who started out with exceptionally masculine bone structure. Dr. Ousterhout explained how he built up the areas which might be too thin (e.g., the mouth, eyelids, etc.). He also detailed the procedures for removing bone and cartilage from areas such as the nose, chin, or forehead. Although not intended for those with a weak stomach, the slides illustrated effective utilizations of surgery in cases which might be considered difficult - at least in terms of day-to-day passing. Dr. Ousterhout plunged into his slides with the vigor of one who loves his work - and afterwards was on hand to answer questions and stimulate a lively information exchange on this unique topic.

My First Convention

Veronica Smith

From September 29 to October 3, I attended Southern Comfort in Atlanta, Georgia. This was their third convention and largest so far with 348 participants. Guest speakers included Stanley Biber, Ann Bolin, Mariette Pathy Allen, Sheila Kirk, Merissa Sherrill Lynn and many, many more. This was my first convention and I had looked forward to it like a kid waiting for Christmas. Although I definitely wanted to hear what the speakers had to say, I had another reason for wanting to go. For the past year I've found it increasingly frustrating to spend so much time putting on make-up and clothes, only to take it all off after a couple of hours. I've lived forty years denying my femme side; now to let it out just a few hours a month

seems positively stingy. I wanted to experience being Veronica for a couple of days, and I thought a convention would give me just such an opportunity. However, since I'd never been to a convention, I worried that either because of my timidity or the situation I'd end up dressing just a few times .

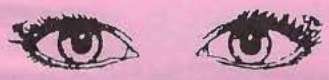
I needn't have worried. The Planning Committee had been very thorough in creating the right milieu for every level of cross dresser. A participant could spend the entire three and a-half days at the motel attending lectures and workshops, shopping among the vendors, and breaking up the day with festive luncheons and banquet dinners. For those feeling a little more daring, a list of friendly nearby shops was provided, tours of Atlanta scheduled, and group dinners reserved at different restaurants. In effect, a "safe zone" was created, or as Linda Peacock told me, "We've made a much larger, but still comfortable, closet for the crossdresser."

I landed late Wednesday afternoon and was picked up by my friend Kristi. We had both scheduled dinner that night at Alfredo's, which Kristi thought was in a gay district. After signing-in for both my room and the convention, I had very little time to get ready. I chose a purple sequin dress, a bit showy perhaps, but easy to zip and I thought not too flashy for a gay restaurant. I finished my make-up in record time (for me), but paused before opening the door. It suddenly dawned on me that I was dressed and made-up like a woman three thousand miles from home - in the Deep South yet! After taking a long, slow breath, I walked out into the corridor and took the elevator. When its doors opened, I saw my reflection in the lobby mirror. It was exciting to see Veronica in such public and different surroundings.

Whatever Alfredo's was on other nights, the night we walked in it looked like a typical family-style, Italian restaurant. Not too many gaping mouths, but enough to make me think that no Atlantan had ever before seen a gaggle of forty very tall women. However, our maitre d' was charm himself; a dead ringer for Akim Tarimoff, he bowed as he said, "Right this way, ladies," and showed us to our tables. The service was adorable, the meal excellent, the company wonderful. It was a great beginning to the next three days. Later than night, when the elevator doors were closing on Veronica's reflection, she was smiling. The rest of the convention now seems like one continuous high. For the next three days, I dressed only as Veronica, and by doing so, discovered a lot about her and myself. Everything, even mundane things, had a special pleasure to them.

On Sunday morning, all packed and ready to check out, I felt a little shock of disappointment when the elevator doors opened and the mirror reflected just me in boy drag (I had grown real dependent on that mirror for last, quick once-overs before going out). Now the whole trip seems like a visit to Never-Never Land. The Ramada is still there, of course, but the people who made it special have all gone to different places: the vendors, lecturers, organizers, and, especially, the participants. Southern Comfort was indeed well-planned and wonderfully executed, and I can't think of a better place for the cross dresser to have the valuable experience of being, for an extended period, en femme.

Anne's Cosmetic Tattooing



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Fill Your Cup!

Sharon

I would like to relate an experience I had recently with one of the vendors who advertises in our Newsletter. My wife and daughter were going to "Joyce's Perfect Fit" for a bra fitting, and asked me along. At first I was too embarrassed to go, but they insisted, saying "We girls have to stick together." Not for a moment did I think any bra could help me in any way. In fact, my daughter (a child with a mean streak) once told me if I wore a Playtex Living Bra I would starve it to death. My idea of a good bra for myself was always decided by cost. After all, I reasoned, my breasts are understandably small, so what difference could it make?

Once there, Joyce and her husband Bob - both truly nice people - made us all feel instantly welcome. My wife being the bravest went first into the fitting room; she came out smiling and asked who was next? I still had not released the death grip on the sides of my chair, so my daughter (the kid with the mean streak) went next. While waiting, I tried to talk myself out of going in. Still smiling, my wife said, "You've come this far. Be brave. Be strong. Stand tall. Be a woman!" After that I could hardly let down my adopted gender - I *had* to go in.

When my daughter came out, curiosity coupled with the "Espirit De Corps" of womanhood gave me the courage to enter the lingerie fitting room. Within moments, Joyce had me completely at ease; I don't think she ever knew how terrified I really was. I found Joyce to be extremely knowledgeable about bras and breast tissue. She taught me a lot about the dynamics of breast tissue growth and health. I had never before been able to wear a bra without padding - my breasts had always been a "false" part of my female persona. However, when Joyce put me in her bra of choice, then adjusted "my tissue" into the cups properly, I was amazed! These bra cups were filled with *me*, not with padding! Joyce explained that the bra itself is strong, and is designed to hold tissue in place until hopefully it will stay there naturally.

Could this bra train my tissue to relocate to the breast area to give me real breasts? Was this possible? I had to find the answer. I reasoned that even if my breasts didn't grow, when I was wearing this bra it would at least hold my tissue in cup-filling size and shape, somewhere between an A and B cup.

After seven weeks, while wearing my new bra, I have found my breast measurement goes from 37 inches to 40 1/2 - REAL breasts, which I can't hide even under a sweat shirt. I have also gained almost a full inch even without the bra, so my tissue must be building up in the right places.

I guess no one can promise that it will work the same for everyone, but I am getting good results. Isn't it nice when a product does what it's supposed to do? I have an idea that Joyce and her "magic" bra might be a viable alternative to hormones for many - there are no bad side effects from the bra. If you have any questions you can write to me c/o the ETVC PO Box, or give a call to Joyce's Perfect Fit.

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Ralph Judd's Scrapbook

Ralph Judd, Ph.D.

Few people know that Ralph Judd has perhaps the most extenisve collection of crossdressing memorabilia in the Bay Area - or any area. Among his archival treasures are scrapbooks filled with music sheets dating from the late nineteenth century to the nineteen twenties, featuring pictures of crossdressed performers, male and female - Ed.

KARYL NORMAN

Sheet Music Cover

1923

A female impersonater who headlined the vaudeville bill wherever he went was a talented performer named Karyl Norman (real name, George Paduzzi). Famous for both his singing voice and his fabulous costumes, he was billed as "The Creole Fashion Plate." He set house records and circuit records. He wrote the lyrics for many of his songs, and changed his act every two weeks (another record!).

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First Time

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Dear Readers,

As I mentioned in my first column, there are few things as emotion-filled as the first time one crossdresses, or even admits the desire to oneself. But the first time one shares this desire with someone else is also intensely emotional. While some might think that one's significant other would be the first to be confided in, the relationship one has the most invested in can simply be too valuable to risk disturbing (or losing) by imposing upon it something so misunderstood and maligned. Some choose another outlet, a faceless voice on a telephone for example, as in Kristen's case.

Kristen: I guess it was in April, 1992, when I finally decided I needed to tell someone. I had just decided I was going to come out...in some way, any way. I didn't know about the existence of clubs for transvestites but somehow I ran across ETVC's hotline number, and I thought, "Wow, I've got to check this out." When I called, Rachel answered. It was really weird. I had this fit of paranoia; I was afraid they were tapping my phone or something. No one else in the universe knew about my wanting to cross dress, so telling that first person was totally scary to me. I just *knew* I could be blackmailed, but I remember Rachel telling me, "Oh, this group meets in San Francisco, in a gay restaurant. Don't worry about it; just go." I was in luck, because there was a meeting the very next night. And I went.

Kristen has since shared her cross dressing with her significant other. Now they both come to socials. Pauli, like Kristen, also relied on "the kindness of strangers."

Pauli: Do you know the Pacific Center? It's a place for gay men and women to have rap sessions. Back in '78 or '77 I first started going because my life was really screwed up. I didn't know who or what I was. I went for a lot of years in denial...that I was gay...that I was a cross dresser; just really tried to put it down. But it was getting to the point that life was just kind of a mess. I had to do something about it. So I went to a rap group, and talked about all this stuff including crossdressing [for] the first time. In fact, that was the night that I met the man that I've been living with for the last 16 years. That was really the first time...I let it all out. Oh god, you can't imagine what the relief was. Up until that point, it wasn't a full life. I went to work, I did other things, but I didn't have relationships with anybody. That's when my life started.

Unlike Kristen's and Pauli's experiences of suddenly sharing with strangers, Cindy was able to enjoy the luxury of initial hinting to a friend outside the transgender community.

Cindy: The first person outside the community I told was a woman that I'd known for a long time. We worked together a lot, quite closely on Sunday nights when it's just a skeletal crew. We felt very simpatico, and we would talk. It was clear to me that she was very open-minded and was also kind of looking at the gender thing herself. Anytime I would raise even peripherally male/female differences, we would have these wonderful conversations. I, of course, would steer them towards things that were transgenderist. Eventually, we talked about it quite directly. I told her that I knew a couple of transvestites and transsexuals. She found this fascinating and asked me questions about them. It became clear to me that if I were going to tell anybody, she would be a good person. I was trying to figure a way to do it when finally one night, as she was on the way out the door, I thought, "Shit, I'm going to say something to her right now." What I said was, "Say, before you leave, there's something I need to tell you. You know how I told you that I know two or three transvestites and transsexuals? Well, actually, I know two or three hundred." She thought that was hilarious. So I said, "I know these people because I'm a transvestite myself." She wasn't surprised at all. She told me that I had given her enough hints that I might as well have had it tattooed on top of my head. She had a lot of interesting questions. We're still great friends.

Despite the fear, denial and general tensions that accompany the sharing of something rejected by most of our peers, these stories demonstrate what great value there is in sharing one's desires. Admitting to one's self and others is an empowering action. Admission allows the cross dresser to live more fully. Admission also has societal value. By breaking through the social constraints and limitations that isolate us and make us cower, we can all live more honestly and free.

Transgender Inclusion in Clinton's Healthcare Plan

Kathy Jones, Transgender Nation representative, has requested letters of support for the inclusion of transsexual health care in Clinton's healthcare reform plan. The letters should be addressed to the congressional representative in your district, and can be brief. Nancy Pelosi supports this inclusion, so if you live in her district, she'd be an especially good person to contact - to let her know of your support.

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