Educational TV Channel ETVC

N E W S L E T T E R

VOLUME TWELVE, NUMBER 3, NOVEMBER - DECEMBER, 1993

Cotillion Update

By Dianne Summers , ETVC Vice President

Andi, our first Miss ETVC

Well, have we got great news for you!!! The 10th anniversary Cotillion is going to be truly special. To begin with our director will be none other than Ms. Jacqui Jewels, whose credits alone could take up this entire page. Jcqui has directed outstandingly successfull productions around the country.

Annnnd, we have an elegant new location: The Russian Center, 2450 Sutter St., San Francisco. It's larger, more comfortable and it allows us to have a party after the show! This is going to be a true Cotillion with music and dancing after the show until 3 a.m. and the bar open until 2 a.m.

Wait, it gets better. If you have ever been to the Cotillion, remember what a pain it was to find a parking place? This year we are fortunate to have a large, secure parking garage *directly* across the street. No more schlepping down Van Ness Avenue in strappy high heels for six blocks.

In addition to a first rate theater complete with balcony for great viewing, there is a banquet hall for food service, and a large bar.

Unlike previous Cotillions, this year everyone will have an opportunity to meet and speak with all the participants and join in the celebration for the winners. Those who want a late night snack can go to the banquet area or bar lounge. We'll even have a backdrop area for professional photos...and much more. If you have never been to a Cotillion, what a great time to make your debut. If you have been, our special 10th year anniversary is one you should not miss, with lots of special surprises. The Russian Center is a great place to bring your friends and significant other. Put on the glitz and join the festivities.

Tickets are expected to be $20 in advance and $25 at the door. Remember, the Cotillion is January 29, 1994 at the Russian Center, 2450 Sutter Street, San Francisco, near the corner of Sutter and Divisadero across from Mt. Zion Hospital.

Eva Davis, guest performer and perennial crowd favorite at the 1992 Cotillion Photo: David Swanson

Transgender Rights in San Francisco

Jane Kamper Bentley

Several months ago, Larry Brinkin, representative for the Lesbian/Gay & AIDS unit of the S.F. Human Rights Commission (SFHRC), started receiving an ever increasing number of calls from transgendered people with complaints about discrimination in San Francisco. The help he could offer was minimal. Crossdressers and transsexuals have no civil rights protection in San Francisco, the "freeist" city in America. That had to change. He realized, however, that for intelligent, appropriate laws to be written, the Human Rights Commission and the Board of Supervisors would need to be educated about who these transgendered people were and exactly what protections they required.

Luanna Rodgers, a professional therapist with some 14 years experience helping transgendered clients, was one of the first people to be contacted for advice. Earlier this summer, she, James Green of FTM, and several other members of the transgender community appeared before the SFHRC's Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Advisory Committee to overview a world clearly new and strange to many committee members. Shortly after, transgender rights advocate Kiki Whitlock was appointed to the Advisory Committee and a general plan of action devised. She was to form a Transgender Task Force to educate first the Advisory Committee, then the SFHRC itself, and, finally, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, which would then draft protective legislation.

In August, Ms. Whitlock gave a formal presentation to the Advisory Committee in which she discussed the wide diversity of the transgender community. In September, Luanna Rodgers conducted an imaginative sensitivity training session in which committee members were given mock mirrors containing pasted on pictures of people of the "opposite" gender. "Imagine if you were born the gender you are now, and yet you saw your true gender as being the image you are looking at." She then guided participants on an empathic journey that utilized each person's own experience and imagination.

Ms. Rodgers' talk was interrupted several times by members of Transgender Nation protesting the appropriateness of a therapist, who did not have the experience of being transgendered, speaking for transgendered people, prompting more than one member of the Advisory Committee to observe that, "apparently the transgender community does not speak with a unified voice."

In October, as the ETVC Newsletter goes to press, Christine Tayleur of the Tenderloin Self-Help Project is scheduled to speak from a service provider standpoint, followed in November by Sheri Webb of the Tenderloin Aids Resource Center, who will MC along with two of her clients. The Advisory Committee will be in recess for the holidays in December. In January, Transgender Nation is slotted to present its viewpoint. So far, no group is scheduled to speak in February, the last month for testimony.

As Transgender Nation has shown, a group that takes the initiative to show up will be listened to by the Advisory Committee.

...continued on page 3

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

OFFICERS

President	Cindy Martin
Vice-President	Dianne Summers
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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 9/30/93)	326
1992 Membership	313
New members this year	35

TREASURER'S REPORT

8/1/93 Balance	$ 4189.33
August Income	$ 1385.20
August Expenses	$ 1970.99
8/31/93 Balance	**$ 3603.54**
September income	$ 2444.49
September expenses	$1498.93
9/30/93 Balance	**$ 4549.10**

The ETVC Newsletter is published the last week of February, April, June, August, October and December. Submissions & letters to the editor should arrive at ETVC by the 25th day of the previous month, and are subject to editing and condensation for publication. 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.

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AD RATES

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

Personal ads from ETVC members cost $3 for up to 40 words. We will *not* accept ads with a purely sexual objective. All 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

HOT LINE 510-549-2665

EDITOR'S NOTES

by Jane Kamper Bentley

What would the Harry Benjamin Standards of Care look like if drawn up by clients rather than providers? They might look like the "Health Law Standards of Care for Transsexualism" recently issued by the International Conference on Transgender Law and Employment Policy, Inc. Its Principle 1 states that "Transsexualism is an ancient and persistent part of human experience and is not in itself a medical illness or mental disorder." Its Standard 1 states, in part, "Physicians participating in transsexual health care shall provide hormonal sex reassignment therapy to patients requesting a change in their sexual appearance subject only to (1) the physician's reasonable belief that the therapy will not aggravate a patient's health conditions, (2) the patient's compliance with periodic blood chemistry checks to ensure a continued healthy condition, and (3) the patient's signature of an informed consent and waiver of liability form..." What does *your* therapist or physician think about that? What do you think?...

If this issue of the newsletter arrived late, it isn't because it was mailed late; we've never mailed earlier. It's because are using slower, third class bulk mail. Why third class? In a word, cost. Bulk rate saves us about $150 per mailing at a per item rate that holds for up to 3 1/2 ounces, making it feasible to include inserts and even expand the newsletter, since printing is our only additional cost.

Rest assured, the January/February newsletter, mailed in December, is one that will not go out bulk rate, to be buried under an avalanche of Christmas cards, but first class. March/April we plan to resume bulk mailing. If then the newsletter continues to arrive well after the first of the month, are you, ETVC's membership, willing to endure inconvenience for the sake of savings? If not, do you know of other measures we can take to cut costs at minimal inefficiency? Should we work around the problem, say, by printing 2 1/2 month calendars? Write to me. Talk to me. Let me know...

We've changed our reprint policy. Until this issue, we gave blanket permission for anyone to reproduce anything printed in the ETVC Newsletter. From now on, that policy applies only to materials that aren't copyrighted. Some of our authors want the control over re-publication that copyright gives them, so - thanks largely to the input of Genderflex editor Billie Jean Jones - if an article says "copyright" in the ETVC Newsletter, don't just copy it, write for permission first...

Every time we express our transgenderedness, we lay claim to our freedom to be, and yet that freedom is incomplete. For many of us - virtually all who are transsexual - to take that freedom on the job is to risk losing our job. To admit or display our crossdressing to a landlord is to risk eviction. To use the "inappropriate" public restroom is to risk ejection. Now it is time to claim our full freedom of expression in San Francisco, even as it has been guaranteed in Seattle and the entire State of Minnesota. All we need do is to attend meetings of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered Advisory Committee to the S.F. Human Rights Commission - or write to the S.F. Human Rights Commission - urging the need for protection of our civil right to live without fear or harassment. If there is a problem, it is that there is no ranting adversary to tell us we can't; we have nothing to resist but the cloak of oppression we have silently accepted and lived with all our lives.

Let us do what we can to be free...

Roving Eye is no more. If you're asking yourself, what *was* "Roving Eye?" you've identified the reason it no longer exists. Instead, we have a new columnist, Juana Smith, who brings her skills as an anthropologist to bear in "First Time," a recounting of various first-time experiences of transgendered people, significant others and friends.

Hercules in drag? Veronica Smith, Juana's crossdresser spouse, makes her ETVC Newsletter debut with a fascinating essay entitled "Gender Bending in Ancient Greece." Also, catch her informative review of the FTM Educational Meeting in September.

Carpin' Martin - President Cindy Martin, that is - has been on me for months to bring back How To articles on makeup and dress. She finally got her wish in a major way. Professor Bill Jones launches his "Beauty Secrets" column with this issue. Now Our Leader has no excuses.

Letters

Editor -

It is with a sad note that I write this. A much anticipated move to Utah has left me with a regret that I will not be able to enjoy the companionship of the many friends and members of ETVC and DVG.

I want to thank everyone for all the support and help I have gotten over the last 4+ years. Without ETVC I might still be hidden away and not know how to cope with the feelings inside. I wanted to make this a blanket thank you, because if I started with names I might forget someone and I would not wish to hurt anyone's feelings.

Hopefully, some day in the future I will be able to attend a function again at the Chez and relive all of the fond memories. You will all be greatly missed.

Your Sister,
Janette Campbell

Adventures In Science: New Voice Mail System

Cindy Martin

Tired of tortured explanations when your femme pal calls and your teenager answers the phone? Wondering what's going on in ETVC and where the fun is this weekend? Like to find out what's on sale at your favorite store? Then get on the ETVC Voice Mail system! For a measly $10 annually, $30 for non-members (which means you become a member), you'll have a worry-free way of getting messages from friends, and access to the latest club news and info on ETVC events, including those impromptu events that don't always make it into the newsletter.

Our wonderful vendors will be able to tell you about their sales and special promotions. We'll also try and keep you up on movies and television shows of interest to the community. And, we hope that you will use the system to tip us off about movies, people and programs that our anti-defamation folks should be applauding or straightening out. To get your own mailbox send a check for $10 ($30 for non-members) payable to ETVC along with your current membership number to: ETVC Voice Mail, ETVC, P.O. Box 426486, San Francisco, CA, 94142-6486. Our voice mail number is (415)334-3439. You will receive instructions on your password from the system operator.

Dora Mae Davies, 1912-1993

We note with sadness the passing of Dora Mae Davies in a convalescent home in Modesto, California, on June 19, 1993, after a lengthy illness. Ms. Davies, who joined ETVC in its earliest days, will be fondly remembered as having been one our most active and fun-loving members. Our condolences to her family and to her close friend, Dianne Lindquist.

Dora Mae Davies (r) with longtime friend Dianne Lindquist

Presidents Message

Cindy Martin

Contrary to what a few dunderheads seem to think, ETVC is an organization that is OPEN TO ALL, regardless of sexual orientation.

I find it very troubling that I have to tell the world that homophobia exists among us, but it obviously does. Several gay members have raised this issue with me and I have no reason to doubt their word...I've run into it a few times myself.

ETVC has always prided itself on being a place where people could express themselves in safety. We invite people into our big tent — not chase them away because of ugly prejudice and fear. We are confident enough in our selves to realize that it is the differences among people that makes life fun and interesting. We enjoy the challenges of having as much diversity as possible. This is why ETVC is such a strong, vibrant organization.

But when we start becoming afraid, when we become rude and impolite to our own sisters and brothers, that is when our group will collapse like a house of cards.

On a more pleasant note, you party girls will be interested to hear that ETVC social co-chair Cori Farrell has negotiated the site for a second monthly social: the End Up at 6th and Harrison, in San Francisco. The first gathering with be on Sunday, Nov. 14.

This event is really a test. The End Up is a great place, but unlike socials at the Chez, we will not be the only crowd; the general public will be there. This is a fun dance club, a very large one, with a terrific dance floor and nice quiet areas where you can talk. Be there!

ETVC has now filed our tax forms with both the California Franchise Tax Board and the IRS in the first steps toward formal 501 3(c) nonprofit status. We have a few more documents to file. Then we simply wait, probably for at least 18 months. But we are finally on our way. Again many thanks on moving this process off of square one to Sandy Kasten, a great member and esteemed barrister.

We are looking for a volunteer to run our Anti-Defamation program. This is our program to address and respond to depictions of transgender people in film, television, print and all other media. The person to fill this job should be comfortable talking to the public, capable of writing letters and able to deal with media inquiries, principally fielding the occasional phone call. Contact me through the new voice mail system or at the socials for more information.

I hope you and your family have a great holiday season and a fabulous '94.

TRANSGENDER RIGHTS *...cont from page 1*

ETVC is comprised of many different voices and perspectives. So far, those voices have been nearly silent.

The Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender Advisory Committee meets every third Tuesday of the month at 5:30 PM at #25 Van Ness Avenue (near Market) on the eighth floor. Signs will guide you to the meeting room. The next meeting date is November 16.

The Transgender Task Force meets every fourth Tuesday of the month, also at 5:30 PM at #25 Van Ness on the eighth floor. Its next meeting is November 23. For more information call Larry Brinkin at (415)[redacted]

Special Events

Transgender Task Force
Wednesday, November 10

Transgender rights. Seattle has them. The whole state of Minnesota has them. San Francisco doesn't. If and when it does, the groundwork will have been laid out by the San Francisco Human Rights Commission's Transgender Task Force, chaired by long-time transgender rights advocate, Kiki Whitlock. Come, learn what has been done, what needs to be done and how we can be a part of this pioneering effort from those who are leading the way. Chez Mollet. 8 PM. $3.

An Evening at Leonard's Olde English Pub
Wednesday, November 17

Picture this: You make your way down a darkened street on a brisk, foggy November evening, the cold nipping at your comely ankles. Up the block, the warm lights of your favorite pub beckon. You shake off the evening chill as you enter, greeted by scores of friends in good cheer. "Evenin', missy," calls out the cherub-faced proprietor, "you look like you could use a nice, warm beer!" In the finest English tradition, ETVC presents An Evening at Leonard's. Join us for our legendary dart contest - with prizes, great fun and a right jolly good time. Note that this social is not at the usual date to avoid conflict with Thanksgiving. Chez Mollet. 8 PM. Members $3. Guests $5.

Care and Feeding of Your Wig
Wednesday, December 8

If you buy a puppy, do you take it home and neglect it? Of course not. Just like a puppy, your wig is cute and furry; and it, too, needs special care so you don't wind up looking like a dog. Studio International Hair Design wants to show you a video on proper wig care as you sip complimentary wine and try on some of the latest styles. All in an atmosphere of comfort and privacy. Space is limited for this event at 2100 18 Street (near Kansas) in San Francisco. Call Michael or Dennis at 415-[redacted] for an appointment and directions. 8 PM. $3.

TS Seminar: Dr. Douglas K. Ousterhout
Sunday, December 12

Let's say you look like Andrew Jackson and you want to look like Janet Jackson. What do you do? You do what Michael Jackson did, get thee to a plastic surgeon. Dr. Douglas Ousterhout, with doctorates in dentistry *and* medicine is a man uniquely qualified to surgically reveal your woman within. His slide/lecture will present side-by-side before and after pictures of his patients. No, *he* did not work on Michael. But maybe he should have. For self-identified transsexuals. Chez Mollet. 5 PM. Free.

A USO New Year's Celebration - 1943
December 30, 1993

New Year's, 1943. Roosevelt is in the White House, the Great Depression is a thing of the past, and we're not going to let a little thing like World War II keep us from having a good time. Ah, the forties - the big band music, the clothes, the men wearing hats (steel helmets, mostly). To bring back the days of yesteryear, ETVC will hold a contest with prizes for best dressed in 1940's style. Remember, folks, Ike likes drag! Chez Mollet. 8 PM. Members $5. Guests $8.

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TV/TS/TG GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

A Calendar of Events for November & December

NOVEMBER					
2	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 849-4112
3	**ETVC**	**Social Committee**	**Meets at 7:30 PM**	**Chez Mollet**	**(510) 865-8963**
5	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
5	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
6	**ETVC**	**Executive Committee**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**San Francisco**	**(415) 750-1850**
10	**ETVC**	**Education Committee**	**Meets at 7:00 PM**	**Chez Mollet**	**(510) 832-7202**
10	**ETVC**	**S.F. Transgender Task Force**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Chez Mollet**	**(510) 832-7202**
11	**ETVC**	**Significant Others**	**Meets 7:30-10 PM**	**Castro Valley**	**(415) 664-1499**
11	**ETVC**	**Dance Social**	**Starts 8 PM**	**End Up**	**(510) 865-8963**
12	**ETVC**	**Poker Social**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**San Francisco**	**(415) 664-1499**
12	South Bay	Gender Discussion Group	Meets 8-10 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-5619
12	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
13	**ETVC**	**Cotillion Committee**	**Meets at 4 PM**	**Chez Mollet**	**(916) 965-7331**
15	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 849-4112
16	**ETVC**	**Decoration Party**	**Meets 7:30 PM**	**Chez Mollet**	**(510) 865-8963**
17	**ETVC**	**Evening at Olde English Pub**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Chez Mollet**	**(510) 865-8963**
19	**ETVC**	**Bowling Night**	**Call for details**	**San Francisco**	**(415) 732-7032**
19	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
19	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
20	SGA	Dinner/Social	Starts at 8 PM	Sacramento	(916) 482-7SGA
26	RGA	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	Sunnyvale	(408) 732-7046
DECEMBER					
1	**ETVC**	**Social Committee**	**Meets 7:30 PM**	**Chez Mollet**	**(510) 865-8963**
3	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
3	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
4	**ETVC**	**Executive Committee**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**San Francisco**	**(415) 750-1850**
7	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 849-4112
8	**ETVC**	**Education Committee**	**Meets at 7:30 PM**	**2100 18 St., S.F.**	**(510) 832-7202**
8	**ETVC**	**Wig Care**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**2100 18 St., S.F.**	**(510) 832-7202**
9	**ETVC**	**Significant Others**	**Meets 7:30-10 PM**	**San Jose**	**(415) 664-1499**
9	**ETVC**	**Dance Social**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**End Up**	**(510) 865-8963**
10	**ETVC**	**Poker Social**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**San Francisco**	**(415) 664-1499**
10	South Bay	Gender Discussion Group	Meets 8-10 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-5619
10	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
11	**ETVC**	**Cotillion Committee**	**Meets at 4 PM**	**Chez Mollet**	**(916) 965-7331**
12	**ETVC**	**TS Seminar: Facial Surgery**	**Starts at 5 PM**	**Chez Mollet**	**(415) 697-2314**
12	FTM	Kim Stuart	Starts at 2 PM	Call for Details	(510) 832-7202
17	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
17	**ETVC**	**Bowling Night**	**Call for details**	**San Francisco**	**(415) 731-7032**
17	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
18	SGA	Dinner/Social	Starts at 8 PM	Sacramento	(916) 482-7SGA
20	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 849-4112
29	**ETVC**	**Decoration Party**	**Meets 7:30 PM**	**Chez Mollet**	**(510) 865-8963**
30	**ETVC**	**USO NEW YEAR'S - 1943**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Chez Mollet**	**(510) 865-8963**

OTHER GROUPS

Pacific Center for Human Growth, a counseling-oriented growth center, sponsors all-inclusive gender support groups on every Friday except for the last one of the month at 8 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. 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.

FTM, a support group for Female-to-Male crossdressers & transsexuals, holds both open, informatinal meetings, every other month. Write: FTM, 5337 College Avenue #142, Oakland, CA 94618. Call: (510) 832-7202.

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

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''VE BEEN cruising around in cyberspace the last few months and it's been a heck of a trip.

I've been connected to computer bulletin board systems, or BBS's, in different parts of the country talking to all kinds of people - including a few transgender folks.

The bad news is that there are people who don't like us. Big shocker. These nitwits tend to be small minded when it comes to most things, and for that reason also tend to be very unpopular themselves, at least among people with computers and modems who use BBSs to talk to others.

Now for the good news: People know a lot more about us than we give them credit for - and they are willing to learn more. Our job is to simply just be ourselves: real people, with real worries, real emotions, real lives. Once other people understand that we pretty much share basic values the whole issue of being transgendered becomes transparent. You can be different and be accepted, as long as you are comfortable with yourself and don't wrap yourself in impossible fantasies.

One thing: people respect those who are trying to understand themselves. Claiming that transgender behavior is some kind of hobby doesn't cut it out there. Most people believe people crossdress for deep seated reasons. And, while they may not know exactly what those reasons are they know this isn't stamp collecting. Find out what it is for you. Go on an inner exploration of your own femininity or masculinity. Discover what and who you are inside and the outside will beautiful. Guaranteed.

PAM SOUZA is your typical baseball fan, but with a little difference: she's a guy who loves sports but also wears dresses, explained a very entertaining sports story in the SF Examiner that focussed on our former social committee co-chair. If you missed it, here are a few of Pam's choice quotes:

"In this era of casual dress, transvestites are the only ones left who know how to walk in high heels."

As one of the A's wives fans strolled by Pam commented: "She's got enough make up on to look like one of us."

"As a youngster I was playing catch with my father and he tagged me with the old, 'you throw like a girl.' He didn't know the half of it."

NINE FILMS with transgender themes dominated the 17th World Film Festival in Montreal in September. "The Sex of the Stars" a Canadian film, dealt with the impact on a family when the father assumes a female identity. The male lead, Denis Mercier, won the best actor award. "Split: William to Chrysis" was about a famous late '60s transsexual. "I'm My Own Woman," was the top documentary. It was a portrait of a German transvestite who ran the only private museum in former East Germany. Other films included "Liberia", an Italian comedy about three women, one of whom was a male; "Lip Gloss", a tour of Montreal's female impersonator circuit; "Glamazon" about transsexual hootchie cootchie girls from West Virginia; "Farewell My Concubine", a top prize winner at Cannes, about love between a female impersonator and her business partner. Watch for them in art houses.

RICH PEOPLE ARE DIFFERENT from you and me. Or are they? SF socialites Norah and Norman Stones threw a little "gender bender" soiree in August, dubbed the "most-talked about of the summer." One unnamed royal guest was quoted in the SF Chronicle: "I'm a queen, so am I supposed to come as a king?"

THE SAME EVERYWHERE? A survey of members of Australia's Seahorse Club of Victoria finds that while 80% of club members had heels in the 2"-4" range only 33 percent of a group of women of similar age had heels that high. Think about it ladies....

THE SAME EVERYWHERE. In Myanmar (formerly Burma) traditional culture has a place for transgender people as "shamans and seers" much like Native American Berdarches. They are known as acaults. Though Myanmar is a profoundly Buddhist society, there is still a strong belief in spirit gods. One of the female gods, named Manguedon, has the power to take possession of males and impart feminity on them, according to an abstract from an article called "Male Cross-gender Behavior in Myanmar." (Archives of Sexual Behavior, Vol.21, No.3) printed in Colorado's Gender Identity Center newsletter.

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Ask Dr. Lin

Dr. Lin Fraser (with J.K. Bentley)

You are invited to submit your questions to "Ask Dr. Lin c/o ETVC, POB 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486."

JKB: Is there something you want to talk about?

Dr. L: Recently, I've seen a lot more female-to-males. There is a wide range on the FTM continuum. I've seen enough so that I'm starting to see some patterns. So I would like to find out if what I'm noticing is reflective of the larger community.

It appears to me that the typical male-to-female transgendered person who develops gender dysphoria on the pathway of transvestism had a childhood that lacked a lot of touching by other human beings. They haven't been stroked and nurtured in a loving way, so they had to learn how to provide those needs for themselves via clothing, via developing a second self that has all those qualities that they never got.

What I often (but not always) see from the other end, for female-to-males, is a history of being physically violated, intruded upon. Perhaps incest occurred, or physical abuse. And I don't know if there's anything to that, or not, but I would like anybody who has input either to write to me at 2538 California Street/San Francisco, CA 94115, or to call me at 415-922-9240.

JKB: I'd like you to talk about the dissertation you wrote for your doctorate. What was it about and what were you trying to accomplish?

Dr. L: My primary goal was to write a training manual for psychotherapists who may not have ever encountered a biological male with a gender issue. One of the major points I was trying to get across was to demythologize the condition, so that the therapist would approach the person without a pathologizing bias.

JKB: How much pathologizing is done by therapists now?

Dr. L: Much less than there used to be. Most of us believe now that gender dysphoria is a condition, and our job is to help people where they need help. Pathologizing comes out of a long history in medicine - and not just concerning gender. Medicine used to be a very white male, patriarchal system. Actually, changing it is about gender. More women are in medicine, so what is happening is that there is more cooperation rather than separation. What is needed, I believe, is still more cooperation between the providers and the gender community.

JKB: Could you be more specific about how feminism is changing medicine?

Dr. L: Until recently, most research on the treatment of disease was done on men. Women were "protected" because we could bear children and research could harm the fetus, so women were excluded from research as subjects to be studied. That's changing. There's a field emerging on women's health issues - not just gynecology and looking at women as just reproductive beings. And the reason that's happening is because women are in medicine. Nowadays it's less likely for a woman to go to a doctor with the same complaint as a man and get referred to a psychiatrist, while the man would be referred to a cardiologist.

The "feminine" is about cooperation. Under male-dominated psycho-therapy the doctor knows all, and the patient has nothing to say about it. Particularly if that patient is a woman. Now if that patient happens to be a man who wants to be a woman, what do you think happens? It really has more to do with sexism rather than transgenderphobia. When you get more women providers, you get a shift in the balance between clients and providers. We operate together. We work in relationship.

JKB: I also see a shift in terms of "Here's the norm and the therapist's job is to fit you to a Procrustean bed. If you're too short we'll stretch you out. If you're too long, we'll chop your legs off."

Dr. L: Now we'll make the bed to fit you.

JKB: It's the Goldilocks Theory. Which bed is appropriate. Is it the mama's bed, the papa's bed or the baby bed? I guess the question is, how do we get information, such as your manual - which, by the way, I did finally read and found very helpful - out to people who need it?

Dr. L: I don't know. If you have any ideas, let me know.

Dr. Lin Fraser is a practicing psychotherapist in San Francisco, specializing in gender issues; she has been a friend of the gender community for 20 years.

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Fears and Fantasies of Losing Control

Luanna L. Rodgers

"If I keep dressing in women's clothes, I'm afraid of what I might do."

"The feeling is so strong. I won't be able to stop. I'll end up going all the way to a sex change."

"If I change my gender I'll lose my family, my job, my wife, my standing in the community. I could end up alone and destitute, a hooker on the street or homeless."

These are the voices of crossdressers and transsexuals struggling with their gender situation. Losing control is a common theme. For many individuals it is seen as either a tempting, but dangerous, salvation or a rationale to avoid making changes and hold fast to the well established. Opening up to the feminine feelings and attire, that have been so long shoved down and hidden, can feel like opening Pandora's Box.

The urge to express gender openly, and the anxiety of where this action may lead, is eloquently described in "Women's Clothes," a piece in Christine Beatty's recent collection of poetry and prose entitled *Misery Loves Company:*

...and when the urge was
much too much
and it wouldn't go away
I knew I wouldn't rest
until I had my very own
bra and panty set...

I crossdressed in my closet for
five years maybe more
until I found myself
downtown in a bar that
seemed so strange and I
saw my first transsexual
and not college nor marriage
nor drugs nor dressing up
would erase what I had seen
and soon I found myself
back in that bar
in full face and a wig
and a beige chiffon dress and
wondering why it was now
more than just women's clothes...

The saga continues in a Hunter Thomsonesque bent, a transsexual woman's Fear and Loathing in the Tenderloin, through drugs, arrests, prostitution and finally to resolution and self-acceptance. A hard road to travel to separate from her past, as the book's blurb phrases it, as "a former man."

The power of Ms. Beatty's slim volume is that it acknowledges and addresses a central myth of crossdressing: that of losing control, and the fear, seduction, freedom and danger that losing control of one's life seems to promise. And, like all myths that have resonance, it is a myth that is sometimes true. Breaking away can result in tumultuous times. The greater the struggle, the deeper the plunge?

This theme of losing control and connection with the past, and of being explosively propelled into an uncertain future, commonly plagues crossdressers and transsexuals on the brink of self-discovery. Their lives churn in confusion, either stalling altogether or plunging ahead recklessly. Obviously, the challenge is to find one's self and one's own life path with kindness toward that self, while incurring a minimum of stress and suffering. Difficult, but not impossible. Gentle, thoughtfully planned and well-supported life transitions are possible. It is important to have a vision of a variety of options for handling crossdressing or gender transition. There is not one lifestyle path to follow, there are many possibilities. There is no single "type" of crossdresser or transsexual; there are as many as there are individuals. There is not one approach or set of services to reach your goal; there are many options.

Inform yourself in every way possible. Meet others. Read publications. Dream. Make peace with yourself. The fantasies of disruptive loss of control can be replaced by a loving agreement with yourself to acknowledge your needs and move ahead with your life.

Note: Christine Beatty has published articles in several publications, including Chrysalis Quarterly. Her current book is Misery Loves Company, *published by Glamazon Press, 1993. $8.00 ppd. Write: Glamazon Press/P.O. Box 423602/San Francisco, CA 94142-3602. Also available at Modern Times and A Different Light bookstores.*

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

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Not My World

copyright, 1993 **by Christine Beatty**

This is really not my world
and it lays no valid claim to me
a passerthrough and a tourist
no wonder I do not fit in
and don't often feel
compelled to try or
really care at all
unfortunately
there are those times
I forget who and where I am
and actually believe
I live here and
far from true that is
because I am
in the world but I'm not
of the world and
the difference is
very great you know
I am on a journey
and my destination
is not quite unknown
because I know
it isn't here and just
how far away it is
can be gauged from
just how distant
I feel from this world
that isn't mine
oh, it can be lots of fun
and the natives
can be friendly too
it has been a learning
kind of experience
which I think it's
meant to be but
I must confess I do not
feel at home at all and it
overwhelms from
time to time to be a
stranger in a land
so much stranger and
though this is really
not my world
at least I can
buy some postcards.

Language

Thalia Gravel

Has anyone else observed this phenomenon at ETVC meetings? Two members are conversing and each is attempting to reinforce the presentation of the other. If both present as feminine, they try to react to each other in what is seen as correct feminine manner. All goes well until one or the other begins to react in a masculine way. That is, "he" uses his masculine conversational strategies as he would toward a woman, and begins to seem to dominate the conversation. At this point, the second person makes a remark that reminds the first person that they are, in fact, pretty similar (i.e., another guy) and is not interesting in relating as man and woman. The entire exchange breaks down for a moment, and then they usually begin again with a mutually reinforcing line of conversation.

Deborah Tannen's book, *You Just Don't Understand*, an examination of male/female discourse, has a large collection of examples that seem easily to apply to genderland. Conversation is often a stumbling block for gender folks, and it's nice to see that we aren't alone in having problems communicating. Where we tend to get into trouble is in trying to use both male and female strategies. Even when we have flawless appearance and behavior, we can get caught in the subtleties of language.

Some people avoid these sticky encounters by foregoing the mutual-reinforcement-of-femininity strategy altogether. Their approach is, "We're all just guys here!" - reinforcing each other's masculinity. This is generally an honest expression, and works well when the other person cooperates. For the person who wants femininity reinforcement, the "guys together" person can seem threatening or bizarre. These kinds of miscommunication are usually not so offensive that the participants abandon the conversation, but you can see the inevitable unease they generate.

When one of the participants is transsexual, the conversation can get really complicated. The transsexual's greater insistence on role consistency tends to evoke the "guy within" and "just us guys" stuff from certain crossdressers.

In the case of the femininity-reinforcement group, the transsexual attempts to comply with the idea of mutual assistance. Wanting validation in return, she plays the game by the implied rules of feminine discourse. But she may also subtly or overtly seek to bring out the "guy within." This may be a strategy to prove her superior femininity or simply to explore man-woman conversation in a relatively safe context. The entire exchange may have many unconscious forms of communication going on simultaneously. The crossdresser at this point may feel uncomfortable because she has ceased to have her femininity-reinforcement needs met. They may break off the conversation or try to bring it back in line with their desires using whichever masculine or feminine strategies that feel most appropriate.

I have not had enough experience with the female-to-male community to know how prevalent this phenomenon is. The few exchanges I have observed seem to indicate that gender miscues happen, yet I'm not sure the same dynamic operates as obviously.

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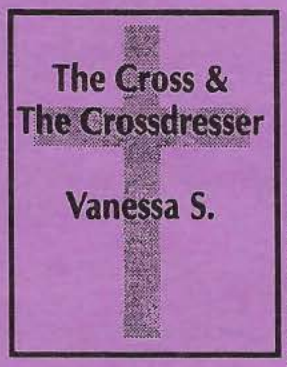

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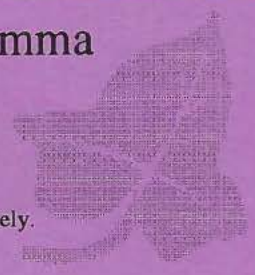

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OTHER VOICES ...

Other Voices is a newsletter within the ETVC newsletter by and for Significant Others. Send letters and articles to: Other Voices, c/o ETVC, PO Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486.

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, November 11, and Thursday, December 9. You are all welcome with open arms. For more information call Ginny at (415)[redacted]

BENEFITS OF SOS

Julie Freeman

For many years, one of the benefits of belonging to ETVC was finding out there was an active support group for wives and partners within which you could meet others who were faced with the same fears and concerns.

The group, Significant Others Support, normally meets every second Thursday of the month. This past August, we tried something a little different. Instead of meeting on our usual night, we decided to branch out a bit, and the idea of lunch on a Saturday was one that seemed simple and easy to plan.

So on August 21, several significant others of crossdressers met for lunch and we had a wonderful time. Interestingly, we found that our conversation included a variety of topics, not just the issue of crossdressing and relationships. Although we did discuss ways to enhance the monthly meeting notice and ways to keep our members coming to meetings, most of our conversation was light. We found that it was so enjoyable that we would like to do it again.

Another advantage of belonging to a support group was that it gave me the courage to tell my parents. Other wives had told their parents and I was amazed at their boldness. It never seemed like something I wanted to try. But over the years, I gained the nerve to go ahead. And it turned out just fine!

They had some questions, but were supportive and not shocked. What we fear so many times does not materialize. And it is such a great feeling to have shared this part of our lives - no more secrets, no more mysteries!

We, the Significant Others, know there are others of you out there who might not know about our group. We encourage you to write to the ETVC post office box and request information about SOS.

Some other activities on the agenda for upcoming months is a barbecue for both SOS members and their partners. What a great way to spend a Saturday afternoon! And perhaps a night of bowling?? So, please, come join us!

A Little S.P.I.C.E. is Nice

Diana Campbell-Sexton

On July 8 - 11, 1993, the first annual Spouses/Partners International Conference on Education (S.P.I.C.E.) was held at the Summit Hotel in Dallas, Texas. Sponsored for the most part by Tri-Ess, this event was the first held specifically for the spouses and partners of crossdressers.

There were many wives and girlfriends in attendance, some with their crossdressing mates and some alone. For three days we attended workshops and lectures designed specifically for us and addressing OUR needs. Those crossdressers in attendance were asked NOT to dress in the public areas of the hotel (what they did in the privacy of their rooms was THEIR business) so that those who were having trouble understanding and adjusting to this lifestyle could concentrate on the programs without distraction and additional conflict.

The workshops and seminars dealt with self-esteem, intimacy, relationships and our roles in the world as wives and partners. For three days we came together, each of us at our own level of acceptance, ranging from the totally unaccepting to the super-accepting, and dealt not with our acceptance or lack of same, but with our roles as individuals. Our rights as partners in committed relationships. Our needs and desires as individuals. We worked on our OWN self-image, OUR validity as human beings, OUR need for love and acceptance.

Whether we are accepting or not has nothing to do with the fact that we are valid individuals who have just as much right to live our lives the way we wish, to be as happy as anyone else - and until we can realize this fact about ourselves, how can we expect to understand this need in others?

Some of the women who attended this conference were afraid that it would simply be another attempt to "brainwash" us into being the perfect crossdresser's wife. One who accepts and allows but makes no demands for herself. Those women went away with a better understanding of themselves and their needs. Some of those who attended will never be able to comfortably accept their crossdresser, but they will go their way without the guilt they brought with them.

Just as all crossdressers have their own level of comfort with their crossdressing, we have our own level of comfort with them. And that is just as it should be. While some are content to remain in the closet and live their lives secretly, and others are unhappy until they emerge into the public eye, so too, do we partners have our own places. We learned that it is just fine to be who we are, and that we need not apologize or feel inadequate if we cannot fulfill someone else's hopes and expectations. We are, after all, each responsible for our OWN happiness, Crossdressers and Significant Others alike. Each of us individual, and each of us Human. *Vive la difference*!

Two Months Off

November and December, the Couples Socials take their annual holiday, to resume after the new year. Happy holidays - look for us in the January/February calendar.

Book Review

J..K. Bentley
Misery Loves Company
by Christine Beatty

Wordsworth called poetry, "the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings." A good amount of gender poetry, though it may overflow with powerful feelings, isn't poetry so much as it is an emetic. The sufferer is relieved; the reader suffers.

In Misery Loves Company, Christine Beatty has written a book of poetry full of suffering, yet satisfying to read and, at times, darkly funny.

She has great hair, but
she'd planned on
being dead by thirty
a senseless, tragic loss
of wasted youth,
the kind that gets glamorized by
the young and very foolish
until one day she woke
to find herself at forty-one and
still alive despite her plans
so carefully conceived
but with careless execution...

Ms. Beatty, "who kicked herself out of the middle class and mainstream society in May of 1985 when she left her wife to move to San Francisco's Tenderloin district and metamorphose into a transsexual lesbian prostitute" writes about her years on the streets in clipped phrases that run into each other, like the timeless purgatory one imagines life there to be.

She doesn't romanticize. Neither does she preach. Well, not often. She pulls you into her life. Amazed, saddened, horrified and powerfully touched, we watch self-destructive friends, room-mates and lovers come into her life and leave, as Christine struggles for survival, insight, and love in a hell that has its moments of rapture.

Happily, Ms. Beatty has since "gotten off drugs and enjoys her life as a transsexual lesbian," and is "marketing" a novel.

Misery Loves Company is must reading for aspiring gender poets. Not for its grittiness - which, by itself, can be as non-nourishing as saccharine - but for the fact that its overflowing emotion spews forth, but never gushes. And it is real. It is available for $8.00 ppd. from Glamazon Press/P.O. Box 423602/San Francsico, CA 94142-3602, or from Modern Times and A Different Light bookstores.

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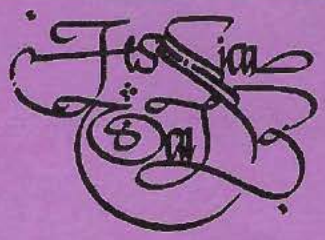

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The Middle Way

Lauren Hotchkiss

Yeah, I know, poetry again. Next issue, I'll be getting back to prose again, I promise. But, hey, as long as you're here you might as well read it...Right?

The New Inquisition

copyright 1993,
by Lauren Rene Hotchkiss

Lying upon the table
eyes shielded against the bright glare
of the surgery light
that beat down, relentless
onto my martyred face,
as the needle plunges in again and again
jolting me with electricity
They told me it wouldn't hurt.

They said it was merely
"a mild tingling sensation"
"A slight sensation of heat,"
but they were liars,
for each time the probe entered
my poor mutilated face
I realized that the rack, the thumb screws,
the iron
maiden were merely...inconveniences

Once more I laughed darkly to myself,
teeth gritting against the pain,
"And I actually pay for this."

"Stop, stop, I've changed my mind," I
screamed
"I don't mind shaving, tweezing, waxing,
Nairing
for the rest of my life,
really I don't."

Silence.
My only answer
the self-satisfied hiss of the machine

She gives no ear
to my tortured pleas,
her nostrils flaring with delight
at the acrid smell of my frying flesh,
for trained she was,
and trained well
by the Marquis de Sade,
and Jose Torquemada

Smiling with demonic glee
behind distorted lenses
she pulls the hairs from my face
one
by
one
only stopping now and then
to pry me from the ceiling

and just when I think I can take no more
it is over...till next week

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Gender Bending in Ancient Greece

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At a recent ETVC seminar, one of the participants expressed the belief that crossdressing has always been reviled in Western Culture. I pointed out, however, that two of the most macho heroes of the Greeks were depicted as crossdressers. And, I added, there is evidence that, rather than being totally reviled in Classical Athens, crossdressing was sometimes considered necessary for a man to be complete.

There is probably no more masculine character in all of folklore than Heracles (or Hercules), but it may come as a surprise that he is said to have had a long-term transvestic affair. For several years, Heracles was Queen Omphale's lover and together they had three or four children (the ancient Greeks weren't exactly certain), but it was an unusual relationship. Heracles was supposed to have worn a Maeonian girdle (a sort of corset) and yellow petticoat, with a purple shawl over his broad shoulders and a woman's turban upon his head; he also wore jeweled necklaces and golden bracelets, and is pictured getting his hair and nails done by Omphale's maids. But not only did he dress en femme, he acted feminine as well. In a culture which strongly divided the provinces of women and men (see, e.g., Xenophon's *Oikonomikos*), it is especially significant to learn of Heracles performing tasks usually reserved for women such as teasing wool and spinning thread. He is even said to have trembled if he was at all clumsy performing these tasks because Omphale would scold and strike him with her slipper.

Another mythic macho crossdresser was Achilles, the central character of Homer's *Iliad*. Achilles' mother had been told that her son would die if he went to the Trojan War, so she had him live as one of the young women in the court of Lycomedes on Scyros. Achilles even had a girl's name, either Cercysera, Aiisa, or Pyrrha (again, the Greeks weren't certain) and he passed so well that the recruiters couldn't pick him out from the girls. Only through a trick of Odysseus was Achilles read.

The ancient Greeks not only had examples of transvestism in their folklore, but in their history, theater and religion as well; for example, within Herodotus' *Persian Wars* is the story of Prince Alexander, son of King Amyntas of Macedon, whose soldiers used female disguise to ambush Persian emissaries. And in Philostratos' *Imagines*, festivals are reported where men and women exchanged their clothes and

Who are the Hijra?

J.K. Bentley

Almost all of us have heard or read about cultures past and present that allow for, and sometimes honor, their transgendered people. Few of us, however, ever get to meet members of those cultures.

Anne Ogborn, however, is going to do just that. As early as November of this year, she will pack her trunks with video and sound recording equipment to live among and study the Hijras, India's transgendered community.

"I first read about the Hijras in a book called *Neither Man Nor Woman* by Serena Nanda," said Ms. Ogborn recently. "There are between 500,000 and 1.1 million of them." Though their status is low, they perform at least two important functions for the larger culture: A ceremonial blessing of marriages and newborns.

Two kinds of people comprise the Hijras: Transgendered male runaways, and those who are born intersexed.

"Hijras keep track of all the pregnant women in their region; when a baby is born, they perform a blessing ceremony. If it's intersexed, they'll ask for the child to be given to them to be raised by a Hijra guru - who's like both a teacher and parent."

Ms. Ogborn's interest in the Hijra may be influenced by the fact that her welcome into the transgendered lifestyle was through the intersexed community in her native Kansas, where she transitioned and continued to live for two years after sex reassignment surgery in 1988. "Intersexed people in America are routinely mutilated by surgeons very early in life because everybody is 'supposed to be' either a boy or a girl. The decision of whether they want to be either, neither or both is taken from them as infants."

In 1990 she emigrated to California "not to get away from Kansas" but because "I'm a computer software engineer and this is where the work was."

Shortly after her arrival, she became a founding member of Transgender Nation, playing a prominent part in many of TN's "actions," including a demonstration in August at the American Psychiatric Association Convention at Moscone Center. Ms. Ogborn is familiar to readers of the S.F. Bay Times as a friend and supporter of Nancy Burkholder, the post-operative new woman ejected from the Michigan Women's Music Festival in 1992 for not being a "womom born womon."

To prepare for her journey, Ms. Ogborn will take an intensive one month immersion course in Hindi, the language of Northern India, "as soon as the Berlitz people can find a teacher for me."

We wish her good luck and *Jai Mata Ki*, a Hijra greeting that translates, Victory to The Mother!

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imitated each other's behavior. As part of certain nuptial ceremonies, men and women sometimes adopted the dress and behavior of the other sex. Modern anthropologists believe that the more tribal Greeks thought gender-reversal rituals were necessary as community members graduated from one status to another: one had to have crossed gender boundaries to recognize those boundaries. The idea of understanding the other gender by imitating it is echoed in Aristophenes' comedy, *The Thesmophoriazusae.* Although crossdressing in this play is obviously for humorous effect, it is at the same time ably defended as being helpful: the character Agathon (a real and beloved playwright of Athens) claims he must dress as a woman to write great female roles and, in supporting his argument, names four other gender-bending artists.

There is even an example of double transsexualism in Greek mythology. Teiresias was the most renowned seer in Greece. On Mount Cyllene, he came upon two serpents in the act of sex. When they attacked him, he killed the female with his staff and was immediately turned into a woman. Seven years later he happened to see the same sight again and regained his manhood by killing the male. When Hera and Zeus argued over who had more pleasure in sex, men or women, they asked Teiresias since he had personal experience (he'd been a prostitute while a woman). However, when Teiresias replied that women had nine times more pleasure, Hera blinded him (but Zeus gave him second sight and long life).

The Greeks did have a divinity who was both male and female, Hermaphroditus, but I think of Dionysos as an even more transgenderist god; everything about Dionysos seems to bend gender. Like Achilles, Dionysos was disguised as a girl and reared in the women's quarters. Because of his upbringing, he looked and acted effeminate; and because he was divine, he was able to assume a girl's shape when he wanted. But something about him caused others to cross their gender roles also. In the sixth month of his mother's pregnancy, Dionysos was taken from his mother's womb and placed within Zeus' thigh from which he sprang three months later. In the very act of birth, the mother's role was performed by the father. Under Dionysos' influence, women became the aggressors in hunting and combat at the same time men danced and sang. Dionysos even seduced King Pentheus, the rigid moralist, to dress up as a woman.

But how are these examples of ancient crossdressing significant to us?

While I think it's always comforting to know we're not alone historically, I also feel that our societal position can be enhanced by stressing our commonalty with a culture from which much of our philosophy and many of our beliefs come. These examples can be used to refute the argument that the present assigned gender roles have always been so rigidly defined. But I have a deeper and more personal reason to listen to what the Greek myths say about gender. I believe that the Greeks of the fifth century B.C. were at a particularly favorable time for depicting universal human truths. They had really only become literate within the previous century, so the folktales that they were beginning to record were, I believe, more representational of their dreams and hidden desires. In other words, because the classical Greeks were an integrated mix of simplicity and sophistication; tribal and urbane, literate and oral, they were better able to express dynamic inner tensions than we perhaps are. I think this is why Freud chose mythical motifs for his exploratory explanations of the subconscious. He believed the ancient Greeks anthropomorphized inner feelings and projected them onto myths to have their heroes express what they could not. The Greeks thought crossdressing was essential for their society's well-being, and I think our society could learn from theirs.

Recommended reading: *The Greek Myths* by Rober Graves. "Playing the Other: Theater, Theatricality, and the Feminine in Greek Drama" by Froma I. Zeitlin, an essay in *Nothing To do With Dionysius?* John J. Winkler and Froma I. Zeitlin, eds. *Structure and History in Greek Mythology and Ritual* by Walter Burkert.

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Education Corner

The World According to (FTM) Men
Veronica Smith

On Wednesday, September 8, 1993, ETVC's new Education Committee Co-Chair, Mr. Francis Vavra, masterfully headed a four-man panel from Sam Francisco FTM , "the largest and oldest continuously active support group for female-to-male crossdressers and transsexuals."

Besides our own charming and dapper Mr. Vavra, there were three other panelists: Stafford, a young fellow whose voice is just beginning to crack due to testosterone treatment; James Green, a bearded 45 year old man who has lived "en homme" for over five years; and Shadow, a gay man who had previously been a lesbian. Also, a taped interview with a fifth gentleman, Max Valerio, was shown. All the panelists stressed the emotional support they received from FTM.

The FTM group and its quarterly-published newsletter were both founded by the late Lou Sullivan in 1986. Up until then there were no support groups and very little literature for female-to-male cross dressers even though there have been many historically documented cases of FTMs. To name just two of the more famous FTMs, James Barry, the military doctor, and Billy Tipton, the band leader, both led entire lives as very prominent men. But in our culture there seems to be more emphasis on cross-dressing men than cross-dressing women.

Although a woman isn't initially stigmatized for wearing male clothing, as soon as she definitely crosses the line by impersonating a man, she suffers social disapproval very similar to the male-to-female cross-dresser. Another example of how FTMs are given short shrift in spite of their historical significance is the part they played in the Stonewall rebellion. The riot started when drag queens tried to stop police from hassling cross dressed women. Together, the transgendered folks sent the cops packing. This transgender aspect of Stonewall is often overlooked.

During the well-ordered presentation and lively discussion, a number of perspectives and issues were raised and examined. Francis, who describes himself as a TV with TS tendencies remarked on the difference between private and public cross dressing, "a whole new world opens up when others react to you". His own public debut was as the escort of his significant other, Roxanna, at an ETVC Halloween party three years ago.

Max Valerio had discovered his transsexualism while experimenting with power and role reversal in S/M scenes. His sometimes conflicting emotions gradually focussed into one clearly defined question that may echo the feelings of many TSs: "Can I give up everything I have so as to gain everything I want?"

Shadow described his first puberty as an emotionally unsettling case of "estrogen poisoning" cured only by testosterone. Shadow said he disliked absolute gender labels and saw such boundaries as lines to be crossed, while Stafford depicted himself as presently shifting somewhere in the middle of the gender spectrum. James Green concurred with Stafford that gender can be a range of options, but he eloquently spoke of his complete enjoyment in being definitely male. Mr. Green believes FTM men gain a perspective that allows them to operate as liaisons between the sexes, helping others understand and value the differences.

Our hat's off to Mr. Vavra for doing such a great job chairing his first Educational Committee's meeting! In a world divided between those who explore gender and those who do not, it is important for those of us who do to listen to each other, to understand both our similarities and differences so as to stand united against those who disapprove of such a search.

At the August Educational Seminar... FTM men (l-r) Shadow, Francis, James and Stafford

BILL JONES MAKEUP SEMINAR
J.K. Bentley

Some of ETVC's most extraordinary are those who have no professional or personal stake in our community; they just want to help. So they give of their time, resources and extraordinary talents, asking little or nothing in return. One such is William Stewart ("Bill") Jones. A Professor of Theater Arts at San Francisco State, Bill is a Muni commuter to SFSU as well as to the Club Fugazi, where he is the costumer for Beach Blanket Babylon, and to the San Francisco Opera, where is does makeup. He has written a book with the intriguing title, *How to Design Animal Makeup* (available through California Theatrical Supply). No, the subtitle is not *Lassie's Beauty Secrets*.

Obviously, Bill is not a lonely guy with time on his hands. Nevertheless, he has twice graciously consented to be a judge for the ETVC Cotillion - lending us a portable stage ramp besides - and conducted annual makeup classes at San Francisco State for ETVC members. His most recent class was given in August. I wish I had been smart enough to take a camera so you could see some before's and after's. Fortunately, I did bring a tape recorder; so now you can hear his fact-filled lecture by ordering the tape from our library. You can also order his seven page booklet, "Male to Female Makeup" from the article library. While you're waiting, read Bill's new ETVC Newsletter column, "Beauty Secrets."

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Beauty Secrets

William Stewart Jones

Tips On Eye Make-up

The eyes are the most fun to paint, but also possibly the most difficult to do well.

First, avoid brightly colored and frosted eyeshadows. I know they're fun, but they can age your eye. Learn to contour your eye with neutrals like taupe, charcoal, brown and off white.

The upper eyelash line should be defined with a brush and brown liner or an eyebrow pencil, and lightly smudged with a Q tip. Even if you are older and don't plan to wear much makeup, you should softly define the eye. To NOT makeup the eye is aging. The lower eyelash line can be dotted with brown and smudged, or defined more strongly with a blurred line.

To contour the eye, keep in mind the natural lights and shadows of the eye. There is a highlight under the brow bone under the arch of the brow. The crease above the eyelid is shadowed, and the lid picks up some light and seems lighter. This means the lid can be foundation color, the crease can be darkened slightly, and a bit of highlight added on the brow bone. If you MUST use color, use color the same value as your foundation, on your eyelid. This is the one spot you might get away with a frosted color. Use a deeper color in the crease (definitely not frosted), but use off white on the brow bone. This combination will seem more natural. For major glamour, you can use smokier color on your eyelid.

If your eye is aging, and the upper eye is sagging, you have to be careful where you put color; but you can very easily make the eye look gorgeous! Be careful that your browbone highlight doesn't blend down so far that it highlights the sagging fold of skin. Avoid shadowing toward the nose in the deepest part of the eye. That will sink and age the eye even more.

The important thing to remember, is to shadow the sagging fold of flesh and keep any frosted colors away from sagging part of the eye. Frosted color will spotlight the problem. Your safest bet is a dark taupe or charcoal to minimize the fold of flesh.

This will give you a normal, pretty eye. If you wish you can vary the look in keeping with current makeup trends.

Professor of Theater Arts Bill Jones is also a makeup artist with the San Francisco Opera, costumer for Beach Blanket Babylon, author and a real live cowboy. About the only thing he does not do is crossdress. Nobody's perfect.

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Guys & Dolls
The usual gang of ETVC suspects lines up at the Alameda Imperial Court Coronation this September
photo: Telzey Adams

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Call to hear my voice: 510-[redacted]

First Time

Copyright 1993 **By Juana Smith**

In February, 1992, I went to my first ETVC social with my significant other, Veronica. At the end of that evening, much of the uncertainty and some of the mystery had been transformed into certainty and familiarity.

The first time events in a person's life, whether good, bad, happy, sad or totally unforeseen, are always the most deeply etched in the mind and clutched closest to the heart. This column will explore the first time memories of the transgendered community of ETVC. Each column will ask a question about that first time a member dreamed a transgendered dream, the first time SHE applied lipstick, HE tied a tie. The experiences shared may touch a similar chord in you; they may also draw you to a different awareness of first events. Regardless of what memories are struck, I hope you will enjoy the words of those sisters and brothers you may not get a chance to talk to or know.

I begin with the obvious but not always easy-to-answer question: What is the earliest memory you have of wanting to crossdress? The following responses are from three ETVC members, each of whose earliest memory coincidentally occurs around the age of four, but who each responded a different way to the beckoning of transgender exploration.

Cindy Martin is well known as ETVC's president. When I asked her about her earliest memory of wanting to cross dress, there was no hesitation, because it was, as she says, "a very, very strong memory." The following is an abridged version of her response.

"I was probably about four, no older than that. . . I lived in a household [in which] there were a lot of women, definitely the majority. I don't know what it was that led me to be kind of interested in how they were. It was more how they WERE than what they WORE for me. But I can remember being about four years old and taking a bath and wrapping this towel around me, sort of like a skirt. That really clicked. It felt right. I felt at that moment I was female...like them.

That's the strongest sort of sense that I have, that it was like a sense of belonging with them and to them . . . It was totally comfortable and fun and exactly right and I knew, to me, what it symbolized. I felt that I was female like them, at least inside.

"I don't remember anyone else being in the room. It was almost like everything was as it always was, you know, I'm in the water, I'm getting out, and then it was like I reached for this towel and it was almost like I was enveloped in this sort of bubble, where everything outside of it just sort of melted. Everything was inside this bubble around me. It was being totally focused."

I next interviewed Veronica Smith, my spouse. Although she has been open with me about cross-dressing since January 1992 (one month before attending her first ETVC social) I knew very little about her earliest experiences. What a golden opportunity to ask her about her first desire to cross dress! Like Cindy, Veronica's earliest memory of wanting to cross dress begins when she is four, but unlike Cindy, it does not begin as a moment in time.

"I guess I can't remember ever not wanting to. It's one of those things that's been part of my personality as long as I can remember. I don't know when the first time [was that] I thought of it, because it's like the first time I walked, like the first time I was aware of myself. As long as I can remember, I wanted to. There never was a moment where I said, 'This is what I want to do.'

"I think I've been infatuated with females since I was four years old. I remember wanting to know about the female clothes when I was four years old. I wasn't in school yet. I kissed [a] girl, and part of that kissing was wanting to know what was under her clothes. There was just the fascination of the clothes and all things female. I remember my hand tingling as I touched the fabric of her dress, and just an overall excitement. It's all connected to the female somehow. There was just something magical about touching Female and something magical about touching her clothes, too. Sort of like a fetish, both the female and things female had power over me, an aura of magic and fascination."

The final response is from Kristen St. James, who attended her first ETVC meeting in April 1992. Her memory provides us with a third, unique perspective.

"I remember I was four years old, trying on, I think it was a gray wool, pleated tennis skirt that was my older sister's. It was hopelessly too big. I remember being frustrated that it didn't fit properly. I didn't understand that she was a bigger person than me. That one is very distinctly at four.

"I was alone. I think, I'm not sure, but I think I might have been caught red-handed. But I'm not sure. I don't remember exactly that, but I am sure that I knew it was forbidden. I wasn't supposed to be doing it. For some reason I knew that I wasn't supposed to be doing it. I remember that at that time. And I think that the forbidden aspect of it was part of the excitement. Probably, like a kick from doing something I wasn't supposed to be doing. Probably the fear of being caught. Probably guilt or shame. But I can't be positive that's what I was feeling."

Cindy, Veronica and Kristen each have stories that are similar to one other's, and yet unique. I hope you enjoyed their stories and have found that they trigger your own memories. Please feel free to contact me about your experiences or suggestions you may have about future questions you would like to have answered.

Your questions, suggestions and comments can be sent to me c/o ETVC, P.O. Box 426486, San Francisco 94142. I look forward to hearing from you.

[Author's note: Although no words or phrases have been added (unless indicated by "[]") or changed, I took the liberty of rearranging the interviewees' statements to provide a more comprehensive reading.]

Just Like a Woman

Charlene Hunter

I just finished working with the Wine Country Film Festival and feel that the film *Just Like a Woman* would be of interest to many of us.

"Gerald (Adrian Pasdar) is a young American financial whiz who seems to have it all: a rewarding job, a lovely wife, two kids, and all the lacy underwear a cross-dresser could want. His world is turned upside down, however, when his wife discovers some unfamiliar panties at home, and suspecting an affair, throws him out of the house."

Look for it at theaters that feature foreign films.

For those of you that like country and western music, the video *Trashy Women* by Confederate Railroad (Albion Atlantic; songwriter, Chris Wall) ought to be a double treat. I count seven men crossdressed in it. How many can you find?