ETVC

Educational TV Channel Newsletter
VOLUME EIGHT, NUMBER 1 JULY - AUGUST, 1989

ETVC Elects First President—Charlotte!

New ETVC Officers (left-right) Charlotte–President, Barbie–Vice-President, Nancy Ann–Treasurer, Donna–Secretary, Sandra and Melanie–Education Co-chairs, Evelyn–Outreach Co-chair, Franchesca and Maxine–Social Co-chairs, and Telzey(seated)–Outreach Co-chair.

KIM'S CORNER

Things Change

ETVC has over 400 members which ranks it as the largest single unit gender group in the world. We have those members because a lot of people have dedicated their time and energy to make it a fun and active group.

I have the privilege of passing the leadership of ETVC to Charlotte and Barbie as the first president and vice president of ETVC.

Over the years ETVC members have found out that dedicating time to a committee or group of ETVC is a fun experience, but they have also learned a lot of current info on fashions and places to shop because the informed members seem to join committees.

As I turn over the management of ETVC to Charlotte and Barbie I would encourage everyone to become involved in a committee or function of ETVC. The group benefits, but so do you. There are many changes ahead for ETVC and you can help ETVC become an even better gender group. Things change because people get involved. Don't delay do it today — you'll be glad you did.

Charlotte, a six-year member of ETVC and a regular at our socials, was elected president of ETVC in the first election of officers under new bylaws during ETVC's annual business meeting and seventh anniversary party.

"It is a very important job but I think I'm ready for it. ETVC has done a lot for me and I hope I can do the same for the club," Charlotte said.

Our new president takes over the job formerly called coordinator. Charlotte is 48, married and has three daughters. She has also gained local fame when she, her family and neighbors appeared on Channel Two's remarkable three part series on transvestism.

Like many of us Charlotte's road out of the closet was filled with doubt and hesitation but now, "I go where I want, when I want. I don't let the fears that used to worry me get to me at all. Because of that, I've never had a problem...It's how you feel about yourself that other people react to. That's the important thing."

The election in May also resulted in the election of the new office of vice-president, a post that is certain to be filled capably by Barbie.

Though she has only been with ETVC since December 1988, Barbie has been very active in the planning of ETVC's representation during the Gay Pride Parade. Also married, Barbie is 33 and has two daughters.

"I would really like to put together some kind of real support group for TSs (transsexuals)...this is something we definitely need and because of my position I will have the opportunity to do this," she said.

Donna, a member since Feb. 1988, was re-elected as ETVC's secretary. She is also married, 47, and has two daughters.

Long-time member Nancy Ann was re-elected to her fourth term as treasurer. Nancy Ann has done a previous stint as social co-chair. She is the significant other of Ginny, the great lady who holds no office in ETVC but who is one of our club's most valuable and important members.

New committee co-chairs include Sandra and Melanie (Education); Evelyn and Telzey (Outreach) and Franchesca and Maxine (Social)

A highlight of the evening was the awarding of the Member of the Year Award to two of our members. Melanie won the award for her selfless hard work and outstanding contributions to the club all year. Co-winner Diane Richwine, who won the award for the second straight year, was recognized for her masterful and professional production of this year's Cotillion.

Editor's Notes

When I finally got up the courage to go to my first ETVC social I remember how relieved I was at how normal and sane the group was.

I don't know what I was expecting and it sounds dumb, now but I was slightly surprised to find out that transvestites and transsexuals have families and jobs and cars and mortgages like everyone else.

My ignorance went even further as I had assumed that most TVs were like myself: fairly frequent dressers – but basically, part-timers.

In fact, it turned out that everyone has their own style and level of interest in dressing.

The tremendous variations within our group is, in fact, one of the most fascinating aspects of ETVC. I don't know about you, but at socials I make a point of talking to someone I don't know just because every one has an interesting story to tell.

Okay, so this is a pitch. I know you have a great story about your favorite person, you, of course. What I need is for you to write it down and send it in.

The ETVC newsletter wants your personal stories or anecdotes about dressing. Tell us how you knew you were a TV or TS. Ever have a purge? Any humorous or negative incidents related to dressing? How did you explain it to your wife or lover? How did they react?

We're interested in you and what you have to say and would like to feature you as part of a new feature called Personal Profile. Hopefully we'll even get a picture or two.

So tell us all about yourself (well, maybe not all, just the good stuff), otherwise I may decide to run the minutes of Executive Committee meetings in this paper.

We take our mail at ETVC, PO Box 6486, San Francisco, CA 94101.

Officers Expanded — Membership Fee Raised

ETVC has grown tremendously within the last several years. From a small band of 30, we now have over 400 members in 27 states and two foreign countries. We have also outgrown our bylaws.

A four-year effort to incorporate the group as a non-profit educational organization is coming to fruition. This requires that we replace our beloved office of coordinator with the more banal, but better understood one of president. And, of course, every president needs a vice-president.

Because our activities have also outgrown the current committee structure the membership approved an amendment at the April 27 social to change the name of the coordinator to president, create an office of vice-president and create an education committee. Our vice-president will be an active officer, assisting the president with special projects. The education committee will concern itself with teaching us the aspects of feminine deportment, both internal and external.

Our newsletter has also grown in both quality and size. Printing costs have risen and whenever the newsletter is more than eight pages, it requires extra postage. These were the primary reasons for the other bylaw change, which raised the annual dues to $20.

Change is a fact of life and is easier to accept when understood. We all want to see ETVC grow even better. With the foundation set at the recent IFGE convention and these bylaw changes, we are well on our way. —Donna

The brassiere has been around for one hundred years, providing support for those of the female gender. It was created to provide freedom from the tight corsets of the last century as a simple bandeau to support the breasts. From there the brassiere became engineered to a more refined state. The bra has been fashioned from many materials–silk, lace, nylon, and even a metal bra designed for Jane Russel at the direction of Howard Hughes. In the sixties, the bra was burned and discarded as women further asserted their freedom from the past. Today the bra can be found in a myriad of styles from the corsets that it was derived from to the loose fitting "no-bra" look of the sixties.

Often filled with falsies, tissue, socks or push up pads to add that extra cleavage, today many opt for full breast augmentation by a plastic surgeon.

There were crossdressers long before the brassiere, but I expect that today it is one of the most popular items in a transvestites wardrobe, second only to the panty or perhaps a pair of shoes. I'm sure you will be glad to join in the birthday celebration. —Gloria

ETVC

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

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

OFFICERS

President	Charlotte
Vice President	Barbie
Secretary	Donna
Treasurer	Nancy Ann
Outreach	Evelyn & Telzey
Education	Sandra & Melanie
Social	Franchesca & Maxine

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Membership (as of 5/31/89)	424
1987 Membership	329
New members this year	185

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance (as of 5/31/89)	$948.63

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

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

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	Susan	Jennie
	Jo Anne	Gloria

AD RATES

	per issue	per year
Business Card	$10	$50
4" x 5"	$25	$125
8" x 5"	$40	$200
8" x 10"	$80	$400

PERSONAL ADS

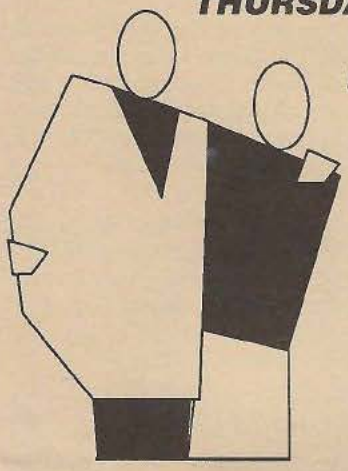
ETVC will accept personal ads from ETVC members at the rate of $1 per 3 lines. We will not accept ads with a purely sexual objective.

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

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

SPECIAL EVENTS

ANNUAL FRIENDSHIP SOCIAL
THURSDAY, JULY 27



Have you refrained from going to a social because you're bashful?

Cure yourself!

This social is being planned for you.

Now is the time to casually enjoy meeting new friends.

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

To encourage you to meet as many new friends as possible, there will be FRIENDSHIP CARDS (the game is bingo with names). Fun, prizes, and the best chance to meet lots of wonderful people.

So glide on down to the Chez Mollet

527 Bryant Street, San Francisco, July 27, at 8:00 PM.

Members $3.00. Guests $5.00.

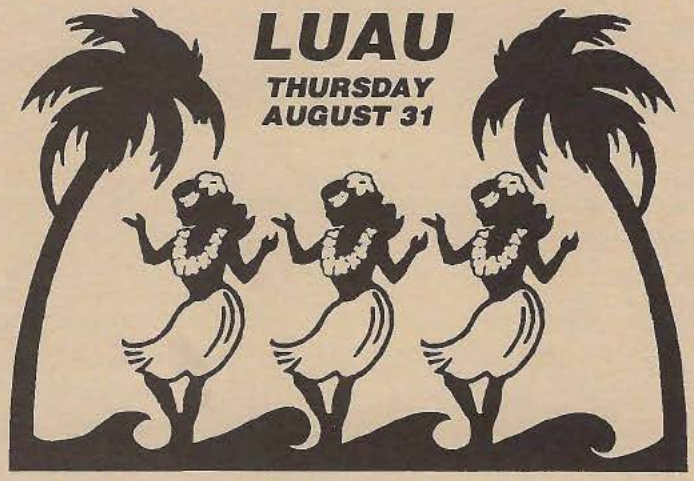
WALK LIKE A WOMAN

Learn poise, grace, and confidence in your FEMININE self! You are cordially invited to participate in a class for ETVC members on Modeling. Augusta Moore Will aid you in discovering the secrets of moving like a model. You Will walk away with new poise and grace and learn about feminine body language. Saturday, July 22, at the Chez Mollet $3.00 Members and Guests.

ETVC/RGA Rap Group

The most exciting rap group in the Bay Area meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at the New Community of Faith Church in San Jose. The address is 6350 Rainbow Drive in San Jose. The next two meetings will be on Monday, July 10 and Monday, August 14 from 8-10 pm. There are only two rules: no one dominates the discussion and no discussing the rap group outside the group. If you know the way to San Jose, join us. If not contact Kim (408)[redacted] or Martina at (408)[redacted] for more information.

Looking for fun and excitement in your crossdressed life? Join the social committee! Contact Francesca or Maxine at (415)[redacted]



It's late summer, it's warm, and it's time for the beach!

Sun, surf, sea, sky, and Hawaii beckon you.

But what to wear?

Swimsuits, grass skirts, wraps, robes, and sun dresses are the order of the day.

The new Social Committee headed by Franchesca and Maxine have a competitive fun idea that is certain to make this a memorable evening. So watch the papers for those swim and summer wear sales that begin right after Independence Day, and sign up for our Hawaiian Legs contest, or come as a tourist and be a judge.

Come see, no BE the show at the Chez Mollet

527 Bryant Street, San Francisco, August 31 at 8:00 PM.

Members $5.00. Guests $8.00.

WIG CARE AND STYLING

Learn how to take care of and restyle those lovely heads of hair that we all pride ourselves in, (and also spent our hard earned money on). Lyndria from the Wig-Atorium will be at the Chez Mollet to show us some styling techniques and instruct us on the proper care of our wonderful wigs. So come on down on Wednesday, Aug. 16 at 8 pm and learn how to make yourself more beautiful. $3.00 for members and guests.

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NEW ANGLES

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Mon. - Fri. 12 - 7 p.m.
Thurs. 10 - 8:30 p.m.
Sat. 10 - 6p.m.

For Further Information Call 839-0457

Thalia's Swan Song

"Parting is such sweet sorrow"...Actually we're not going anywhere. Evelyn is returning as one of the Outreach Committee Co-chairs and I'll be around to continue speaking and working on publicity. We welcome Telzey, a stalwart of the committee this past year, as the new co-chair, and look forward to continuing our efforts with her enthusiasm and fresh perspective.

And there's lots to do... since ETVC's recent reorganization has created the Education Committee, the Outreach Committee's mission is going to be more focussed. We have a consistent advertising campaign worked out. There are seemingly a thousand places to contact for possible speaking engagements. I would like to really work with speakers and potential speakers, sharing experiences and information and practicing in front of a video camera to improve our presentations. We need to start up and train a staff for a real ETVC hotline. We, as an organization, can no longer expect Ginny to handle all our calls. We have to share the responsibilities as well as the fun.

We have to share the responsibilities as well as the fun...

Join in and be part of this effort.

I'm going back to noncommissioned officer status this year but I can see a truly amazing year ahead, built on the high profile year we've just had. Please drop by an outreach meeting or talk to one of the co-chairs to contribute your ideas or volunteer. I'm sure if you talk to anyone who never though that they would ever appear in public or on television to help explain crossdressing and then did, and I can speak from experience here, you will find people who now have a sense of giving back something to the group that supported them when they needed it. And let's not forget that behind every public speaker is a group of volunteers who did the groundwork that made the public part look so easy. Join in and be part of this effort.

On the personal side, I would like to thank everyone who has been so supportive this year. I could not have done any of the things I did without all of you. It felt a bit like a high wire act at times but I always knew I had a good solid net under me. You know who you are. Thanks. —Thalia

The New Regime

Changes come. The dynamic and extroverted Kim and Thalia move on leaving the Outreach Committee to Evelyn and me. The new Education Committee will take over the article, video and book library, tip sheet and generally enlighten the membership. Outreach keeps public relations, advertising, promotion, the speakers bureau, the hot line, correspondence with other clubs, the support groups directory and generally being a helpful link between the club members and the great masses. My lonely nights can now be filled with useful work! And I get to write a regular column.

As one prerequisite of the office, I read all the newsletters of other groups, finding items to share. The Great Bathroom Debate has died out in a surge of common sense. Many clubs are still much concerned about open versus closed memberships, or a variation. Many thoughtful people are writing about both the evils of discrimination and the right to screen members in a private club of a quite unusual type.

The IFGE convention received great reviews from the publications around the country. Some attendees loved the city so much they had trouble attending any convention meetings. I'm almost jealous of the many places they went to in San Francisco that I've never been to.

Upcoming Events:

The 15th annual Fantasia Fair will be held October 13-22 in Provincetown, Massachusetts. It has been described by many as a magical, once-in-a-lifetime experience. We will have brochures at social events or write: Fantasia Fair, Lincolnia Station, PO Box 11254, Alexandria, VA 22312.

Tri-Ess is holding its annual Holiday En Femme here in San Francisco November 15 to November 19. Though there is no local club, several ETVC members also belong to the national Tri-Ess. Write them at: PO Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275, c/o Carol Beecroft.

IFGE returns to Boston March 20-26, 1990. Write to PO Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778.

I'm definitely going as Club Rep to the "Congress of Representatives." See me with ideas and complaints about IFGE, to be faithfully relayed. It's a long way to go, but so many came so far to San Francisco, I hope we will have at least as many there as in Chicago in past years.

The Hot Line has become a hot topic. For years Ginny and Nancy Ann have publicized their phone number and talked sympathetically to all who called, even at 3 am. We owe them much for their labor.

But finally, enough is too much. We should have a new hot line number in the next newsletter. Meanwhile, instead of 664-1499, pleas direct questions on events to committee phone numbers as given in the calendar or to me, Telzey, at (415)[redacted]

Final item: Barbie has her return engagement on the Alex Bennet radio talk show, July 5, 8-10 am, KITS-105 FM. All are invited to be in the audience, dressed as they like, to support her. Call KITS, (415) 626-1053 for the station address. —Telzey

Next Outreach Meetings:
July 10th –Mountain View
August 7th – Berkeley
Call Evelyn–(415)[redacted] or
Telzey–(415)[redacted]
for more information.

HELP WANTED:

We are looking for a lawyer to assist ETVC in filing for private non-profit status (501C3) in California.

If you can help or know of someone who can, please contact Sandra at the next social or c/o ETVC, PO Box 6486, San Francisco, CA 94101.

ETVC offers the following informational listings:

Video Library	Free
Article Library	$1.00
International Support Group Directory	$2.00

To order please send a check or money order with your name and address to:

ETVC–Outreach Committee
PO Box 6486
San Francisco, CA 94101.

TV/TS/TG GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

A Calendar of Events for July & August

DATE	WHO	WHAT	TIME	WHERE	FOR INFORMATION
JULY					
5	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8 - 10 PM	Berkeley	(415) 841-6224
6	**ETVC**	**Significant Others Support**	**Meets 8 - 10 PM**	**San Jose**	**(415) 664-1499**
7	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 988-0790
8	**ETVC**	**Executive Committee**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Montara**	**(415) 728-3615**
10	**ETVC**	**Outreach Committee**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Mountain View**	**(415) 964-3655**
10	**ETVC/RGA**	**Rap Group**	**Meets 8 - 10 PM**	**San Jose**	**(408) 243-3919**
11	**ETVC**	**Social Committee**	**Starts at 7:30 PM**	**San Leandro**	**(415) 483-9090**
14	**ETVC**	**Poker Social**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**San Francisco**	**(415) 664-1499**
19	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8 - 10 PM	Berkeley	(415) 841-6224
20	**ETVC**	**Couples Social**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Santa Clara**	**(408) 248-6179**
21	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 988-0790
22	**ETVC**	**Modeling**	**Starts at 2 PM**	**Chez Mollet**	**(408) 984-5619**
22	SGA	Dinner/Social	Starts at 7 PM	Sacramento	(916) 441-8379
27	**ETVC**	**Friendship Party**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Chez Mollet**	**(415) 664-1499**
28	Pac Ctr	Open Rap	Meets 8 - 10 PM	Berkeley	(415) 841-6224
29-30	**ETVC**	**Willits Weekend**	**All Weekend**	**Willits**	**(707) 459-9228**
AUGUST					
2	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8 - 10 PM	Berkeley	(415) 841-6224
4	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 988-0790
5	**ETVC**	**Executive Committee**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**San Leandro**	**(415) 483-9090**
7	**ETVC**	**Outreach Committee**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Berkeley**	**(415) 849-4112**
8	**ETVC**	**Social Committee**	**Starts at 7:30 PM**	**San Leandro**	**(408) 483-9090**
10	**ETVC**	**Significant Others Support**	**Meets 8 - 10 PM**	**Oakland**	**(415) 664-1499**
11	**ETVC**	**Poker Social**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**San Francisco**	**(415) 664-1499**
14	**ETVC/RGA**	**Rap Group**	**Meets 8 - 10 PM**	**San Jose**	**(408) 243-3919**
16	**ETVC**	**Hair Care/Styling**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Chez Mollet**	**(415) 222-7203**
16	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8 - 10 PM	Berkeley	(415) 841-6224
17	**ETVC**	**Couples Social**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Foster City**	**(415) 664-1499**
18	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 988-0790
25	Pac Ctr	Open Rap	Meets 8 - 10 PM	Berkeley	(415) 841-6224
26	SGA	Dinner/Social	Starts at 7 PM	Sacramento	(916) 441-8379
31	**ETVC**	**Luau**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Chez Mollet**	**(415) 664-1499**

Regrets

Our good friend Donna, of Donna's "Dressing Up," regrets that she must suspend her special Tuesday night openings for the crossdressing community. Everyone is still welcome during regular hours and she is happy to open by appointment in off hours, especially for groups. "Dressing Up" is at 3231 Grand Ave., Oakland. Call 415-893-0123.

OTHER GROUPS

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

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

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

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

LETTER FROM A SIGNIFICANT OTHER

I am the wife of a crossdresser. In 1987 my husband joined Tri-Ess and at that time we both read and discussed many of the articles contained in the quarterly magazine. Before my husband told me about his crossdressing, I knew very little about transvestism. For years, I found out later, he had been crossdressing without my knowing. He had wanted to tell me many times during the 23 years we had been married but did not know how I would react.

Now I had not been totally unprepared for his confession. For one thing, early in our marriage (when I was expecting our first child), I came home unexpectedly and found him wearing some of my clothes. He apologized profusely, mentioned something about my condition, and promised it would never happen again. When periodically over the years, I would refer to the incident, he would deny any current crossdressing activity. He knew this was what I wanted to hear and it was.

I really do not know if I could have handled his "confession" at an earlier stage. I was somewhat insecure when we were first married and admired my husband's stability and dependability. So you can well imagine my surprise to find out that my secure husband had been hiding this activity from me for so many years. But after many years of a secure marriage, well-adjusted children, my own self-confidence, and a very well-done talk show on crossdressing, I was able to handle his confession.

A few weeks before he told me, I happened to be watching the Phil Donahue show on cross dressers and when Deanna (of Tri-Ess) mentioned there was no cure, it was like being hit in the stomach. I knew then that either my husband was very clever or he, somehow, had found the "cure." I didn't mention the show to him as I certainly did not want a "relapse" if he were "cured."

When he then told me about his crossdressing, I was somewhat prepared. We had long talks; I went to the library to try to find material on crossdressing. We decided not to go for any kind of psychological help unless we both felt it became necessary. At first I was upset, not certain what to expect, especially finding that he had gone out without really being aware of some of the consequences -i.e. getting turned away from the women's dressing rooms.

He was very patient and open, answering any questions I would raise. All he knew was that he had been crossdressing since early childhood. He did not know why, only that it felt good.

My main concerns were the children (should they be told or not?). How about the neighbors? How about our employers? We decided to go very slowly - write to Tri-Ess for information. We agreed that at certain times within our home, he could crossdress (when the children were gone). This has happened and, over time, I have helped him with make up, clothes, and hair styles - mainly so that she is not overdressed or overly made up. We have discussed the problems involved in going out (dressing rooms, running into friends, etc.) and she has appreciated my input, having been unaware of some of the difficulties that might arise.

Since that day that she told me about herself, we have grown closer, and our lives are fuller. We talk more about everything, and have had many laughs over some of the bewildering incidents that happened over the years. I could never understand why my simple requests (mowing the lawn, for instance) were never started until the minute I came back from work. She was grabbing whatever precious time she could. I thought my husband was just being perverse. She is happy now that she does not have to tiptoe around any more, that she does not have to wait until everyone is asleep to grab a few minutes to herself.

Through our association with Tri-Ess, we became aware of ETVC and other support groups within our area. Through my meeting other CD's at socials and reading about TV's through the literature that these organizations have provided, I see much of my husband in others. What others have experienced, she has experienced. We have both come to a better understanding of crossdressing and crossdressers. We know how important it is to communicate feelings and that compromise is necessary for both of us since crossdressing has become a major part of our lives.

ETVC has done an outstanding job in providing help and support for the crossdressing community and their significant others and has earned a well-deserved thank you! — A wife

(The ETVC newsletter encourages significant others to describe their experiences and help keep this column going. We'd love to her from you!—Ed.)

Significant Others/Couples

The Significant Others Support (SOS) Group meets July 6 in San Jose and on Aug. 10 in Oakland. For details and directions call Ginny at (415) [redacted] We look forward to seeing you there!

The Significant Other Support Group wants to invite all Significant Others to attend our SOS group meetings. Group members define Significant Others as wives, lovers, friends, children and others close to TV/TS persons but are themselves not a TV/TS. We encourage you to ask the SO in your own life to come to these meetings, particularly if the SO feels they need support from their peers in dealing with their feelings about the TV/TS in their lives. It is important to emphasize that all meetings are kept STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL. This is to help insure that a safe, supportive environment is created in which all attendees will feel secure enough to really be able to share and talk about their feelings.

The Couples group will be held in Santa Clara on July 20 celebrating it fourth anniversary, and in Foster City on August 17. Please join us. Call Ginny at (415) [redacted] for more information and directions.

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FIRST IMPRESSIONS
by a wet behind the ears GG

I have recently become aware of the Transvestite Community through ETVC. I had no idea a simple act of putting on clothing could raise so many questions in my mind. I was initially delighted at the sheer fantasy of seeing men dressing up. It made me think of Halloween, and the incongruity of seeing both masculine and feminine traits in the same person was intriguing.

The big women were scary to me. Being a short person, I felt very much as I would imagine Little Red Riding Hood might upon seeing the wolf dressed in her grandmother's clothing (was he the first CD?). However, people who sat near me at the Cotillion, my first ETVC event, literally swooped in on me with the question, "Why are you here?" and I was drawn into the most open and personal dialog. This was not threatening to me because people were sharing so much of themselves and it was coming from an honest place. I knew very little and I was all ears.

Since that first evening I have done some reading and asked a lot of questions. In fact I have so many questions I decided to write them down so I won't forget to ask every TV I meet till I get the answers. Here is my list:

1. Do you feel like you're in the company of women, "One of the girls", when dressed and with other TVs?

2. Is the dressing to feel good alone or for an audience? Do you feel as good dressing at home as coming to ETVC? What draws you to ETVC?

3. How do you feel about real women attending an ETVC event? Do you like having real women see you dressed? Are you attracted to real women when dressed or uninterested/preoccupied?

4. How do you feel when you're dressed? Why do you choose a certain look?

5. When you decide to go out alone to shop or do some other activity what triggers the need to go out dressed? How are you feeling then and how do you feel when you get back home?

6. Do you want to be in a traditional woman's role such as nurturing or child care or is dressing as far as it goes? What else is there?

7. What kind of response would you like from women?

8. What would you tell a woman who is new to all of this?

If you want to answer any of these questions please send your response to the newsletter editor. I will share the responses in a future newsletter if there is an interest. —Susan S.

(We encourage ETVC members to respond to Susan's questions by sending your reactions to the ETVC Newsletter, PO Box 6486, San Francisco, CA 94101—Ed.)

High Sierra Fling

The fourth annual High Sierra Fling will be held at Lake Tahoe, from August 7 to 21. Once again we will be venturing to beautiful Lake Tahoe for our traditional festivities.

This is a great opportunity for you to enjoy the excitement and adventures of the Tahoe basin, while indulging in the greatest pleasure of all — being properly crossdressed for the occasion.

Make your reservations now for a great "en femme holiday". You can make arrangements for a day, a weekend, a week or longer, as this time we are taking advantage of two full weeks of fun in the pristine beauty of the High Sierras.

For information or reservations, call Joan Sheldon at (408) [redacted]

In Remembrance–Christine Jorgensen

Christine Jorgensen, perhaps the world's most famous transsexual, died May 3 in San Clemente, CA. after a long fight with cancer. She was 62.

The former George Jorgensen, she drew international attention in 1952 after undergoing a series of sex change operation in Denmark.

The Bronx-born Jorgensen, the child of Danish immigrants, was a soft spoken 26-year-old ex-GI and photographer when he heard about the complicated procedure of hormone shots and sex operations being performed in Denmark.

Ms. Jorgensen said later that she decided to go there because she was "one of those people who is not of the supposed sex, but the other sex."

In her 1967 autobiography, she wrote that she had enjoyed a normal, happy childhood but upon growing up became frustrated by feelings that she was a woman in a man's body.

Jorgensen, following her operations, returned to the U.S. in May 1953 as a willowy blond, stepping off a TWA plane at Los Angeles with what one reporter described as the "aplomb of a movie queen."

Intense media coverage followed Jorgensen in those early years and she told interviewers that she resented the lurid publicity that she received in some reports.

Eventually Jorgensen did stage shows which featured her theme song, "I Enjoy Being a Girl."

During the 1970s she made numerous talk show appearances, following a 20 year ban by network censors, and began lecturing at colleges on gender identity. She also worked with groups that protested discrimination against gays.

In an interview last year she said "I am very proud now, looking back, that I was on that street corner 36 years ago when a movement started...We may have not started it (the sexual revolution) but we gave it a good swift kick in the pants."

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Just ask Renee...

Dear Renee,

The less guilt I feel about crossdressing, the closer I come to sharing my secret with those I love. I feel ready to "tell" my parents, but how can I cause them the minimum of pain? Guiltless Gilda

Dear Gilda,

Parents want the best for their children, and can't help but think they know just what that is! Focus on mutually re-affirming your love for each other. Remember blood is thicker than lip gloss. They probably won't approve of what you're doing but they will come to respect it if you demonstrate that you are otherwise sane. Tell them you're happier, and therefore healthier, now that you accept yourself. Tell them that you and your good supportive friends in ETVC are hurting no one by their odd but harmless hobby. More likely than not, their major concern will not be how you dress but who you sleep with, strange as that may be. By no means show up at their house dressed until you have gently talked it over with them and gotten their support. Good luck Gilda!

Dear Renee,

My wife insists I see a therapist, but I don't know if I should, I'm not sick! TV and proud of it!

Dear TV,

Agree to go on two conditions: that she comes to a few sessions with you and that you choose the therapist. Good caring counseling is worth its weight in gold (in fact that's about what it costs, too!) and can only enrich your married life. The trick is finding a good counselor so for starters, I recommend Lin Fraser, Millie Brown, Isadora Alman and Luanna Rodgers.

Dear Renee,

I don't want an operation but I do want to live full-time. I'm neither a TS nor a TV in the classic sense, what am I? Perplexed Pattie

Dear Pattie,

A rose by any other name..Labels can become traps if we're not careful. Maybe you're a transgenderist, maybe you're not, but your are surely one of God's children and there are no rules but to be kind to ourselves and those around us.

Renee is a member of ETVC and hostess of the Annual picnic in Willits. To reach Reness with your questions submit them in writing to: Just Ask Renee, c/o ETVC, PO Box 6486, San Francisco, CA 94101.

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Renaissance — Fastest Growing Group in U.S.

In a little over 18 months Philadelphia's Renaissance club has grown from nine people to an organization with more than 250 members, with three chapters including those in suburban Philadelphia, South Jersey and Reading, Pa. Renaissance uses the ETVC model for its organization and considers itself our sister group.

The ETVC newsletter spoke with founding member JoAnn Roberts, a wonderful person who has become well-known in our community as publisher of LadyLike magazine and the landmark how-to book, "Art & Illusion, A Guide to Crossdressing."

ETVC: Why did you want to form Renaissance?

ROBERTS: Actually ETVC is responsible. I had met Gloria (a former ETVC Coordinator) when I was out in the Bay Area during a visit. I had also been talking to her via computer. During the summer of 1986 I went to a couples meeting and met Ginny and a bunch of people and really started thinking about getting something started here in Philadelphia.

ETVC: I lived in Philadelphia for years and was frustrated by the fact that there seemed to be nothing there, at least up until the early 1980s when I moved.

ROBERTS: You're right. There was a Tri-Ess group in Cherry Hill, NJ, but it was very low key. In Jan. 1987, I went to a meeting and met Alison Laing and Melanie Bryant... from that we went on to have a meeting at a restaurant with Angela Gardner and Trudy Henry and there we decided to form a support group in this area...We had our first meeting in May 1987 at Bill Stayton's office, a therapist in King of Prussia who agreed to use some office space. We all called up everyone we knew and that first meeting we had nine TVs, one TS and three significant others.

ETVC: Lots of places have support groups go on for years and never get very large. Exactly how did you reach so many people so fast?

ROBERTS: After the first meeting, Alison said let's send out a press release, so we did. We sent out the release to local papers and the Philadelphia Gay News actually printed it.

It was from that that Paula Sinclair found us and that's been a big plus because she is a professional journalist and has spread our name everywhere. Besides getting us in the Philadelphia Gay News, she also got us into other major gay papers and into the Philadelphia Inquirer's Lifestyle section under support groups. We also got ourselves listed with every Gay/Lesbian hotline in the city...We did an AIDS benefit, because we felt it was important to be as supportive of the gay community as they have been of us and that got us coverage in the Inquirer.

We also put in a telephone with an answering machine and put the number in the Inquirer and gay papers...Paula's connections with the communications media got us local TV and radio dates...now we're getting connected into the network of professionals, academics and therapists and that gets us more referrals.

The goal is to achieve ... protection from employment and housing discrimination. These are issues that are going to get more important as our community becomes more and more public.

ETVC: Renaissance people went on the Morton Downey, Jr. Show and really got harassed didn't they? Why did you folks do that considering Downey's reputation.

ROBERTS: Actually that was the best thing we've ever done...The show had an incredible impact because no matter when that particular show goes on in a particular market our mailbox overflows.

ETVC: You've already got three chapters, are there more on the way? Is Renaissance trying to be a national organization?

ROBERTS: We've been contacted by people in Manhattan and we would like to get a group going there...New York really doesn't have anything like this or ETVC if you can believe it...We've had inquiries from all over but we really don't want to build a great big organization. We will help people organize, that's really what we're about.

ETVC: Who actually belongs to Renaissance?

ROBERTS: Like ETVC we're an open group, but also like ETVC our membership is overwhelmingly heterosexual. We've got people of all ages but most seem to be between 35 and 45, baby boomers.

We're still meeting at the same place where we started and we get about 80 people or so, including about a dozen significant others.

ETVC: How about political activism?

ROBERTS: We are part of a transgender work group that is a subcommittee of the Mayor's Committee on Sexual Minorities. The goal is to achieve what's been achieved in Seattle, and Detroit, in other words get protection from employment and housing discrimination. These are issues that are going to get more important as our community becomes more and more public.

BIRTHDAY GIRLS (and guys)!

Each month there will be a prize for a Birthday Girl at our social.

July

Amanda Susan, Bill H., Bobbie J., Brenda P., Carmen G., Charlotte D., Cheryl T., Cindy B., Cindy S., Denise S., Ginger J., Heather E., Jessica P., Joanne W., Julie G., Kim H., Kim J., Kimberly Ann, Leslie Ann, Leslie B., Lorraine H., Marilyn W., Melanie D., Michelle S., Phoebe P., Randi Ann, Roxanne C., Sharon R., Tara T., Teri P., Thalia, Tiffany B., Toni E.

August

Cara S., Caren H., Cindy L., Dawn M., Dianne L., Elizabeth R., Evelyn P., Fifi B., Glenda C., Inge, Jean W., Jill W., Kay M., Les S., Linda P., Luanna R., Melissa F., Miki M., Natasha R., Phillis H., Ronda B., Samantha C., Samantha O., Sharon W., Shawnna Ann, Sheila M., Sheryl H., Susan E., Tina C.

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Before 1983, I lived my life with the conviction that going through a sex change was beyond the realm of possibility for me. I suffered much indecision, but after March, 1988, when I began taking hormones, I have never had one second of doubt.

If there was one moment that was pivotal to my decision, it occurred on New Year's Eve, 1987. My marriage of 10 years had ended early that December. It was a very unhappy time for me, a holiday season I would never want to repeat.

But that night I began reading Kim Stuart's book, The Uninvited Dilemma. I learned that there were people who were now leading very happy lives as women who had histories much like mine. They were athletic (I played football, tennis and baseball), they enjoyed cross-dressing and found it stimulating (so did I and I was led to a believe that if that were true I was probably not a TS) and most felt that they had wanted to be girls from earliest childhood recollections (so did I). I was never the same after that book. It seemed to give me an insight about myself that I never had before. I guess one could say my time had come. I knew at that moment what I was and what I was about to do.

In early January, 1988, I decided to resume my electrolysis treatments. In March, I made an appointment with an endocrinologist and on March 25, took my first hormone pill. It was my first real step toward womanhood. Not much happened at first, with the exception of a very nice calming effect. I lost the feeling of gender pain I had felt for so long and lost my envy of women for I was now becoming one.

The memory of my first physical change is vivid. It occurred at my parents' home in Ohio in early May. I was lying on the couch reading Bonfire of the Vanities (things seem to happen to me while reading books) when I felt this tingling sensation in my left breast. I knew what it was. It was the beginning of growth.

When I returned to the Bay Area later that month, my friends remarked that my face had a new radiance that they had never seen before. It was not that I had become that much more feminine, but that I had a new happiness never known to me.

I still worked as a male, of course, but most things I did on weekends, I did as Jennie. As the hormones began to do their work, my breasts began to grow and my face became a little softer. It was a wonderful experience. I felt so good about it. I began to pass better. I stopped cutting length from my hair. I was becoming the person I had always wanted to be but would never let myself. I knew that a whole world of experiences were opening up for me.

I began to tell my friends what I was doing and why. I lost a few, mostly married couples, but the vast majority affirmed their friendship and have become closer. I have a good genetic female friend who says I am a much warmer, more sensitive, more caring person as a female.

I am a very methodical person and, having majored in engineering and management, it follows that I would approach changing sex in a systematic way. In business school they taught us to define objectives and then create plans and budgets to reach those objectives. So, last March, before I took any pills, I sat down and described the person I wanted to become. Then I made a list of all the things I would have to do to become that person. Then I figured out how much all those activities would cost and the length of time to do them. I also figured out what activities depended on other activities. Laying it out this way, it all became real and do-able for me.

Since I wanted to begin cross living by early 1989, there were a lot of things I had to get done and finance. I was diligent about following my plan. Things got done and as they got done the masculinity slowly changed to femininity. Meetings were held with my Human Resources department and my management, I stepped up the pace of my electrolysis, I saw my therapist, I had voice therapy, I spent as much time as Jennie as I could and I had some cosmetic surgery done. As I executed my plan, I was reaching my goals as advertised.

Through all of this, though, there is much physical and emotional pain, I was enjoying it. It was an adventure like nothing I had ever experienced before. Day after day, I was experiencing first rites of passage as described by Ann Bolin in her book. I knew I was going through puberty and acted like it. It was reassuring when people said ma'am to me on the phone. I discarded my breast prostheses and began filling out my bras. the rest of me started to fill out in the right places. In December after recovering from some cosmetic surgery, I went to the San Francisco opera and saw Pavarotti in La Boheme. I dressed appropriately and like to think I was part of the glamour. My hair continued to grow. I was rapidly approaching one of the major milestones in my plan—the start of cross-living. It was scary, but I knew I could do it. Things were falling into place.

(Our newest columnist Jennifer is a preoperative male to female transsexual who now lives full-time as a female.)

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Come smell the roses, enjoy the crimson clover and chase ETVC butterflies as the beauty of summer in Willits beckons you.

This very special ETVC event is free — bring your own food and drink (we'll supply hamburgers and hot dogs for the barbecue).

If you want to stay overnight Saturday, you have three choices:

1. You can pitch a tent and sleep under the stars

2. You can bring a sleeping bag and sleep on the floor in Renee's house (you will have to fight for mirror space).

3. There are cabins and rooms available for approximately $45 a night a short distance from Renee's place. Make your own reservations by calling Brooktrails Lodge at (707) 459-5311.

The picnic will be happening all day Saturday and Sunday... you can walk in the woods (bring walking shoes), we'll play badminton, horse shoes, charades and enjoy songs by the fireside (bring your guitars). There will be a barbecue on Saturday, a marshmallow roast in the evening and a country breakfast Sunday at elevenish. This is going to be a FUN EVENT—DON'T MISS IT.

If you will have extra room in your car or if you need a ride call either Ginny at (415)[redacted] or Barbie at (415)[redacted]

Directions: Take 101 North through Willits. Turn west up Sherwood Road. Go five miles. Turn left onto Troll Ridge Road. Go one mile. Take the third right turn marked "Chinquapin"...and follow the balloons. If you get lost or have questions, call Renee at (707)[redacted]

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would anyone be sad.
Depressed, I know, my wife, at least,
Would certainly be glad.
Jo Anne, is what I call her,
This sometime lady fair,
Whom I have known and loved these years,
For the special times we share.
I wish my wife could meet her
Without those fears inside.
For Jo Anne is a sweet lady,
Who should not have to hide.
And yet, it will not happen,
Though I pray someday it can.
For my wife just will not fathom
My being more than just a man.
There is this woman deep within me
Who is begging to be free,
Who should be so much more
Than a reflection I just see.
Jo Anne just wants to share
The human being she's become.
To speak, to laugh, to understand,
Not be forever dumb.
She needs someone to recognize
That she's gentle, kind and real,
Not just a glass reflection
Without human appeal.
I guess I'm just not smart enough
To work out all this stuff.
Seeing Jo Anne within that mirror
Simply, is not enough.

—Jo Anne

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