October 1998 Volume 17, Issue 8

The Channel

TGSF TransGender San Francisco

It's Official! TGSF WINS!

DETAILS ON PAGE 9!

The Channel

ETVC, Inc., a non-profit corporation, is a non-sexual, membership based organization serving the educational, social, and recreational needs of gender-gifted people, their spouses, significant others, family members, friends, and professionals in the helping services. For details about ETVC programs, membership, article submission guidelines and classified ads, please write to ETVC Secretary, PO Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486. Minutes of all ETVC Committee meetings are available to members on request.

ExCom 1998-99 Officers

(Fiscal Year: May 1 - April 30)

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

Secretary's Report

Membership as of September 6, 1998 232
Total Fiscal Year 1997-98 Membership 327
New Memberships this year 34

Treasurer's Report

Account Balance as of September, 1998 ..... $10,640.00

(Includes the "Home for ETVC" Fund)

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

The Channel, the ETVC Newsletter, is published monthly. Submissions should arrive at ETVC by the 15th day of the month preceding publication. Contents reflect the opinions of the contributors and are not necessarily those of ETVC. Other organizations may reprint or reproduce uncopyrighted portions of the newsletter for their members, provided ETVC is acknowledged as the source of the material. Copyrighted materials may be reproduced only with written permission from ETVC.

Newsletter Staff

Editor and Advertising ..... Ayme Michelle Kantz
Contributing Photographers ..... Telzey Adams, Nicole Cook
..... Veronica & Juana Smith and Jamie Fey Fenton

Ad Rates

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

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

Hotline & Voice Mail
415-564-3246

From The Editor...

So Now We've Done It

75 of our eligible members decided to take the trouble to cast a ballot in last month's Supplemental Election. To them, I say thank you - a 77% majority is a clear cut mandate to ExCom that the group's name should finally be changed. Yet 157 of you didn't even bother...we pleaded, we implored, we brought you valuable debate, we sent letters...and still you couldn't be bothered. Shame on you.

The vote brings many decisions and tasks with it, the first of which is to get the bank account and non-profit documentation changed. For the time being, please continue to make checks payable to ETVC. ExCom will announce when these formalities have been achieved right here in the *Channel*.

Another Halloween

I hate Halloween...as a 24/7 transsexual woman, I don my war paint every day of the year to do battle with the general public. Yet this is the one day of the year that the public's sense of observation is heightened - they're all on the lookout for the sensational or the weird. To me it's the one day I must endure that much more scrutiny to the point where I feel like wearing a sign stating "No, This Is NOT A Costume!" Sure costumes and parties are lots of fun; as a kid and teenager, it was one of my favorite times of the year. But I suppose I've become a bit jaded in my old age and choose to endure this particular day in the life, albeit one that's arguably the most peculiar of the year. Usually in the past after a day at the office, I've laid low on Halloween night - I just can't get fired up about it anymore. But since this year it falls on a Saturday, a night out would seem to be in order. After all, I'm not that old to vamp it up a little and let my hair down. I will trust that you avail yourselves of the opportunity to do the same by attending TGSF's Halloween Party at Carla's the week before on the 24th.

Cat Got Your Tongue?

Gee after all the verbiage about the Name Change, the Logo and the $2,000 Check, the membership has remained surprisingly silent, thus a smaller issue this month. Committee participation is also below par. I can't say it enough, but ExCom needs you folks; needs your ideas, your comments, your criticisms, your participation, your donation if you are able and (although it's a little late for it now) your vote when it's needed. Don't put it off - attend a seminar, go to the next social, enlist a new member and support them. There are lots of ways we can all help TGSF grow and regain its prominence within our community.

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The Pres's Potpourri

by Leslie Bailey

What does ETVC/TGSF do?

It's 9:00 o'clock Sunday night and I'm sitting in the 24th Street Bart station after a cotillion planning meet at Lulu's. I'm wearing my girl jeans along with my East Bay Pride T-shirt, my hair is in a pony tail and I'm lovin' it. ETVC/TGSF is the main reason that I now have the confidence to be myself. Leslie goes to restaurants and movies, shops for groceries, shops for clothes and speaks at college classes. She stops to chat with neighbors and visits with her grown children as naturally as does Steve. She has joined the HRC, participated as a panel member at a recent PFLAG conference and is getting involved with the Harvey Milk Institute as they plan for a gender conference. What's really terrific is to see so many TG friends doing the same and more.

I don't expect ETVC/TGSF to sponsor or organize every activity or endeavor in which Leslie participates (socials, education seminars, outreach, etc.). In fact I like it that more and more I'm doing things on my own or with small groups of friends. Leslie needed a gestation period before she could venture out as much as she does. I envy those who are more adventurous than I and empathize with those who for whatever reasons are yet only able to manage safe events or to receive the newsletter.

Why is it that our coming out has not resulted in the formation of identifiable neighborhoods such as the Castro, more businesses (Carla's being a welcome beginning) that cater specifically to our community and trans day at a Giants game? Numbers? Wanting to blend in (Miss Didi excepted of course)? Gender issue (identity) more than a sexual preference issue (life style)? Still early in the maturation process of our community? Am I missing it? Got an opinion? [redacted]@slip.net - send me a response if you like)

There are activist groups available to those who are ready to become more visibly proactive. TransPac, IFGE and ICTLEP are working on the national level and BATLAW is a local group interested in transgender legal issues. ETVC/TGSF as of now does not have an official political arm and it is my understanding that there would be a great deal of administrative overhead and difficulties to do so within the context of our non-profit charter. We should however recognize that we have members who are involved on their own accord and who bring that energy back to the group.

Finances

There has been a lot of concern about the financial position of ETVC/TGSF. I am glad to report that our situation is improving. Ayme has been stellar in her efforts to lower the cost of publishing the newsletter while raising the advertising revenues (and maintaining the quality). I particularly want to thank all the members and friends of ETVC/TGSF who have been very generous with their donations. Many of you have sent in extra money with your membership renewal or simply sent in a separate donation. We are not having to pay rent for the venues that we are currently using in part because the membership is amply enjoying the food and beverage services of these establishments. The ExCom is working hard to be as cost effective as we can as we plan events and activities. If we can continue the current trends (including your generosity) we will be able to look forward to a better financial position.

The Check

For those who were unsettled by the inclusion of Janet's offer I apologize. We obviously had several choices including returning the check with a big thank you but no thanks. We chose to leave the offer on the table and let it speak for itself and we felt confident that the membership's vote would not be appreciably affected except to note the strength of feelings on the issue by some of the members. It appears that the offer actually had the reverse effect as some members who voted for "ETVC" did so in part as a protest. There were good reasons to vote either way, but I do believe that the margin in favor of "TGSF" accurately indicates the sentiment of the members who voted.

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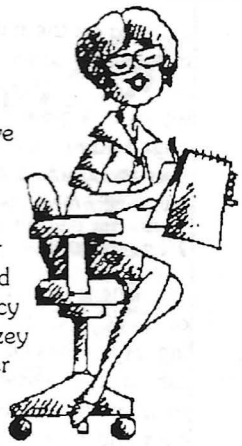
September 1998

Excom Meeting Minutes



The monthly meeting of ETVC's Executive Committee was in Sebastapol on September 6, 1998 at 10:00 a.m. In attendance were President Leslie Bailey, Vice President Lulu Blau, Secretary Veronica Smith, Outreach Chair Sandra Brewer, Social Co-Chairs Nicole Cook and Evette RoqueLaurie, Education Co-Chairs Nancy Cupps and Juana Smith. Guests included Telzey Adams and Debbie Cook. Absent was Treasurer Lisa Ronald. The Meeting was called to order at 10:35 a.m.

Communications and Announcements: Leslie, Veronica and Juana attended the Gender Conference at the Harvey Milk Center on August 6. Leslie hosted a Cotillion planning meeting on August 16. Nicole gave two Resource Guides to TARC. PFLAG is having a conference on September 11-13. Alternate Vision Film Festival is on September 11. Dianna, Miss ETVC 1998, will be a judge at the Virgin Queen Contest on September 20. Leslie is organizing a table at ISE's Coronation on September 26; this event is the same day as SGA, TGIF and East Bay Pride's Mardi Gras. LYRIC is having a Resource Fair on October 10.

The Minutes: Veronica had mistakenly referred to the *Tennessee Vals* as the *Tennessee Val Gals* in August's minutes. Veronica has apologized to President Richmond of the *Tennessee Vals*. With this correction noted, Lulu moved that August's Minutes be approved, Nicole seconded; they were approved.

Old Business: There was a discussion about the determining process of how events and functions are organized so as to avoid needless expenditures of time and energy (valuable commodities for a volunteer organization). It was suggested that the major events be placed on the calendar at the beginning of ETVC's year. Then a timeline should be established with specific goals marked to chart the event's progress. The officer in charge of the event must report to the ExCom whether she (or her delegated person-in-charge) is on schedule. If these specific goals are not being met, the ExCom will vote on whether or not to cancel the event. This way, no officer will be trapped into an unprepared event and there is some way for the ExCom to determine whether or not the event really had a chance of being successful.

Telzey received the box of wigs. She said that at the time it was donated, there had not been any listing of donations and it had not been stressed to get the fullest value for them. Several had been sold and the rest were dispersed to needy TGs. Total donation for the wigs was $20. The breast forms and shoes have yet to be sold. Veronica will take care of them.

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President: The finances are looking much better than last year at this time. Leslie projects that if all things remain the same, there is more than enough to cover all the expenses for the year and there is still more income expected.

The President wanted to have ExCom's complete approval of doing the Cotillion at the Design Center before writing the $2,000 deposit check. Nancy definitely wanted the event to be as good as last year's so she could promote it at various conventions around the country and assure people that they would get a terrific show when they come to San Francisco. Sandra, the Devil's Advocate, said that the ExCom should recognize the possibility of losing money, like last year. Veronica asked if last year's Cotillion have broken even if each ticket had been $10 more. Leslie affirmed that it would have. Juana wanted there to be a distinct difference between the price at the door and pre-event sales. Prices were tentatively set at $35 premium, $45 at the door and $30 general. Leslie moved that she reserve the Design Center for February 6 and raise the prices. Nicole seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Vice President: Lulu specified the events that should be considered permanent fixtures on ETVC's calendar: the Cotillion, Really Big Shew, Halloween and the Gay Pride Parade. Lulu had personally been associated with The Really Big Shew event and was surprised and dismayed when it had been unceremoniously cancelled. She was the one who had resurrected the event. She pointed out that though it was originally a fundraiser it had always been a moneymaker. But during the discussion, it became obvious that the exact nature of the event was somewhat indistinct. Should it be considered a *moneymaker* or *fundraiser?* And should it be specifically associated with *Lulu* or the *Social Chair*?

Lulu then emphasized the need for a Press Secretary, someone who would be able to make personal contact with people and push ETVC's events everywhere possible. Juana asked about the *who-ness* of this position. Who would do it? Who would want it? Who had the time for it?

Lulu wanted the newsletter to include other overlapping events and stuff from other organizations. She would like someone to create an *entrée* for broader appealing events. But Sandra responded that it was more important to get good coverage of ETVC events *first* and asked why ETVC had apparently lost the gay community's interest in the last Cotillion. Lulu will host a Cotillion planning meeting on September 13.

Secretary: Membership is 232 with 34 new (compared to 250 with 42 new as of last year's September 14th meeting). The September issue of *The Channel* (which was 18 pages) cost $520.60: $125 for layout, $178.48 for 350 copies, $217.12 for postage; the postage was more expensive because it included the Halloween flyer and ballot. 3,000 envelopes printed by IMP cost $278.20.

Veronica mentioned that she had taken 19 ballots out of the mailbox on Tuesday, September 1, but had been too ill to check the box since then. She would check it on Tuesday, September 8. The Secretary expressed discomfort that she was the one actually opening the envelopes and wished they would have been put in special envelopes to distinguish them from other mail. As it was, people are including other things with the ballot: Resource Guide requests, letters and donations, all things which she must deal with. Veronica's technique for dealing with them was to open them, quickly determine whether or not there was anything else in them other than ballots and deposit them in a larger envelope without counting or noting them. She would like someone else actually to handle the counting and reporting.

Continued on Page 5

Meeting Minutes

Continued from Page 4

Treasurer: The account balance including the Home for ETVC Fund is approximately $10,640.

Education: Nancy reported the presentation and discussion of designing female styled shoes designed to fit a man's foot, hosted by C. C. Parrott of Cher Cher's Shoes on August 26 at Kimo's was attended by 11 people. Sandra will write it up for the newsletter. Dr. Douglas Ousterhout is confirmed to speak at Kimo's on Saturday, September 12. Dr. Toby Meltzer is confirmed to speak at Kimo's on Saturday, October 17. Ayme and Nancy created a flyer to advertise both of these seminars on one page. Sixty flyers were mailed to people on the TS mailing list supplied by Sandra. An additional 90 were mailed in sets to the following clubs and organizations: TARC, The Tom Waddell Clinic, Pacific Center for Human Growth, RGA, and SGA. Nancy has reserved the rental projection equipment for the September and October seminars. Nancy thanked Jamie Fenton's loan of one carousel slide projector. Nancy purchased a roll of black plastic sheeting that can be used to cover the windows at Kimo's in order to block the daylight that would interfere with the slide projections. She will solicit donations from the audience and hope to break even on all expenses. Nancy requested helpers to arrive one hour before both seminars to unload her car, move tables to the rear, line up chairs in a theatre style arrangement, cover the windows with black plastic, and set up the screens and projectors. Large audiences were expected for both seminars, and she would need to set up everything before people started to arrive. Helpers were also requested to assist in putting the room back in order after the seminar. Nancy asked that someone supply the $50 check for room rental at both seminars. Nancy expected to have plans finalized for the November seminar (tentatively on wigs and wig care) by the October ExCom meeting. Juana wanted to have a panel of lesbians talk about transgenderism in January. But if they're not available, she will contact Dr. Will Roscoe who has agreed to talk to ETVC sometime about transgendered people in history.

Outreach: Sandra reported that she will do a presentation in a class she's taking, Erin and a member of FTM will speak at SFSU, Jennifer and Leslie will speak at DVG. Sandra questioned the feasibility of having a booth at the Folsom Street Fair. Nancy did not think there was much overlap between the two communities. But Veronica respectfully demurred; she believed there were a fair number of members who are definitely interested in the Leather Community and she thought ETVC should try to have a presence there. Leslie directed Sandra to look into the cost, time and interest.

Social: The Halloween Party is confirmed for the Billy DeFrank Center and Carla's for October 24. Nicole had already sold three Resource Guides. Nicole would like to try having the mid-month on a Tuesday night so that members could go to Trannyshack afterward. October 13's mid-month will be at the Line-Up.

New Business: Leslie will ask Ayme to make an ad for ETVC in the ISE Coronation Program.

Adjournment: At 1:30 p.m., Juana moved to adjourn. Nicole seconded the motion, the motion was passed.

There was a short break during which Leslie and Veronica went through the box items. Then, retreat subjects were discussed.

The ExCom members responsible for the major financial activities are: Vice President for the Cotillion and Parade, Social Chair for the Halloween Party and Really Big Shew, the Secretary for the newsletter. Each event should have a review and approval process. The rest of the ExCom should monitor expenses (*see under* ***Old Business***).

It was suggested that the outgoing officer would be responsible for an event (including the planning of it) which spanned the changeover of officers. In other words, if the preparation of an event spanned April and May (the months that now cover the election and installation of new officers) then the outgoing officer should finish what she began.

There was a discussion about creating Standing Rules. Each officer should define what she sees as the duties of her office.

There was a discussion about how ETVC can be more effective at fulfilling its Purpose Statement. Nicole wanted to know how the organization could support certain bills such as AB 1029. But Nancy firmly believed that it made more sense to increase the leverage of already existing institutions. Nancy pointed out that GenderPAC was well organized and working effectively. Nancy thought it would be more beneficial for ETVC members to support such institutions rather than re-inventing the wheel each time. Veronica offered the idea of a political page in *The Channel*, a page with names and addresses, bills and events to which members could, if they wanted, participate in and support. She envisioned a specific *Aunt Samatha Wants You!* page with short articles and announcements. Leslie did not want yet another editorial page. It should be motivating and informative.

The Retreat section of this meeting lasted until around 5:00 p.m.

Next ExCom Meeting is on October 4 at 5:00 p.m. in San Francisco at the Smiths.

Significant Other Support - East Bay

Questions or concerns about your partner's crossdressing? Please call Julie at (925) [redacted] e-mail [redacted]@ibm.net or write to: Julie Freeman, PO Box 272885, Concord, CA 94527-2885.

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TGSF Events in October

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4TH, 5:00PM

October ExCom Meeting

The October ExCom meeting will be at Veronica and Juana's residence, which I believe is in The City (for those of you who do not know where "The City" is, that would be San Francisco). Everyone is welcome and even encouraged to attend. we will be discussing the tasks that need to be done in the near future, and assigning those tasks to the attendees. Email or call me (Nicole) and I will arrange for you to get directions. [redacted]@tgforum.com or (707)[redacted]

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9TH, 8:00PM

TGSF Library / Poker Night

Call Nancy Anne at (415)[redacted] for information and directions.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13TH, 8:00PM

Mid-Month Social

OK, now it is time for something a bit different. I'm am going to give it a try and see how it fly's. The first thing to notice is that this will be on a Tuesday night not the usual Wednesday night. What if we were to hold a mid-month that everybody would like ? You don't think it can be done ? Well here is my attempt. The following is Nicole and Debbie's itinerary, you may join us at any or all of the following venues. If you like a venue, and don't want to move on to the next, that's cool too. At approximately 8:00pm Debbie and I will have dinner at the Line Up on 7th at Harrison. The Line-Up plays low background music it is a great place for conversation. At about 9:00pm Debbie and I will proceed to Cafe Mars , 798 Brannan Street at 7th. Those of you that have been to Cafe Mars know it has the lively bar atmosphere with many non TG's mingling with us. Cafe Mars serves food, so if you want to skip the Line Up you can start here. Our plan is to be there until 11:00pm. Now, for those of you that like a more wild venue, at approximately 11:00pm Debbie and I will move to Trannyshack at the Stud, 399 9th Street. We plan to be at Trannyshack until about 1:00am, so for those of you that have been saying "I keep trying to get over there", here is your chance. Arrange to come into work late the next morning, I think you have a dentist appointment. Make your arrangements now. They know we are coming, and I am expecting to have fun. See you there.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17TH, 1:00PM

Educational Seminar: Sex Reassignment Surgery and Voice Surgery.

Dr. Toby Meltzer, M.D., one of the top sexual reassignment surgeons in the U.S., will show a slide presentation followed by a question and answer session. The presentation will provide a detailed explanation of his male-to-female sexual reassignment surgical procedure and others that can help you obtain a feminine appearance and voice.

Dr. Meltzer's SRS procedure involves penile inversion for vaginoplasty, and creation of a sensate clitoris and labia, usually resulting a very normal appearing vagina in one stage. A secondary labiaplasty is recommended, though not required, at least 3 months after the vagino- plasty. The purpose of the labiaplasty is to create a thinner inner labia, to provide some hooding to the clitoris, and to improve the overall aesthetic result. Not all patients will find this necessary. This presentation will include an update on Dr. Meltzer's labiaplasty procedure.

Other surgical procedures such as tightening the vocal cords to raise the pitch of the voice (a reversible operation performed under local anethesia), breast augmentation, tracheal shave (removal of the "Adam's apple"), and rhinoplasties will also be discussed.

Dr. Meltzer performs SRS and other major procedures at Eastmoreland Hospital in Portland, Oregon; all post-operative care is routinely provided at Eastmoreland. He performs outpatient procedures both at Eastmoreland and at his Portland office. Telephone: 800-525-2426. 1:00pm, Upstairs at Kimo's, Polk & Pine Sts., SF. Donations appreciated.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24TH, 6:00PM

The 1998 TGSF Halloween Party

This is it ! The party you have all been waiting for. The TGSF Halloween Party will be at Carla's this year and will use the small auditorium adjacent to Carla's in the Billy DeFrank Community Center. Carla's is a club which cater's exclusively to the TG community, there is plenty of parking in the area, most of it is behind Carla's and for those of you who want to stay the night we are making arrangements with the hotel around the corner from Carla's (see the separate article in this Channel on the Hotel arrangements). Carla's is located at 195 Stockton Ave. in San Jose (just West of the Arena, across the railroad tracks). This new venue has a stage and a dance floor, and really has a look that I think will work well with our Halloween theme. We will be holding contests for a number of different categories of costumes, so plan to compete ! The winners will get some worthwhile prizes. The preliminary categories are: Sexiest, Scariest, Most Original, Most Exposure (or the Didi award), Most elaborate, Most "In Theme" and Most tasteful. If I can come up with more I will. We will have a full bar at the party, and TGSF will be running the bar, so all profits from alcoholic drinks will go to TGSF. (The non-alcoholic drinks are included in the ticket price).

For those of you looking for a "First time out" this is it !!! Carla's is a full service TG establishment, You can dress there, you can buy clothes and store them in one of her lockers ahead of time. If you are looking for someone to do your hair and nails for the event Carla does that too (but make an appointment soon because the time slots closest to the event will go fast. The number for Carla's is (408) 298-6900).

WILLIAM A. HENKIN, PH.D.

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Calendar of Events – October 1998

Other Groups

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

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

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

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

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

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

TGIF (TransGenderism Is Fun)
A social group for transgenders. Meets one Saturday each month at a private home in Santa Rosa for a potluck social from 4:00pm until early evening. Space is limited - Reservations Recommended! Call Diane or Anne at 707[redacted]

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

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7:00 PM DVG (RCC)	2 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap 8:00 PM RGA	3
4 5:00 PM TGSF: ExCom Meeting	5 8:00 PM DVG	6	7	8	9 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap 8:30 PM TGSF: Library / Poker Night	10 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
11	12	13 8:00 PM TGSF Mid Month	14	15 7:00 PM DVG (RCC)	16 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap 8:00 PM RGA	17 1:00 PM TGSF: Meltzer Seminar
18	19 8:00 PM DVG	20	21	22	23 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap	24 1:00 PM Hayes Houseparty 6:00 PM TGSF: Halloween Party 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
25	26	27	28	29	30 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap	31

ETVC Membership Application

Full Year Membership June 1 – May 31

Please Print / Check all that apply:

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

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

Preferred Name: _____

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New Members only; See Chart at right)

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

Our Readers Respond...

Dear Editor,

I can't quite figure out if I was appalled or amused by Janet Bowman's recent letter and pledge of $2000-strings attached "donation" to ETVC.

I have to wonder about the thinking of someone who says that it ISN'T blackmail to offer a financially struggling organization a large chunk of change but only if they do what she demands, i.e. change the name of the organization to TGSF.

I'm not going to get into the pros and cons of the name change. That fight may be over (hopefully) by the time this is published. But it simply isn't right to try to strong arm a duly elected group of people into doing what you want by, in effect, offering a bribe.

What about the next person with a nose out of joint and some cash. Supposed she doesn't like ETVC's open door policies? Or thinks we should offer a Christian prayer to open the socials? Hey, here's 10 grand, now kick out all the transvestites...

This kind of thing may be ok in Congress or Sacramento but I would like to think we've got higher standards.

Cindy Martin
Publisher, TG Forum
[redacted]@tgforum.com

Dear Cherished Friends;

As a few of the staff at ETVC are aware from recent telephone calls, I am living and trying to survive in Saudi Arabia for a few years. The oppression and backwardness of this place is painfully obvious to even the simplest minded person here, particularly in the expatriate communities. My immediate perspective is that of a recreational, dedicated Transvestite girl, born in San Francisco and still calling home the Napa area.

That having been said, and just having received the August *Channel*, my immediate thoughts are as follows.

Cherish and promote the freedoms and opportunities that so easily are taken for granted. Express and actively pursue our interests as rational productive members of society. Use it or lose it, forever! Vote, participate, express your opinions, be heard, support the concepts and goals of ETVC and like-minded organizations, locally and nationally, effect change! Complacency and lack of action will lead to the surrendering of freedoms and not only halt, but also cause a regression of social progresses. There are many people that do not agree with what we think and do, of these there are many that actively speak out and take overt as well as covert actions to stifle and retard our social progress. Your proactivity is what shall, in the end, prevail. We are a blessed and privileged few who know of the delights and enlightened freedoms of being *en femme*. To be a Transgendered person, regardless of your commitment level, is a blessing.

PLEASE PARTICIPATE AND SUPPORT OUR INTERESTS AND GOALS!

Anxious to be home in September and October,

Your loving sister,

Valerie Cross

Dear ETVC.

I'm delighted to be able to vote for a name change.

...the ETVC has never been easy for me to understand! I think of the group as a mix of the Gender community...a wide variety of people, lifestyles, and dreams.

I think TGSF is a much more comfortable name...and including the SF helps others to place us.

I am enclosing a donation to help with the financial problems.

Hugs to you all,

Bill Jones

Dear ETVC,

I would like you to know how great the new newsletter is. It is evident that a lot of effort goes into it and the result is well worth it. I am enclosing my ballot and $25.00 in cash. Part of this money is for the ETVC Resource Guide which I would like mailed. The remainder is a donation to the club treasury. I am hoping to be able to attend the Halloween Party and getting acquainted with some of the members.

Joyce White

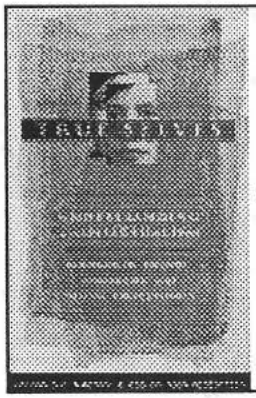
Dear ETVC,

Just a short note to include a check for $25 extra to help ETVC/TGSF. Regardless of what we're called, even as a seldom participant, I appreciate and need the group.

Nepenthe (Penny)

Attention Pub Crawlers!

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



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Social Chair, Nicole Cook ..... [redacted]*@tgforum.com*
Editor, Ayme Kantz ..... [redacted]*@aol.com*

TGSF Wins!

September Election Results

by Veronica Smith

TGSF overwhelmingly won the election with seventy-seven percent of all votes cast. Fifty-eight people voted for ***TGSF*** and seventeen voted for ***ETVC***. Seventy-five of the two hundred and thirty-two members voted. That's about thirty-two percent participation. Some might object to so momentous a decision being made with only twenty-five percent of the total membership *actively* voting for it. (1) But there had been considerable warning and discussion about this choice. Many issues of *The Channel* for the past year have had letters, articles and comments about the subject and, in early June, over a hundred and fifty letters were sent to lapsed members stressing their need to renew so they could vote their conscience. In other words, this election genuinely reflects the desires of the membership. And as for the members who were silent, one can only quote the well-known adage *qui tacet consentire*. (2)

Of the people who did vote, two objected to the ballot's design. One person complained, "This is sleeze! *(sic)* If I want porn, I'll buy it. Is this the way ***ETVC*** is going? My S.O. was offended – so was I." And someone else with a similar view criticized, "This is really tasteless! Have a little class!" But others had different opinions; one wrote "I *like* this picture. To those who object, I say *lighten up*." Another applied pink highlight to the area being spanked. Many did not want to clip the form and sent photocopies of the ballot instead. One who did remarked, "Clipping my *original* newsletter? *No way!*" Two sent in ballots but did not vote for either name: one was protesting what she saw as a purchased election (with Janet Bowman's $2,000 donation), and the other just wanted to show support without caring what the name would be (she also included a donation). As for the naked butt, I guess I have to take the heat for that one. When I was first shown the ballot design, I was a bit surprised, but then I thought, "Oh what the hell, *no one will be able to say they didn't notice the ballot!*" However, to those who were offended, please accept my apologies.

What was really nice to see was how there was no clear-cut division about this. ***TGSF***'s support was widespread and general, favored by long-time members and new. And similarly, the people who voted for ***ETVC*** were also varied in length of membership. The thing to do now is to establish the new appellation and consider what it will mean for us: ***TransGender San Francisco***. It certainly sounds more inclusive. The hope is that this new name will firmly place us within the community we want to belong. Our mission statement declares our purpose is to serve the "needs of the transgendered community." And our bylaws define that community as "all transgendered persons, their family and friends, and anyone with a sincere interest in the transgendered." Considering the above, maybe we can all agree with the ***TGSF*** voter who noted on her ballot, "It's about time."

(1) The May election had about twenty percent participation.

(2) He who is silent consents.

Election Statistics

Membership	Voted	TGSF	ETVC
232	75	58	17

Percent of total membership that voted	32%
Percent of total membership that voted for TGSF	25%
Percent of total membership that voted for ETVC	7%
Percent of total votes that were for TGSF	77%
Percent of total votes that were for ETVC	23%

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as of September 30, 1998

Valerie Cross	$100
Michelle Gordon	$100
Bill Jones	$25
Nepenthe Kepner	$25
Mary K Knox	$10
Joyce White	$20

Bless you for caring and thank you!

October's Birthday Girls...

1003	Erin Brush	1021	Jennifer Abrahamson
1004	Gayle Kiddy	1021	Maureen Michaels
1006	Joan Thurau	1021	Tricia Paskell
1009	Carolayn Hughes	1022	Marilyn Thurau
1009	Jennifer Alexander	1022	Mary Palmer
1009	Val Shoaps	1022	Shirley Ybarra
1013	Mercury Silverbrand	1026	Jacqueline Burke
1016	Janis Raina	1026	Janet Bowman
1016	Jean Darien	1026	Julia Mirate
1019	Lana Marsh	1029	Elizabeth Cecil
1020	Cassi Alexander	1029	Jenine Johnson
1029	Terri Remington		

Many Happy Returns of the Day, Ladies!

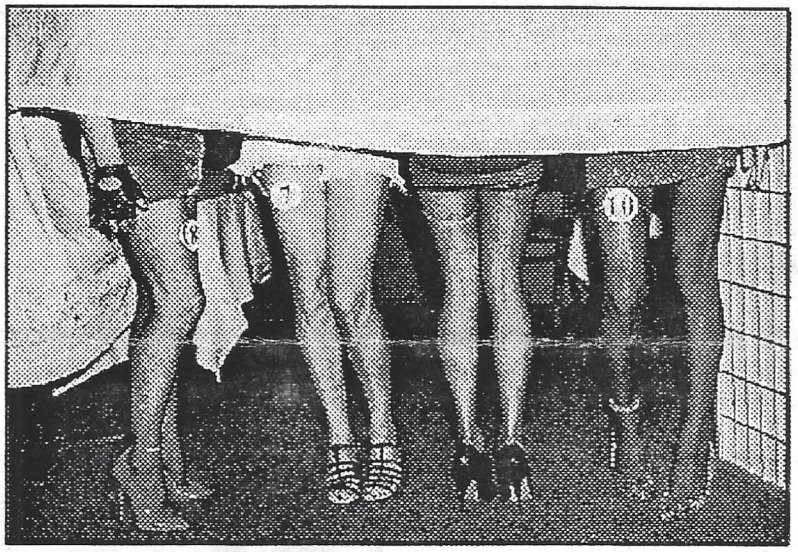
August Socials In Review

By Nicole Cook

Our Mid-Month at Harvey's on August 12th was a blast. About 15 people showed up. The entertainment was a drag show which featured a number of acts. The MC for the night performed her last segment in a Monica Lewinski format, with a suspicious white substance on her dress and part of her face. Perhaps a bit tacky but it was funny. We had set up on 2 tables at one end of the club, actually we had one table, however the ladies at the next table graciously allowed us to take over their table as our group grew. This was fortunate since the place was packed the whole time we were there. Several patrons were watching the show from their feet. By the way, I saw a sign near the ladies room that said they are looking for entertainers, any of you looking for a job?

What has 60 legs, not much coverage, and appears with a full moon? That's right the ETVC Legs contest. We gathered on August 27th for the End of Month at the Blue Muse. Despite earlier concerns about the last minute change in venue from Charpes to the Blue Muse, the turn out was great. More than 30 of us showed up for what I think was a fantastic time.

Sixteen contestants signed up to strut their stuff and try for the vast array of prizes. Each contestant performed on our makeshift stage which covered the top of the body allowing only the legs (and in some cases other parts) to be shown to the audience. In the first round, the audience voted for their favorite contestant in each of 4 categories: Sexiest, Most Tasteful, Most Exposure and Most Graceful. Debbie circled the floor and collected the votes, and we tallied up the score.



Legs Contest Finalists, L to R: Didi, Ayme, Darcy and Dianna

When the dust settled Dianna walked away with the Sexiest category, her hand language during the contest was quite impressive. Aqua Marine came in as second sexiest, and Vera Supulveda rounded up the sexiest category with 3rd place. In the Most Tasteful category Ayme Kantz took the number 1 spot, and during the announcement she indicated to the crowd that there must have been a mistake. Three contestants, Leslie Bailey, Rachel Andrews, and Roxanne tied for the second place in the most Tasteful category. Moving to the Most Exposure category (or the category I have referred to as the Didi Mau category), The Outrageous Miss Didi Mau scored a landslide 16 votes with her Lunar Maneuver. Esmarelda came in with a distant 2nd most exposed. The Most Graceful category went to Darcy Leopard, with Dianna in 2nd and Joanne in 3rd. Once again Debbie retrieved the votes from the audience and we disappeared behind the stage to determine the winners.

In the finalist round our winners in each of the four categories competed for the top 3 spots. Each contestant , Dianna, Ayme, The Outrageous Miss Didi Mau, and Darcy , took turns displaying their wares for the audience. They then finished with a line up style presentation, all legs up front girls! In the end Dianna took first prize, 2 tickets to the ETVC Halloween party. Darcy and Ayme shared second place and both received a $15 gift certificate at Victoria's Secret.

But I think no one had as much fun as the MC for the evening :-) , at one point I was laughing so much I could not speak. And I came away from the event determined to find another way to have a social that would be this much fun.

Now what TG can turn down the chance to appear in a bathing suit? On August 8th we took the plunge and showed up for the once a year TGIF "pool party" social at Renee's house. About 35 people joined us for a barbecue, some hot tubbing and some swimming in the pool. I was wearing the Orange and Yellow high cut one piece, the same one featured on my web site. Serena was wearing a sexy little green suit and was in the pool as much as I was. When we were not in the pool, we were conversing with one another and taking in the gorgeous view of the valley South-East of Santa Rosa from Renee's vantage point up on the hill. This is an event not to be missed, if you have never gone you should plan to go next year. This is one TGIF event where their is no problem with parking or with the number of participants. Renee has a big house and a long driveway.

Our trip to the east bay in August was on the 17th for the 2nd DVG social of the month. About 18 people were in attendance. There was talk of a fashion show produced by the I Luv It Boutique, Which would be great since JR's has a better set up for such a show (Larger Stage and a changing room behind the stage). As usual there were a few ETVC people there, however I did not see any SGA people which is a bit unusual. I spoke with a few girls in attendance who were more than willing to give me their opinion of ETVC. One girl indicated that ETVC was too organized, hummm, our other sister's comments could be summarized as "ETVC is not organized enough". So I figured we must be ok since these opinions seemed to cancel each other out.

The SGA social on August 22nd turned out to be another great evening in Sacramento. Tianna and her S.O. Sandra (who are both from San Francisco) went with us, it was their first time there. About 20 people showed up for dinner at Joseph's, almost all of whom I recognized as regulars. There was some great news at the meeting. Joseph will not be selling the restaurant ! The sale fell through and it looks like Joseph will be keeping the Restaurant & Bar downstairs. So expect a joint SGA-ETVC night in Sacramento !

After dinner and some conversation a caravan of cars made their way over to Faces. We arrived a bit early and there was even room on the dance floor, but by the time we left it was packed. Krystel, who had not been at the SGA meeting due to a commitment with the Sacramento Court, did show up at Faces while we were there. We had planned to leave by 11:00pm due to an early call the next day, but we found it was hard to leave as the clock struck midnight.

Sandra Reaches Out

by Sandra Brewer

Our outreach speakers bureau is seeing some action as the fall semester progresses. Still a number of the requests are for speakers during the day, and in somewhat remote locales; some requests are made directly to the speakers. I'm still putting together our list of potential speakers; I'll delay distributing it until I've contacted all the speakers, and we know the name of our organization in the future. If we vote to change the name, we have a great deal of work ahead getting the word out and changing all our records.

We have added three new members to our hotline. Please tell me if you would like to join this effort; it's two nights a month, and you don't even have to leave home. Also, let me know if you want to join our speakers bureau, and if you are willing to be on the list of speakers given to our most frequent requesters. Call me at **(925) 443-9938**. Please be sure to get my area code right; the old one no longer works.

Some of us managed to see Eddie Izzard's show in its recent run. Every performance in the local five-week run was sold out. Eddie is a well-known British comedian who is also a cross dresser. He relies heavily on British humor in the two-and-a-half hour one man show. He wears full makeup, but without a dress or a wig I expect most of us would not consider him fully cross dressed. The line I remember best from his show is his reference to a transvestite in the military. He says the "Don't ask, don't tell" policy needs to be replaced with just "Don't ask."

A frightening article appeared in the San Francisco Examiner on August 26th. The article reported a Chicago attorney has suggested if a 'gay gene' is ever isolated, parents should be allowed (encouraged) to request abortion. The controversial suggestion is being presented to the annual symposium of the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association. If this takes root, how long can it take to extend the suggestion to a potential 'transgender gene.'

On a happier beat, an article titled "The New Minority" appeared in the San Jose Mercury on September 1st. Among others, the article featured local attorney Melinda Whiteway; it discusses the progress and conditions facing transsexuals in transition. Obstacles still exist, but the level of public awareness and acceptance is on the rise. Melinda describes her life after transition, "It's indescribably wonderful to be (able to be) yourself."

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Education Seminar Review

Shoes Made To Order

by Sandra Brewer

On August 26th, a dozen of us joined CC Parrott and Robert Geleta of Cher Cher's Shoes at Kimo's Upstairs to discuss our needs for women's shoes. They are collecting information on where to concentrate their efforts in instituting a company expressly to manufacture the shoes of our dreams. Their shoes are not available yet but they are eager to meet our needs, so they are asking what qualities we are looking for when shopping for women's shoes.

CC and Robert shared a preliminary catalog of potential styles of shoes. These include everything from a simple red pump to a metallic black ankle boot. Reinforced heels give extra support in various heights. Dual-purpose usage is envisaged with plans to provide a removable ankle strap on several of the styles. They also brought some elegant hats from their accessory collection that we had fun trying on.

The need for women's shoes to fit a man's foot takes many forms. The first need recognized was for styles popular with drag queens in the Castro that are also of interest to many of us. We also expressed an interest in simpler styles that can be worn when shopping and on other casual outings. When asked for our preference for men's or women's sizes for our (women's) shoes, most of us preferred women's sizes.

The common thread to all the styles we need is they should fit our feet comfortably and securely. Along with its larger size, a man's foot is usually wider than a woman's foot; and the mechanics of how a man's foot rests in a shoe need to be considered in the design of shoes manufactured to be worn by men. These factors determine the size and shape of the "last" which is shoe-talk for the mold used to produce the shoes. Several molds are needed to provide shoes in a range of sizes and widths.

We all appreciate shoes for every occasion. We indicated our interest in shoes that are in fashion, but in line with an enduring trend. Several of us filled out Cher Cher's survey indicating our preferences and buying habits for shoes. You can too on the internet at *www.wenet.net/~shoes/survey.html*.

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Boldly Going To A Brave New World?

By Veronica Smith

When I was relatively new to cross dressing and still pretty nervous about it, I would sometimes try to justify or make understandable to my wife that which I myself did not truly understand nor even feel comfortable with. Once we went to a Star Trek demonstration at the Academy of Sciences in Golden Gate Park. There were a lot of folks dressed up as characters from the various Star Trek shows. For no particular reason I turned to my wife and blurted out, "You know, I may cross dress, but at least I cross dress within the same species!" She took my hand and complimented me on my reasonableness.

Although I don't consider myself a trekkie, I really liked *Star Trek: The Next Generation* and I've even followed the various spin-offs. One of the spin-offs had an episode this last season which really impressed me. A character (for reasons too complicated to go into here) underwent sexual reassignment surgery and remained female for just a few days until completing a business deal. After which time, the character had another operation and was restored to being male. True, we're not talking about a human here, but the implication (especially by the doctor's blasé attitude toward the whole thing) was that sex-change operations would become more mundane than appendectomies. And when you consider how within just fifty years SRS has moved from being a totally experimental procedure to an operation routine enough for some doctors to be able to perform three in a one day, it doesn't stretch the imagination to envision a world where moving from one gender to another will be as easy as face lifts and tummy tucks.

Like the double-gender-crossing Ferengi in the television show, one's gender will not only become optional, it could be transitory as well. Think of it! Rather than sneaking off to a convention and living *en femme* for just a few days, you could have a quick operation and *really live en femme* for days, weeks, even years, and change back when (and if) it suited you. Talking so whimsically about hopping back and forth between sexes must sound horribly shallow and dilettantesque to those for whom the acquisition of the proper gender is the most profound desire. But I suspect many would love gender fluidity. After all, dabbling in the feminine is one way — not the only way — of looking at transvestism. And if medical science can enhance such exploration, that's progress.

But with medical progress we're not only looking at fluidity, but diversity as well. Recently, I wrote about a conversation Cindy Martin and I had about hormones. Cindy implied that hormones should primarily be for people who are transitioning. Whereas, I felt that if someone truly owned her body, she should be given hormones (with medical supervision) to customize her body any way she wanted. I suggested that if more people in the TG community felt freer to modify their bodies, the spectrum of body types would not merely be limited to the man/woman alternatives, but would broaden immensely. Shortly after writing that, I came across an article that convinced me that the spectrum is already broadening in ways I would never have imagined.

In Transgender Tapestry (Issue 83, Summer 1998, p. 57), J.J. Allen describes Dr. Tess Cowell, a person who was born male but who has had cosmetic surgery, breast implants and even penile inversion. The accompanying photo shows an exotic-looking woman. However, unlike most women born in men's bodies, she has kept her testosterone-producing testes by having them surgically brought within her body and she has not taken female hormones for the past three years. The writer refers to Dr. Cowell as transgendered but is unsure as to what that means exactly. Could Dr. Cowell testify she's a woman? Or even would she? One can certainly testify that Dr. Cowell has boldly gone where no one's gone before in customizing her body. And she has customized it to fit her own needs and standards, not Dr. Benjamin's or anyone else's. As medical technology advances, the options for body customization can only multiply and with such customizations, genders will diversify between the two end poles of masculine-man and feminine-woman. There will be a shift; it's happening already, and a great multitude of variations between the two gender extremes will spring forth. *O, wonder! How many goodly creatures are there here! How beauteous mankind is! O brave new world, that has such people in it!*

"But when gender becomes so fluid and diverse," asked my down-to-earth and earthy wife after I read the above to her, "what does that mean about sex?"

New Online SO List!

New online mailing list for wives and SOs of crossdressers and men who consider themselves to be transgendered; no topic off limits. Attitudes range from complete acceptance to really struggling. Open to women only—no crossdressers please! Women need a place where they can feel safe to discuss these issues. Write to Jenni at **www.aluckywife@aol.com** and explain a little about your situation.

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The 1998 ETVC Resource Guide is your one source for virtually all the Transgender Resources in the Greater Bay Area (From San Jose to Sacramento to Santa Rosa to San Francisco). The Guide covers where to go to have a good time on the town, where to shop, where to get services like Make-up, Electrolysis and Beauty Salons, as well as where to stay in the San Francisco area (and Russian River Resort Area). You can also locate professional services such as Doctors, Psychologists, Lawyers, Voice Therapists and others. The Guide also contains information on other Gender Information and Education Groups. If you are going to visit the San Francisco area - This is the guide to have!

If you would like a guide by mail you can send a check for $4.50 (per copy) to: ETVC, Resource Guide, P.O. Box 426486, San Francisco, CA. 94142-6486. Please be sure to indicate on the check that it is for the Resource Guide.

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Out on the Town with Darcy

Comedy with Eddie Izzard

Sometime back in April, I received a phone call from my friend Eric. He suggested that I immediately turn on NPR (National Public Radio), because they were interviewing a British comic who was very much out in the open about his cross-dressing. His name was Eddie Izzard, and he was rapidly becoming very popular with his "Dressed to Kill" show.

Upon tuning into the program, I quickly learned that Eddie evidently performed in drag, yet only a small amount of his material spoke of cross-dressing. He performed cross-dressed simply because he was comfortable doing so. He pointed out that women had essentially achieved "total clothing freedom" as of the 1990's, and that this same freedom was there for the taking for men if they wanted it.

His performances were known for a rapid-fire, stream-of-consciousness type style, reminiscent of Britain's Monty Python troupe, or San Francisco's own Robin Williams. As it turned out, he was being touted by John Cleese of Monty Python fame as the "Funniest Man on the Planet" at the moment. I later discovered that the show was being produced by Robin Williams. As I have been a big fan of both of these people, I knew I had to see Eddie perform, especially since he was a cross-dresser to boot!

It was an unseasonably hot day as my friend Didi Mau and I prepared to see Eddie's Sunday afternoon performance at San Francisco's Stage Door Theatre. I was having difficulty deciding what to wear, never having seen live comedy en femme before. Part of me wanted to dress somewhat comfortably, as I figured a tight skirt would have a tendency to impede whole-hearted laughter. But since the show was entitled "Dress to Kill", I ended up opting for my classic, striking look of stiletto heels, black leather skirt, and leopard-print blouse. In retrospect, it was probably the wrong choice, but I will get to that later.

It was full daylight as Didi and I made our way across the two or three blocks separating the parking garage and the theatre. Didi, of course, had experienced no qualms about how to dress, resplendent as she was in a lingerie slip-dress, elbow-length gloves, white spike heels, and a fur wrap. It was "Vogue Heaven" for her, and both of us attracted plenty of looks from passers-by with our skyscraper heels and big hair.

The looks changed from a mixture of reactions to broad smiles as we arrived at the theatre. The attendees of the event knew, of course, what was up, and were probably hoping to see "girls such as us" show up. We returned the smiles as we secured our tickets, and made our way into theatre to find our seats.

It ended up being a packed house, which added to the already unseasonably hot weather. Didi and I quickly resorted to using our programs to fan our faces. I was beginning to question my choice of stockings and a "hot" leather skirt. Most of the audience had dressed casual, although some had dressed up a little bit. A young woman in front of me, for example, had chosen to wear jeans, while spicing it up a bit with a spandex, white-lace blouse. I took note of this for future strategy.

Continued on Page 15

Choices...

by Jane Bolig

(Part IV in a continuing series)

PROFESSIONAL RESOURCES

Therapist

Why must you see a therapist? The practical reason is to obtain a letter, THE LETTER (in fact, you will need letters from two therapists), informing a reputable surgeon that you are bona fide candidate for sex reassignment surgery.

Even if the letter was not necessary, therapy is an indispensable tool. I wouldn't want to go into full time living without a therapist help in clarifying my issues, ordering my priorities and preserving my relationships. Those who condemn it as an evil perpetrated by the Standards of Care are, I believe, terribly short-sighted. "I'm not crazy," say the anti-therapists. "I don't need to be fixed and I don't need anybody to tell me who I am." To me, it's like saying "I won't use a travel agent until I'm lost."

Of course, not all therapists provide good therapy, and even a good therapist might not be the right one for you. That's why you should interview a prospective therapist before becoming her client. Interview as many as you must in order to find one who will work with you, not on you; someone acquainted with the Standards of Care, but not necessarily a gender specialist. As, or more important, than gender expertise, is empathy, receptivity, honesty and courage. Neither a dictator nor a pawn, your therapist is a partner helping you make choices based upon your needs. She will not automatically endorse your cherished biases, but attempt to reflect your thoughts and feelings back to you; to help you sort out what is important from what is not; and to set priorities and goals to achieve happiness. If she is very good, she will be surprisingly insightful.

My therapist, Dr. Deborah Caust, specializes in male sexual disfunction. I began seeing her in August 1995 because of a four year history of impotence. Her counseling helped me to achieve much of what I thought I needed to become the man I had always hoped I could be. By October 1996, however, I realized that living as a man, no matter how successful, would always be unfulfilling. I knew that I must begin to live as a woman. When I told her of my decision, her first question was "Have you thought about taking hormones?" "No," I said, "but what a wonderful idea!" And so it was.

When do you begin transition psychotherapy? Since it is the formal first step towards living as a woman, as soon as you can. I would certainly want to begin therapy at least a year before my change. If you are married with children and contemplating transition, do *not* wait, get into therapy post haste.

One word of caution: Do not try to make a personal buddy out of your therapist. To be effective, this relationship, as friendly as it may be in its proper, therapeutic context, must not leap its boundaries and become social. You need your therapist's empathic objectivity, not her companionship.

Physician

You can get hormones without first going to a doctor, but do we need to review how grossly stupid it would be to endanger your health and life with cheap street drugs of unknown dosage and purity? Any physician can prescribe hormones; ideally, you will find one who *has* dealt with transgender people before and is both knowledgeable and empathic. If you are very fortunate, as we are in the Bay Area, you will be able to find one who is transgendered.

What makes a good doctor? Not one who supplies hormones on demand, but insists upon regular examinations and blood testing. One who will not overlook potentially disastrous behavior such as alcohol, drug or cigarette addiction. A good doctor will have many of the qualities of a good therapist. If your doctor is cold, nasty, dismissive of your feelings or opinions; if he makes you feel like a bug under glass, drop him if you can. If you're without other resources, do your darndest to challenge his officiousness and encourage his humanity. Don't worry that if you stand up to him he won't write you a letter for SRS; only psycho-therapists and psychiatrists, not medical doctors, can give you those. If you live in California, however, and want to change the sex on your driver license, it's your physician who fills out the required DMV form.

The first physician I went to for hormones came highly recommended. He was an endocrinologist with a degree in sexology. I waited three weeks for an appointment, which, said his receptionist over the phone, would be $200; this "wonderful man," she said, would probably prescribe hormones the very day of my appointment. When the big day arrived, I presented myself to his office and was directed to an examination room and told to take off my clothing and slip into a gown. By the time the doctor arrived 15-20 minutes later, I was already feeling uncomfortably self-conscious. He entered without a smile, introduced himself, and commenced the examination with the efficiency of a butcher assessing a carcass. Afterward, he told me that at my age, hormones were problematic. This literature wasn't complete, but there was enough anecdotal evidence of complications to warrant extreme caution. He would probably put me on a patch, which would yield results only slowly. First, I must have a blood test...he didn't seem to notice that I had sighed heavily. He stared as I expressed my disappointment. I needed consoling; he just pored on more facts. "I want you to get a series of blood tests, and I'll see you in a month to discuss hormones." "A month!" "You can put your clothing back on. The nurse will give you detailed instructions." He left. Before I could talk to the nurse, I had to see the receptionist, who told me I owed not $200, but $260. I paid my bill and walked out never to return. Two weeks later I rode 50 miles to the offices of Dr. Joy Shaffer. As soon as I entered, I knew I had come to the right place. The office was in a modern professional building. The reception area was clean and well lit, with a big fishtank. The receptionist was a transgendered woman. Dr. Shaffer emerged and guided me to the examination room, where I was listened and spoken to like a person rather than a specimen. Her bill, by the way, was less than half the first guy's, with no hidden charges; shortly after, I took my very first hormones.

Part V will continue in the November issue of The Channel

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October 24, 1998
1:00pm - 4:00pm
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Community Service Awards

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408-293-2429 or online at http://www.defrank.org/boxoffice.html

Out With Darcy

Continued from Page 13

Eddie's show opened with upbeat music and an impressive swirling of multi-colored, track lights. He appeared on stage to enthusiastic cheering and applause, wearing a kimono-style, silk blouse; shiny, black vinyl pants; and high-heeled sandals. His face was fully made-up, and his both his fingernails and toenails were painted. He wore his own hair, short-cropped and spiked with gel.

He began with a classic opening by observing the city he was performing in. He then moved on to world history, and lead up to the inevitable comparisons between American and British culture, as well as other cultures, all of which evidently had a universal love of "Scooby Doo". He then shifted to obtuse topics such as James Garner and "The Rockford Files", during which a heckler dared to mumble something about "moving on"(to the next topic). Eddie seamlessly incorporated the heckling into the act, using it to spin off on all kinds of tangents, while giving the heckler a hard time in a good-natured, yet utterly silencing, manner.

Later, during the break, Didi and I ran into Janet Bowman, a member of our club. We chatted for awhile, before realizing a great photo opportunity had presented itself. Janet's friend, a kind gentleman from Australia, offered to take a picture of us, so we posed beneath an Eddie Izzard banner just outside the theatre.

Before returning for the second half of the performance, Didi and I were obliged to seek out the restrooms. Women were looking at us with anticipation in their faces as we approached the lines, eagerly curious to see which one we would choose. Of course we chose the ladies line, although Didi was tempted to "cheat" for a moment and duck into the shorter, men's line!

During the second half of the performance, Eddie included some references to cross-dressing in his routine. He "created" a funny story about stashing his makeup in the knothole of a tree when he was a kid, the same place a squirrel had put its stash of nuts. He claimed he caught the squirrel putting on his makeup. When the squirrel noticed Eddie looking at it aghast, the squirrel supposedly said "What's up, mate? Wrong color, or what?"

At the end of the show, the audience brought Eddie back for an encore with their appreciative applause. I thought about how his overall presentation as a transvestite (a term which he embraces), or transgendered person was fascinating to me. Although mostly femme in his choice of adornment, he chooses not to use the feminine pronoun to refer to himself, nor display particularly feminine mannerisms. He is just doing what he loves; adorned however he chooses, and seems so relaxed expressing himself. I feel he is presenting a very positive example for us, and I am quite proud to have him representing our community.

Alpha Chapter of TRI-ESS Presents...

TRANSFEST 98

This is the gender community's newest weekend event presented by Tri-Ess's first and oldest chapter. You are especially invited to be at the kickoff of this glorious weekend. This fall join the ladies of the Alpha Chapter of TRI-ESS in their Autumn spectacular, **Transfest 98** coming to Los Angeles, California, near Hollywood, Shopping, Restaurants and FUN FUN FUN!. A weekend filled with shopping, seminars, shopping, food, shopping, woman's programs, shopping, couples programs,, excursions, vendors, a gala Halloween party and a special Monte Carlo night, and of course, shopping!

Held October 16-18, this fun-filled weekend is a two part event. The weekend is primarily designed for members and friends of Tri-Ess. However Alpha, in partnership with PPOC, warmly welcomes the entire gender community to join the fun from 2:00pm Saturday for a gala afternoon and evening. All net proceeds from the Monte Carlo gaming will be donated to breast cancer research.

Location: Burbank Holiday Inn (room reservations call 818-841-4770. Ask for Alpha Tri-Ess Transfest rate). For event information and registration fee schedule call Kathy at 818-[redacted] or Linda at 310-[redacted] or send email to [redacted]@earthlink.net.

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Halloween 1998 - Saturday, October 24

The Big Party Is This Month!

It is time to think about getting your tickets for the 1998 ETVC Halloween party. We currently have 3 businesses selling tickets, They are:

Carla's
195 Stockton Avenue
San Jose, CA
(408) 298-6900

Foxy Lady Boutique
2644 Mission Street
San Francisco, CA.
(415) 285-4980

I Love it Boutique
47952 Warm Springs Blvd.
Fremont, CA
(510) 623-1337

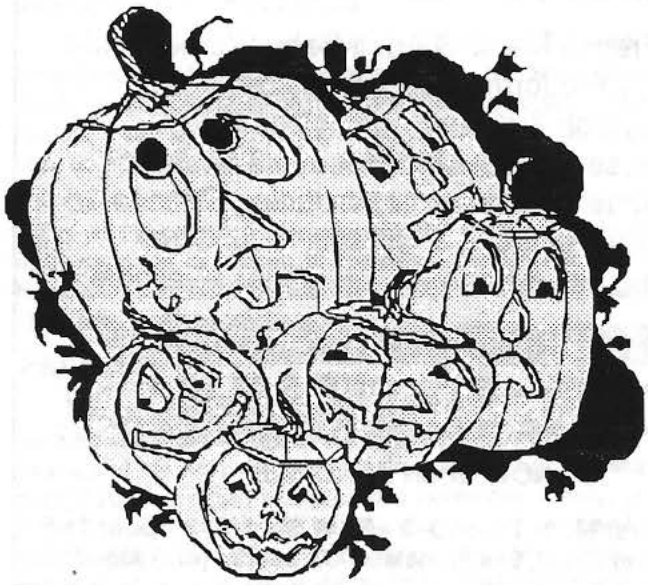
If I get any more businesses to sell the tickets, I will post their names on the web page http://www.transgender.org/tg/etvc. You can also purchase tickets by mail or at a TG social event from Nicole or Debbie Cook (make your check out to ETVC). If you want to get tickets by mail send a check for $18 (since you are a member), or $20 for non-members, plus $0.32 postage to: Nicole Cook, 321 South Main Street, Suite #8, Sebastopol, CA. 95472.

Remember the tickets are $2 more at the door, and it helps us provide the right amount of food and drinks if we have a significant amount of advance ticket sales.

Volunteers Needed

I am looking for volunteer's to help set up the Halloween Party from 2pm to 6pm on October 24th. If this sounds like fun to you give me (Nicole) a call at (707) [redacted] or email me at [redacted]@tgforum.com. I am also looking for between 1 to 3 people to help tend bar, you don't need to have a lot of experience, we will put the more common drinks on cards. If someone wants something else, they order at their own risk, we will have a little drink book though. If you want to tend bar at the party give me a call.

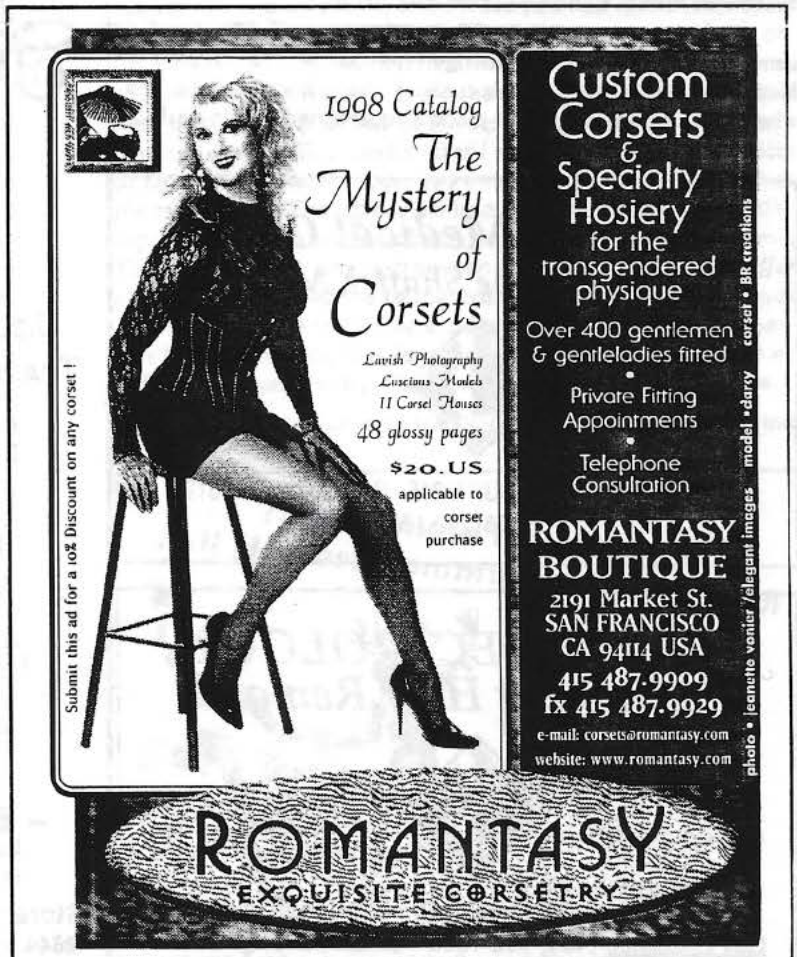
Well that's about it from Halloween central, I hope to see you all there. For those of you looking for a chance to get out en femme for the first time, we have really made an effort to select a spot that will make it easy for you to take that step (into the best time of your life). This years party is going to be allot of fun, some of the girls running for awards are going to have to prove they deserve it. If you need hotel information see the article on the Arena Hotel in this Channel, we have a special deal with them.



Where to Stay for The Halloween Party

We have made arrangements with the hotel closest to Carla's (walking distance, I would guess about 100 yards) for a block of rooms at a reduced rate. The Arena Hotel (1-800-95HOTEL or 408-294-6500) located at 817 The Alameda in San Jose, is giving us $20 off their normal room rates if you tell them you are with the ETVC Halloween Party group. They are aware this is a Transgendered Event, so feel free to be whoever you want to be at the hotel. Nicole and Elvira (Nicole's Halloween persona) will most likely be seen in the restaurant at some point during the weekend.

The Arena Hotel describes itself as a Luxury Hotel, however the rates are not that bad. Our primary deal is for 2 queen beds (double occupancy) for $119. If you make reservations early you can get a king bed (single occupancy) for $109. Suites are also available. Some of the rooms have Jacuzzi bathtubs. All the rooms have refrigerators, TV's and CD players.

This block of rooms will remain available until October 10th, after that you are on your own. It is my understanding that this hotel does sell out on the weekends, due to it's prices and proximity to other San Jose venues and the Cal Train Station. So make your reservations early.

If the price is too much for you, try the Travel Lodge (408 295-0159). The Travel lodge is on the Alameda also, it is about 1 mile from Carla's and the prices are a little cheaper (but not by much). We do not have any deal with them so you are on your own if you go there.