Educational TV Channel ETVC

N E W S L E T T E R

VOLUME ELEVEN, NUMBER 6, MAY - JUNE, 1993

In Fashion and Out at ETVC

Hazel Bishop

ETVC's March Social saw the return of an old friend and her special brand of magic. Louise Carroll, of Continental Wigs, staged a wig show and makeover demonstration that changed an evening into an event.

Renowned as a makeover magician able to transform veritable beasts into beauties, Louise took on an oppositely difficult challange: How to make Lauren Hotchkiss look better. Which is like trying to touch up the Mona Lisa. Well, maybe not quite. Lauren is not afraid to show some teeth when she smiles. Undaunted, Louise worked like an artist on living canvas to metamorphose the merely beautiful Lauren into Lauren the dazzling.

Wig and fashion shows at ETVC usually stir the mystic chords of volunteerism; this night was no exception, as many of our more lovely members gave the last strut of devotion to demonstrating that hair, even if it is not one's own, can be - in the hands of Louise or her capable staff - any woman's crowning glory.

Following Louise's show, a great mistake was made: Somebody gave the microphone to Jane Kamper Bentley. It was unavoidable. It was nominations night, Ms. Bentley *is* the ETVC Secretary, and it is the secretary's job to conduct nominations. Ms. Bentley, whose verbosity, as well as her affinity for systems of sonant augmentation, is legendary, would not have disappointed her fans had any been in attendance. Under the unanimous urging of those who did attend, however, she managed to oversee the nomination for eight ETVC slots in discernibly less time than the average national political convention takes to nominate only two.

Louise Caroll, standing, Lauren Hotchkis, seated

Transsexuals in Transition and the State of California

The Impossible Dream, or There is Light Near the End of the Tunnel

Barbara Thomas

Ask yourself these questions:

- Have I been living in the opposite gender role over one year?
- Is my identification completely female, i.e., driver license, social security, etc.?
- Am I currently under the care of a *qualified* psychiatrist? Is my only issue that of moving back into the mainstream?
- Am I depressed about the whole situation?
- Can I get a prescription for the following (if they aren't complete already): Electrolysis, voice therapy? Your psychiatrist can provide you with this.
- Do I want to go back to school for retraining in hopes of a realistic job goal for my new life?

If you answered yes to *all six* of the above questions, guess what! The State of California Department of Rehabilitation can help. You can receive all the electrolysis and voice therapy from a qualified speech pathologist (I know of only two) that you need at no cost. Also, if you need to get training in a new field for employment, they will send you to school.

Sound good so far? It's all true!

There's only one catch: Rehab will play head games with you and will try to wear you down; but make no mistake, you are entitled to get all the things I mentioned - and more! The key word is "patience." We know that word.

Rehab's standard package for everyone is testing at a local job center to see what you know, then some kind of job placement, a small clothing allowance and a bus pass. But with transsexuals who are out of work, Rehab can help with the optional services I mentioned.

If you're real creative and can take the stress they put you through, you might get even more. I pretty well covered everything with them. My "want" list was pretty long. After their appeals process was used twice over a two year period, I settled for five off my list of nine. It was a major victory for transsexuals in California, as well as myself.

To help in my fight, Ray Pittsinger at the Client Assistance Program (C.A.P.), 1-800-427-1088, was invaluable. C.A.P. is subsidized by Rehab; talk about irony. You might call him before going to Rehab just to ask what your rights are. *Persistence and patience*, that's all it takes. The trail has been blazed. Good luck!

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 and classified ads, please write to: ETVC Secretary, PO Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486

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President	Cindy Martin
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Secretary	Jane Kamper Bentley
Treasurer	Nancy Ann Martine
Education	Martina Bloom & Evette LaRoqulaurie
Outreach	Lauren Hotchkiss & Telzey Adams
Social	Cheryl Sheppard & Pam Souza

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Membership (as of 3/31/93)	425
1992 Membership	416
New Members This Year	86

TREASURER'S REPORT

2/1/93 Balance	$4666.03
February Income	$612.00
February Expenses	$2369.55
2/28/93 Balance	**$2908.48**
March income	$ 835.49
March expenses	$ 851.47
3/31/93 Balance	**$2892.50**

The ETVC Newsletter is published the last week of February, April, June, August, October and December. Submissions should arrive at ETVC by the first day of each of these months. Contents reflect the opinions of the contributors and the editor, and are not necessarily those of ETVC. Other organizations may reprint or reproduce portions of the newsletter for their members, provided ETVC is acknowledged.

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	per issue	per year
Business Card	$20	$100
4" X 5"	$50	$250
8" X 5"	$125	$625
8" X 10"	$275	$1300

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

HOTLINE 510-549-2665

EDITOR'S NOTES

by Jane Kamper Bentley

S.P.I.C.E. stands for Spouses, Partners International Conference for Education, a convention by and for significant others to be held in Dallas July 8, 9, 10 (call Telzey at the Hotline for registration forms). The idea is laudable and overdue. But I have a problem: although husbands are invited to attend social functions (only), no crossdressing will be permitted. I can comprehend why the Women's Christian Temperance Union would prohibit liquor and the Ku Klux Klan would prohibit blacks from their meetings, but why would those who support crossdressers prohibit crossdressing? There may be a lot of reasons, but the message I get is that it is because crossdressing is shameful and should be hidden. The organizers of S.P.I.C.E. are true and credible supporters - and leaders - of our community, but in this instance I think they blundered. Most of the scared mice they hope to attract with this lamentable prohibition will stay in their holes anyway. I hope they improve their chances for a successful convention by revoking it...

You look like a woman. You sound like a woman. You pass to perfection. But do you *think* like a woman? Do you see the world with Bette Davis eyes or Chili Davis eyes?

Recently I read Deborah Tannen's best-seller, *You Just Don't Understand.* Women and men, according to Tannen, grow up so differently as to be inhabitants of separate cultures. Men tend toward conversation that is competitive, "report" talk (i.e., discussing facts, information, dealing in the impersonal, seeking to establish ascendancy) whereas women tend toward community-building, "rapport" talk (sharing problems, discussing spouses, children and other friends, seeking "symmetry"). Reading about these differences, I was surprised to realize just how opposite to women's thinking and conversation was my own - at least in relating to other men. I confirmed it with a simple self-administered test: first, I asked myself if I knew the names of my crossdressing friends' children. I did not. I then made a point of injecting questions about their children into our conversations. It was not easy, because I felt uncomfortably as though I was trespassing onto taboo territory, which was validated as they usually answered "fine," "yes," and "no." At last, though, I obtained the names and ages of their children, along with a few sparse facts, only now to have forgotten most of the names and remembered few of the facts.

I concluded my test by telling many of my women friends about the conversations with my male friends. They were not surprised (but then, women do seem to study men's behavior much more than the reverse). I had confirmed what they knew already.

You Just Don't Understand is available through the ETVC book library...

May 27 is Awards Night. The past couple of years the ExCom has bestowed fewer club awards on the theory that 1) giving out a lot of awards cheapens the value of all awards 2) long ceremonies are boring. Nevertheless, notice must be given to those who perform the regular, anonymous labors that make ETVC function. Therefore, I'm instituting my own award, the Golden Calf, to those who make the jobs of Secretary and Newsletter Editor not just easier but possible.

First on the list will always be Donna and Julie Freeman, who copy edit the newsletter, maintain the mailing list and know everybody and everything. Next, David Swanson for his lovely photographs; Geri and JoAnne Handa, who always help with the mailing; Ginny, wise, loving, formidable counselor and sometimes infuriating - and all-too-often correct - critic; all the contributors; Zia, Telzey and Nicky for help with the mailing; Kevin Anderson for his inspired layouts; Tom Zamont for his crisp printing; Cori Farrell, who is taking over advertising, and Cathy Dunne, who is taking over the mailing; lastly, my son, Chris, for patience with his father's involvement in "that girlie-man stuff." Thank you all. You will be glad to know that the Golden Calf is conceptual, an ideal unblemished by mere corporeality. We wouldn't want to traffic in idols...

Letters

Dear ETVC-

I was alone, I was unhappy but I had my dream always. It was very hard to live because I hated my life. Once I've said to myself: I must to change all my life. I was looking for information of my problem. I read a lot of medical articles and finally I've understood that I'm TS. I change and it's my choice. There are many pre- and post-op TS in Russia. But our country is not in a position to help us completely. I don't complain, I just need advice. We Russian TS would like to join and to organize our association. It's very difficult. What can we do? I hope to find a solution. I'm waiting for response of our friends abroad.

Eugene,
Russian TS

A reply has been sent, along with some ETVC material, to Eugene. We will let you know when an answer is received. -Ed

Editor-

I was pleasantly surprised to see my poem ("Woman Surrounds Me") in the last (March - April) newsletter. It was kind of a jolt.

I want to give a standing ovation to Luanna Rodgers and her article, "Is There a Man in Your Life?", which gave words to many of the unexpressed feelings and thoughts I've had regarding crossdressing. I've believed all along that the real question for crossdressers in general is not whether we want to be women, but rather, how can crossdressing help us to understand ourselves as men, and maybe help us be better humans.

I'm beginning to think that one of the most - if not the most - frightening aspect of "coming out" was the fear that my identity as a man would be overwhelmed by the femme inside of me. In the past few months I've been able to wash out some of the deformities of my social conditioning. What I've realized is that I really like myself. I have, as Luanna suggested, found "qualities about [myself] as a man that [I] like and appreciate."

Crossdressing remains interesting to me, and the idea of it is appealing to me. But I have refrained from acting out. This causes me no frustration and I don't feel inhibited by society. I could crossdress if I wanted to but I don't. Largely because I am of the opinion that just because something feels good or right doesn't necessarily mean that it should be done. I am not interested in the question of the "rightness" and "wrongness" of crossdressing, but rather in the tension (not tension in the sense of unhealthy stress, but rather in the dynamic of being in the midst of two polar opposites) created by the desire.

When I am struck by this desire to crossdress, I merely sit down and meditate on it, observe the fantasy - play with it - consider it, caress it and try to see what is at the fundamental root of it. What is going on in my life that sought out this fantasy? What is my state of mind? More often than not, it's a retreat from something - an escape. And like all desires and feelings, it subsides. I make no attempt to suppress anything. I try to honor my feelings and perceived needs but I do not try to hold onto them.

Sincerely,
Michael

President's Message

At the strong urging of the Congress of Transgender Organizations, a group which represents all major transgender groups, the International Federation for Gender Education has now endorsed ETVC's National Transgender Anti-defamation Project. This means that communications from Roxanne de Lyon, who directs the anti-defamation project, now can fairly claim to have the backing of IFGE and CTO. We plan to put that on our letterhead.

The Congress is also setting up a new computer bulletin board system to facilitate better communications between organizations. When that number is available it will be posted here in the newsletter.

A civil rights bill is pending in Congress that would ban discrimination based on sexual orientation in housing and jobs. Our community wants the "gay rights" bill, known as H.R. 431 to also include phrasing to end discrimination on the basis of GENDER IDENTITY. Letters should be sent to congressman and Senators asking them to support language ending discrimination against transgender people.

By the time you receive this the San Francisco Human Rights Commission should have begun hearings on expanding to transgender people the protections of city ordinances that now shield gays and lesbians from housing, jobs and public accommodation discrimination. ETVC backs this proposal. Your support is very important though. Express it in a letter to:

Larry Brinken
San Francisco Human Rights Commission
25 Van Ness, Suite 800
San Francisco, CA 94102.

IFGE Convention Report March '93

Roxanne de Lyon

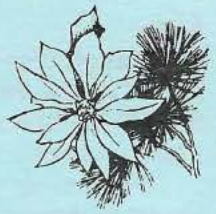
This gathering had possibly the stormiest beginning ever. The mother of all blizzards blanketed the area just before we arrived. Philadelphia cabbies go home when it snows, so local citizens were providing taxi service.

The first order of business at the opening Board meeting was the resignation of the primary candidate for Chair. This surprise kindled a week of healthy discussions and maneuvering in the corridors, dining rooms and lobbies. With Linda Buten and Sharon Ann Stewart as new Chair and Vice Chair, the enriched and revivified Board responded powerfully. Winnie Brandt and Holly Boswell's affirmations as Nominations and Awards, and Publications Committee Chairs respectively, opened the way for major involvement in IFGE by other than Board members, and any suspicions of a good ol gurl network were diffused. Sharon Ann also replaces Naomi Owen as Chair of the Legal and By-laws committee. Finally your very own Roxanne agreed to take the helm of the Educational Resources Committee, and will also be a member of the newly formed Strategic Planning Committee ably chaired by Laura Caldwell. We owe a great deal of gratitude to Naomi, Ellen Summers, Eve Burchert, Nancy Cole and Wendi Pierce for the untiring devotion that has brought IFGE to its present state of strength and cohesiveness.

In recognizing that much has changed since the inception of IFGE, both within the organization and outside, in the un-real

...See "I.F.G.E. Report Cont". Page 14

Special Events



Feminine Attitudes
Wednesday, May 19

Feminine Image Consultant Wilhelmina M. Beins will talk about bringing our most feminine selves from the inside out. "Yes, I start with make-up and clothing," says Ms. Beins, "but they are only a beginning. " Real femininity comes from within. Like the sudden release of music from a violin, "a switch happens when you touch a really feminine chord." Come, meet Wilhelmina, and perhaps a new and wonderful part of yourself, as well. Chez Mollet. $3.

Wigged Out - An AIDS Benefit
Sunday, May 23

Shawna Rose, Miss ETVC 1993, has made the fight against AIDS a top priority. Along with Rosalie's New Looks, she will present two (6 PM and 8:30 PM) two hour shows, featuring 15 models (including ETVC's Zia, Alexis, Terri Ann and Miss ETVC herself) and entertainers (such as stunning Cotillion star, Eva Davis) - plus a surprise! - at the Plush Room in the York Hotel, 950 Sutter Street (between Leavenworth and Hyde). All profits will be donated to fight AIDS. The show will be taped for a later showing on Channel 25's Trauma TV. Call (415) 397-6246. Tickets $10.

Wild West Election Night
Thursday, May 27

City Dudes and Dudettes, put on those Western Duds and saunter down to the Chez for a night of election fun...western style. Will the Wig Party whup the Gender Benders? Or will them Gals in Pants lasso a majority? You can see and hear the candidates for ETVC club officers spin their yarns, then it's up to you to decide who to vote for. Don't miss the fun or the suspense as the votes are counted. Come on down now, ya' hear? This social is FREE to members. Guests, $5.

LILY'S

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Significant Others Speak Out
Saturday, June 19

The Significant Other Support Group steps forward to answer your questions. This panel discussion will be headed by ETVC Newsletter columnist Julie Freeman. If you are the significant other of a transgendered person, or are just interested to hear what the "other side" thinks, then come to this lively presentation. Call (415) 664-1499 for location. $3.

Rrrrreally Big Shew Three
Thursday, June 24

The stars of ETVC will shine in June, when The Rrrreally Big Shew Three presents an evening of June Nights, Moon Light and You. Enjoy a night of songs for the heart, a laugh or two, and be surprised as the "Never Have Been, and Never Will Be, Ready for Prime Time Players" make their trip across the footlights. Members, $5. Guests, $8. $1 from each entry feel will go to a worthy charity.

Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day
Sunday, June 27

There you are, in sequins and tennis shoes, getting read by millions - and you *love* it. You ain't nuts, you're marching with ETVC down the middle of Market Street in the Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day Parade. Now you've volunteered to help at the Imperial Court beer booth. Now you're at the ETVC booth, passing out literature to a tourist with a camcorder followed by a woman dressed only in tattoos. Now you're home, looking at yourself proudly in the mirror, saying "I did it!" Do it. To volunteer, call the ETVC Hotline: (510) 549-2665.

TV/TS/TG GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

A Calendar of Events for May & June

MAY

1	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
4	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 849-4112
5	**ETVC**	**Social Committee**	**Meets at 7:30 PM**	**Chez Mollet**	**(415) 731-7032**
5	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
8	**ETVC**	**Poker Social**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**San Francisco**	**(415) 664-1499**
8	South Bay	Gender Discussion Group	Meets 8-10 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-5619
8	**ETVC**	**Executive Committee**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**San Francisco**	**(415) 750-1850**
13	**ETVC**	**Significant Others**	**Meets 7:30-10 PM**	**San Francisco**	**(415) 664-1499**
15	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
17	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 849-4112
19	**ETVC**	**Outreach Committee**	**Meets at 7PM**	**Chez Mollet**	**(510) 849-1112**
19	**ETVC**	**Education Committee**	**Meets at 7 PM**	**San Francisco**	**(408) 984-5619**
19	**ETVC**	**Wilhelmina M. Beins**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Lily's**	**(408) 984-5619**
19	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
20	**ETVC**	**Couples Social**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**San Jose**	**(415) 664-1499**
22	SGA	Dinner/Social	Starts at 8 PM	Sacramento	(916) 482-7SGA
23	....	AIDS Benefit	Shows at 6 & 8:30 PM	Plush Room, S.F.	(415) 397-6246
26	**ETVC**	**Decoration Party**	**Meets 7:30 PM**	**Chez Mollet**	**(415) 731-7032**
27	**ETVC**	**ELECTION NIGHT**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Chez Mollet**	**(415) 731-7032**
28	Pac Ctr	Open Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
28	RGA	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	Sunnyvale	(408) 732-7406

JUNE

1	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 849-4112
2	**ETVC**	**Social Committee**	**Meets 7:30 PM**	**Chez Mollet**	**(415) 731-7032**
2	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
4	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
5	**ETVC**	**Executive Committee**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Montara**	**(415) 750-1850**
9	**ETVC**	**Outreach Committee**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Chez Mollet**	**(510) 849-4112**
10	**ETVC**	**Significant Others**	**Meets 7:30-10 PM**	**Pleasant Hill**	**(415) 664-1499**
11	**ETVC**	**Poker Social**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**San Francisco**	**(415) 664-1499**
11	South Bay	Gender Discussion Group	Meets 8-10 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-5619
13	....	Rosalie's Fiesta Social	Starts 2 PM	San Francisco	(415) 397-6246
16	**ETVC**	**Education Committee**	**Meets at 8:30PM**	**Chez**	**(408) 984-5619**
16	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
17	**ETVC**	**Couples Social**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**San Francisco**	**(415) 664-1499**
18	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
19	**ETVC**	**Significant Others**	**Starts at 2 PM**	**TBA**	**(415) 664-1499**
21	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 849-4112
23	**ETVC**	**Decoration Party**	**Meets 7:30 PM**	**Chez Mollet**	**(415) 731-7032**
24	**ETVC**	**RRRREALLY BIG SHEW**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Chez Mollet**	**(415) 731-7032**
25	RGA	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	Sunnyvale	(408) 732-7406
26	SGA	Dinner/Social	Starts at 8 PM	Sacramento	(916) 482-7SGA
27	....	Gay Freedom Day	10 AM to 5 PM	San Francisco	(510) 549-2665
30	Pac Ctr	Open Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224

OTHER GROUPS

Pacific Center for Human Growth, a counseling-oriented growth center, sponsors all-inclusive gender support groups on the 1st and 3rd Wendesdays, and last Friday of the month at 8:00 PM. 2712 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley. Call: (510) 841-6224.

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

Sacramento Gender Association (SGA) Blue Rose Chapter meets 8 PM the 4th Saturday of each month at Town& Country Inn restaurant 2061 Auburn Blvd, Sacramento; 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 Crek. Write: DVG, PO Box 272885, Concord, CA 94527-2885. Call: (510) 849-4112.

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 Januay 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

All Transsexuals Are Not Alike

James Green

This article first appeared in Rites of Passage *Newsletter*

I have many MTF friends, and we've often joked about how we feel like ships passing in the night on our journeys to the opposite ends of the gender spectrum. And wouldn't it be great if we could just pair up for our surgeries and exchange body parts, ho ho ho. But I have lately come to realize how wide is the gulf between our navies.

I think this gulf is composed of our socialization and our very human propensity for judging the experience of others through the veil of our own experience. Now I'm going to try to explicate this theory. I realize I'm going to make some gross generalizations about you and about me in order to do this explication, and I beg your indulgence and forgiveness in advance. I'm going to repeat some generalizations that I've heard MTFs say about FTMs. Please remember I'm talking about MTFs and FTMs as classes, and not referring to specific individuals to whom generalizations may not apply. My goal is to broaden our collective thinking, not to divide us.

Generalization #1: "FTMs have it easier because it's socially acceptable for them to wear men's clothes before and during transition." On the surface this is true. However, what looks like women's privilege has its drawbacks for FTMs. As both transsexual and non-transsexual women can attest, there is as much social pressure to maintain femininity as there is for anatomic males to maintain the masculine pride of the men around them. And any woman who expressed her masculine side as a girl will confirm that there is always a point at which "tomboy" behavior is also ridiculed and forbidden. The fact that women are socially permitted to wear men's clothes (to varying degrees) serves to render female-to-male transsexuals (and some crossdressers) invisible. Ultimately this invisibility makes understanding and self-acceptance more difficult for the FTM because his desire to express himself as a man is confused with lesbian-feminist and/or androgynist politics. And in a milieu where masculine appearance is praised while masculine behavior and feelings are ridiculed, the mixed message works to drive feelings underground.

Generalization #2: "MTFs have to adjust to taking lower paying jobs, while FTMs can look forward to better employment opportunities." I was stunned when I heard this one. Most FTMs are just not prepared to become captains of industry. Also, many FTMs go through periods of unemployment and career redirection during and after transition. If their transsexualism is known, FTMs are subject to the same prejudicial treatment as MTFs. Jobs are gender-typed; this applies no less to pink-collar jobs and white-collar jobs than to blue-collar jobs. There are male and female management styles, as well as male and female communication styles. Taking hormones doesn't immediately change your socialization. Male socialization is often more successful in corporations where people are expected to be aggressive and competitive. People who are not raised to play male hierarchy games often unconsciously put out the signal that "I'm #2." Often the very skill which made a pre-transition FTM successful in business - qualities like cooperativeness, enthusiasm, a "can-do" attitude - will work against him as others begin to relate to him as a man, interpreting him as weak and lacking leadership skills. There is also the education factor: men who grew up as women in the 60's and 70's were not uniformly steered toward occupations in which they could find later success as men.

Generalization #3: "All FTMs want is a big dick." Most men, whether they become soldiers, psychologist, or surgeons, have learned that one of the results of failure in male socialization is to be called a woman or a girl, to have it said about him that he has no balls. As we post-ops know, genitals are certifiers of gender, but they are not the center of it; therefore I was very surprised to hear an MTF reducing FTM motivation to its lowest common denominator. Sure, most FTMs have accepted the sexual symbology of the penis, and would love to have a good-sized one that worked perfectly, but we are aware of the limitations of surgery and aware of our masculinity in a deeper, more spiritual way. I am dismayed that whenever I read about TSs in mainstream publications there seems to be a fascination with genitalia and a lack of interest in the social construction of gender. Our process is largely concerned with the social ramifications of our actions: relationships to family, lovers, friends, employers, the mechanics of changing identification papers, medical records, employment history, dealing with how out-of-the-closet to be at any given time, dealing with being "read" or "clocked," these are the on-going issues of our lives. Surgery is only a step along the way, albeit a giant step; but once that step is behind us there's a big world out there, and now our challenge is to live in it. What's in my pants is on my mind a small percentage of the time. Okay, sure, when it's time for sex my cock is the center of the universe for a little while. But it doesn't govern my life, nor has any FTM I know given his penis (or his desire for one) that much credit for making him a man. Many FTMs, in fact, lead very happy lives without having any genital surgery. Not having a big penis, or any penis at all, does not prohibit us from having relationships and pleasuring our partners.

The phrase "ships passing in the night" refers to the phenomenon of being aware that you are not alone. We are all individuals on a similar journey of self-discovery and creation. We are not mirror images of each other, and we do not covet each other's sloughed-off organs and rejected hairstyles. We have much to offer each other and we need to learn more about each other. We need to be able to stand together when the non-transsexual world oppresses us. And we need to be able to recognize and respect each other's genuine differences.

James Green is director of San Francisco FTM Group, which is the largest and oldest continuously active support group for female-to-male crossdressers and transsexuals.

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Ask Dr. Lin

Dr. Lin Fraser

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

Question: Last issue, you referred to several "archetypal patterns." What is an archetype?

You asked one of the most difficult questions you can ask a Jungian. It's not something that is easy to define in a very linear, concrete way. You can never see an archetype, you can only see an archetypal pattern - what happens when it is potentiated, or realized. Jung explains it by using the idea of a crystal, because crystals take many different forms, and what causes a particular crystal to form a certain way is the archetype, the crystal being the archetypal pattern.

In Jungian theory, archetypes are universal patterns or motifs which come from the collective unconscious and are the basic contents of religions, mythologies, legends and fairy tales. Jean Shinoda Bolen in her books *Goddesses in Everywoman* and *Gods in Everyman*, talking primarily about Western behavior, uses the Olympians - the gods and goddesses from Greek mythology - as different patterns of ways of being that people live out.

Q. If we were to derive our archetypal gods from modern mythological figures, one of them might be called a John Wayne-type.

If a person had an archetypal pattern of John Wayne, and lived in this culture, he would have no problem, because his archetypal pattern and the stereotype of this particular culture meshed. But for a lot of us, our unique archetypal patterns, or temperament, don't fit our particular culture. What I do with clients who have patterns like this, such as most transgendered people, is we start looking in other cultures. It is often healing to know that in other cultures, other times and places, living out one's own unique patterns was acceptable. It doesn't necessarily satisfy the problem of living in this culture, but at least you're not feeling for all times and all places, "I am weird."

Q. What is an anima?

In Jungian theory, the anima is the contra-sexual side of the born male if the ego is male. In most heterosexual males (which is all that Jung writes about), a man experiences his anima in projected form. It is projected on his lover, and through her comes his muse, creativity, the falling in love experience.

What I believe happens with the crossdresser is that he falls in love with this own anima. Instead of projecting it out, he has an inner experience, and that's why it's so compelling. It's like falling in love. Truly, it's a rapturous experience. And that's why he needs a mirror lots of times. Other forms of gender dysphoria are much more straightforward and do not have the different intra-psychic stuff going on.

Q: Can you tell me briefly about a couple of them?

Dr. Lin: There's *Primary Transsexualism*: The person starts out feeling that they're not-boy. They don't feel that they're girl. They just feel confused. And because they don't have a strong sense of "who I am" when they're little, they often don't develop a well-defined sexual orientation, either. They've learned maybe in teen-age years about transsexualism, and there's an, "Aha! That's who I am." And it never changes. Their female side is hidden behind the masculine persona. They seem like guys, but guys who don't have a lot of enthusiasm and spontaneity for life. As the female side comes out, then they are much happier and they develop more of a sexual orientation, too.

The other group is called *Transsexualism Secondary to Homosexuality*. There's no potentially healthy male side with them, either. They start out very effeminate. They qualify for what's called "boyhood gender identity disorder." They say from an early age, "I'm a girl," or, "I want to be a girl." When their sexual orientation develops it's only toward boys. They're on the extreme effeminate end of homosexuality. When they start living in the female gender it just looks very appropriate, because they always seemed like girls. We say that their transsexualism is secondary to homosexuality because a lot of boys who grow up this way turn out to be effeminate homosexuals. A few turn out to be transsexuals and have the least problems of anybody, because they seem like women from the get-go.

Treatment for these two groups that have one stable female identity is some variation of hormones and sex reassignment surgery and supportive psychotherapy. Treatment for those who have both a potentially healthy male and/or female side involves a lot of different phases. What we're helping them do is to get some equilibrium between both sides of the personality so that they're stable and they're not battling one another.

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

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Gender as Relationship: A New Theory of Gender

Luanna Rodgers

As does any professional, I attend workshops and seminars related to my area of specialty as often as possible to update my ideas and find offerings that may assist my clients. I was very pleasantly surprised when I recently (3/93) attended the reading and discussion of Annie Sweetnam's doctoral thesis, titled "Gender as Relationship"* at the University of California, San Francisco. The blurb introducing this lecture noted that "Gender has been conceptualized in the traditional psychoanalytic literature as being based on the awareness of difference with the other sex. More recent feminist work has stressed the idea that identification with the same sex forms the basis of gender development. Using British object relations theory, our presenter will explore the notion of gender as the *relationship* between difference and sameness." Well, this description is quite enough to put off all but the most ardent gender scholar! What I found, however, was a "kinder, gentler" theory of gender applicable to cross-gender identities:

Gender identity, rather than fixed and unchanging once achieved, is seen as shifting and changing throughout the lifetime of *any person*, including those who are not crossdressers, transsexuals, or transgenderists. The implication of this is toward non-pathologizing the kind of gender variation shifts that occur in most people with cross-gender feelings and behaviors. Fluctuation between feeling "more masculine" or "more feminine" is seen as occurring throughout the general population and is affected by our life experiences and cultural milieu. I wish you could all have had the experience of being in a room full of women (all the lecture attendees were female) who were comparing notes by saying, "Yes, I feel more feminine in relation to one person than another...He brings out my feminine feelings...She brings out my masculine feelings - so do certain activities, situations, even clothing." Sounds familiar, huh?

Gender identity consists of *the relationship between* masculine and feminine. It takes aspects of both maleness and femaleness within a person for them to perceive and evaluate their subjective experience as "masculine" or "feminine." Without one, there is no way to experience the other. We *all* have aspects of both the masculine and feminine. The emphasis of either changes and shifts over time depending on our experiences, who we are relating to, and what our cultural background and current environment is.

At transition points in our life, such as puberty and mid-life (or perhaps gender transition) we may need to feel firmly fixed in one gender role and experience. An optimal goal for *any* person, however, is the integration of what is generally conceptualized as "masculine" and "feminine." Enjoy hiking, mechanics, party dresses and being nurturing in relationships! Why not? We are *all* complex individuals. Why disown part of our potential?

Given that this model of gender assumes (1) the coexistence of masculine and feminine attributes within each individual as healthy, and that (2) shifts occur for each individual between experiencing themselves as "more masculine" and "more feminine," *the experience of creativity and play in the area of gender is seen as self-actualizing*. Experiencing a range of gender potential is seen as a positive and healthy part of being human. So feel free to enjoy your individual expressions of gender. Slowly, psychology is catching up to what you have known feels right all along.

* "Gender as Relationship," a paper and lecture by Annie Sweetnam, Ph.D., delivered March 27, 1993 at the University of California, S.F., summarizing her doctoral thesis. Annie Sweetnam currently teaches at JFK University and supervises at the JFK Counseling Center.

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

Cindy At Large

Cindy Martin

A film about the life and times of the late transvestite film director, Edward Wood Jr., is apparently in production and will star Johnny Depp, according to a report by Linda Phillips in Gender Euphoria, the newsletter of San Antonio's Boulton and Park Society. Wood has been called the worst film maker of all time.

His "classic" is 1953's Glen or Glenda, a movie in which he STARS as a crossdresser struggling to tell his fiancée why he is so very interested in her Angora sweater. This picture was a heartfelt, though inept, attempt at trying to explain to the public who we are and it does work on most levels. Except for the Bela Lugosi scenes in the scary castle. Don't ask.

Ed Wood died way too young. He never reached 60, but he went out like true transvestite: with his high heels on while watching a football game.

GREAT PRESS for us lately. Major newspapers have been carrying stories for months about how prominent designers are using transvestites as top models on their runways. "The Crying Game" is a gigantic success in theaters. RuPaul has a huge dance hit and Lypsinka is becoming a household word.

Best of all, it isn't just our stars (and RuPaul and Lypsinka are OUR stars) who are getting positive attention. In mid-March the Washington Post had a lengthy story in which many of our community's political leaders were quoted alongside the well-known theatrical types. In late March, during the IFGE convention in Philadelphia, there were articles in both major daily papers. Both were quite good, particularly the Sunday Philadelphia Inquirer story that featured our own Roxanne de Lyon.

My favorite line in the story was from a man who was waiting for his wife in the lobby of the convention's hotel. Asked by the reporter if he noticed anything different about the people around him he said: "Just a lot of ugly women walking around."

ADD CONVENTION: An attendee made the observation that computer people are to the transgender community what florists are to the gay community.

SOME LIKE IT HOT villain and famous filmdom hard guy George Raft could be yet another name on Cindy's illustrious list of famous people with more than a passing relationship to girls like us.

Can't libel the dead, so here's the poop: in a recent New York Times article about the revival of "The Queen," 1968's film about a New York drag competition, the show producer says that Raft was picked as a judge for the contest, not because he was a movie star, but because of his connections to the drag community. The producer didn't elaborate but he left the strong impression that Raft's connection may have been very close.

CONGRATULATIONS to San Francisco's new Empress Jackie Reynolds and Emperor David Nyberg. Empress XXVIII Velveeta "The Grate" Mozzarella and Emperor XX Douglass Stromberg hosted a lively, fun show that was one of the better coronations I've attended. My favorite moment was when Velveeta's mom was called up to the stage. It was particularly touching that she happened to have brought a slice of pizza for her son/daughter.

A REGIONAL COALITION has been formed by the Powder Puffs of California (formerly the Powder Puffs of Orange County) and Neutral Corner of San Diego. The combined groups have 200 members and plan to coordinate activities. Of note: both groups charge $30 annual membership and more than $12 per meeting. ETVC charges $20 annual membership and usually has a $3 meeting fee for members. We ARE a deal.

PINK SLIP, the newsletter of a Tri-Ess group in Charlotte, North Carolina surveyed students in a class at UNC Charlotte and found that 79 percent of the females said they would go out in public with a TV who passed as female but only 36% of the men said they would be seen with a passable TV.

ADD SURVEYS: In a recent column, Dr. Joyce Brothers reports that a survey found that 40 percent of "relatively average" males said yes when asked if they ever wanted to wear women's clothing. Unfortunately, Dr. Brothers never mentions who did this survey. Take it with a grain.

FAKE BOOB tip: Article in aforementioned Gender Euphoria recommends using thick hair conditioner (not shampoo) as boob fill. Put stuff in plastic bag, tie off bag and slip it into foot section of cutoff panty hose. Best part is that if things go wrong and it explodes you'll have wonderfully manageable chest hair.

The Closet Parade

Thalia Gravel

When we think of where the so-called gender community is today, we can usually conjure up images that are roughly analogous to the bad old days of pre-Stonewall gay America. The closet is the way of life for all but the most outrageous or the most absolutely conventional (read: passable). We may be seeing a bit of an opening here and there in the major barriers to acceptance but, on the whole, we are not going to see a gender parade on Market Street for a few decades, if ever.

What I'm proposing to fill this void is a closet parade; a way of visualizing our event. We pick a day that most likely would have good weather - not too hot to melt the make-up or raise a sweat in those wool suits, and not too cold to produce goosebumps on those miniskirted thighs or other exposed flesh (you imagine it). Then we announce that on that day each of us will be part of the parade that won't take place but will be there in our collective mind.

Who gets to lead (and name) contingents? Every participant does, in keeping with the mass-appeal character of the event. Think of what aspect of genderland you would march for. Would you be with the lesbian-identified bisexual transgenderists for abortion rights? Or would you like to add to the number of drag queens of color with partners who are persons with AIDS? This is serious stuff. I think everyone needs to examine which issues are the most important to him/her, and, in a sense, vote with their conceptualized parade presence. I suppose at this time, until we get enough marchers, you could march with several groups.

What would the parade you envision look like? Who gets to be the first contingent? What's the theme? Why not imagine Mayor Frank Jordan on the reviewing stand giving the king, queen and assorted others of rank (First Berdache? Exalted Androgyne?) a fond wave and the key to the city? Okay, it could get pretty hokey pretty fast, but, if you don't dream, nothing's going to happen.

Remember, all entries must be in by February 31st.

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 on Thursday, May 13, and Thursday, June 10. You are all welcome with open arms. For more information call Ginny at (415)[redacted]

Wives of Crossdressers

Julie Freeman

Donna and I attended our first Texas T Party a few weeks ago in San Antonio. The presenters of this conference, including Teri Fredrickson and Cynthia and Linda Phillips, among others, went to a great deal of effort to present a very thoughtful and unique event for the participants. It was great to renew our friendships with Peggy and Melanie Rudd, Virginia Prince, and Jane Ellen and Frances Fairfax. There were many wives at their first gender conference, and there were CD's out for the first time. Many of us significant others attended special presentations for wives and partners' issues which were educational and rewarding.

Of particular interest to me was a presentation by Dr. George Brown on the wives and partners of CD's. Dr. Brown has surveyed 106 wives and partners of CD's over the past six years and combined his findings into a study to be presented to psychiatrists in San Francisco in May. His desire is to help educate helping professionals as to the true nature of wives and to dispel many of the myths surrounding women who find themselves in a relationship with a crossdresser (i.e. low self-esteem, latent lesbianism, etc.) According to Dr. Brown's study:

The "modal" female partner was a 40-year-old Protestant, Caucasian woman in her first marriage who was a firstborn child. She was more likely than other women her age to be childless and have earned at least a two-year college degree. She was no more likely to have had lesbian experience or substance use problems than comparably-aged American women. She had been married to her crossdressing mate for 13 years and had known of his activities for 9 years.

A quarter of women reported at least occasional sexual arousal to their mate's crossdressing. The two variables associated with low acceptance of crossdressing were discovery of their partner's crossdressing after marriage and lack of sexual arousal to crossdressing stimuli. Low acceptance was unrelated to first-born status, amount of exposure to crossdressing activities, or having had children. This group may be more representative of women in relationships with crossdressing men than previous reports limited to crossdressers and spouses who are in treatment.

He also discussed the problems and fears that crossdressing brings to a relationship: the secrecy involved, fear of hormones, how to deal with the children, the money and time involved, etc. Most surveyed do not believe their spouse will seek SRS; most did not seek professional treatment, and only 2% still believe that crossdressing can be cured.

In his conclusion, Dr. Brown remarks that "one is struck by the tenacity and longevity of these unconventional relationships and the fact that over two-thirds of the women never seriously considered divorce or separation because of their partner's crossdressing (in spite of receiving strong advice from family and/or friends to do so)."

Dr. Brown's comment about many wives and partners being firstborn siblings was significant because at a seminar for SO's which I had attended earlier, we discovered that the vast majority of those of us attending were firstborn. Being firstborn in our culture has been associated with a number of characteristics, including higher educational and occupational achievement. This factor should give all of us food for thought. Are crossdressers attracted to women who have the characteristics of firstborn siblings? Are women who are firstborn siblings attracted to men who have the characteristics of men who may be crossdressers?

When Dr. Brown's presents his findings to the psychiatric community that wives and partners of crossdressers are basically everyday, regular folk with normal concerns, I believe both the wives and the crossdressers will benefit.

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Letting Go

Lauren René Hotchkiss

!st of two parts...

In several of my articles over the last 2-1/2 years or so, I've spoken about the need to maintain the communication within a relationship; particularly in regard to gender issues. Though this is a positive goal, there may come a time in some relationships when it does not work, and its time to face letting go.

I've been through it myself, and although my journalistic essays have been cathartic, nowhere are my feelings and process more clear and succinctly stated than in my poetry and songwriting.

Letting go has various stages which are often experienced on the road to resolution, and range from anger, sadness, and denial, to acceptance and at last, forgiveness.

Here are three poems, later songs, which chronicle the stages as I went through them. In 1990, right after my separation from my wife, I was still very much in the anger stage. Angry at my ex-wife for daring to do this to *me*. Angry at the person that she had left me for. And though I didn't realize it then, angry at myself for my own lack of awareness.

Get Out of My Heart

©1990 by Lauren René Hotchkiss

Verse 1:

Don't even start, haven't you done enough
I don't want to hear anything you have to say
The past is dead, it's all over now
But still I can't close my eyes and make it go away.

Chorus:

Get out of my heart, why don't you let me free
How long do I have to carry 'round this pain in me
Get out of my heart, let me get on with my life
Every time I think of you it's just another twist of the knife

Verse 2:

Can't get you out of my mind,
here come the tears again
As I think of you with the guy I thought was a friend
The things you've done, I just can't understand
Lying in the dark, I'm praying once again

(CHORUS)

V3.

Another yesterday, won't tomorrow ever come
Again and again and again I see the same old scenes
And the pain, that seem like it will never end
Building up inside, until I want to scream

(CHORUS)

tag.

Every time I think of you it's just another twist of the knife

...To be continued next issue in Part 2

ETVC at the San Francisco Coronation

Seated (l-r) ETVC President Cindy Martin, Miss ETVC Shawna Rose, Telzey Adams. Standing (l r) Pamela Souza, Paul (of TGIC, Albany, NY), Nancy Ann Martine, Stacy, Cathy Dunne, J.K. Bentley, Cori Farrell, Cheryl Sheppard.

Here we are at the Imperial Court Coronation on February 20. But not all of us. Lost Girl Kristin St. James, her gorgeous date, Deanna Patrice (a REAL woman) and Deann Parkinson got lost and were late. I can't think why we didn't get a photo of somebody as lovely as Lana Marsh. Regrettably too late for a photo-op, we met Veronica Smith and her spouse, Juana Martina Smith (another REAL woman...with a magazine cover smile).

Recent additions to the ETVC Library Catalog:

Book Lending Library:

IDNo.	Title/Author
B-088	Wives, Parners and Others Living With Crossdressing - Dickson, Jane & Diane
B-089	Understanding Crossdressing Prince, Virginia
B-090	How to Be a Woman Though Male - Prince, Virginia
B-091	Feelings: The Story of a Transsexual - Stephanie Castle
B-092	Never Buy Anything New Except This Book: A Guide to Second Hand, Thrift & Consignment Stores in the Bay Area - Akers, Charlene
B-093	The Man Maid Doll Patricia Morgan
B-094	Stone Butch Blues: An FTM Novel Leslie Feinberg

Video Library

(uncopyrighted tapes are for sale only, @ $10.00 each 2 hrs.)

V -ETVC-16	1993 Miss ETVC Cotillion ($10)

Audio Tape Library

(audio tapes are for sale only, @ $4.00 each)

ACT XI 1/16/93	Publicly Speaking - Roxanne de Lyon
ACT XII 2/6/93	Taxing Questions - Sandy Kasten & Jano Bogg
ACT XIII 2/93	Marjorie Garber, author of Vested Interest, in a 60 min. inter view by Ann Fraser of KGO.

Please order by Media Type (e.g., "Book") ID Number, Author & Title. Catalogs have order blanks for you to photo-copy, and are available by mail for $1.00 to cover postage & handling or at ETVC end-of-the-month socials.

Dianne Summers New VP

On March 25, members of ETVC's monthly social elected Dianne Summers to serve out the unexpired term of resigned Vice President Rusty Levis.

Many thanks to Rusty for her efforts, and warm congratulations to Dianne.

The New Woman

Will I Have an Orgasm?

Lucy Ann Jones

After going through one and a half years of female hormone therapy, I was asking myself about having an orgasm after my male-to-female sex reassignment surgery.

I remember attending a Friday night meeting at Berkeley's Pacific Center. Dr. Falces of San Francisco presented a slide show of male-to-female and female-to-male sex reassignment surgeries. Asked about sensitivity after the trauma of surgery, he stated that about one-third of his M2F patients did not achieve orgasms post-op, which is about the same for the population of genetic women; and F2M patients become essentially as responsive with orgasms as before, or even more so. An important factor is how sexually active and responsive the patients were before sex reassignment. All people use fantasies and gender roles in order to have a happy, fulfilling sex life. Those ideas used before hormone therapy has begun, learned during hormone therapy and cross-living, and continued after sex change surgery, will help the patient succeed toward orgasmic sex.

My psychologist during my cross-living was the late Dr. Paul A. Walker, then director of the Janus Foundation, a non-profit clearing house of gender related information for providers and patients alike. He said to try everything, to experiment and hopefully have fun during gender transition. He gave this advice before the epidemic of the HIV virus causing AIDS, which tragically ended his own life almost two years ago.

Sufficient hormone therapy during a two-year period of cross-living properly prepares the patient for the sex change. Female hormones cause "chemical castration," with the testicles atrophying and shrinking to the size of peanuts.

There are three different techniques, or models, used by surgeons who perform the male-to-female sex reassignment:

1) Castration alone, which leaves scar tissue, making the vagina-plasty more difficult for a future date.

2) Penal Inversion, the most popular model, uses the penis itself to form the vagina. No additional tissue is needed, as the scrotum is used for the lips of the vagina-plasty. If the patient's penis is too short, a skin graft from the hip or butt is added to the end of the penal tissue. If you were circumcised, you have already lost a precious inch.

3) Rectal Sigmoid Transfer, the "Rolls Royce" model, uses a colon transplant to augment the penal tissue, and also provides lubrication, but costs a small fortune. For all techniques, the prostate gland and its nerves remain intact, even though it atrophies; in addition, the gland is the trigger to the orgasm, which starts in the vagina-plasty and often spreads to the rest of your body, pulsating with every heartbeat.

I was fortunate to have about six to seven inches of penal tissue, even though my parents had me circumcised as a baby. The form, or dildo, that is used to dilate and lubricate the new vagina is six inches long and about one inch wide. Recent post-op M2Fs dilate several times per day at first. After six months or so, dilating twice per week is sufficient.

I tell my close friends that there are three phases all of us pass through over and over in life: learning, doing, and teaching. I had needed twenty minutes to reach my old penal orgasm. So I was patient with my new toy. Six weeks after my sex change I reached my new orgasm in forty minutes - not just between my legs - but also over my whole body! I was tired, sore, but very, very happy!

Lucy Ann Jones is self-employed in Millbrae, CA. as a computer consultant, and a voice coach for the gender community. She has been a new woman for over ten years.

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Gender Skybox

Pam Souza

The title has changed, but the sports column has returned from its brief hiatus. Much of that time was spent waiting in line to see *The Crying Game*, which I originally thought was Super Bowl highlights from the Buffalo Bills' perspective.

May marks the end of the membership year, which means it's time for awards and highlights. These are my picks of 92/93:

Rookie of the Year: Kristin St. James, who came out of the closet at warp speed and never looked back. A definite poster girl for "Gender Fever - Catch It," Kristin does valuable outreach to the closeted masses through the computer network and her visits to Bay Area night spots with the Lost Girls.

Manager of the Year: Billie Jean Jones, who proved that she can do something else well besides blab. Two weeks before show time, Billie comes off the bench to whip (ouch) nine nervous contestants into performance readiness for the Cotillion. That stretch run rivals the '73 Mets, who went from last place to the World Series in little more than a month's time.

M.V.P. (Most Versatile Player): Lauren Hotchkiss. Move over, Bo; Lauren knows guitar, Lauren knows piano, Lauren knows writing, Lauren knows public speaking and outreach. Lauren knows the predicament of transgendered bachelors, and is starting ETVC Singles. I'll say no more, because Lauren knows where I live.

Comeback Player of the Year: Ginny Knuth, not that she ever really went away. Within days of major surgery, she hand-addresses hundreds of invitations and looks into details of the Cotillion. Look for Ginny's picture in the dictionary next to "dedication."

Best Road Team: The Lost Girls, by virtue of the fact they have yet to claim any one place as their official home. The New York Yankees of gender, you love 'em or you hate 'em (quite often you do both within the same evening) but you can't not know who they are. Cool uniforms, too.

Unsung Heroines: Like offensive linemen or utility infielders, Karin Miller and Evette tend to be where the action is, but receive little or no ink for all the work they do. If you need obscure props or costumes, these girls either have them, can make them, or know where to get them.

Future Thunder: Shining prospects who have already given a hint of being impact players for 93/94 and beyond include - Cori Farrell, Dianne Summers, Alexis Fury and Francis Vavra. Luckily, the free agent frenzy has not hit gender organizations yet, or else we would go broke paying these kids to join us.

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IFGE Convention Report
Continued...

world, the Board has sown the seeds of renewal for the Foundation. This humble rebirth will require nurturing from all of us for it to bloom. Everyone agrees there is a need for a national organization and voice for the gender phenomenon, and many hope that it will be IFGE. But six hardworking people alone, in Waltham, will not make this happen. We need your input and ideas about purpose and direction. Soon we will also need your help to carry forth the projects required by the gender movement.

Our community is rich with talent and there is no more fun than working on these projects together. This was proven during Convention Week, when participants reaffirmed deep and time-tested relationships and fostered new ones. The apparent fall of power politics has rekindled enthusiasm for a cause bigger than any individual, namely a system of understanding that empowers each individual to define and follow their own unique destiny and still live in harmony with others. Many of us feel the expanded experience of gender can lead to more harmonious living for all mankind. However we will receive no ear, no support and no funding until we can show that our ideas enable our community to work, play and live together with increased effectiveness and fun.

So our task is to find the ways that use our incredible resources most effectively for development and communication of ideas that bring out the best in each of us. We need to heal the wounds that separate us, and embrace each other physically and spiritually, acknowledging our collective needs as unique passengers who share a common journey on spaceship earth.

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ETVC Meets the IRS

Cori Farrell

Everyone looks forward to spring - the warmer weather, new fashions, and good old Form 1040. While taxes aren't the most glamorous topic at hand for discussion, they are something we all need to deal with. For those of us who are not interested in paying any more than our fair share of the national debt, the Education Committee hosted Taxing Questions, a presentation by tax consultants Sandy Kasten and Jano Bogg.

Sandy and Jano came to us from The Numbers Game, a Berkeley tax and business service. Sandy is an attorney, with an MBA in taxation, while Jano is a tax-preparer and business consultant. Their discussion centered on tax issues facing transsexuals, but the information was all based upon general tax laws applicable to everyone.

Many of the questions asked by the attendees were in regard to the deductibility of expenses for sexual reassignment surgery, electrolysis, hormones, etc. Sandy stated that while medical expenses in excess of 7.5% of adjusted gross income are deductible, expenses for "cosmetic surgery" are not. SRS currently lies in a legal gray area with much of the interpretation being left to the individual IRS agent one happens to be dealing with. Sandy did say that electrolysis is specifically mentioned in the legislation as an example of cosmetic surgery.

Also discussed was the issue of ETVC's (not-yet-acquired) non-profit status. One can deduct expenses (such as telephone charges) incurred in volunteering to a non-profit organization, as well as member fees and donations. Time spent volunteering to an organization, however, cannot be deducted.

Sandy and Jano's main suggestion was that any deductions taken for expenses related to SRS/hormones/psychotherapy be accompanied by a written explanation of the deductions taken. This can protect the taxpayer against a charge of fraud and can provide some basis for negotiation should the IRS try to disallow the deductions in an audit.

Very timely and informative, the Taxing Questions presentation certainly merits a "Well Done" to Sandy and Jano.

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The Gender Sculptors

Cori Farrell

The Education Committee's continuing study of the transgender condition has thus far brought us some fascinating discussions of the more cerebral facts of gender issues. On Saturday, March 13, however, we got down to brass tacks, as it were.

Judy Van Maasdam of the Gender Dysphoria Program, Inc., presented some of the medical facts associated with sexual reassignment surgery; facts which she has gained during 14 years of work in the field. The primary service of the Gender Dysphoria Program is sexual reassignment surgery itself. The Program does not focus on counseling issues.

Detailed descriptions of SRS included the two standard methods of vagina creation: Penile Conversion - the use of the skin of the penis to create the lining of the vagina, and Rectal Sigmoid Transfer - the use of a segment of the large intestine to create such lining (this is the method most commonly used by the program in its surgeries performed at Stanford). Developments in female-to-male procedures were also highlighted.

Issues associated with the surgical procedures included hormone therapy and insurance considerations. Judy indicated that many large insurance firms recognize SRS as non-cosmetic and thus will pay for at least a percentage of the procedures, but HMO's, such as Kaiser, will not provide benefits for them. Some relevant statistics about SRS patients included an average age in the mid-thirties, and a complication rate of less that one percent. The Gender Dysphoria Program performs one MTF and six FTM procedures per month on the average. Note, however, that FTMs require more than one surgery to complete reassignment, but MTFs usually require just one.

When asked her advice to people in transition, Judy replied simply, "Be a nice person." Sound advice indeed.

Note: To order audio cassette tapes of Judy's talk about SRS or Sandy and Jano's Tax Seminar, send $4.00 per tape (in check or money order only) to ETVC, PO Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486, Attn: Cheryl. Allow 4 - 6 weeks for delivery.

Two Votes

May, the end of ETVC's membership year, is the most important part of the year. You get to vote twice: First, for those who will lead your club during the following year; second, for yourself when you renew your membership. For just $20 a year you get so much: the newsletter; membership admission to socials; access to an enormous book, article and tape library; education events; the Cotillion; participation in the Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day Parade. And you get to *do* so much: through the Speakers Bureau and Public Relations Dept., you get to tell the public and media who we really are. You support the Hotline and buy newspaper and telephone directory ads, helping us to reach out to those who are in fear and in crisis. You also convey encouragement to those very officers you elect. If you haven't renewed yet, do it now! We need you.

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Ken Pool

Co-irresponsible

Distancing, despair, disease and such
the facts as they stand are much too much
a fact I can't handle inasmuch
as caring for others is MY crutch.

Close Relations

Since when crossdressed I felt shoddy
I bought breast forms to embody
both so I can act out naughty
and be my own bosom buddy

Sham Gender

To the extent I designed
that is to say self-defined
my own super andromind
thus my soul was self-confined

Not that I was gender blind
or in gender ways unkind
simply that my life declined
putting gender needs behind.

Terse Role

Mother Mary what's this curse
to wear a dress, hold a purse
this thin script I will rehearse
until carried off by hearse.

copyright 1992, K. Pool

Guilda Mackintyre

DAWN

Savage virgin sun anoints a newborn day.
The pulse of eternity explodes the cloak of night,
Once more into infinitely discrete alien parts.
Houses, hills, roads, dogs, poles, grass, birds, people.

All bound together by the spider web trance of my sanity.
The chain weights and lascivious flowers of last night's orgy,
Cover my body and are blooming in the tunnel of my mind.
The Mandala turns and I must impersonate Apollo.

STAR FLASH IN THE DARK SKY

As easy as falling off a log
As hard as finding a black cat in a dark room
Learning to smile with authentic joy
At the radiance of me - and you!

ROVING EYE

Cyclopia

Place: Chez Mollet March Social
Question: What are your first impressions of ETVC?

Ashllie Novack, San Francisco: I came here tonight with my friend Rosalie, of Rosalie's New Look. She wanted me to meet everybody. I met her on my access cable TV show, Trauma TV, about a year ago. We had her come on the show and try wigs on all kinds of people. We did everything: rockers, males, females. I've met a lot of people here tonight. It's just fun. There's not a lot of clone people, like yuppies. I'm having a blast. I didn't even know this went on.

Ashley Adaire, Farifield: Wonderful, to say the least. There's a lot of people here just being themselves and having a wonderful time doing it. Back in West Virginia everybody was fake. Their gestures, makeup and clothes were exaggerated - too flamboyant. Here, everybody was just themselves, truly wonderful people, and it was all from the inside, all from the heart. Back home, I got the impression it was only for face value. I've discovered that it's OK to be a crossdresser and be straight. Back home, there was no way you could do that. If you crossdressed you were gay, flat out. I will definitely be here next meeting, and probably for the Wednesday Night Hang Outs, too.

Katie Collins, Oakland: Well, this is sort of my first impression, sort of isn't. I've been a member and getting newsletters for two years. I've been to the Pacific Center Rap Groups. This isn't my first exposure but it's my first exposure to the social side of it. I've got mixed impressions. On the one hand, it's a lovely group of people - it's a relaxed atmosphere - but I don't know if this is for me. Most of the the people seem to be transvestites, but I'm a work in progress, I'm a transsexual in progress. But it's a good place to start, to find people I can relax with and find how others are dealing with this thorny problem of transforming the male body to the female body.

Leslie Ann Connor, San Francisco: What a beautiful bunch of people being themselves. I really appreciate being with people who aren't afraid to explore on a new frontier. I feel that I have an outlet and a place to be myself. Before I came, my wife asked me, "Are you scared?" And I had to say, "Sure." So I had to take some cookie therapy. Instead of drinking or drugging, which I *used* to do, I bake cookies. Then I have to give them away, or I'll be porking up like a pig for roast dinner. It's good to see people here breaking stereotypes and taboos by doing something that's supposed to be shameful, and it's not.