Educational TV Channel ETVC

N E W S L E T T E R

VOLUME TWELVE, NUMBER 1, *JULY - AUGUST, 1993*

May Social A Night For Winners

Pam Souza

Oscars, Emmys, Tonys, Grammys, Pulitzers, Nobels and numerous bowling trophies were cleared off mantels in anticipation of the 1993 ETVC Awards, the coveted golden butterflies bestowed upon hard working volunteers.

The Ginny Knuth Member of the Year Award was presented by its namesake to Donna Freeman. Among Donna's many accomplishments are: maintaining the membership list, copy-editing (with spouse, Julie) the newsletter, hosting couples socials (again, with Julie) and co-founding our sister organization, DVG.

"You can always depend on her. She'll never let you down," said Ginny. "It is a pleasure - it is my complete privilege - to give you this award." Receiving her plaque, Donna said simply, "Thank you very much. I love you all." Judging by the applause in the room, the feeling was mutual.

For difficult and courageous work as ETVC's Public Relations Director, Cindy gave the President's Award to Roxanne de Lyon, "who routinely sticks her neck out for the rest of us by going public to respond to portrayals, good and bad, of our community in the news and entertainment media."

Vice-President Dianne awarded Billie Jean Jones for taking the reins as Cotillion director on short notice and doing a splendid job. Julie Freeman received the Secretary's Award from Jane for contributions to the newsletter. Nancy Ann bestowed the Treasurer's Award upon Ginny - returning to the Chez after nearly six months of recovery from surgery, during which time she continued to help keep the books in order. Welcome back, Ginny!

Outreach (Lauren and Telzey) gave awards to Melissa and Rachael. Education (Martina and Evette) honored Ralph Judd and Cori Farrell. Social (Cheryl and Pam) awarded Karin Miller and Nicole. These volunteers do the valuable behind-the-scenes work which is appreciated by the co-chairs as much as air, coffee and comfortable shoes.

Donna Freeman
1992-1993 Ginny Knuth Member of the Year

ETVC 1993-1994 Executive Committee. *Standing (l -r): Dianne Summers, V.P., Nancy Ann Martine, Treas., Cori Farrell and Martina Bloom, Social, Telzey Adams, Outreach. Seated (l-r): J. K. Bentley, Sec., Cindy Martin, Pres., Lauren Hotchkiss, Outreach, Sharon Rose and Evette Roquelaurie, Education*

ETVC Wins Again With 10 in the 9th

Pam Souza

In election results, two new faces join a core of returning veterans to the 1993/94 Executive Committee and softball team, as rookies Cheryl and Pam turn in one set of spikes for another. Winning her second term as President, Cindy Martin returns as pitcher. Late season replacement Dianne Summers is Vice-President and roving short fielder Nancy Ann returns as Treasurer at first base. Education chair Evette takes over at catcher, while co-chair Sharon plays second base. Social chair Cori and co-chair Martina complete the infield at shortstop and third base respectively. Outreach chair Lauren patrols left field, with co-chair Telzey in right. Jane returns as Secretary in center field, having learned to never again let a sports columnist cover an election.

SUPPORT ETVC... SEND IN YOUR $20.00 DUES RENEWAL TODAY!

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

OFFICERS

President	Cindy Martin
Vice-President	Dianne Summers
Secretary	Jane Kamper Bentley
Treasurer	Nancy Ann Martine
Education	Evette LaRoqulaurie & Sharon Rose
Outreach	Lauren Hotchkiss & Telzey Adams
Social	Cori Farrell & Martina Bloom

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Membership (as of 5/31/93)	443
1992 Membership	433
New members this year	101

TREASURER'S REPORT

4/1/93 Balance	$2892.50
April Income	$1091.17
April Expenses	$2543.37
4/30/93 Balance	$1440.30
May income	$2844.60
May expenses	$287.52
5/31/93 Balance	$ 4,007.38

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.

NEWSLETTER STAFF

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AD RATES

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

Personal ads from ETVC members cost $3 for up to 40 words. We will *not* accept ads with a purely sexual objective. All ad deadlines are the first day of June, August, October, December, February and April. Send ad copy and a check for the appropriate amount to: ETVC, PO Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486

HOTLINE 510-549-2665

EDITOR'S NOTES

by Jane Kamper Bentley

ETVC was founded in 1982 by six people. The first seven years were marked by consistent, phenomenal growth of about 60 members per year. By 1989, when membership had grown to 424, it seemed axiomatic that in two years we would top 500. Yet we didn't, and never have come close. We finished the 1990-91 year with 455 members; 1992 saw a decline - our first ever - to 433; this year we regained some ground, finishing 1992-93 with 443 members.

Our experience is not unique. Philadelphia's Renaissance Club (patterned after ETVC by founder JoAnn Roberts) skyrocketed, then leveled off at about 350. Other clubs, such as Boulton & Park in Texas, have bumped against their ceilings, as well.

Plainly, then, we need not panic. A couple of things, nevertheless, I find troubling. One is that our new member numbers have declined from a high of 185 in 1989 (when we started keeping statistics) to 141 in 1990; 138 in 1991; 115 in 1992 and 101 in 1993. Each year we also lose about one-quarter of our membership. This year we lost "only" 110, a record low, because we went out of our way to appeal to lapsed members to renew. Trends indicate fewer and fewer new members eventually will cause a dip in total membership; though perhaps, like our seven years of steady growth, even declining numbers will level off.

Another is that even if we added up all past and present members of ETVC, the total would comprise only a fraction of the entire gender dysphoric population in the Bay Area, which must number in the tens of thousands. When ETVC was new, there were so many of us ripe, ready and waiting, that we were like surface gold. But now much of that surface gold is claimed and the richest veins remain buried. We must reach the hidden tens of thousands, letting them know that they are not alone and that we are a resource for their emergence.

So how do we dig? Where? If we don't have the tools it doesn't matter. But we do. The tools areus.

You received a membership survey a couple of months ago. Part of it was a resource survey, the inspiration of ETVC Vice-President Dianne Summers. Many have already responded. If you haven't filled out the survey, do it now. Not every volunteer will be ushered to Outreach. But if you can hit a nail to construct a prop in the Cotillion, you may be freeing another member to appear on local television. Your empathic skills on the Hostess Committee could quell the fears of a newcomer enough to persuade her to come back. Your knowledge of computers may transform newsletter production from a chore into a breeze.

Someday, when crossdressers run for congress - and win; when transsexuals become police chiefs; when Christine Jorgensen is on a postage stamp and Virginia Prince is on Meet the Press; when our people appear in the media not because they cross-live but because they lead significant lives; when you are the mommy because you say you are; when being trans-anything is no more of a big deal than having red hair or being Catholic; *then* ETVC can close its doors and go sit pretty on the beach. But not until.

Send in your survey.

*****

Note: Ever say, "Meet you at the Chez?" or "Meet you at Lily's?" And when you met, did you just split, or did you linger, if only awhile, to buy a drink or two; or perhaps, at the Chez, a meal? If we take these establishments for granted, we shouldn't. Both have supported our club and our community in countless ways, including: selling Cotillion tickets; distributing newsletters; and most notably, by providing us space either at ridiculously low rates or at no charge at all. Support those who support us. Patronize our good friends at Chez Mollet and Lily's.

*****

Alpha to Omega Dept: An interview with Frank Marino (a Vegas Dragstar who does Joan Rivers), followed by an interview with Marjorie (*Vested Interests*) Garber. Where would you find them? In the pages of Dragazine, a 32 page, slick, fun mag out of West Hollywood, published twice a year by Lois Commondenomenator, aided by Lyla Kadog and Sybil Disobedience. You can pick it up at SF's Different Light Bookstore at 489 Castro, or send $4.95 for one issue, $8.95 two, to "Dragazine, PO Box 691664, West Hollywood, CA 90069.

Letters

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your recent gift of $300 to Project Open Hand. Your help truly makes a difference in the lives of men, women and children with AIDS.

Every day of the year, Project Open Hand volunteers fan out across San Francisco and Alameda County to deliver over 1,800 hot nutritious meals and hundreds of grocery bags. Six days a week, volunteers fill custom grocery bags with items selected by our walk-in food bank clients. People from all walks of life give their time to work in every aspect of Project Open Hand, making possible the fulfillment of our mission, providing *Meals with Love for People with AIDS*.

With this tremendous volunteer support, we are able to direct your gifts mainly to covering our enormous food costs and direct client service expenses, as well as renewing our aging kitchen equipment. You can be assured, therefore, that your help has the greatest possible impact.

Thank you!

Very truly yours,
Steve Burns, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Hope on the Horizon

How would you like to be able to tell your boss that in six months you will begin living full time in the "opposite" gender role without fear of being fired? How would you like to be able to live openly transgendered without worrying if the landlord might evict you? Are these just dreams?

They could come true in San Francisco. The first signal that the City is getting interested in transgender civil rights was the appointment of Blaine (Kiki) Whitlock - a male-to-female transsexual and long-time activist in the transgender community - to the San Francisco Human Rights Commission's Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Advisory Committee.

Ms. Whitlock has been charged with recruiting three other people from the transgender community, a female-to-male (Jamison Green), a male-to-female (Tamara Ching) and a gender therapist (Luanna Rodgers) to join her with five other members of the Advisory Committee in forming a transgender task force.

"Our first order of business," according to Ms. Whitlock, "will be in getting the committee name changed to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & *Transgender* Advisory Committee. Next, because people in City government - from the Advisory Committee on up to the Board of Supervisors - don't know about us, we're going to give them a course called TG 101. I'll speak before the committee in July, then we'll open it up to others beginning in August. This is a long term plan. We have to educate up through the ranks, eventually bringing the supervisors up to speed. Our ultimate goal is to get intelligently written legislation that will give real protection to transgendered people's civil rights in San Francisco."

This is something we all can support. Let's show our support by attending as many meetings as possible. You don't have to speak. You don't have to come dressed. Just being there will be expert testimony to the need we share with all citizens for equal protection of our civil right to work, live and play without fear of retribution. Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Advisory Committee meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 25 Van Ness Boulevard (near Market) on the 8th floor, 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM. For more information, call committee staffers Larry Brinkin or Cynthia Goldstein at (415) [redacted]

President's Message

Cindy Martin

ETVC's officers knew that we would get criticism when we sent out the 1993 survey. We asked for it.

All of us felt that it was very important to hear what you really think about your organization; that's why we asked you to tell us the group's greatest strengths and failings. Will the leadership pay attention to what you say? Let's put it this way: a couple of years ago the number one complaint was over smoking in the party room at the Chez. This year, smoking was banned.

With smoking no longer an issue, your concerns have shifted and several areas have emerged as matters that need attention: leadership, diversity, newcomers and transsexual services.

Leadership: The complaints here were essentially that an "old guard," a "clique" and, my favorite, a "cult of personality" runs the organization. It's a little weird being compared to Mao and Stalin, especially since I've only been in office a year; but I do agree that more fresh blood is needed in the leadership.

Future leaders will come out of the volunteer base and I believe that base is about to increase significantly. A gratifyingly large number of people responded to the survey's request to fill volunteer spots and it is these people who will replace people like me next year.

Diversity: The criticism here is that ETVC is primarily for "white heterosexual TVs." The truth is that ETVC DOES NOT have many minorities. More people of Asian heritage have joined in recent years and we have seen more gay people becoming members. Both of these are very welcome trends. Yet at the same time our minority membership, particularly African-Americans and Hispanics, is low.

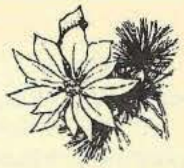
Why don't we have more minorities in the group? I have my own theories, but I won't bore you with them. What I can tell you is that our outreach program advertises in most of the gay media, at least those that we can afford, and we have ads in the major transgender publications. We are also reachable through major hotlines dealing with sexual minorities and we are in the phone book, at least in Oakland. Any specific (we have plenty of vague ideas) suggestions for promotion and advertising that might increase minority representation are welcome.

On the other hand, I KNOW that minority newbies who do come to socials can feel awfully isolated in a sea of white, straight faces. We can do something about this. The executive committee has appointed Cheryl Sheppard to be the new Hostess Coordinator with the specific charge of recruiting gay, black, Asian and Hispanic members to be available as hostesses/hosts at socials. The program should have begun by the time you read this, but if you would like to help, and we really want you to, see me or Cheryl at the next social.

Newcomers: As noted above, ETVC is now going to have a formal hostess program for the socials. Ms. Sheppard, who recently retired as social co-chair, will put together a team of hosts/hostesses who will have the specific job of welcoming and orienting new people. For too long this job has fallen informally on ETVC officers, some of whom simply haven't been up to the job. We hope the new approach will ease this perennial problem.

Transsexual services: This is one of ETVC's weakest areas. ETVC tries to provide a safe, fun setting for all of us to meet and learn about each other. But this is obviously not enough for some of the people who are undergoing fundamental life change. The problem is that transvestites don't really understand what transsexuals want and TVs dominate the leadership and are the overwhelming majority of the membership. There are a few TSs who do tons of volunteer work, but we still desperately need a TS to step forward and help organize some TS-specific programs. Any takers??

Special Events



The Closet: Getting Out, Staying Out
Luanna Rodgers
Wednesday, July 21

You've made all the little steps. Now it's time to take that BIG one...OUT of the closet; somehow, though, you're just not ready. How do you break through the invisible door? And once you ARE out, what next? Luanna Rodgers is uniquely qualified to address this issue. As a therapist, she has over the years helped many of us to overcome fear and prejudice and to free our innermost selves; as a citizen, she has put herself in the forefront of the struggle to gain full civil rights protection for crossgender people in San Francisco; as an ETVC Newsletter columnist, she has offered us insight, perspective and gentle encouragement. In the closet or out, you owe it to yourself to see and hear this important speaker. Chez Mollet. $3.

Beach Blanket Friendship Bingo
Thursday, July 29

Tired of the same old gender faces? Want to meet new people and shmooz with Miss ETVC Shawna? Do what Frankie and Annette would do if they had the good sense to be transgendered. Play Beach Blanket Friendship Bingo! Have your bingo card filled with the names of some of the most fascinating and wildest members of ETVC and maybe even win GREAT PRIZES! It's easy, a lot more fun than sand in your bathing suit, and a great way to know others and be known. This social is always a hit. Now if we could just get Lenny Mollet to try on that bikini...Members $3, Guests $5.

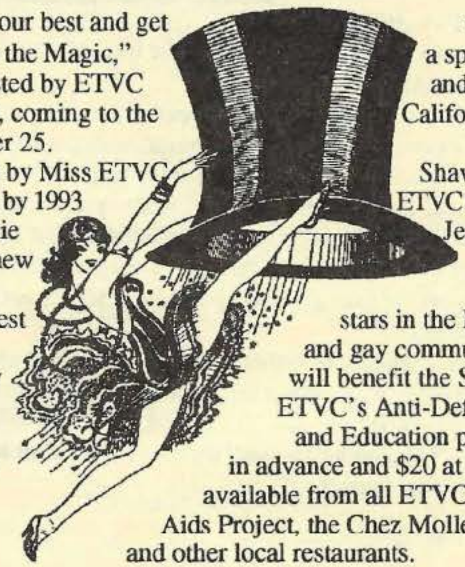
Looking Better, By The Professor
Bill Jones
Saturday, August 14

Professor Bill Jones, renowned makeup artist at San Francisco State and consultant for the San Francisco Opera, will again present a demonstration work shop. He will share his expertise on how you can apply and style makeup to achieve the best look for you. The workshop will be held at the Drama Department's makeup classroom, Creative Arts Building on Holloway west of 19th Avenue (once inside, look for the signs). Bring your own makeup and clothes. Privacy will be assured. There is limited space for 25 people in one (1) session from 10 AM to 1 PM. For reservations call Bill at (415) 338-1777 between 8:30 AM and 5:00 PM, or leave a message. $3.

South of the Border Vacation
Thursday, August 26

Grab your bags, your shorts and your wrap and take a vacation south of the border. Relax in your favorite vacation outfit or dance to steaming, tropical rhythms. There will be a beautiful legs contest with prizes and lots to cheer about. So get away from it all (at least for one night) and vacation at the Chez. Music! Dancing! The legs contest! Caramba! It's all happening SOUTH of the border. Well, South of Market anyway. Members $5. Guests $8

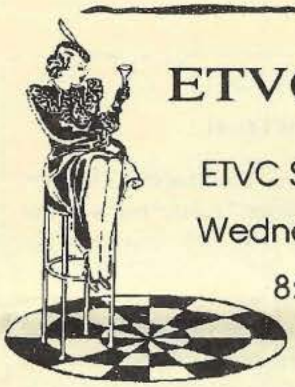
Don't Lose The Magic



Get out your best and get ready for "Don't Lose the Magic," a spectacular event co-hosted by ETVC and the Stop Aids Project, coming to the California Club on September 25.

Produced by Miss ETVC Shawna Rose and directed by 1993 ETVC Cotillion Director Billie Jean Jones, this terrific new benefit will feature some of the brightest stars in the Bay Area transgender and gay communities.

The show will benefit the Stop Aids Project and ETVC's Anti-Defamation, Outreach and Education programs. Tickets, $15 in advance and $20 at the door, will be available from all ETVC officers, the Stop Aids Project, the Chez Mollet, Lily's, Marlena's and other local restaurants.



ETVC Singles Rap

ETVC Singles meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 8:00 PM at the Chez.

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TV/TS/TG GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

A Calendar of Events for July & August

JULY

2	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
3	**ETVC**	**ExecutiveCommittee**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Oakland**	**(415) 750-1850**
6	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 849-4112
7	**ETVC**	**Singles**	**Meets 8:00PM**	**Chez Mollet**	**(510) 524-1304**
7	**ETVC**	**Social Committee**	**Meets at 7:30 PM**	**Chez Mollet**	**(415) 664-1499**
7	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
8	**ETVC**	**Significant Others**	**Meets 7:30-10 PM**	**San Francisco**	**(415) 664-1499**
9	**ETVC**	**Poker Social**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**San Francisco**	**(415) 664-1499**
9	South Bay Gender Discussion Group		Meets 8-10 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-5619
13	**ETVC**	**Outreach Committee**	**Meets at 7PM**	**Berkeley**	**(510) 849-4112**
16	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
19	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 849-4112
21	**ETVC**	**Education Committee**	**Meets at 7 PM**	**Chez Mollet**	**(408) 984-5619**
21	**ETVC**	**Luanna Rodgers**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Chez Mollet**	**(408) 984-5619**
21	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
22	**ETVC**	**Couples Social**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Foster City**	**(415) 664-1499**
23	RGA	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	Sunnyvale	(408) 732-7406
24	SGA	Dinner/Social	Starts at 8 PM	Sacramento	(916) 482-7SGA
28	**ETVC**	**Decoration Party**	**Meets 7:30 PM**	**Chez Mollet**	**(415) 664-1499**
29	**ETVC**	**Friendship Bingo**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Chez Mollet**	**(415) 664-1499**
30	RGA	Dinner	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
30	Pac Ctr	Open Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224

AUGUST

3	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 849-4112
4	**ETVC**	**Social Committee**	**Meets 7:30 PM**	**Chez Mollet**	**(415) 664-1499**
4	**ETVC**	**Singles**	**Meets 8:00 PM**	**Chez Mollet**	**(510) 524-1304**
4	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
6	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
7	**ETVC**	**Executive Committee**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**TBA**	**(415) 750-1850**
10	**ETVC**	**Outreach Committee**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Chez Mollet**	**(510) 849-4112**
12	**ETVC**	**Significant Others**	**Meets 7:30-10 PM**	**TBA**	**(415) 664-1499**
13	**ETVC**	**Poker Social**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**San Francisco**	**(415) 664-1499**
13	South Bay Gender Discussion Group		Meets 8-10 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-5619
14	**ETVC**	**Bill Jones**	**Starts at 10AM**	**SF State**	**(415) 338-1777**
16	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 849-4112
18	**ETVC**	**Education Committee**	**Meets at 8:30PM**	**Chez Mollet**	**(408) 984-5619**
18	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
19	**ETVC**	**Couples Social**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**TBA**	**(415) 664-1499**
20	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
25	**ETVC**	**Decoration Party**	**Meets 7:30 PM**	**Chez Mollet**	**(415) 664-1499**
26	**ETVC**	**South of The Border**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Chez Mollet**	**(415) 664-1499**
27	RGA	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	Sunnyvale	(408) 732-7406
27	Pac Ctr	Open Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
28	SGA	Dinner/Social	Starts at 8 PM	Sacramento	(916) 482-7SGA

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 January 1 - May 31 is $10.00 (New members only).

Full year membership June 1 - May 31 is $20.00

Please remit by check or money order to:

ETVC, P.O. Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486

Ask Dr. Lin

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

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

JKB: I have a friend who is afraid that if he crossdresses somehow his femme side will take over. In your experience, is there a Jeckyll and Hyde scenario in which the female side takes over?

Dr. Lin: I think your friend raises a very interesting and potentially realistic fear. The solution is consciousness about the meaning of the female side. A number of people who experience two selves - male and female - as time goes on feel pressure from the female side to be expressed more and more, and oftentimes fear that the female side will take over and the male side will disappear. When that's going on, I would encourage anyone to do a lot of psychological work to get more perspective. Why is the female side wanting to emerge more and more? What are the dreams saying? For some people, it's transvestism moving into transsexualism. With others it's a message that the male side needs to relax, to have more fun, be more spontaneous...lighten up. I don't think this is something for your friend to be afraid of, but to face.

JKB: It seems to me that we crossdressers are often stuck at the psychological level of fourteen year old girls in a first prom dress. Do you find that crossdressing can in fact inhibit a person's understanding of the feminine?

Dr. Lin: Some individuals do get stuck focusing on the immediacy of the experience, which is very powerful and compelling. The person is no longer worried about the future or the past. Of course, for women we're living in the past, present and future on an ongoing basis. When your only experience is crossdressing, you don't have the feedback you would if you were crossliving. Transsexuals have a more realistic experience of what it's like to be a woman and after awhile they usually stop being stuck in that kind of high.

JKB: Since reading Deborah Tannen's book, *You Just Don't Understand*, I was stricken with how similar we trans people are to other men. With other men, even crossdressers, I behave very much like a man. If you remember my editorial, I was asking friends about their family life, and it was a little uncomfortable, because men don't do that; we don't know the names of each other's children.

Dr. Lin: Yes, I did read that. *Of course* I know the names of all my friends' children. I know all about them. I mean, we can talk about ideas; we could talk about sports, I suppose, but that's not what we talk about. I talk to men about these things, and I talk to crossdressers about these kinds of things - if I'm not doing therapy, of course. But in general conversation, I don't talk to them about the same things women talk about because they don't bring those things up.

JKB: Why is it that we who admire women to the point of emulation often do not know how to relate to women except as men?

Dr. Lin: I think it has to do with learning. What one did growing up. Generally speaking, lots of crossdressers haven't had a lot of dating experience connecting with real women sexually, but they do have great fantasy lives and they have created this inner world. In some ways it's temperament, it's who the person is, and then chance. If you're kind of a shy boy, and for some reason you found this pleasure, you develop this whole other world that is connected with the mirror as opposed to a flesh and blood woman. And you do it many times and you don't tell anybody. It's a place that you go to hide, where you go for pleasure -

JKB: What about guilt and shame?

Dr. Lin: It's a major part of it, and makes it stronger, too - because it's your guilty secret - and very exciting. Which gives it tremendous power. If you had been freely able to crossdress as a child and no one laughed at it or acted as though there was anything wrong with it, it would never most likely have developed into such a powerful thing. In my opinion, it could have been a fun, sexual experience that some kids had and some kids didn't, and it probably never would have gotten to the point that it did.

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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A Day in The City

By Evelyn Perry

It was a beautiful Saturday morning. I got up real early, went to my hairdresser's for a "do" and headed to San Francisco for my appointment at the Prescriptives cosmetics counter in Macy's.

Enroute, I saw Carol on the freeway. We met at a parking lot and decided to carpool to the city, where, at the Union Square garage, we met Cindy and walked together to Macy's. Cori, Denise and Sandra were already there. As soon as we walked onto the busy sales floor, we were ushered over to registration and assigned our makeup artists.

Carol had a makeup artist all to herself, while Cindy and I shared another. I told her of my problem skin (oil/shine after a few hours) and she worked on checking out my base color (blue/red). She complimented me on my makeup and told me that there were few areas for improvement . I ate it up! It really made my day. But I balked at the $45 foundation and $35 powder cost. I only bought a facial cleanser for $16. Others spent a LOT more than I did, some exceeding $120.

After we were done - Cindy and Carol looked gorgeous - we shopped a bit. We were planning to eat at Fisherman's Wharf, but Cindy really didn't want to go that far and suggested a place nearby, one of those take-your-pick fast-food sort of places. Since we were all dolled up, I felt that we should eat at a classy place. So Carol and I left Cindy, Cori, and Denise and we walked to Neiman Marcus, where we checked out the restaurant in the rotunda: a circular dining area with a beautiful stained-glass dome. The center area was open to all four floors below us, while our seats at the windows overlooked Union Square. The food and service were divine and we watched models show off gorgeous attire while we ate.

Then off we went to Fisherman's Wharf and window shopped, enjoying the attention of the tourists. We kinda knew which ones would likely turn around to look at us, so we beat them to the punch and turned to look at THEM. Greeted with a couple of happy Cheshire-cat grins when they turned, it couldn't help but warm them up. We had a drink at Fisherman's Grotto, then went to the Cannery and Ghirardelli Square, where Jerry (Mr. Magic) Salazar performed, and chatted with him awhile on his break. Later, we returned to Fisherman's Grotto, had superb salmon dinners, then drove through Seacliff to the Cliff House, where we watched the sun set on a splendid day of fun.

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Cindy At Large

Cindy Martin

ADD STEPHEN TYLER, the Mick Jagger look-alike lead vocalist of Aerosmith, to the lengthening list of "friends of the community." In a recent interview in US magazine, Tyler said that he was woman and man in the same body. Tyler, rock fans may note, sang a song called "Dude Looks Like a Lady" a few years ago that was an out-and-out paean to cross-dressing. In the song's video Tyler appears en femme, and he is very, very convincing.

ERIC CLAPTON? Why not, aren't all the great ones? Seems that Clapton, who allegedly had an affair with Jagger in the early 70s (who didn't?) used to enjoy wearing red nail polish and eyeshadow back in those days. After midnight, we gonna let it all hang down...

OLLIE! From Cross-Talk's "News Queen" columnist Paula Jordan Sinclair: During investigation of the Irangate scandal special prosecutor Lawrence Walsh discovered this E-mail message Lt. Col. Oliver North sent to his assistant, Ronald Sable: "Oh Lord, I lost the slip and broke one of the high heels. Forgive please. Will return the wig on Monday."

DAVID TULLER, a staff writer for the San Francisco Chronicle has written several positive articles about the transgender community in recent months, including one story in late May that described the "nascent" transgender rights movement. Tuller also co-authored an article about the controversy in the gay community between those who want to present a "people next door" image to the world and those who feel that even flamboyant drag queens must be included in the gay rights movement. This story, printed June 1, included this passage from the New York Times: "A just society must offer the same full citizenship to the flamboyant dressers in the (national March on Washington gay pride parade) as it does to those who look "just like the people next door." Amen.

FREE THE INNER BITCH says writer Elizabeth Hilts in an article in a magazine called "Hysteria" (I'm not kidding). Forget the inner child, she wrote, now "It's time to stop denying the inner bitch in ourselves. Stop apologizing for her. Set her free." I know I have.

WE'RE TURNING UP EVERYWHERE The June edition of Conde Nast's HG carries a wonderful feature article about Grayson Perry, an out, married, heterosexual TV and well-know British pottery maker. What's truly excellent are pictures of Perry showing him as Grayson and en femme as Claire. She is cute, he is handsome and both look terrific.

GINNY KNUTH brings us the report of an Oregon transsexual who ended up in a local newspaper story for her involvement in a minor altercation with police. Clearly the only thing "newsworthy" about the story was that Richelle Kemnow is transsexual. In response to the story, Richelle wrote a moving letter to the editor saying the incident and publicity has lead to more harassment and by cops and neighbors. She closes with this statement: "I have one question...why must people attack verbally and physically someone who is or chooses to be different?"

ORLANDO may be this year's "Crying Game." The film is about a man who becomes a woman over a 400-year lifespan and is supposed to be an excellent adaptation of the Virginia Woolf story. Should be in theaters by the time you read this.

A BLACK CROSSDRESSER in an article in Philadelphia's Renaissance News offers up two possible explanations why so few blacks are in organized groups: lack of money to have a decent wardrobe and perception that "black men are expected to be tough, strong, aggressive and macho...The risk of discovery, embarrassment, and rejection is probably ten times greater for a black man who dares to cross the lines of gender because of the perception, mistaken at best...of being a second class citizen in America."

NEW YORK has a new "Miss Vera's Finishing School for Boys who want to be Girls" in the Chelsea area of Manhattan. Private classes cost $300 a session. One huge plus, the owner, Veronica Vera has steadfastly refused to accept invitations to tabloid television shows because of their "sophomoric" approach to cross-dressing.

WHAT'S YOUR NAME? Most common names of the 229 registrants at the recent Texas "T" Party were Michelle, Karen, Vicki, Stephanie, Susan and Linda. No Cindys.

"The homophobic attitude of an organization that touts itself as being so supportive of marrieds, singles and the "boys" has missed the boat...The domination by so many male attitudes and phobias make this society of latent SS or KKK members appalling to say the least." Letter by Pam F. of the Northern Ohio Tri-Ess chapter in reference to Tri-Ess policies prohibiting transsexuals.

Public Eyes in Your Private Closet?

Luanna Rodgers

Crossdressers in the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade march down Market Street in broad daylight. Transgender Nation, a group of transgender activists, protests the classification of transsexualism and transvestism as mental disorders at the American Psychiatric Association Convention, while the IFGE booth inside offers information about the crossgender phenomenon. An advisory committee to the Human Rights Commission invites its first transgendered member to serve, and begins discussions about how to establish protections of transgender rights in employment, housing and public services. An article on transgendered people coming out of the closet runs on the front page of a major San Francisco paper...

What does all this have to do with you if you keep your crossdressing at home, out of the public eye? Is all this hoopla a help or a hindrance? Can't what you intend to be private remain private without inquiring intrusions from prying eyes?

Historically, a society's taboos are maintained through silence and refusal to discuss and reevaluate the issues, leaving people who are different in the position of maintaining a burdensome secret or risking ostracism. They often remain alone, without adequate expression and support. Aware of society's view of them, they frequently internalize the contempt others would place upon them. In my work, providing counseling and emotional support for crossdressers healing from the effects of societal prejudice, I have seen crossdressers struggling with one or more of the following: Social reticence; feeling isolated from others; lack of confidence in dating situations; depression, escape into studies, hobbies, or work; feeling "out of control"; over reliance on alcohol or drugs; self-doubt; low self-esteem; denial of crossdressing resulting in purging of feminine clothing; periodic emersion in masculine activities to attempt a "cure"; fear of abandonment by loved ones; keeping people at a distance; feeling humiliated; feeling self-destructive

For those of you who have experienced any of these feelings, can you imagine how your life would be different if society's view of

crossgender behavior was more accepting? How would it have been to be a young person whose difference was not equated with deviance? Think of all the time that would have been freed up, and the greater sense of self-worth you would have had, without the burden of keeping a secret about yourself.

Does this mean you should be out marching down Market Street? Not necessarily. Everyone's life circumstances are different and the way they bring healing into their life is different. The marchers suffer from oppression and work on it directly: confronting and educating a public that has leaned too long against the crossdresser's closet door. Others may do their work toward accepting themselves and their crossdressing in other ways: one person at a time - by disclosing to trustworthy friends, joining a support group, entering therapy, or supporting transgender advocacy through donations - makes a difference.

Inner work is important to feeling whole and positive about oneself, but the impact of changing society's view of crossgender behavior cannot be underestimated in its importance for the emotional well-being of each individual crossdresser. "Transgenderphobia" - society's fear and censure of crossgender behavior - is the primary cause of the crossdresser's suffering; eradication of this prejudice is the cure.

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

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Revolutionary Conformists

Thalia Gravel

Let's get intellectual for a moment. I ran across this quote recently in the introduction to a book titled *Body Guards* edited by Kristin Straub and Julia Epstein:

..."distinctions between male and female bodies are mapped by cultural politics onto an only apparently clear biological foundation. As a consequence, sex/gender systems are always unstable sociocultural constructions. Their very instability explains the cultural importance of these systems: their purpose is to delimit and contain the threatening absence of boundaries between human bodies and among bodily acts that would otherwise explode the organizational and institutional structures of social ideologies."

Whew! Have you felt like a revolutionary lately? Occasionally I do, though I'm not too sure that coming from one of society's most conformist groups of non-conformits I'm really upsetting society's sense of order that much. Perhaps we really are more than just a brief sensationalist segment on Phil or Oprah. So say the editors of *Body Guards*, a collection of writings on "the cultural politics of gender ambiguity." Included are scholarly articles from various disciplines, among them one by our latest admirer, Marjorie Garber, who weighs in with an excerpt from *Vested Interests*, and a piece by Sandy Stone.

Yes, THE Sandy Stone, former recording engineer for Olivia Records and the *bete noire* of Janice Raymond's foray into the politics of transsexualism, *The Transsexual Empire*. Ms. Stone, a professor at U.C. Santa Cruz and U.C. San Diego, contributed *The Empire Strikes Back: A Posttranssexual Manifesto*. And a thrilling manifesto it is, an attempt to define a distinct realm not included in the traditional male-female dichotomy.

She begins with a brief review of the images of transsexuals presented in clinical and popular literature, and then proceeds to question who we are trying to be and FOR WHOM. Her conclusion asks the community of transsexuals to challenge the idea that we have to reconstruct or destroy our pasts in order to create a life history that is acceptable to both clinicians and the general public. In doing so she maintains we disavow *our* reality and become almost literary creations. Her notes alone are valuable to everyone pondering questions of what reassignment really is about.

This could seem to be a dry, academic exercise devoid of feeling. It is not. In addition to the other pieces that provide a historical grounding for us, *Body Guards* gives us examples of connections between issues we don't always see as part of our struggle. An exploration of lesbian erotica and an examination of how homosexuality is classified in equal protection legislation shows how our society's narrow categories and problematic labeling are not just affecting us but others as well. This is material we owe it to ourselves to read, for in books like this we discover that our issues have some intellectual respectability. We can be active participants in social change rather than merely subjects for graduate theses in psychology.

And it might even be a bit inspiring to think of how revolutionary we can be.

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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, July 8 and Thursday, August 12. You are all welcome with open arms. For more information call Ginny at (415)[redacted]

Keeping the Spirit Alive

Julie Freeman

One of the wonderful things I noticed years ago about the gender community was the caring and generous spirit of the members. It really did not matter where I was or which support group was hostessing the event - a small party at a member's house, an educational seminar, a few days at Tahoe, a Monday night at JR's, or even a conference in Texas. The atmosphere was always positive and the camaradarie so evident that any negative thoughts about crossdressing could not survive! How could anyone be pessimistic and skeptical in such a happy environment! I think that is why so many of us GG's have become supportive; we are treated well; our concerns are taken seriously, and we can have fun!

Even significant others "new" to the crossdressing scene tell us what good husbands and fathers their partners are - part of this caring and generous spirit so evident among crossdressers. This helps them become more amenable to learning about crossdressing in an effort to help their relationships.

It seemed a few years ago that no matter which group you belonged to, there was a general sense of support for the others. The goal was strength through unity. After all, society was at that time relatively antagonistic, certainly not willing to condone alternative lifestyles.

But recently, it appears that this unity, once so strong, is disintegrating to a degree. There is criticism of groups that may not conform to one's beliefs; there is even disagreement over terminology. Gender newsletters, magazines, bulletin boards, to name a few, are reflecting this. Just recently a letter from a very well-meaning individual supportive of gender concerns was mailed to thousands of crossdressers fueling this divisiveness. Why this trend?

Is it because solidarity no longer seems necessary? That we can now relax our vigil and yield to in-fighting! Although perhaps society in general may seem more amenable to alternate lifestyles today, we still have a long way to go - just recently I watched a show where the host seemed determined to provoke negativity from his audience members regarding crossdressing, all in the name of "entertainment."

It seems that our strength has always been unity and that it is this unity which keeps the gender movement strong. Never should we become "a house divided." We must keep our spirit alive!

The Man Within My Woman

Jane Kamper Bentley

I used to be married. One reason I am no longer married is because my wife could not abide my yearnings to live full-time as a woman.

After marriage, I determined that living full-time wouldn't be enough. I had to become a woman. I went into therapy, began hormones, prepared people at work for my transition, and after several months suddenly realized that I hadn't needed to become a woman, but to take the notion as far as it would go.

A year later, I met a woman who loved me however transgendered I was; who, in fact, especially loved the femme part of me - but if you think this is a prelude to encouraging wives to love the "woman within," it isn't. This is about something unexpected.

My new love discovered a penchant for crossdressing as a man. She was good at it. Her first time out, another FTM crossdresser was shocked to learn she hadn't been practicing for years. Wherever we went, friends complimented and encouraged her. More than flattered, she felt empowered. There was only one problem. I didn't like it.

As long as her male side was something abstract, or expressed solely as assertive behavior, I felt fine. But when the fedora, suit and tie came out and the mustache got put on, I felt cheated and became hostile. I didn't want to date a man, genetic or un-, no matter how dapper.

Fortunately, her crossdressing is not as crucial to her as mine is to me. If it were, I would try to be understanding; I would try to help her with shopping and learning how to tie a tie; how to stand with one hand in her pocket; how to walk with her shoulders rather than her hips; and to coach her with voice. But I'd hate it. I would want a lot of times when she would dress as a she, and lots of reassurance that when the mustache came off and the pants came down that that "guy" would disappear, and I would just be with my woman.

Letting Go

Lauren Hotchkiss

Second of Two Parts...

(Last issue, Lauren illustrated how she began emotionally to let go of a failed marriage by expressing her feelings of rage and anguish in the lyrics of a song she composed, "Get Out of My Heart"

By 1991, the divorce now behind me, I had grown more reflective; able to look at what had happened objectively, and see my own role in it.

Sometimes Things Can't Stay The Same
©1991 by Lauren René Hotchkiss

verse 1. Well at last it's finally over
and we've gotten our decree
You're so happy with your new life
And you no longer think of me

verse 2. So much I wish could have been different
Bitter words I wish I didn't say
Though I know now that it had to end
Why'd it have to be that way

chorus. If there is hope beyond this loneliness
And there's some growing through this pain
Perhaps it's learning when it's time to let go
'cause sometimes things can't stay the same

verse 3. I guess my eyes weren't really open
So many signs I wouldn't see
Yesterdays that never really were
And tomorrows that could never be

CHORUS

bridge. Some nights I lie awake and wonder
What was going through your head
I tried so many times to tell you how I felt
You never heard a word I said

Verse 4. I hope that things are better for you
And that you've found peace inside
Though I couldn't be the man you wanted
I wonder if you know how hard I tried

last ch. If there is hope beyond this loneliness
And there's some growing through this pain
Perhaps it's learning when it's time to let go
And even though it still feels strange
Sometimes things can't stay the same

By 1992 I was able to begin the process of forgiveness:

Now And Then
©1992 by Lauren René Hotchkiss

vs. 1. Lying alone in the darkness
Feeling tears come to my eyes
I start reaching over to the place close beside me
Where you no longer lie

vs. 2. Once more recalling memories
Of long ago, far away
I've tried so hard to remain in the present
And release yesterday

chorus. But now and then I think of you when the nights get long
And the loneliness seems more than I can bear
And though it's over now, and life goes on
I still think of you now and then

vs. 3. So many words left unspoken
Now just empty regrets
Reaching within to learn to forgive
What I can't seem to forget

CHORUS

bridge. Did I try too hard to hold on to
What could no longer grow
And though I know now we both had to move on
Still I've found it so hard to let go

SOLO
CHORUS

vs. 4. But now at last dawn is breaking
Through the night I thought without end
I'm finally beginning to see past the pain
As I think of you once again

CHORUS

tag. I still think of you now and then

And now it's 1993, and though I've reached the first level of forgiveness: forgiving my ex-wife for what happened, and, surprisingly, actually grateful to her for the opportunity of self-awareness it has given me; I find that I'm still in the process of forgiving her, and myself, for the way it happened. But perhaps it needed to, in just the way that it did, to move me on to the next stage in my life.

Though I still don't feel comfortable with the idea of getting involved in another relationship, I am finding each day a discovery, each tomorrow an opportunity for further growth.

And so life goes on...with hope.

Though I hope that others can perhaps learn from my mistakes and save their relationships while there is yet time, I hope that this will also be helpful to those that are facing the challenge of letting go.

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Hormone therapy for the male-to-female transgenderist is a turning point in gender transition, usually preceded or accompanied by some electrolysis, along with some plastic surgery.

Of course, none of us who are born male are without the influence of female hormones. All fetuses, male or female, are under the influence of female hormones through their mother's blood supply. How that affects gender dysphoric people and why it doesn't seem to affect others is a mystery.

Sufficient hormone therapy during a two-year period of cross-living properly prepares the patient for surgery, but it takes about five years of hormone therapy - programming development by the liver of new cells with feminine characteristics - to fully affect the body. Female hormones cause "chemical castration," with the testicles atrophying and shrinking to the size of peanuts. Synthetics that are available include Estinyl, Estrace, and Ogen.

If, after an appropriate time under a qualified therapist's care, you are confirmed in your choice to change physical gender, and want to feminize as quickly as possible, your endocrinologist can prescribe injections of Delestrogen (estrogen) and perhaps Delalutin (progesterone). The medicine comes in a time-release, castor oil base, lasting about a week.

There is some controversy about the need for progesterone. For genetic women who have had their ovaries removed, or are going through menopause, progesterone keeps the uterus in good condition.

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A complete hysterectomy means that progesterone is no longer needed. Current theory suggests that progesterone is useless to transsexuals since there is no uterus. Some claim, however, that in a M2F it enlarges the nipples.

When I started cross-living, Dr. Lisa Snow of Berkeley prescribed Premarin and Provera, taken daily in tablet form. I also requested hormone shots from her. She showed me how to give myself a shot once per week. Although my breasts did not develop fully, I responded nicely between my legs. I felt much more relaxed. The "horny" feeling diminished and I finally lost the ability to have an erection. The semen, once sticky and milky, turned colorless and eventually stopped being produced, yet I was still having orgasms in spite of my changing genitals. This was a clue to me that I would have orgasms after my sex reassignment surgery.

After going through one and a half years of female hormone therapy, I was not getting much response in really large breast development. My mom had bra size "A" cup before bearing children, and grew to a bra size "C" cup afterward. Lacking my mother's options, I decided to go for breast implants. Fortunately, my doctor chose to use the breast form filled with saline water in a silicone bag, not the silicone gel filler that is getting all of the bad news lately.

During my sex reassignment surgery, the prostate gland and its nerves were left intact. Even though it atrophies during hormone therapy, the prostate must be kept in order to trigger orgasm.

After surgery the dosage of hormones should be reduced to the same as a woman who has had a complete hysterectomy, about 1.25 mg of Premarin daily (estrogen), derived from natural sources.

A note of warning: the decision to begin hormone therapy should only be taken in consultation with a qualified therapist and a physician who insists on having your blood tested before and during treatment. Without these tests, you could be risking blood clotting, paralysis and death. In addition, some effects of hormone therapy, such as breast development, are not reversible, which could cause problems for those still caught in a full-time male role.

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.

Gender Skybox

Pam Souza

Welcome back to the skybox, where we've just finished telling the kids that Jurassic Park was neither the original San Francisco home of the Giants before Candlestick, nor was it ETVC's original meeting place before the Chez.

May 8 was just a typical night out with the boys, except a lot of the boys were wearing skirts and makeup. Current and future Ex-Com officers ventured to Park Bowl in the Haight. Cindy Martin summed up the scoring best with her back-handed compliment, "You all bowl like a bunch of girls." Everyone had a good time and is looking forward to future matches. Please join us. Fun is very empowering.

Fun is also the arrival of summer and the start of another gender season. You didn't know gender had a season? Think again. While baseball season spans April through October, football lasts from September through January and basketball seemingly goes on forever; gender season begins on Gay Freedom Day and ends after the Cotillion, with Halloween serving as our mid-season All-Star Classic. February through most of June marks the off-season, during which time we work off those holiday calories to slip into new summer fashions.

Clear as a chunk of sod off the 49ers' playing field? Stick with me, it gets better. Because now there's organization of the league itself. Just like the big boys who mix up all those N's, B's, L's and dollar signs, we have a league with four, count 'em, four, initials: The Northern California Gender League, or NCGL (the extra initial makes up for the lack of any dollar signs), promoting the spirit of friendly rivalry throughout the region.

Five, possibly more, "teams" make up the league: ETVC, RGA, DVG and SGA, with the Lost Girls being a major independent a la Notre Dame. Individuals or combinations thereof who wish to represent none of the above may participate as teams unto themselves. Representation remains unchanged until the next season.

Representation and participation in what? Glad you asked. Any contest or activity that is judged or scored - like a legs or costume contest - at any club's social events. Participants merely state their representations to the contest director/s. Directors relay the final tallies to Skybox Central, at (415) 731-7032, for inclusion in the standings. First place is worth 25 points, second place equals 10 points and third place equals five. Stakes go up at the Cotillion where finalist is worth fifteen, second place runner-up twenty-five, first runner-up thirty-five and Miss ETVC scores a commanding fifty points.

A trophy will be presented to the winning team or individual at the February ETVC Social. Good luck, play fair and have fun.

At The "Shrinks'" Lair

Roxanne de Lyon

I got to spend three days with the IFGE team in their second year representing the gender community to the American Psychiatric Association (APA) Convention in San Francisco this May. The psychiatrists took the opportunity to drop their professional business attire and enjoy the balmy California weather. We donned our power garb in the continuing effort to create and maintain a positive image for gender individuals. Our purpose was to let them know that IFGE exists as a full resource gender information agency; to give them a tool, the Tapestry magazine, usable as an introduction to the community for the inevitable gender patient; to answer any questions; and to confirm the solidity and continuity of IFGE. We were allowed to have several transgender medical doctors and lawyers on a panel making a professional presentation to the conference, and we had a chance to provide input to the rewriting of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual, DSM IV, with the hope and goal of removing transsexualism and transvestism as automatic illnesses.

In all areas, we resoundingly succeeded. We also learned the points of view of about a thousand psychiatrists from around the world. Such broad coverage in a short time proves the outreach capability (at a cost of $10,000) readily available to an international organization, doing work which might overtax the resources of a local gender group.

The experience has confirmed my conviction that it is time for a major gender presence in the world at large. We need to be seen. We need to have pleasant conversations with the general public. We need to flaunt a class act in order to create the image we want in the world.

As public curiosity builds, we will find more and more opportunities for public speaking, to share our knowledge that gender identity, presentation and role, are not the inevitable result of anatomical sex or sexual orientation. We then need to identify and list all the possible places where we might speak. As we pass this information around, through the IFGE Educational Resources Committee and the Congress of Transgender Organizations, it should become a simple matter of contact to set up interesting and provocative speaking engagements to schools, institutions, hospitals, large companies and national social clubs.

Further, we should identify and list every adult and regular book store and library in our community that might be an outlet for gender information, and ask them if they will carry the Tapestry Journal, under what conditions, and if not, why not? Also, would they be interested in carrying any other gender information books? This again gives us a real purpose when we go out; it helps in our continuing effort to find other gender people, and the increased Tapestry sales helps IFGE do their work without having to continually ask for money. What a grand way to help ourselves!

So as the representative of the IFGE Speakers Bureau, I encourage you to sharpen up your confidence and communication skills, take the Dale Carnegie Course if you can, participate in ETVCs speakers program, share your information with me, and go out and strut your stuff. Youll be doing it for the good of all.

Roxanne de Lyon is Public Relations Director of ETVC and a member of the Board of Directors of IFGE, where she chairs the Educational Resources Committee and is a motivated member of the Strategic Planning Committee.

Cotillion Plans?

January, 1994, will be our tenth cotillion. We want to make it the biggest, best, most fun ever. To do that, we need you. Whether you're going for the crown or aiming the spot light, you are important. Volunteer now to become a member of the Cotillion Planning Committee. Call Walt at (916) [redacted]

Louise at Lily's

Cori Farrell

The weather was bad enough to make a supermodel have a bad hair day, but we had a good time nonetheless. I am, of course, referring to Louise Carroll's Education Committee presentation on April 17.

Louise, owner of Continental Wig Salon and Boutique of San Rafael, conducted a question and answer session as a follow-up to her presentation at the March Social. With help from her assistant, Ellen, she detailed fundamental make-up techniques, such as concealers, foundations and powders. She also offered a booklet entitled very appropriately "Information," detailing makeup color selection, eye makeup and contouring techniques. If there is interest in this booklet, Louise may be offering it for sale at her shop. I can certainly recommend it.

She also offered for sale a line of Lancome makeup. This generated interest among not only the attendees of the event, but also the patrons of Lily's in general.

Great people, great advice and a lot of fun, Louise's presentation was a huge success.

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Image For Anyone

Cori Farrell

Picture a finishing school holding classes in the back room of the Chez. Well, maybe not a finishing school really, more like a "refinishing school," to quote Wilhelmina Beins.

Wilhelmina, a renowned image consultant, conducted a group discussion of issues related to the development of a feminine image at the May Education Event. The discussion was marked by intensive audience participation among the 20 plus attendees.

Describing herself as an image consultant for anyone, Wilhelmina revealed how she came to focus on the gender community. She described a family member in Belgium who crossdressed and suffered many negative repercussions from a society that did not accept transgendered behavior. This fostered in her a deep empathy for our community.

The emphasis in Wilhelmina's program is to put people in contact with their own feelings - being able to look into a mirror and like both one's image and one's self. We are all familiar with the way self-worth affects outward presentation. She cited the influence of traditional economics, which equates masculinity with power and femininity with powerlessness.

She concluded by stating that the key to gaining acceptance is to give respect to others, adding, "The *process* should be fun! Don't think simply of the results."

LILY'S

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"New Ladies"

New to our pages are Maddie (l) and Krystal (r) appearing in Rosalies AIDS Benefit, "New Look, New Lady," on May 23 at the Plush Room. Another show is scheduled for August. Call 415-397-6246 for details

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Days, Evenings and Saturdays

Nancy Ann doesn't always win, but she always has fun. You will, too, at Nancy Ann's ETVC Poker Social. It's a great way to meet people and feel comfortable no matter how new to crossdressing you are. The cards are hot and the laughter is free. See you on the second Friday of every month. Call (415) 664-1499 for details.

ROVING EYE

Cyclopia

Place: The wedding of Diana Campbell & Janelle Sexton, Linsley Hall, Point Richmond

Question: Which bride is lovelier?

Janelle Ailene Sexton, San Pablo: There's no doubt about it: Diana. She's got an inner beauty of understanding people and accepting people. That's what I love about her most. But outwardly she's beautiful also: gorgeous eyes, a great smile, a great personality. I couldn't have asked for anybody else to be my wife, other than her. I fell in love with Diana at first sight. There was something in her personality - the way she behaved and walked - that told me this was the right person for me, though at the time I though she was going to move back to Michigan with another crossdresser. My heart was hurt, but I wouldn't ask her to stay and take happiness away from another crossdresser. But then she dropped her drive shaft and in the ensuing weeks of trying to find one to fit the car, the romance blossomed and bloomed and we knew it wasn't a permanent move back to Michigan, it was just a visit.

Diana Grace Campbell-Sexton, San Pablo: Well, it's a toss-up. We're so much alike; that's why we had to wear two different colored necklaces, so people could tell us apart. I think Janelle is gorgeous. I have so much fun with her hair. I did her hair for today. Janelle is perfect. She drives me right up the wall, but she's perfect. She's not a - well, let's just say that most men are jerks and she's not. She's very sweet, very quiet. Unlike other men, she knows how to treat a lady because that's how she wants to be treated. She's my best girlfriend and my boyfriend all in the same package. If I want to go to the mall, it's not like, "Well, what do you want to go there for?" There's no macho BS you get from most other men, just, "OK, do we have any money? What are we buying? OK. Fine." Plus she's also great with a car.

Kathryn Kane, Pinole: It's really hard to say which one is lovelier, but I'd have to say Diana. I was her maid of honor. I'm obligated to say that one. But even if I wasn't obligated, I'd say it anyway. I've been working with Diana for a couple of months now making the arrangements for the chapel and the bridal shower a couple of weeks ago for both brides. It was the first one I've ever been to. Planning the wedding was a challenge, because with two brides we had to make up the etiquette. Normally the best man does the toast, but we didn't have one, so we designated the ring-bearer, Janet Nichols. We tried to stay with traditional etiquette when possible, but in some places we had to break the rules, so we decided we had to write our own book: *Same Gender Weddings, The Do's and Don'ts.*

Lauren Bode, Pinole. That's a hard one to answer. In terms of physical beauty, they were both beautiful. I guess because I'm a genetic female, I've got to vote with Diana, because of the inner beauty and her ability to accept and embrace Janelle, and to give her this, which is such a fantasy. I really admire and respect her for that. I see her joy and her relationship with Janelle, and her ability to be comfortable with herself and not look to other people to answer her own inner turmoil. She's comfortable with Diana; she's happy with Diana, and because of that she's able to turn that beauty outward to embrace Janelle and all of us and the whole community. As Kathryn's significant other I feel that her crossdressing has enhanced our relationship rather than taken away. I've never had to feel insecure or threatened or unsure of myself because of Kathryn's crossdressing. I've been able to enjoy it rather than feel threatened by it.