*Educational TV Channel* ETVC

N E W S L E T T E R

*VOLUME TWELVE, NUMBER 2,* *SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER, 1993*

# Gay Freedom Day in The City

**Oona D. Bae**

Under its theme, "Year of the Queer," the 1993 Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade took a new direction, literally in reverse, away from San Francisco's City Hall, rather than to it as in past years. The symbolism was potent, if puzzling, though the parade itself seemed to rise above symbols. The going was slow, agonizingly slow for later contingents such as ETVC, which waited hours to start, and once started halted more often than marched until near the very end, which nearly became a race.

*Zia shows how to combine dressing for work and glamor.*

Francis Vavra, elegantly Draculesque in top hat, tails and white gloves, steered ETVC's white convertible in heedless contempt of the sun. Miss ETVC 1993 Shawna Rose, flanked by Miss ETVC 1992 Billie Jean Jones and Miss ETVC 1991 Teri Pack, worked the crowd, "getting a great response," said Billie Jean. "We blew 'em kisses, waved; pointed at them when they weren't waving." As the car began rolling, Billie Jean's daughter ran up "and gave me a hug and a kiss," and with her friends joined ETVC for a few blocks. More than a dozen ETVC members - many of them marching for the first time - escorted the car, led by Zia looking like Count Dracula's cleaning lady.

Video taping the parade were Janet aided by Donna (and her magic step-stool) and Dianne.

Meanwhile, back at ETVC's booth on the Embarcadero, Nancy Ann computed that this was her 32,454 Gay Freedom Day appearance, "but not just on this planet, of course." Of course. Amy, Evette and Lauren completed our outreach quartet, handing out ETVC and FTM literature to passersby. By quarter to four, Amy calculated she had talked with 50 people. "You can figure 250 people have talked with us. It seems that very few people know about us. We need to expand our community awareness a lot more than we've done."

President Cindy and VP Dianne slapped together sandwiches "until the rolls ran out," said Cindy. "On the basis of sandwiches we handed out - and we only gave them to people in the club or who are friends of ETVC - there were *at least* 85 of our people here today."

In an exclusive on-the-spot interview with The ETVC Newsletter, Zia in hair-curlers, housecoat and shaggy slippers - looking as if she'd just ingested a Drano cocktail with a Lysol chaser - proclaimed "I just wanted to have another side of femininity represented in the parade. It's not all beauty. There's another, dark side to it. I want to show that dark side." A devotee of the Stanislavski method of parade preparation, she confessed that she got ready for her role by "cleaning the bathroom last night on my hands and knees. And I cooked in it." This reporter declined to press for details.

As shadows grew long and the crowd thinned, Billie Jean said, "Next year ETVC ought to show up with anywhere between 50 and 500 people and *really* work this crowd! This is a day to be in the majority."

## A Message From the Vice-President

**Dianne Summers**

The success of ETVC participation in the annual Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade was made possible through the efforts of many volunteers. It was especially gratifying to see so many new people. While there was the normal contingent of individuals who are always working for the club (thank you, Nancy Ann, Lauren, Evette, Amy...) it was augmented by a group of first-time participants.

Special thanks go to Leslie for driving from the South Bay to transport the booth and various materials. A big thank you to Alice (Leslie's SO) for all the wonderful fruit she donated and for the special bows she made to decorate the parade car. Thanks to those who made the time to take the Safety Monitor class; we could not have done it without you. Thanks also to Francis Vavra, our gentleman driver, who had to run errands in addition to getting the car for the parade. And an extra thank you to Evette for attending the sometimes "interest challenged" official parade committee meetings with me.

*Acknowledging wild cheers, (l-r) Veronica, Miss ETVC 1993 Shawna, Miss ETVC 1992 Billie Jean, and Paulette*

The parade car and booth were very well received, and all those who participated know how good it felt to be a part of this event. Those who were not part of this year's festivities can look forward to next year; it's going to be a blockbuster!

The thank you's would not be complete without mention of Zia. She singlehandedly captured the crowd's heart and set crossdressing back 30 years with her wonderful costume.

The task of staging ETVC participation in the parade was a formidable one for me, since I am a relatively new member and had never been to a Freedom Day Parade. As always, Ginny was available to make sure nothing dropped through the cracks, Cindy and Jane helped me stay focused, and Edward was there with wit and wine when things got hectic. My thanks to all.

# ETVC NEWSLETTER

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

For details about ETVC programs, membership, article submission guidelines, and classified ads, please write to: ETVC Secretary, PO Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486

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

### SECRETARY'S REPORT

| | |
|---|---|
| Membership (as of 5/31/93) | 247 |
| 1992 Membership | 260 |
| New members this year | 17 |

### TREASURER'S REPORT

| | |
|---|---|
| 6/1/93 Balance | $4007.38 |
| June Income | $1617.00 |
| June Expenses | $2106.66 |
| 6/30/93 Balance | $3501.30 |
| July Income | $1271.00 |
| July Expenses | $582.97 |
| 7/31/93 Balance | $4189.33 |

The ETVC Newsletter is published the last week of February, April, June, August, October and December. Submissions should arrive at ETVC by the 25th day of the previous month. Contents reflect the opinions of the contributors and the editor, and are not necessarily those of ETVC. Other organizations may reprint or reproduce portions of the newsletter for their members, provided ETVC is acknowledged.

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|---|---|
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### AD RATES

| | per issue | per year |
|---|---|---|
| Business Card | $20 | $100 |
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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

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# EDITOR'S NOTES

**by Jane Kamper Bentley**

Recently I rejected an article, in part because to publish it I would have had to overturn long-standing policy. Later I realized that the author could have had little or no idea what that policy was beforehand. In fairness to everyone, here are some guidelines:

1) We don't knowingly publish an article another newsletter or magazine is publishing concurrently.

2) If your work appears in our newsletter, "Other organizations may reprint or reproduce portions of the newsletter for their members, provided ETVC is acknowledged." As I interpret that phrase, if we print your submission, anybody is free to reprint it; therefore, by submitting to the ETVC Newsletter, you are giving free reprint rights to the world.

3) We ask you to limit your word count to 500 words maximum. Usually, the shorter the better.

4) Criticism is welcome, but stick to what you know. If you are, say, a male transvestite who knows what's wrong with male transvestites, we'll listen. If you're a transvestite who knows what's wrong with everybody else, save your ink.

5) What does the newsletter need? The survey told us that our members want more news in the newsletter, so we need reporters. We could use a night-life columnist, and an educational events reporter. I would love to get short, informational articles on make-up, fashion, bargain outlets; more letters to the editor; more articles, letters, etc., from SIGNIFICANT OTHERS; and more poetry. Maybe you'd like to see something written about, but don't want to do it yourself. Send us the facts, Ma'am.

I can't promise we'll publish everything, but we will give everyone consideration. You can write me C/O the ETVC PO Box, see me at socials, or call after 8 PM: (415) [redacted] Ask for JIM.

. . . . . .

In "Letters," note Renaissance founder JoAnn Robert's response to the July/August editorial on membership numbers. I am sure she is trying to give a comforting message, but I am not comforted. Perhaps the fault is mine for not stating the problem clearly. The problem I was trying to address wasn't just turnover but that our total numbers indicate how little impact we've had on thousands upon thousands - even here in the "enlightened" Bay Area - still skulking in shame and fear. If there were some magical means of surveying those closeted thousands, probably most wouldn't even know we exist.

Moreover, "A more moderate public attitude" is not social acceptance. Moderation extended in the abstract may be quickly withdrawn in the concrete. How many of us have told the boss? At home, Dad might give grunting approval to a TV on TV, but, "My God! Not my own SON!" Witness the fact that even among our leadership almost all of us maintain some degree of secrecy, often to protect our families or to protect ourselves from our families.

Recently, I met a 41 year old man, married with four children, who nervously confessed, "I'm a crossdresser. But my wife will never know." His agonized expression was a mirror of my own past.

Must the pattern replicate endlessly? Must our secret selves be buried in youth, only after marriage and children to explode as mid-life crises - perhaps to find some resolution, perhaps to end in tragedy? It's not enough for ETVC to be available for the occasional 35 or 45 year old to stumble across, use as a crutch for awhile, and wave fondly good-bye to as she wobbles off to the mall. Yes, it's important for her to feel good about herself, but if we're doing our job right, she will also realize the need to help others as she was helped. One of those who "no longer needs us" may be just the person *we* need to reach masses of TV's and TS's in their teens and twenties before they have recruited unsuspecting spouses and children in a secret war against self.

We're like those Easter eggs you hold up to your eye: Outside, nothing special to see; inside, a world. Will we ever break out of that shell and join our little world to the bigger one?

# Letters

Editor,

I have several comments about ETVC Newsletter, Vol. 12, No. 1. First, my compliments on the "look" of your newsletter. What an outstanding example of what can be done.

Next, I'd like to add to Jane Kamper Bentley's remarks about membership ceilings. As she mentioned, Renaissance has also experienced this leveling of members. According to our Membership Director(s), who keep track of such things, what we're seeing is an almost constant turn-over of older members for newer ones. The outgoing numbers are nearly equal to the incoming numbers. That's not such an unusual trend, if you think about it a little.

Our purpose is to make people feel good about themselves. Perhaps we make them feel so good that they no longer need a "support" group. In the last five years or so, the public venues available to transgendered people have increased, along with a more moderate public attitude toward us. (This probably only holds true for large metropolitan areas like Philadelphia, San Francisco, Chicago, etc., and not in the rural areas.) Why, then, should some crossdressers go to a "support" group meeting when they can go almost anywhere they want? In a sense, they've "outgrown" the group. We no longer offer them anything to hold their interest and they don't come back, but go out on their own.

Finally, I'd like to comment on Cindy Martin's remarks about diversity. We here at Renaissance have also heard the criticism that we're a "white, middle class, heterosexual 'boy's club.'" That may well be what it looks like from outside, but that's certainly not the intention. I say we've done our job by letting everyone know we're here. My good friend, Billie Jean Jones, says that's not good enough. She feels we should be out beating the bushes, actively looking for minorities who need our group. Maybe she's right. Jessica Brandon, who wrote the article, "Color Scheme," for the May Renaissance News, has become more involved with the group since reaction to her article has been so positive. But it looks like, if we want balanced representation in our membership, we're going to have to go after it ourselves, because it isn't going to come looking for us.

JoAnn Roberts

Editor,

In your Editor's Notes in the July/August '93 issue of the ETVC Newsletter you write, "Someday when crossdressers run for Congress - and win..."

As for myself, I was a candidate for the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 1992. In that race I had a good chance of winning a seat, but I pulled out to allow Angela Alioto to be able to be elected President. I will be a candidate for a seat in 1994, when I will have a better chance to win a seat, possibly come in first and be President. My media coverage has always been as a transgendered woman with no qualifying remarks.

Presently I hold an appointment to the Citizen's Advisory Committee of the San Francisco County Transportation Authority and am chair of the Congestion Management Subcommittee. I also do the work of a legislative policy analyst for both the Board of Supervisors and the Authority.

My most recent success at City Hall was drafting a portion of a charter amendment that will add gender identity to the list of prohibited employment practices by the City and County of San Francisco. This will appear on the November, 1993 ballot.

You should be aware that the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender Advisory Committee of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission is starting a program to advance recognition of our needs.

I have not been a member of ETVC in the last several years, but I have always been aware of the members' needs and have been doing my best to further the cause.

Sincerely, Shelley Elvira Salieri

# Presidents Message

## Cindy Martin

First off, welcome to Francis Vavra, our new Education Committee co-chair, who replaced Sharon Rose in August. Good luck, sir.

There is a lot going on in ETVC these days, exciting stuff.

You party girls will be interested to hear that ETVC social co-chair Cori Farrell is negotiating for a site for a second monthly social, a free one. She is trying to get the End Up, at 6th and Harrison in San Francisco, which has great parking during the week. If we don't get that place, we will continue looking for a second venue with dancing that doesn't close at midnight. We are trying for a weekend venue, but in SF that is going to be extremely difficult since most of the good clubs already have special events with cover charges on weekends.

And there is more: ETVC, always on the cutting edge, is now trying out a voice mail system! Yep, just like at work (well not quite like that - unless your voice mail system also includes information on crossdressing events). The new system, being created by our high tech priestess Jamie Faye, will be a way for you to leave messages for your friends and to get messages in a completely discreet way. See the separate article on this exciting venture elsewhere in this newsletter.

After some fits and starts ETVC is formally filing for 501(c)3 nonprofit status. The first steps, filing for tax exemption with the state, should have happened by the time you read this. The ETVC Executive Committee authorized the action at the June meeting.

Becoming a nonprofit is going to be a tremendous step forward for all of us. First and foremost is the credibility it will gives us in the Bay Area. As a member you will directly benefit because all your contributions to ETVC, including your membership, will be tax deductible. You may also someday be able to check off ETVC as your designated charity at work if you contribute to United Way. If you do volunteer work for the group, some of your mileage and phone bills could also be write-offs. As a nonprofit, we will be eligible for many discounts on supplies and will get a huge break on postage that will save us many hundreds of dollars. Incredible as it may sound, just under 10 percent of last year's budget was for postage.

The bad news is that it will probably be at least 18 months before the Internal Revenue Service approves our application and we expect them to give us a going over. What's worse is that we are going to need $1,600 or so to get this done and we've only budgeted $1,000. We hope to cover this by saving in as many places as we can. Please, if we are forced to have fundraisers to cover this cost do what ever you can to help. You'll feel good about it.

Many thanks on moving this process off of square one to Sandy Kasten, a great member and esteemed barrister. Thank you, gorgeous!

Last time, I told you that improving our rather weak transsexual services was going to be a major goal this year, but we needed a person to run the program. Someone stepped forward. Lucy Ann Jones, who many of you know from her writings in the newsletter and work as a voice coach, will begin the new program in the Fall. P.S.: She is looking for other TS people to help her find good speakers and presenters for the new program. Why not jump in and help? It should be a lot of fun, easy and fulfilling.I am sorry to report that our September 25 AIDS benefit, "Don't Lose the Magic," has been canceled due to scheduling conflicts.

Finally, the 1993-94 budget exceeds $28,000 but it is essentially a no-growth budget. There was no increase in membership fees, largely because of the frugality of the Outreach, Education and Social committees.

# Foxy Lady Boutique

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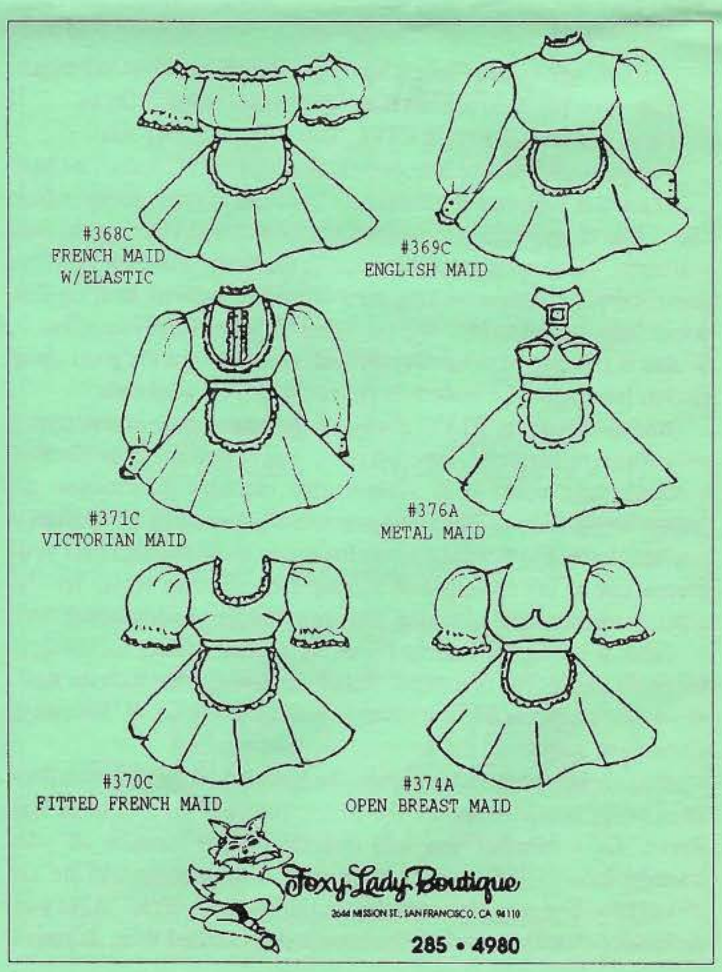

# Desperately Seeking Diane

**Diane Silver**

San Francisco: the City of Eternal Promise. Through childhood in Palo Alto, college in San Jose, I have always been drawn to this great city. So it was fitting that I chose this city for my first experience as Diane.

Living on the East Coast for the past twenty years, I had been coming back more often to California to visit relatives. I had also been spending more time walking the streets alone, trying to understand my growing sense of intrigue with makeup counters and wig shops. One year I even bought a $15 wig and some mascara, but back home I threw them away - the purging that many of us have experienced.

Then, three years ago, I planned to spend more time in San Francisco alone. I bought women's clothing in a thrift store and a wig at Woolworth's. I dressed in my motel room and covered my clothing with sweat-clothes until I got out to my car.

Driving around the city, I peeled off the outer clothing, and on a secluded street put on my makeup and wig. I must have looked awful, but I saw a beautiful person in the car mirror.

I parked in North Beach and stepped to the pavement in shoes that were much too small for my feet. Alone, I walked through the crowds of people and felt the cool night breeze on my legs.

Teens in a car drove by and shouted, "Drag Queen!" But a moment later an old man sitting against a building looked at me and said I had nice legs.

Back in my hotel room, I locked the door and felt an incredible sadness as I wiped the makeup from my face. I didn't realize then the importance of that night.

Last September, I returned to San Francisco with a friend, Toni, a Yuba City hairdresser who has helped my appearance and my spirit. I had bought new clothes, beautiful hair and shoes that fit. We stayed in Park 55 and dined in the Equinox Room, a popular restaurant overlooking the city. What a difference my two year search has made.

Now I realize that Diane is not makeup, but a state of mind.

I live in Northern California and hope to meet other crossdressers near me. But I am happy with myself and I have learned to love the inner self I discovered one night in the City of Eternal Promise.

# Top Ten List of Comments Novice Crossdressers Hate to Hear

**Pam Souza**

10 Beard cover works even better if you shave first.

9 Press-on nails look more realistic if you remove the plastic support trees.

8 Hey, aren't you _____'s son?

7 My, those pigeons sure like that birdseed leaking from your breasts.

6 High heels will feel less painful if worn on the correct feet.

5 Get new shocks before applying lipstick while driving.

4 Stuffing a bra with rice works fine provided you take it out of the box.

3 You're sure the bank will know that stocking on top of your head is just a wig cap?

2 Weight-lifter husband of Bulgarian shot-put champ offended that you asked his wife her "boy name."

1 You look like somebody famous: J. Edgar Hoover.


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# Phyllis Randolph Frye

*Excerpt of speech by Phyllis Randolph Frye, Houston attorney and transgender activist for the March on Washington, April 25, 1993.*

"Our history reveals that the majority of those people who died at the beginning of the Nazi Holocaust while wearing pink triangles were the transgendered of all sexual orientations. Our history reveals that the real heroes in the Stonewall uprising were the transgendered, the leather cultists and the street hustlers who stood up to the bully cops and presented in-your-face resistance to being pushed around further. Why then are the transgendered being omitted and snubbed from the focus of the upcoming Stonewall 25 [anniversary]? Sadly, the reward to the transgendered, the leather cultists and the street hustlers of Stonewall is condescension and stereotyping.

"You see, pitting lesbians, gays and bisexuals against the transgendered is another of the bigots' ploys. It's called division. Many in the lesbian, gay and bisexual community resent being stereotyped as 'crossdressing effeminates' simply because the bigots, the dividers have successfully cast such with a pejorative label. Others in the transgender community resent being stereotyped as 'homosexual/bisexual' simply because the bigots, the dividers have successfully cast such with another pejorative label. While we quarrel amongst ourselves over stereotypes and labels, the bigots, the dividers, that fire us, that resist our marriage, that refuse us our citizen's share, those bastards continue to win hands-down.

"In order for us to resist this bigots' ploy, this division, we must today embrace each others stereotypes. We must embrace each others labels with pride: we must unite. We must go into Congress and into the state houses speaking for lesbian and gay and bisexual and TRANSGENDER RIGHTS. We must seek legal language that protects us on the basis of both "sexual orientation and GENDER IDENTIFICATION. When you speak to your member of Congress, tell them House Bill 431 (Civil Rights Act of 1993) needs to be amended to add 'and gender identification' — 'sexual orientation and gender identification.'"

# Cindy At Large

**Cindy Martin**

IN APRIL, Minnesota Governor Arne H. Carlsen signed into law the nation's first state legislation protecting transgendered people from discrimination in housing, jobs and accommodations. A copy of this law has been forwarded to several California state legislators.

TWENTY PERCENT of the families in Samoa have a son who is raised and lives full-time as a woman, according to an article in the British magazine, *Society*, and reprinted in *Lifelines*, the newsletter for Long Island Femme Expression. These transgendered men, called fa'afafine, traditionally have been expected to stay single, cook, clean and care for elderly family members. Totally accepted, they are often the most educated people in that society, and very involved in education, health, social welfare and the preservation of traditional Samoan culture.

SHAME! In a gutsy open letter to Tri-Ess published in Gender Euphoria, San Antonio's Boulton and Park Society Newsletter, Linda Phillips rightly rips the Tri-Ess Board of Directors for holding a June board meeting in gay-hating Colorado. Tri-Ess, as you may know, does not permit gay or transsexual people in their organization. Phillips properly lauds Tri-Ess for canceling the Holiday En Femme planned for Colorado, but claims that a board meeting was held in Denver in order to placate a few out-of-joint noses. Whatever the reason, there is absolutely NO excuse for the leaders of one of the largest transgender societies in the world to meet and spend money in Colorado. Shame!

SEXUALLY AROUSING, that's what about 25% of the wives of crossdressers called their husband's drag show when he brings it to the bedroom. According to an article in Partners Newsletter, a survey of 106 spouses by Dr. George R. Brown, a Texas psychiatrist, also found that 34 percent of those with children had told them about the male's crossdressing. About 17 percent of spouses reported that there had been infidelity in the marriage; the U.S.average is 22 percent.

WALT DISNEY? No, nope, no way. Recent stupid book (*Walt Disney: Hollywood's Dark Prince*) calls him many things, including a crossdresser. Pressed about this claim, the author basically said his source was AFOAF; you know, a friend of a friend.

EXPRESS, the East Bay weekly did a fine article on transsexuals in June that featured former ETVC columnist Renee Chinquapin and 1993 Cotillion contestant Robin Barrett. Oddly, there was no mention of ETVC, except by very vague reference.

WANNA DRESS LIKE A TRANSVESTITE? RGA's Donna Baker has 11 great ways to look like a TV, including my favorite: "For daytime shopping, you'd best wear a leopard print lycra exercise suit and glitter eye shadow. Later in the evening, you can switch to something loud."

Final 1993 Survey Results:

Some 72 people returned survey forms, about an average return for a group of our size. Much more exciting is that most people filled out our resource survey too. Thanks to you all. Those who indicated that they were willing to do some volunteer work will be contacted soon, if not already.

To summarize the major results: The average age of an ETVC member is just under 43. Transvestites said they dressed an average of nine times a month, while transgenderists and transsexuals averaged in excess of 22 days per month. Sixty percent of respondents were TVs, 15 percent were TGs, 15 percent were TS, with the remaining 10 percent significant others and friends.

Meeting and talking is the favorite thing you like to do at socials. But you also gave high ratings to fashion shows, dancing and the decorating job done by the social committee. Favorite newsletter features included news about ETVC, member's stories, therapist columns, photos, regular columnists, and self-improvement articles. For education events, the favorites were self-improvement seminars, makeup lessons, therapist's talks and hands-on demonstrations.

The largest share, 38 percent, found out about ETVC through a friend, about 30 percent found us through ads.

Your top priority for the organization is to expand its outreach and education efforts. Improving significant other participation might be best done by have a night out, non-dressed, for couples and by providing a special membership for SOs.

Seventy percent favored the smoking ban at socials, 15 percent wanted smoking and the rest did not care about it.


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# Ask Dr. Lin

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

## Blow Out

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

**JKB:** I'd like to ask about "blow-out." What is it?

**Dr. L:** Blow-out occurs when a person first comes out in the gender community and is in a euphoric state. It's the first time in your whole life when that part of you that has such tremendous importance in your inner world is also accepted in the outer world. You want to be in the crossdressed state constantly. Over time, crossdressing becomes less charged for most people.

**JKB:** Until that happens, how does one balance between crossdressing needs and family needs?

**Dr. Lin:** How does one do that in general? That's a good question to ask yourself anytime you are in conflict about your needs and your family's needs. The keys are communication and consciousness.

**JKB:** Some wives say "I don't want to talk. Just do it away from me."

**Dr. L:** OK, I'd respect that. If communication is good, you can bring up the subject later and see how she reacts.

**JKB:** When I was married, I felt that I wanted to live full-time. My wife said, "I can't abide that." But I thought, "Every time I made a stand for myself, she's come around. She'll come around to this." But I wasn't listening to her.

**Dr. L:** Right. Again, communication. I think there is a very big difference from a wife's perspective between a spouse who needs to crossdress to balance the masculine and feminine energy, and a spouse who wants to do this full-time. It's very, very important to go slowly. In blow-out, some crossdressers feel that they must be transsexual; but over time most achieve a kind of balance between masculine and feminine. So don't burn any bridges if you can, because you may discover that your male life includes people you don't want to lose. Be very cautious, very careful, very conscious and keep the lines of communication open.

**JKB:** I would like to explore full-time living, but I don't want to risk a divorce between my grown children and myself.

**Dr. L:** They're very fearful of losing you. If what they get back from you is a calm person, who is talking about options, choices, exploration, and taking their feelings into consideration, they're dealing with somebody who's rational. It feels much less threatening, even though the outcome might be the same.

**JKB:** What about younger children?

**Dr. L:** Well, you're not using the same language, but the approach is the same. Be calm and willing to communicate. Don't switch identities regularly in front of them. They're looking to you as a role model for their own developing identities and they need consistency. I don't see a pattern of children of transgendered people becoming transgendered, but I do see transgendered people who vacillate having kids with issues of instability. But if you are quite sure you're going in the female direction, explain your situation to them in age appropriate language. Most children can accept it. Help them deal with the outside world's prejudice, for they haven't developed prejudice. What they can't deal with is daddy looking like daddy one day and then mommy the next day. In the case of your older children, if I were in your shoes, particularly with the youngest child, I would just ask him what he's comfortable with and what he's not. He knows essentially what's going on, and he might not like it, but he's accepting of it because he loves you. This happens all the time in relationships. We may not like our loved one's choices; but we obviously give them the right to have them if we're in a functional relationship.

**JKB:** What is the observer self?

**Dr. L:** When we have an opportunity to go to a very quiet, still place, wherever it is, there's a voice inside of us that's very calm and rational and isn't carried away, isn't taken over by anything; that knows the truth. That's the observer self. It's also compassionate. The compassion is very important, because oftentimes crossdressers tend to be very judgmental toward themselves. Another way to activate the observer self is by talking things over with someone you really trust who doesn't have an agenda for you, someone who can reflect back what it is you're saying. As you talk, your own thoughts and feelings become clearer.

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


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# Strength in Community

*Luanna L. Rodgers*

Recently (July 21, 1993) I was invited by ETVC to speak on the topic of "The Closet: Getting Out, Staying Out," and then to facilitate a group discussion on this topic. Over the course of almost two hours we covered many topics. We identified that the true purpose of getting out of the closet is to gain self-respect and support. For some, this meant telling a few select friends, for others, it meant being totally open about their crossgender feelings. We discussed many myths and prejudices that exist in our society and that contribute to a crossdresser's fear and shame. We strolled up the yellow brick road of "what if's":

What if, as a child, you learned there were two kinds of genitals but an infinite array of self-expression, clothing and behaviors not prescribed by gender?

What if, as a teenager, sex education in school included gender issues, such as crossgender expression in dating and marriage?

What if, as an adult, prominent members of your community - mayor, college dean - were openly transgendered?

We searched for, and found, ways in which crossgender expression had brought something of value to our lives and possibly to our relationships, even though for most it had been an "uninvited dilemma."

Participants shared their past hardships and their current struggles. They also spoke of the rewards they found in emerging from denial and in beginning to accept their crossgender feelings. One person spoke about feeling constant anger, the one emotion that felt acceptable as a male, and then discovering a whole palette of newly acceptable emotions as they acknowledged their crossgender feelings: Joy, compassion, self-worth, the ability to cry and be sensitive. Becoming self-accepting of their crossgender side, many stated, meant a release from male "bondage": Striving, driven competitiveness, the need to be in control and the need to always be strong. These behaviors had cut them off from the support of others. Greater self-acceptance opened up their ability to initiate a careful disclosure leading to truer, more complete intimacy with friends. As one participant put it, the courage arising from self-acceptance allows you to realize that, "What anyone else thinks of me is none of my business."

I feel very honored to have been invited to participate in and facilitate this group discussion. It reminded me again of the power of community and the healing function of group support. The kernel of courage, small and dormant within each individual, grows and develops within the warmth of the group. it touched me deeply to witness the compassion that exists within the members of the gender community for one another. Each has struggled and understands the value of sharing and offering a helping hand. The mutual support within this group particularly impressed me because it was a diverse group. There was a wide divergence in age, degree of "closetedness," marital status, sexuality and whether they were crossdressers, transgendered or transsexual. In this day of division and derision, such solidarity is magical. Truly, these "gender explorers" present - and others, such as you, the reader - have much to offer in terms of new conceptualizations of gender, experience, learning, compassion and support.

I would urge everyone to consider avenues in your own life in which you can build support for yourself. The warmth, support and magic in the group meeting I just experienced has made me want to continue this experience and extend it to others by facilitating a monthly crossgender support group. If you are seeking support and a sense of community in your life, contact me about joining a support and discussion group (The Gender Explorers?) meeting the second Thursday evening of each month beginning October 14. Take a step toward building your own community and self-respect. Wishing you all safe passage on your journey.

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


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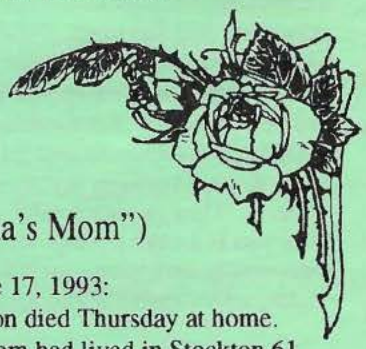
# In Memory



## Emma C. Bloom ("Martina's Mom")

From The Stockton Record, June 17, 1993:
"Emma C. Bloom, 80, of Stockton died Thursday at home. Born in San Francisco, Mrs. Bloom had lived in Stockton 61 years. She was a homemaker. Survivors include two daughters, Cora D. Maddux of Stockton and Trina M.D. Bloom of Sunnyvale; a son, John Bloom Jr. of Stockton; four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. Memorials may be made to the Senior Service Agency, Attention, Adult Day Care Guest Center, 224 S. Sutter St., Stockton, CA 95203."

Emma was a familiar face at ETVC, a sweet lady who frequently accompanied her daughter/son, Martina, past-President and currently Social co-chair of ETVC. In a sense, she was ETVC's mom: The totally supportive mom we all yearn to have. When asked how many children she had, Emma would answer, "Three. Two sons and two daughters." We will miss her.

## *Welcome, Devon!*

*Barbara Ann Berwick (Miss ETVC 1986) and Judy Ann Gaer proudly announce "The Arrival on Earth of Devon Sky Berwick, born at home June 29th, 1993, at 12:26 PM." Devon Sky weighed in at 7 lbs. 10 oz., and was greeted by her "Proud Big Brother, Ricky Berwick."*

*Congratulations to Devon and Ricky's proud moms.*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# The Pacific Center

**Thalia Gravel**

A year ago, I was asked to serve on the Board of Directors of the Pacific Center for Human Growth in Berkeley. I accepted and began serving as the first open "gender person" on the board, though gender status is one of the last things one needs to consider; a board member is there to *work*.

Just what *is* the Pacific Center, other than a listing in the calendar section of your newsletter? It is the second oldest gay / lesbian / bisexual / transgender social service and community center in the country.

For twenty years, it has offered rap groups, sliding scale counseling, the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard (which has hosted ETVC's HOTLINE for years), a Speakers Bureau and a place where sexual and gender minority people can connect with a community. The Center recently opened an office in Walnut Creek to expand services into Contra Costa County (ask the Diablo Valley Girls about the cooperation they received from Margaret Walker). The Center has been home for the longest running rap group for and by the TV/TS population.

The Pacific Center for Human Growth is unique. The majority of the volunteers, along with a handful of (under)paid staff, are dedicated, thoughtful people who understand the connections and differences between the gender and sexual minorities.

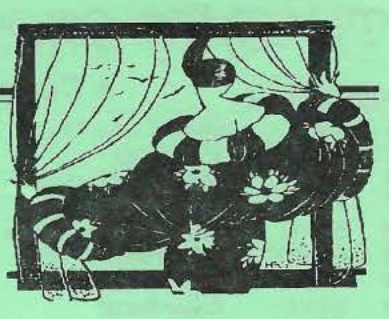
Major funding sources have been The United Way of the Bay Area and state and local mental health funds. This year, the Pacific Center's allocation from the United Way was down $50,000 - approximately *1/6th* of the entire budget!

You can help with a check. The bigger the better, of course. It costs roughly $300 a month to keep the room used by the TV/TS rap groups open, rent paid, and the lights on. Other groups also use the same room, so you could say that a contribution of $25 to $50 enables the groups to have the space available for a month. The Speakers Bureau sends out panels of TV/TS folks ( I pioneered that outreach myself) to schools. $50 is a good chunk of the bureau coordinator's weekly pay.

Finally, though you may not now or ever need the Pacific Center, support it for those who do. Get out the checkbook. Send your checks to Pacific Center / Fundraising Committee / 2712 Telegraph Avenue / Berkeley 94705. Remember to note that you are an ETVC member.

These days, twenty years is a long time for anything to last. To commemorate its twentieth anniversary, the Center is trying to develop an oral history of the people and by the people. There must be more than a few people out there who never met another gender person until they went to a rap group at the Pacific Center. There must be someone who, like me, remembers the Center's old place in and above a bar on San Pablo Avenue. I would like the "gender community" to be well represented in the oral history. Tell friends who may also have "Center" stories about this project. Send your remembrances to: Stories / The Pacific Center / 2712 Telegraph Avenue / Berkeley, CA 94705.

# Special Events



**The World According to (FTM) Men**
**Wednesday, September 8**
Francis Vavra, our new Education Committee co-chair, will head a panel from San Francisco FTM, "the largest and oldest continuously active support group for female-to-male crossdressers and transsexuals." If you think FTM's are just reverse images of MTF's, you don't know any FTM's. Come find out for yourself how different our experiences are and yet what we can, and do, share with each other. Be sure to arrive early so you can grab a copy of the FTM Newsletter, perhaps the most consistently literate and intelligent newsletter put out by any gender group in the country.
Chez Mollet. Starts at 8 p.m. $3.

**Sorority Rush!**
**Thursday, September 30**
Fall is in the air, and it's time to join your sisters (and brothers) for the ETVC Sorority (and Fraternity) Rush at Watsamata U., our very own college. We won't be assigning homework, but you can make it your first "all nighter" of the year. After all, there just aren't that many places you can still wear those preppie-ivy league clothes anymore (but anything goes with us).
Chez Mollet. Starts at 8 p.m. Members $3. Guests $5.

**TS Seminar: Surgeries for the Transsexual. Dr. Edward Falces**
**Sunday, October 10**
Making the changeover from one sex to the other may entail several different kinds of surgeries: Facial reconstruction, a tracheal "shave," breast augmentation, or mastectomy, etc. - in addition to SRS. Dr. Falces is a San Francisco-based surgeon who has had long experience with our community. His 40 minute slide-lecture, covering topics of interest both to male-to-females and female-to-males, will be followed by a question-and-answer session. In addition, ETVC will have hand-outs and library information available. Chez Mollet. Starts at 4:15 p.m. Free.

**ETVC Education/Outreach Fair: Our History, Our Future**
**Wednesday, October 13**
Joe Pulido (AKA Fabulous Fox Diahanna), one of ETVC's six co-founders, will tell us about how ETVC started as an outline on a napkin to become the largest, most active independent transgender club in America. He will bring video tape of television shows he did with ETVC co-founder Ken Pool. Former ETVC President (and current Social co-chair) Martina will present a slide show highlighting great moments from our past. For the present, Education co-chairs Evette and Francis will offer a generous sampling from our vast video/audio/book/article library. Outreach co-chairs Lauren and Telzey will tell you how we get the word out to other transgendered folk, as well as to the world-at-large. Our future? *You* are our future.
Chez Mollet. Starts at 8 p.m. $3.

**Halloween**
**Thursday, October 28**
Come on, now, you really didn't think the October social theme was going to be "Harvest-time in Nebraska," did you? This is the universal gender holiday, and there's no better place to celebrate it than the Chez. Traditionally, one of our best attended socials, this is one you just can't miss. We guarantee elaborate decorations, wild people and...we'll just keep you guessing about the rest.
Chez Mollet. Starts at 8 p.m.. Members $5. Guests $8.

## ETVC Singles

*ETVC Singles meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 8:00 PM ...Berkeley.*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# TV/TS/TG GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

## A Calendar of Events for September & October

**SEPTEMBER**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **1** | **ETVC** | **Social Committee** | **Meets at 7:30 PM** | **Chez Mollet** | **(415) 664-1499** |
| 1 | Pac Ctr | TV/TS Rap | Meets 8-10 PM | Berkeley | (510) 841-6224 |
| 3 | RGA | Social | Starts at 8 PM | San Jose | (408) 984-4044 |
| 7 | DVG | Social | Starts at 8 PM | Walnut Creek | (510) 849-4112 |
| **8** | **ETVC** | **Education Committee** | **Meets at 7:00 PM** | **Chez Mollet** | **(408) 984-5619** |
| **8** | **ETVC** | **FTM Panel** | **Starts at 8 PM** | **Chez Mollet** | **(408) 984-0000** |
| **9** | **ETVC** | **Significant Others** | **Meets 7:30-10 PM** | **San Jose** | **(415) 664-1499** |
| **9** | **ETVC** | **Poker Social** | **Starts at 8 PM** | **San Francisco** | **(415) 664-1499** |
| **10** | **ETVC** | **Poker Social** | **Starts at 8 PM** | **San Francisco** | **(415) 664-1499** |
| 10 | South Bay | Gender Discussion Group | Meets 8-10 PM | San Jose | (408) 984-5619 |
| **11** | **ETVC** | **Executive Committee** | **Starts at 8 PM** | **TBA** | **(415) 750-1850** |
| **14** | **ETVC** | **Outreach Committee** | **Meets at 7:30 PM** | **Berkeley** | **(510) 849-4112** |
| 15 | Pac Ctr | TV/TS Rap | Meets 8-10 PM | Berkeley | (510) 841-6224 |
| **17** | **ETVC** | **Bowling Night** | **Call for details** | **San Francisco** | **(415) 732-7032** |
| 17 | RGA | Social | Starts at 8 PM | San Jose | (408) 984-4044 |
| **18** | **ETVC** | **Cotillion Committee** | **Meets at 4 PM** | **Chez Mollet** | **(916) 965-0473** |
| 20 | DVG | Social | Starts at 8 PM | Walnut Creek | (510) 849-4112 |
| **23** | **ETVC** | **Couples Social** | **Starts at 8 PM** | **San Francisco** | **(415) 664-1499** |
| 24 | RGA | Poker Social | Starts at 8 PM | Sunnyvale | (408) 732-7406 |
| 24 | Pac Ctr | TV/TS Rap | Meets 8-10 PM | Berkeley | (510) 841-6224 |
| 25 | SGA | Dinner/Social | Starts at 8 PM | Sacramento | (916) 482-7SGA |
| **28** | **ETVC** | **ETVC Singles** | **Meets 8 PM** | **Berkeley** | **(510) 524-1304** |
| **29** | **ETVC** | **Decoration Party** | **Meets 7:30 PM** | **Chez Mollet** | **(415) 664-1499** |
| **30** | **ETVC** | **SOCIAL** | **Starts at 8 PM** | **Chez Mollet** | **(415) 664-1499** |

**OCTOBER**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | RGA | Social | Starts at 8 PM | San Jose | (408) 984-4044 |
| 5 | DVG | Social | Starts at 8 PM | Walnut Creek | (510) 849-4112 |
| **6** | **ETVC** | **Social Committee** | **Meets 7:30 PM** | **Chez Mollet** | **(415) 664-1499** |
| 6 | 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 |
| **9** | **ETVC** | **Executive Committee** | **Starts at 8 PM** | **TBA** | **(415) 750-1850** |
| **10** | **ETVC** | **TS Seminar** | **Starts at 4:15 PM** | **Chez Mollet** | **(415) 697-2314** |
| **12** | **ETVC** | **Outreach Committee** | **Starts at 7:30 PM** | **Berkeley** | **(510) 849-4112** |
| **13** | **ETVC** | **Education Committee** | **Meets at 7 PM** | **Chez Mollet** | **(415) 338-1777** |
| **13** | **ETVC** | **Education /Outreach Fair** | **Starts at 8 PM** | **Chez Moleet** | **(408) 984-5619** |
| **14** | **ETVC** | **Significant Others** | **Meets 7:30-10 PM** | **Pleasant Hill** | **(415) 664-1499** |
| **15** | **ETVC** | **Bowling Night** | **Call for details** | **San Francisco** | **(415) 731-7032** |
| 15 | RGA | Social | Starts at 8 PM | San Jose | (408) 984-4044 |
| **16** | **ETVC** | **Cotillion Committee** | **Meets at 4 PM** | **Chez Mollet** | **(916) 965-0473** |
| 18 | DVG | Social | Starts at 8 PM | Walnut Creek | (510) 849-4112 |
| 20 | Pac Ctr | TV/TS Rap | Meets 8-10 PM | Berkeley | (510) 841-6224 |
| **21** | **ETVC** | **Couples Social** | **Starts at 8 PM** | **San Leandro** | **(415) 664-1499** |
| 22 | RGA | Poker Social | Starts at 8 PM | Sunnyvale | (408) 732-7406 |
| 23 | SGA | Dinner/Social | Starts at 8 PM | Sacramento | (916) 482-7SGA |
| **26** | **ETVC** | **ETVC Singles** | **Meets 8 PM** | **Berkeley** | **(510) 524-1304** |
| **27** | **ETVC** | **Decoration Party** | **Meets 7:30 PM** | **Chez Mollet** | **(415) 664-1499** |
| **28** | **ETVC** | **SOCIAL** | **Starts at 8 PM** | **Chez Mollet** | **(415) 664-1499** |
| 29 | Pac Ctr | Open Rap | Meets 8-10 PM | Berkeley | (510) 841-6224 |
| 29 | RGA | Dinner | Starts at 8 PM | San Jose | (408) 984-4044 |

# OTHER GROUPS

**Pacific Center for Human Growth,** a counseling-oriented growth center, sponsors all-inclusive gender support groups on 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

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

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# OTHER VOICES ...

**Significant Other Support Group**

*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.*

*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, September 9, and Thursday, October 14. You are all welcome with open arms. For more information call Ginny at (415)*[redacted]

## Telling Parents

**Julie Freeman**

After several years of involvement with the gender community, we decided it was time to share that part of our lives with my parents. At least that is what is on the agenda for later this year. We hope it will be a quiet visit with plenty of time to bring up the subject and show my parents some of the articles I have written over the years for various newsletters and magazines.

My mother writes for a local newspaper, and has been sending me her articles for years; so it seemed appropriate that she realize she is not the only writer in the family, although our audiences are vastly different. Since deciding to do so, we have found out that other relatives are planning to visit also, but perhaps, hopefully, not at the same time! It hardly seems a topic we can fit in between soup and dessert!

Since we decided to tell them, we have discussed the appropriateness of this with several others. We have found, unhappily, two situations where the results were devastating.

In one situation, the parents disowned their son, leaving him out of the will! This individual has appeared on a television talk show and unfortunately was misled as to where the show would air. I guess there is a lesson in this for all of us. If one is to appear on television, be prepared for anyone and everyone to see you. This person's mother happened to see the show. What a way for her to find out about her son! Perhaps if it had been handled more delicately the situation would have had a happier ending.

In the other case, the wife tried talking to her husband's parents about their son. She no sooner broached the subject than the mother started ranting and raving about "the Devil's work." So she decided to back off. How unfortunate for this couple that the parents are so narrow-minded and bigoted when it comes to trying to understand their own son!

But fortunately these cases are not the norm. We know of many couples who have told their parents and had a more pleasant reaction. In many cases, it brought the children and their parents closer together.

So will our visit later this year be successful? I hope so and believe so.


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# THE NEW WOMAN

**Lucy Ann Jones**

**Thursday, October 25th, 1990. Dear Tara,**

I just got your moving and informative letter. I have several ideas and memories about the period of time I spent in transition cross-living as a pre-op.

I did not work as a pre-op and felt as if I needed the free time as a vacation. During that time, I had my nose, Adam's apple, and breast augmentation done. Having to let my beard grow enough for electrolysis was traumatic. I did not start looking for work until after I had my sex change.

I had six or seven one-hour voice training sessions. The voice is half of passing, which I did not realize until I was post-op, working full-time as a woman. It hit me slowly because I was passing based on my appearance.

There was another pre-op TS in my project group at work, whom I read the first day at work during lunch time outside; she wore a split-skirt showing a white slip underneath and I saw her beard in the bright sun. Also, she walked with her legs apart instead of almost touching — I think you know the look!

However, she was only about 5' 4" tall and her voice was great. My boss, Steve, who knew about me and was very kind, tipped me off that she used nose plugs, probably hand-crafted, to train her voice - remember, women talk through their mouths - to get that breathy sound.

She wore no makeup except for special occasions like the Christmas party and had perms to conceal her thin hair and balding male-pattern at the crown but otherwise did not spend any time on her hair.

She was fully accepted by the entire group, who knew about her because she had changed on the job. Eventually she left the company, Sprint Communications, to start her own business. Later, she got married. We never really became friends. She was cold to me.

Why didn't we hit it off? Maybe because I was tall and attracted a lot of attention by wearing too much makeup and too-high heels. My voice was rough and still male-sounding for the most part. I encouraged criticism from fellow workers, but most people cannot be specific about qualities that make up a male or female sounding voice - that's your job. My voice still is a BIG goal and it's most clear when I'm passing over the telephone. I think now when it's OFF that it sounds androgynous, like in the morning when I first wake up, drowsy, and otherwise not alert. I have to be able to concentrate.

After sex reassignment surgery, I had the final touches done on my forehead, nose and chin, along with hair transplants, to help my self-confidence and put forth the best possible appearance.

With free time on your hands, you should get out every day. Read the *Transsexual Phenomenon* by Harry Benjamin, MD, an odd book but excellent reading.

Back to the transition period. I was going out every night to the City and the South Bay gay and lesbian scene, all of which has diminished in recent years with AIDS and the closing of the Bay Brick Inn, the Road Runner, the Studio West and the infamous Sutro Bathhouse South-of-Market. I spent many of my nights till the wee hours at the Sutro Bathhouse.

The Sutro Bathhouse had rock-and-roll and jazz music programmed through their fantastic sound system. It was a circus Fridays and Saturdays at midnight, with the bars starting to thin out, a playground for me, what with the business men during the week and the local crowd and regulars on the weekend. Tuesday was bi-night. Saturday was couple's night. I remember a Halloween party hosted by the Janus Society. It was fantastic!

So much for the good ol' days. I had a good time! So should you. I just got my nails painted bright red and am getting my hair done at 3 PM for the ETVC Halloween party tonight. I will miss you.

With love, Lucy Ann

*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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The *NWC* is a chance to celebrate your womanhood with other new women, to talk about your process with others who will understand, to share experiences, to sing, to bask naked in a hot tub, to take quiet walks through the woods, to blow out a candle for the friends you have lost, to light a candle for those just starting out.

The highlight of the *NWC* is a ceremony in which the passage from male to female, the spilling of blood on the operating table is celebrated. This ceremony provides an actual rite of passage, a social validation of identity that we would not otherwise have.

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# Two Poems by Lauren

Lauren Hotchkiss

*Over the last few years Lauren has shared her essays, articles, stories, and song lyrics with us. This month, however, she has decided to give us something a little bit different...poetry.*

## Transformation

©1992 by Lauren René Hotchkiss

Standing naked before my bedroom mirror,
tears running down my cheeks
as I remember the man that I once was
and see the being I'm becoming.

I feel the estrogen
coursing through my body,
alive, electric.
Energy realigning,
creating a second,
a female puberty long delayed.

My skin, my hair, softer,
changing texture.
Breasts swelling, taking shape.
Twin blossoms of emerging virgin flesh.
Hips widening,
as if in preparation for childbearing
that can never come.
Muscles, once powerful, masculine,
now smoother, more delicately defined.

In transgendered loneliness
forever between man and woman,
yet proud to be a herald to the future
The age of The new breed,
the androgyne

## I, Too, Hermaphroditus

© 1993 by Lauren René Hotchkiss

One night, when I was four
I was awakened by a sound
that came from across the room
behind the closed door of the closet.

As I watched in silence
it opened slowly,
revealing a little girl standing there
smiling in the dark light.

She came toward me slowly, beckoning,
as I trembled beneath the covers.

"Arise, boy child"
she said, taking my hand,
and drawing me back toward the closet;
back behind the coats and winter blankets
toward a hole that had appeared in the floor

She threw her arms around me,
covering me with kisses
and pulled me in.

For miles we fell
until at last we tumbled
into the waters of a mountain lake.
Sinking deeper, deeper,
till at last they closed above our heads

Surrounded by the cool limpid water
absorbing her
absorbed by her
till at last I screamed in dark silence

I awoke, soaked in sweat
in my own bed.

It was not until the next day
when I took my first faltering steps
toward my mother's closet
and saw the strange eyes that looked from mine
as I gazed into the looking glass
as I tried on her clothes,
that I remembered the myth she had once read to me
from a book of fairy tales.

I, too, Hermaphroditus
had met Salmacis
sharer of my flesh and spirit
and I was hers
forever

will she not be satisfied
until I, too, have faded into myth?


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# Gender Skybox

**Pam Souza**

## Some Early Scores

Ah, Septober, my favorite time of year, when the girls of summer give way to the women of autumn. This is when we can truly appreciate what sets us apart from other animals on the planet - opposable thumbs for remote control switching between late season baseball games and early season football games on television. You will be pleased to know that in light of the July 20 blaze in the press box at Atlanta's Fulton County Stadium, fireproofing efforts are under way here at The Skybox to ensure that nothing but its occupants will be flaming.

Striking yet another blow for diversity, ETVC members completed two more successful test rolls of Gender Bowling Night at Rock 'n Bowl in the Haight. July 16 featured a reunion of the original Fabulous Foxes, who dominated the night's cumulative scoring, with Diahanna taking first place for her 293 over two games; Jo Anne coming in second with 280; and Zia taking third with 262, narrowly edging out Cindy Martin's 255. Cindy still gets first place in the single game category with 158, ahead of Diahanna's 152, Jo Anne's 147 and Zia's 143. Also on hand were Zia's SO Amy, Jo Anne's SO Geri, Pam and the Tulsa Twister, Alexis Fury.

July 31 was a single game showdown between The Blondes and The Brunettes, with the latter triumphant, 514 to 488. Dianne Summers lead individual scoring with 134, ahead of teammate Zia's 131 and Jo Anne's 130. Bobbi Dunne helped Jo Anne's Brunette squad, along with the aforementioned Amy, Geri and Pam. Guests Allison, Bernie and Jennifer aided the Blondes, with a late guest appearance by Alexis. NCGL Standings: 1st Place, Diahanna, 35 points; 2nd Place, Cindy and Dianne, 25 points each; 3rd Place, Jo Anne, 20 points; 4th Place, Zia, 15 points.

Mark your calendars for the third Friday of each month. Everyone - from high rolling queens to novice gutter-gals - is welcome for a good time. A snack and cocktail bar with waitresses, club-style lighting and music video screens supply entertainment between frames. The biggest challenges are finding parking (DO NOT park in MacDonald's lot. They tow!) and finding an outfit to match those rented tri-tone shoes. The cost is nine dollars for two (often more) hours of bowling. Reservations are required. Call me at (415) [redacted] for info. See you on the lanes.

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# Life, Liberty, & Lanes!

**By Alexis Fury**

For thousands of years, humankind in its various states of technological advancement has sought the secrets of life. With an unquenchable curiosity and thirst for knowledge, people throughout the ages have tried various ways of putting in perspective their existence and achieve new levels of inner peace.

Surprisingly, Stone Age Man came closest when an unnamed inventor made a remarkable discovery. His invention lacked the correct number of dimensions and was missing a couple of holes, but his brother-in-law, who was to be later known as the first marketing agent, told him, "Hey, let's just go with what we have and you can work out the bugs later." The wheel became a raging success and went down in history as the first time an inventor sold out for the money.

In the Sixties, Stoned Age Man thought that tranquillity could be achieved by taking lots of psycho-tropic drugs, hanging out in Haight-Ashbury and Rock 'n Roll. Many of them are still there and, while they may have discovered inner peace, their outer odor leaves much to be desired.

But the real answer of course is BOWLING!!! In the Haight, at the Rock 'n Bowl.

Only through bowling can tranquillity be achieved. Well, maybe not, but like all roads to happiness there are a few pitfalls and obstacles that you should be aware of.

To avoid discouragement I'll quickly name a few of the dangers:

SEASONED VETERAN BOWLING PINS - These pins have mastered the art of dodging the ball. While this occurrence is harmless, it seriously affects your overall score and the satisfaction of the game.

DISHEARTENED BOWLING BALLS - Bowling balls that have somehow dodged the mandatory retirement age and no longer have their heart in the game.

FULL CONTACT BOWLING ALLEYS - These are easy to avoid as there are many signs to look for, like big craters in the sidewalk and parking lot, broken windows, cars in front with bowling balls and pins imbedded in their windshields, etc. Full contact bowling is for the expert and is a marriage of the games of bowling and dodge ball.

SUDDEN, INVISIBLE SNOWSHOES FROM HELL - This phenomenon occurs when you are making your approach to the lane. You make a couple of steps then suddenly your feet widen and lengthen causing you to stumble or even fall. This is a scientifically documented phenomenon that also occurs in other areas of life, like when you have really pissed off a big, mean, ugly, biker and try to make a hasty retreat. A close relative to this that affects bowlers is the SUDDEN, INVISIBLE CARTOON GLOVES FROM HELL, which prevents you from releasing the ball at the end of your approach.

These are just a few of the hazards you must overcome on your voyage of self discovery and a few things to remember, like never carry eggs or bread in your bowling bag and of course, never park in MacDonald's parking lot 'cause you WILL be towed.

A few of us at ETVC have dedicated our lives (OK, OK, at least a few hours a month) to the quest for self-discovery through bowling. Anyone who would like to join us can contact Cindy Martin or Pam Souza of the illustrious ETVC Executive Committee. The When hasn't been worked out yet, but the Where is The Rock N' Bowl at Haight and Stanyan, Phone (415) 826-BOWL. All that is required is a sense of humor and good sportspersonship - Oh, yeah - and $9 for admission. Hope ta' see ya'!

It will be enlightening.


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# Education Events

**June 19: Significant Others Speak Out**

In the sunny, spacious Multi-Purpose room of the Woman's Building on 18th Street in San Francisco, an audience of crossdressers, significant others and one "merely curious person" heard and questioned a panel of five women, each in a relationship with a crossdresser: Julie, who headed the panel, married more than 29 years to Donna, who acknowledged her crossdressing to her some seven years ago; Diana, married "almost two months" to Janelle in a same gender ceremony; Lauren, who married crossdresser Kathryn two years ago; Margo, married seven years, whose husband, Paulette, has been living full-time as a woman the past 3 1/2 years; Nicky, who has known her friend and lover, Jane, for almost a year.

In a wide-ranging, free-form question-and-answer session, each member made several quotable statements. Here are samples:

Julie: I'm not comfortable with all aspects, but now I want to tell good friends and relatives, where I wasn't ready a year ago...It's OK to be very supportive one week and unsupportive the next...We told our daughters when they were 18 and 21. Now they're relatively unconcerned. It's not a part of their lives.

Nicky: There's sisterhood involved in our relationship. I get intimacy I haven't found with other men.

Lauren: [TV talk shows] ought to have a program about "Why do you have a problem with crossdressers?" rather than "Why are you a crossdresser?" They aren't a great forum because what they want is entertainment and what we want is education.

Margo: Trying to teach her to think like a girl and act like a girl, that's the hardest thing. It's hard to figure out your instincts and teach them to someone else.

Diana: I've got an 18 year old whose dad was always saying, "You've got to be physical, you've got to be strong, you've got to be muscular." And my emphasis was, "You've got to be able to cook, you've got to be able to do the ironing." "*Why,* Mom?" "Because there isn't always some woman to take care of you...There's more to it than being strong and muscular!"

**July 17:** In her column on page 8 of this issue, Luanna Rodgers writes about her seminar, "The Closet: Getting Out, Staying Out."

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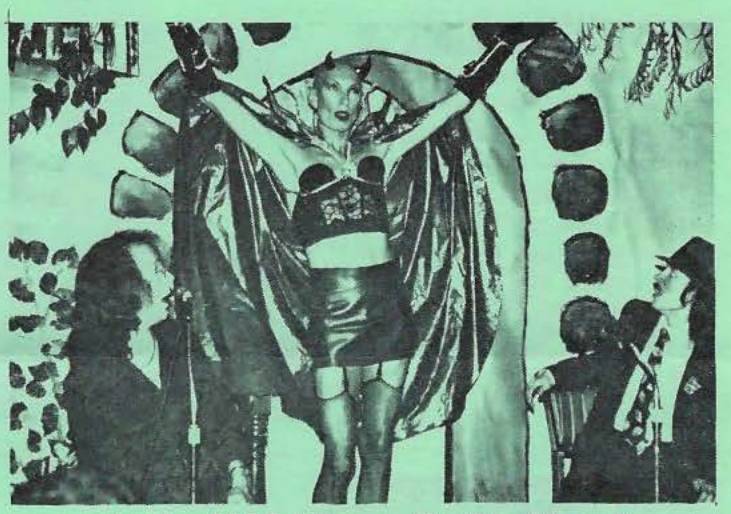

***At the 1993 "Rrrreally Big Shew"***

*Lauren (left) and Francis (right) discover "Hell isn't so bad after all." Not with a cute devil like Zia.*


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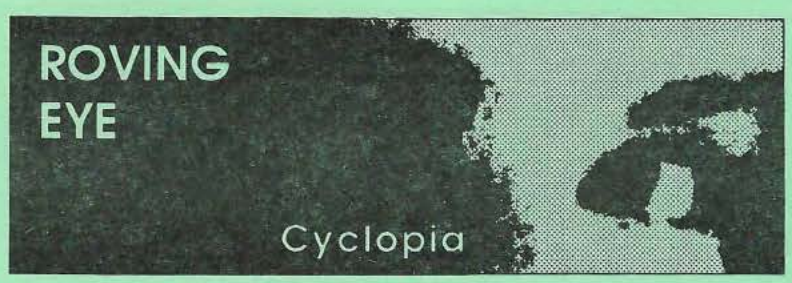


Place: ETVC Booth at Gay Freedom Day Parade
Question: How was your very first experience at the Gay Freedom Day Parade?
Note: Obviously, this issue's photos were not taken at the parade, though we did take photos - as it turned out, on damaged film.

Jamie Faye Fenton, San Jose: It was lots of fun, sort of like being out in front of the whole wide world. I helped carry the ETVC banner part of the time in the parade. The rest of the time I interacted with the crowd, walking in a sexy way, waving, making eye contact, smiling, and acting in a little more exagerated way than a genetic female would. It was fun. I was amazed at the response. You'd hit pockets where everybody was cranked up and waving at you at the same time. That was the best time. Here at the booth I see that we're the most conservative crossdressers. I see people passing by who are way farther out than we are.

Nicky Kennedy, Lafayette: I walked with my dogs and my friend, Jane, in the PAWS (Pets Are Wonderful Support) contingent. Afterward, ETVC fed me and my dogs and gave me shelter. I could have marched with any number of groups. I could have marched with men or women. I'm very gay today. I'm just as gay as I can be. The highlights for me were the spontaneity and the wonderfulness of all the people in the parade; all the caring people who watched the parade; all the cheers; all the unanimity, and just being with all these people who have one thing in common, which is normal and wonderful. There was this one big blond woman who was outstanding looking. I thought the crowd was cheering for me and my dogs, but when I turned around, I saw what they were really cheering about. It was a very fine, fun day.

Loyola Leveroni, Santa Clara: Actually, this isn't my first parade. I was here 27 years ago. At that time, I walked down Market Street pushing my son, who was six months old. We were supporting a friend who was gay. Today I was a spectator for the first time. My hands are tired from clapping. I cheered, I danced - it's marvelous. When ETVC came by it was fun seeing people I know, like Martina and Telzey and Shawna, Miss ETVC. One of my favorite groups was "Hot Flashes," Lesbian Menopausal Women, and they walked by fanning themselves. I know what got to me! It was the families and friends of lesbians and gays. It was good to see that many families in support of their kids; it made me a little teary. Corporate America being here, that was interesting: Levi-Strauss, Apple, AT&T, Kaiser. I liked the Wells Fargo cheer: "We're here, we're queer, and we want your money!"

Amy Vaughn, Concord: I marched in the parade. When I turned the corner onto Market Street, my eyes got sort of teary. I was overwhelmed by the emotion of it all. It was fantastic. I felt so accepted. People were cheering. People were doing the same thing I'm doing. It just feels very free. I've never had this feeling before. This is wonderful support for me. I've been considering living my life as a woman, and to know that there are so many people out there that are not accepted by society, but they can relate to me in some way; that's important. I'm proud about who I am, instead of having to hide. I mean, I was crossdressing for 30 years. It's only recently I've come out. I'm very glad I live in the Bay Area.

Bunny T-Bone Bunny, Berkeley: I really liked seeing the parents with the lesbians and gays marching together. That really warmed my heart to see that the parents were accepting, and were out in the open saying "I accept my daughter." And one guy had a sign saying "My Gay Daughter is Great! And My Straight Daughter is a Pain in the Neck!" This year they're calling it "The Year of the Queer, " which includes bisexuals, transsexuals, transvestites, transgenderists, gays - everybody! Queer has not always been my favorite word, but I find that to be a unique way of having a title for everybody who has a life that's not whatever "heterosexual" people think should be. I wanted to march in the bisexual section, and I'm sorry I didn't. Next year I hope to do it.