ETVC

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME FIFTEEN, NUMBER 1, JULY – AUGUST, 1996

THE CHANNEL

Birthday Gala Marked by Awards, New Officers

By Elizabeth Walters

Cake, ice cream and a gift exchange helped ETVC celebrate its 14th birthday May 30, in a gala party attended by members and friends from as far away as Hawaii and Alabama.

The evening's festivities also included the installation of the organization's 1996-1997 Executive Committee officers — and the presentation of special awards to members whose hard work and devotion made 1995-1996 one of ETVC's best years ever.

Members and supporters greeted ETVC's new President Erin Souza, Secretary Veronica Smith, Outreach Co-Chairs Sandra Brewer and Telzey Amberdon Adams, Education Co-Chairs Juana Smith and Nancy Cupps, and Social Co-Chairs Evette Roque Laurie and Laura Van Nuys. Incumbent Treasurer Jano Bogg was elected to another term as the organization's chief financial officer.

Due to changing family circumstances that have temporarily forced her to relocate to Southern California, Tedra Thomsen — who was elected to the club's vice-presidency for 1996-1997 — will not be able to assume the office.

The vice-presidency is a critical position in ETVC, and a vacancy could adversely affect some of the organization's most important events, including the 1997 Cotillion. Members who are interested in serving in this key post should contact President Erin Souza as soon as possible.

The list of award recipients was topped by past Channel editor and ETVC President Cindy Martin, who was lauded for her achievement in spreading the word about the organization

New Officers: From left to right, here are the members of the 1996 1997 ETVC executive committee: Telzey Adams and Sandra Brewer (outreach co chairs), Laura Van Nuys and Evette Roque Laurie (social co chairs), Nancy Cupps and Juana Smith (education co chairs), Jano Bogg (treasurer), Veronica Smith (secretary) and Erin Souza (president).

to thousands of Internet users through Transgender Forum, the online magazine for our community which Cindy edits.

Ginny Knuth was accorded special recognition as "Mom of the Year 1984-96" for her tireless work on behalf of our organization and the transgender community. She was also recognized for her invaluable service to

Continued on page 7

California Dreamin' Brings Its Heart To San Francisco

By Melanie Yarborough

The 6th annual California Dreamin' showed itself to be a truly California event this year by bringing its show to "The City By The Bay."

Organized by the Orange county-based group **Powderpuffs** and co-sponsored by **ETVC**, this year's event featured many new and innovative transgender workshops, as well as a famously transgender-friendly city as a location.

The event was kicked off by a gala Thursday night social at the Van Ness Avenue Holiday Inn organized by ETVC's own Lulu Blau, during which members performed for guests from all over the country. The evening's festivities were extremely well-attended, and lured back some long-time ETVC members who had been missing from our scene for far too long.

The conference was also highlighted by a luncheon address by outgoing ETVC President Jane Kamper Bentley on Saturday, the penultimate day of the session.

Event planners conceded that the decision to hold the annual conference in San Francisco was a controversial one. The session had been held in Burbank for the past five years:

Continued on page 7

WARNING! WARNING! WARNING! WARNING!

THIS EDITION OF THE ETVC CHANNEL WILL BE THE LAST ONE YOU RECEIVE UNLESS YOU HAVE RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP.

DON'T BE LEFT OUT! PLEASE RENEW TODAY TO AVOID MISSING THE NEXT INFORMATION-PACKED ISSUE OF ETVC'S NEWSLETTER.

THE CHANNEL

ETVC Inc., a non-profit corporation, 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. Minutes of all ETVC committee meetings are available to members on request.

OFFICERS

President	Erin Souza
Vice-President	Open
Secretary	Veronica Smith
Treasurer	Jano Bogg
Education	Nancy Cupps, Juana Smith
Outreach	Telzey Adams, Sandra Brewer
Social	Laura Van Nuys, Evette RoqueLaurie

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Membership (as of 3/31/96)	428
Total 1994 Membership	438
New Memberships this year	100

TREASURER'S REPORT

See page 14 for
1996-97 ETVC Budget

ETVC is a non-profit corporation.

Donations to ETVC are TAX DEDUCTIBLE on both federal and California income tax returns.

Channel, 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 uncopyrighted portions of the newsletter for their members, provided ETVC is acknowledged. Copyrighted materials may be reproduced only with written permission of ETVC.

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AD RATES

	Per issue	Per year
Business Card	$25	$125
4" X 5"	$60	$300

Personal ads from ETVC members: $3 for up to 40 words. We will *not* accept ads with a sexual objective. Ad deadlines are the 25th of May, July, September, November, January and March. Send ad copy and check or money order to: ETVC, PO Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486

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Letter from Elizabeth

By Elizabeth Walters

As I sit down to write this on May 25, California Dreamin' and the Closet Ball are less than a month past, and Wigstock West is only a few hours away. Last Sunday's edition of the area's largest circulation newspaper featured a sympathetic spread of photos and text about the local drag scene, and a San Francisco legislator recently introduced a bill to make discrimination based on gender identity unlawful.

At times like these, it seems we live in a transgender paradise — a place where we are able to explore alternative gender identities with a minimum of interference. This impression is not limited to area residents, either: to many cross-dressers, transvestites, transsexuals and drag queens in other parts of the country, the Bay Area is the gender capital of the world.

This is not simply due to the fact that Northern California has a salubrious climate, gorgeous scenery and some of the most attractive communities in the U.S. — although all of these are clearly factors. Aside from the physical beauty of this area, one of the major reasons it is so attractive to transgenderists is the influence that our community has here.

Part of that is due to the organizational structure that serves our community. Besides ETVC — the largest organization for the transgendered in Northern California — there are no less than three other established support groups for people like us. In addition, a number of smaller organizations are sprouting up in outlying areas.

Organizations like ours are the "public associations" that the great 19th Century political analyst Alexis de Tocqueville identified as the real backbone of American society.

Among other things, our members are taxpayers, employees, consumers, PTA officers and voters. Although each of them has political power as an individual, their willingness to join groups based on gender identification potentially gives them an influence that is far greater. To the extent we recognize our commonality of interest on gender issues, our organization framework can make us a movement to be reckoned with.

In 1833, de Tocqueville wrote about organizations like ours, saying, "At the present time, the liberty of association has become a necessary guarantee against the tyranny of the majority." Given the rising tide of intolerance associated with the powerful religious right, his words are just as true now as they were 160 years ago.

Groups like ETVC channel — pardon the pun — our political influence in ways that directly affect our quality of life. For example, every time our officers and members meet with legislators in the halls of Congress, or lobby for laws like the San Francisco transgender rights ordinance, it makes our community that much more difficult to ignore and repress. Every time our members march in the Gay Freedom Day parade, or staff a booth along the route, we gain more allies in our fight for basic human rights. Every time our people participate in community-based volunteer efforts like taking pledge calls at KQED TV, we show our neighbors that we, too, are important, productive members of this society.

Many of us joined ETVC primarily for social reasons — we were interested in meeting other people like ourselves. But it is important to remember that membership in this organization is also a way in which we make a baseline political statement about ourselves as members of this community.

For many ETVC Channel readers, this issue will be the last one you receive: your annual membership has lapsed and you have not yet sent in a check to renew. If you have delayed because you couldn't think of a good reason to belong to ETVC, ponder the foregoing and consider how much more than a bimonthly newsletter membership in this organization provides.

Write that check and send it in today. It may be the best present you buy for yourself this year!

Da' Prez' Box

ETVC President Erin Souza

Let the Games Begin

Hello again, gender fans. I have temporarily vacated my lofty sky quarters for seats closer to the ground so I can be where the action is. What, exactly, all that action will be, remains to be seen. I cannot begin without saluting departing officers Jane, Lisa, Jamie, Lulu and Trina for their commendable terms of service through some of the more difficult challenges of ETVC's growth. Thanks gals for holding us together.

Being a new president of ETVC is like being a new quarterback of the 49ers. How can you possibly measure up to your predecessors? I don't know, but I'll give it my best shot. My fellow officers, new and returning, show the promise of being that daring breed that is willing to take chances with new ideas. Win or lose, they're going to hustle and give us an exciting ride. To insure that I will not give in entirely to reckless abandon, I will temper my youthful enthusiasm with the counsel of some of our veteran members. And I will always keep an ear open to the membership. If you don't already know how to reach me, I'm at [redacted]

The two things I hope to accomplish are: 1) Make it easier for new members to come out of their shells. This includes assisting outreach volunteer Brenda Altman in resurrecting the Big Sisters program, in which veterans of the gender scene pair up with newbies to show them the ropes and build confidence. Also, more intimate, small scale activities in which members can get better acquainted. 2)Positive public visibility. We've made some inroads, with our speakers bureau and our charity fund raising. But there is still more that weconfident veterans can do to build the reputation of ETVC as an asset to our community. Let's do more than just emulate the feminine image; let's embrace the feminine ideals of compassion and service to others. Let's balance our hours hopping to night clubs with hours serving food at homeless shelters, delivering meals to AIDS patients, volunteer gift wrapping at Xmas, etc.. For those of us not ready to meet the general populace, there is still much we can do internally helping ETVC's committees, the newsletter and the speakers bureau.

Opportunities abound for fun and personal growth. The new executive committee will do our best to provide the opportunities, we hope you will make the most of them. I look forward to meeting more of you at future events.

Northern California Transgender Community Forum

by Carolayn Hughes

Heralded as an event of historic importance, the Northern California Transgender Community Forum convened on May 23, 1996 at the Miyako Hotel in San Francisco. Organized by the California Department of Health Services - Office of AIDS, program objectives included an assessment of current knowledge regarding the transgendered community; ways to develop an increased awareness of issues, needs and concerns of our community; and how to more specifically tailor AIDS strategies and interventions to the needs of transgendered people.

Representing the Office of AIDS were Harold Rasmussen, Mary Stewart, Steve Truax and Dave Hubbard. Mr. Rassmussen serves as Chief of the Education and Prevention Services Branch of the Office. Chris Sandoval of Polaris Research and Development, Inc., presented focus group findings of a July, 1995 project. Among the participants in this group was ETVC, referred to as "a cable network program for transgendered persons." (So much for research, Ed)

Also attending the Forum were Tamara Ching of the California Community Planning Working Group and Tomas Rodriguez of the Atlanta-based Center for Disease Control, representing their respective organizations.

Among the issues discussed were greater recognition of the needs of MTF's as well as ways to advise families, significant others and friends of the transgendered of their condition.

A draft document of the Forum's recommendations will be distributed to those attending for comment and additional input. A finalized document will be presented to the 58 health services planning groups in California for use in updating their program plans for the coming year.

ETVC members, friends and supporters participating in the event included Melinda Whiteway, Katherine Shannon Collins. Bobbie Bentley (Mr. ETVC), Dr. Barbara Anderson and Stephanie Eng. Most of us attending felt excited and grateful that these professionals came to us and asked us how we feel and how we can be more effectively served. They seemed well qualified and sincere. We look forward to the draft report and an opportunity to further participate.

Carolayn Hughes, an ETVC member, has recently been appointed a member of the Tom Wadell Transgender Clinic and Community Advisory Board of San Francisco.

Special Events

Mid-Month Socials

Wednesday, July 10th & August 14th

The ideal occasion for newcomers to make friends in the club. At these more intimate gatherings there's a chance for real conversations without so much bustle and din. Come drab or drag - you'll find others there the same. This Summer we meet at the Quarterdeck Bar/Restaurant (formerly, the Galleon), at 714 14 Street, S.F. Enjoy the drinks, dinner, and a piano bar for us low-voiced girls. 8 PM. FREE!

Educational Seminar: Kunoichi, Women Ninja

Wednesday, July 17th

Attackers are looking for a victim, not an adversary. Ninjutsu, the art of the Ninja, has many weapons that can be used in today's world — some of which fit into a lady's purse. Some require more practice than others — all are effective. There will be a demonstration of the techniques of Ninjutsu by one of our ETVC members, Perry, who has been trained in this art since 1962. Do you want to survive? Are you willing to do what it takes to survive? Let's find out together. 8 PM, Upstairs at Kimo's, Polk & Pine Sts., SF. $3.

RGA Homecoming

Friday, July 19th

The Rainbow Gender Association invites all members and past members to its tenth anniversary pot luck party. It is also the eleventh anniversary of the New Community of Faith Church, 6350 Rainbow Drive, San Jose. So please come and celebrate this double anniversary with us. Bring a side dish, salad, dessert and your joy of being who you are in a loving and supportive atmosphere. RGA will provide the main dish, coffee and sodas. A $2 or $3 dollar donation would be appreciated. 8 PM.

Bingo Bimbos go Bananas

Thursday, July 25th

Blue Hair anyone? How about drag ala Monte Python? Come play bingo with your girl friends. Win valuable prizes!! High kitsch and bingo-osity will be recognized and we will select the bingoest bimbo. 8PM at Jelly's, Pier 50 in SF. $3 for members, $5 for guests.

Couples Making it Work II

Saturday, July 27th

After an informative session with our cross dressers, significant others and singles, in May, where all the genetic women attending spoke of their feelings and needs in a relationship with a cross dresser, we've decided to give equal time to the cross dressers to let them express their side of the story and round out the picture. Can this group become an ongoing way to improve our relationships by sharing open communication among our peers? Can this group help CD's deal with the issues of telling their spouses and families about their crossdressing needs? Give it a try; it does provide much insight into the minds of the "other". We'll meet at 8PM at the home of Lori and Jackie Conner in Pacifica. For directions, call Jim at [redacted].

Transsexual Seminar: Let's Face It, with Cosmetic Surgeon Dr. Douglas Ousterhout

Sunday, August 18th

Let's face it, you may be an artist at covering your gender flaws with makeup, but who wants to live in makeup all the time? If you're thinking about making more permanent facial changes, you need to come hear and see Dr. Douglas Ousterhout. His renowned slide/lecture includes side-by-side before-and-after pictures of his patients. With doctorates in medicine and dentistry, Dr. Ousterhout is uniquely qualified to resculpt features as Mother Nature would have done if she hadn't been distracted. Upstairs at Kimo's. 2 p.m. FREE

Education Seminar: The Trannywed Game

Wednesday, August 21st

What happens when we combine the Newlywed Game with cross dressers and their significant others? We get three couples testing the knowledge and memory of one another while addressing TG issues. No matter where you are in your love life, single and looking or in an old and established relationship, please join us at Ginny and Nancy Ann's house for a round of the Trannywed Game; Q and A session to follow. It will be educational and entertaining. 7:30pm. FREE. (Please feel free to bring a drink or snack.) Call Ginny at [redacted] for directions.

Moonlight on Hawaii

Thursday, August 29th

ALOHA!!! Come to the silver strand under moonlit palms at Jelly's. Wear leis and grass skirts. Drink Mai Tais to loosen up for your hula lesson. Sway to gentle island rhythms on slack-key guitar. MO Bettah you come to da kine Hawaii Night, Sistah!!
8 PM, Jelly's, 295 China Basin Way (Pier 50), SF, $5 members, $7 guests.

Other events not to miss:

ETVC Family Picnic (non-cross dressed). Sunday, August 18th, 10 AM to 2 PM, Lake Chabot Park, Castro Valley. Call (510) 934-0826 for information

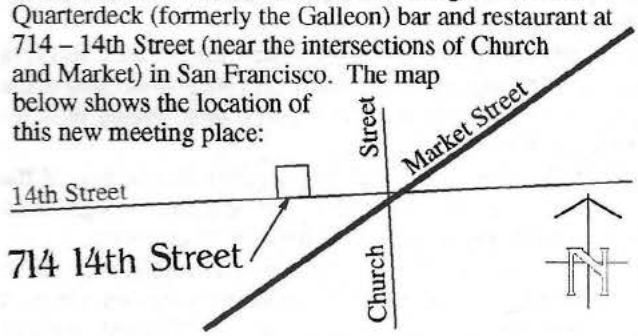
Alameda Imperial Court Coronation, Saturday, August 31, 1996. Hayward. Call (415) 664-1499 for information.

Gender Bowling Night

All levels welcome
Third Saturday of each month
call **(415) 731-7032**

The Quarterdeck

ETVC's mid-month socials are now being held at the Quarterdeck (formerly the Galleon) bar and restaurant at 714 – 14th Street (near the intersections of Church and Market) in San Francisco. The map below shows the location of this new meeting place:



TV/TS/TG GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

July

1	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 937-8432
4	DVG	Pacific Center Rap Group	Meets at 7 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 939-7711
5	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
5	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
8	**ETVC**	**Outreach Committee**	**Meets at 7 PM**	**San Leandro**	**(510) 443-9938**
8	**ETVC**	**TS Committee**	**Meets at 7 PM**	**Kimo's Mtg.Room**	**(415) 750-1850**
8	**ETVC**	**Education Committee**	**Meets at 8 PM**	**Kimo's Mtg.Room**	**(408) 984-5619**
10	**ETVC**	**Mid-Month Gabfest**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**The Quarterdeck**	**(415) 387-7838**
11	**ETVC**	**Significant Others**	**Meets 7:30-10 PM**	**San Francisco**	**(415) 664-1499**
12	**ETVC**	**Poker Social**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**San Francisco**	**(415) 664-1499**
12	S.Bay	Gender Discussion Group	Meets 8-10 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-5619
12	**ETVC**	**Lending Library Open**	**Hours 7-11 PM**	**San Francisco**	**(415) 664-1499**
12	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
13	SGA	Social	Starts at 7:30 PM	Sacramento	(916) 482-7742
14	**ETVC**	**Newsletter Committee**	**Starts at 1 PM**	**San Francisco**	**(415) 664-1499**
14	FTM	Informational Meeting	Meets at 2 PM	San Francisco	(510) 287-2646
15	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 937-8432
16	**ETVC**	**Social Committee**	**Meets at 8 PM**	**The Quarterdeck**	**(415) 387-7838**
17	**ETVC**	**Women's Ninja**	**Starts at 8PM**	**Kimo's, Upstairs**	**(415) 750-1850**
18	**ETVC**	**Library Committee**	**Meets at 1 PM**	**San Francisco**	**(415) 664-1499**
19	RGA	Homecoming Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
19	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
20	**ETVC**	**Bowling Night**	**Call for details**	**San Francisco**	**(415) 731-7032**
21	**———**	**AIDS Walk**	**Starts at 9 AM**	**Golden Gate Park**	**(415) 664-1499**
21	**ETVC**	**Executive Committee**	**Meets at 4 PM**	**San Francisco**	**(415) 731-7032**
25	**ETVC**	**Bingo Bimbo's**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Jelly's, SF**	**(415) 387-7838**
27	SGA	Social	Starts at 7:30 PM	Sacramento	(916) 482-7742
27	**ETVC**	**Couples Make It Work**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Pacifica**	**(415) 750-1850**

August

1	DVG	Pacific Center Rap Group	Meets at 7 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 939-7711
2	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
2	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
5	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 937-8432
8	**ETVC**	**Significant Others**	**Meets 7:30-10 PM**	**Palo Alto**	**(415) 664-1499**
9	**ETVC**	**Poker Social**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**San Francisco**	**(415) 664-1499**
9	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
9	**ETVC**	**Lending Library Open**	**Hours 7-11 PM**	**San Francisco**	**(415) 664-1499**
9	S.Bay	Gender Discussion Group	Meets 8-10 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-5619
10	SGA	Social	Starts at 7:30 PM	Sacramento	(916) 482-7742
11	FTM	Informational Meeting	Meets 2 PM	San Francisco	(510) 287-2646
12	**ETVC**	**TS Committee**	**Meets at 7 PM**	**Kimo's Mtg.Room**	**(415) 750-1850**
12	**ETVC**	**Education Committee**	**Meets at 8 PM**	**Kimo's Mtg,Room**	**(414) 750-1850**
14	**ETVC**	**Mid-Month Gabfest**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**The Quarterdeck**	**(415) 387-7838**
15	**ETVC**	**Library Committee**	**Meets at 1 PM**	**San Francisco**	**(415) 664-1499**
16	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
16	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
17	**ETVC**	**Bowling Night**	**Call for details**	**San Francisco**	**(415) 731-7032**
18	**ETVC**	**Family Picnic Day**	**Starts at 10 AM**	**Castro Valley**	**(510) 934-0826**
18	**ETVC**	**Outreach Committee**	**Meets at 1 PM**	**Kimo's, Upstairs**	**(510) 443-9938**
18	**ETVC**	**TS Seminar**	**Starts at 2 PM**	**Kimo's, Upstairs**	**(415) 750-1850**
19	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 937-8432
20	**ETVC**	**Social Committee**	**Meets at 8 PM**	**The Quarterdeck**	**(415) 387-7838**
21	**ETVC**	**TrannyWed Game**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Kimo's, Upstairs**	**(415) 750-1850**
23	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
24	SGA	Social	Starts at 7:30 PM	Sacramento	(916) 482-7742
25	**ETVC**	**Executive Committee**	**Meets at 5 PM**	**San Francisco**	**(415) 731-7032**
29	**ETVC**	**Moonlight on Hawaii**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Jelly's, SF**	**(415) 387-7838**
31	Imperial	Alameda Coronation	Starts at 7PM	Hayward	(415) 664-1499

OTHER GROUPS

Pacific Center for Human Growth, a counseling oriented growth center, sponsors all-inclusive gender support groups on every Friday except the last one 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 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month in Sacramento. Write: PO Box 215456, Sacramento, CA 95821-1456. Call: (916) 482-7SGA for meeting locations.

Diablo Valley Girls (DVG) Meets first and third Monday of every month. 8 PM at Just Rewards Nightclub, 2520 Camino Diablo in Walnut Creek. Write: DVG, PO Box 272885, Concord, CA 94527-2885. Call: (510) 937-8432.

FTM, a support group for Female-to-Male crossdressers & transsexuals, holds both open. Informational Meetings, and closed. Support Meetings. Write: FTM, 5337 College Avenue #142, Oakland, CA 94618. Call Voice Mail: (510) 287-2646.

TGIF (TransGenderism Is Fun), a social group for transgenders, meets one Saturday each month at a private home in Santa Rosa for a potluck social from 4 PM until early evening. For dates, location and reservations, call Diane or Anne a[redacted].

San Joaquin Gender Association, meets once a month Friday night at the First Wave Bar & Grill, 321 W. Weber Street in Stockton. Write to 1141 Catalina Drive, Box 163, Livermore, CA 94550 or call Winifred at [redacted]

Silicon Valley Gender Association (SVGA), a new transgender support group, meets at the Billy DeFrank Community Center in San Jose on the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month from 7PM to 9PM. For more info, call (408) 293-2429.

Please Print

ETVC Membership Application

Mailing Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Preferred Name: _____ Family Member's Name: _____ (If Applicable)

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

How did you learn about ETVC? _____

Full year membership June 1 - May 31 is $25.00 (Family - $35.00).

Part year membership from January 1 - May 31 is $13.00 (Family - $18.00) (New members only).

Please remit by check or money order to:

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

UCLGBTA Supports the Transgendered

by Sandra Brewer

The UC/LGBTA (Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgendered Association) met on the UC/Berkeley campus from February 16th to 18th, with all the TG action taking place on Saturday, the 17th.

The keynote speaker in the morning session was the teacher/author, and transgender activist Susan Stryker. She presented some transgender history and background that was well-received by the gay community. After her presentation, the General Assembly voted to add the "T" (for Transgendered) to the name (previously the UCLGBA) of the Association.

Each of the three parallel Conference Workshop sessions in the afternoon featured panels on transgender topics. The first was a Transgender Education panel featuring our own Erin Souza.

Each panelist gave some personal background and general TG information. The second panel featuring James Green of the FTM reviewed several issues related to Transgender Human Rights.

The third panel was a discussion of and by Transgendered Men & Women that are gay & lesbian in their new sex roles. Several variations were considered. Our own Thalia Gravel was on this panel. The mostly gay & lesbian audience felt much more educated and familiar with transgendered issues after attending these panels.

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Wigstock

by Laura Van Nuys

It had sat lonely and forlorn on a cold white styrofoam head these many months crying, "Buy me! Wear me!" every time I went into Piedmont. Two feet of rolling red waves for the girl who could plunk a stack of frivolous dollars on the counter. And now Wigstock West!! The perfect excuse for acquiring a knock-down. dynamite, killer wig. A girl just NEEDS a fabulous hair piece to go to the premiere wig event.

As I waltzed down to get the wig, I passed the Haight street crafts store and the feather masks jumped out of the window and stopped me on the sidewalk. Of course! I needed a Mardi Gras style mask for tonight's event.

At Piedmont the dear sales girls treated me quite nicely and parked my bag full of feathers behind the counter so I could concentrate on serious narcissism. I was in drab and I couldn't decide to part with a small fortune without seeing a more girlish face under that wig. As my lips took form my sales girl said, "Aren't you Laura?" Wonderful to be recognized by your lips. With superhuman restraint I resisted the rhinestone barettes, the rajah's pearl drop earings, and limited myself to just the red wig.

Back home it was the cat's delight as feathers flew but as usual Laura had started her project a leetle too late and we weren't in full glamour until 8:00. Fortunately, there were plenty of dazzling acts still to show when I made my entrance at the Fort Mason pavillion. A sweet boy at one of the booths tied on my feather mask and I merged up towards the stage.

The mind and gender bending Airmale Trapeze act was just starting. Two muscular sweeties in retro Speedo swim suits and matching flippers swarmed up ropes and proceeded to treat us to something quite like synchronized swimming. Perhaps synchronized trapezing will be an olympic event soon.

ETVC's pal, Connie Champagne, gave us a properly vulgar and melodramatic skit from Valley of the Dolls which ended with a wig dunking in the WC. Lady Bunny, the perennial MC for Wigstock. sang a sweet romantic love song titled "Fuck Me." If her white vinyl boots had been any longer, she would have done herself a mischief.

A thrilling black Wonder Woman dispatched a sinister horde of thugs with grace and panache. Then the world's first beauty shop quartet treated us to some not so traditional acappella singing.

A cross between a chandelier and a Las Vegas show girl came out next and took our breath away with her sizzling dance. When she came down to my end of the stage I wished I'd brought some sun glasses.

A show stopper with so many performers that I couldn't figure out what they were doing (I did admire the chorus of bubble blowers in the background) rounded out the set before the intermission.

It was my night for unlikely recognitions. There I was in a new outfit, a brand new wig and befeathered all over my face (except for my lips!) and from the crowd comes a voice, " Is that you, Laura?" It was my new dancing friend, Bill, in serious 60's hair with a huge scarf and a skin tight suit with lovely 3" Orange polka dots densely packed against a purple background. "How did you recognize me?". "I could tell by the way you walk." Divine to be recognized by your walk!

We finished the night out on Castro street cruising the bars and showing off our finery. Sequins, boas, and grandiose hair on all sides - a show after the show.

Dreamin' — *cont. from pg. 1*

the move further North risked alienating some in Southern California concerned about travel distance. Happily, this was offset by the enthusiastic participation of many sister groups from Northern California as well as the Southland.

Among these groups were Diablo Valley Girls in Walnut Creek, celebrating their 5th annniversary in May. The Rainbow Gender Association in San Jose goes back even further to ten years, and as they put it, "Anyone who attends a meeting becomes a member by acclamation." The soul of RGA is their Rap Group, a safe place for people dealing with gender issues and their significant others to share how this affects their lives.

The Sacramento Gender Association also sent representatives, and there were sisters from as far away as Utah, Texas, Louisiana, Florida, Michigan, New York, and even Hawaii and Germany.

Featured seminars covered a broad spectrum of community matters. Cindy Martin presented "A Transgendered Journey Through Cyberspace," and noted researcher Dr. Richard Docter spoke on the current state of gender studies.

Transsexual issues covered insurance, transition in the workplace and hormone use, and noted SRS specialist Dr. Toby Meltzer spoke on facial plastic surgery and current techniques.

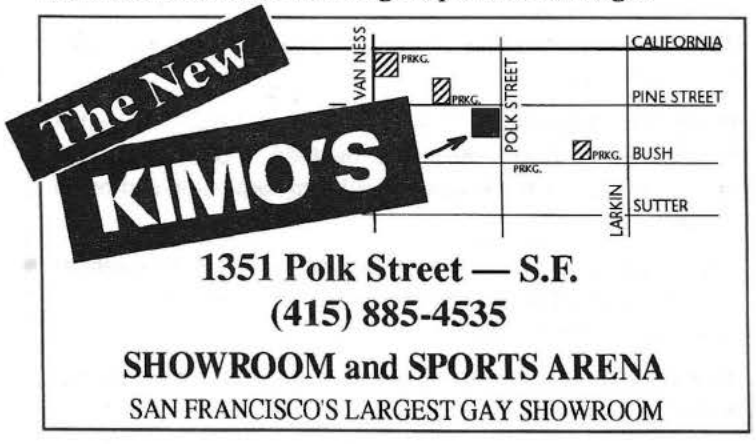
Vendor and longtime community friend Jeani Adams taught the basics of accessorizing, speech therapist Maureen O'Connor elaborated on the development of a female voice, and deportment consultant Wilhelmina Beins constructively critiqued appearance and movement in a unique session.

Community member Justine Sahnjay was present to sign copies of her new book The Man in the Red Velvet Dress, soon to become a classic. Female-to-male issues were addressed by James Green, and the history and practices of F2M crossdressing were delineated in an intriguing seminar by Francis Vavra, former Channel editor and "Night Man" columnist.

One particularly important and provocative topic was People of Color— Cultural Awareness, moderated by Kiki Whitlock. That panel featured African-American F2M organizer Patrick Forte, Hispanic activists Adela Holliday and Yvette Robles, and Asian community representatives Tamara Ching and Connie Amarathithada.

The April '97 California Dreamin' is scheduled to be held in Long Beach at the Queen Mary (the boat, not the nightclub!) Next year's conference, entitled "California Unity," will be a joint convention with the national transgender organization IFGE, and will draw activists and organizers from all over the country.

Plans for the conference are already being organized and volunteers for all tasks including simple ones are sought.



Gala — *cont. from pg. 1*

club treasurer Jano Bogg.

Receiving awards for their service and exceptional assistance to ETVC's executive committee and subcommittee officers were Nancy Kupps (education), Francis Vavra (outreach), Joanne Handa (social), Sandra Brewer (secretary), Leslie Bailey (vice-president) and Nancy Ann Martine (president).

Member of the Year Cindy Martin with "Mom" of the year Ginny Knuth

Members also applauded this year's election committee — Jane Kennedy, Chris York, Carolayn Hughes, Sandra Brewer and Sharon LaRose — for their speedy work in preparing, mailing and compiling the results of the balloting for Excom.

Outgoing social committee co-chair Lulu Blau — with the assistance of the lovely and talented Brenda — put on a unique "wig toss" for prizes. As the evening's festivities wound down, club members and supporters enjoyed cake and ice cream in celebration of the birthdays of ETVC and outgoing President Jane Kamper Bentley, who discretely declined to specify which milestone on the highway of life she had reached this year.

Fight AIDS With A Stroll Through the Park

by Jane Kennedy

There's still time to register and join ETVC's contingent for the third year walking for AIDS in Golden Gate Park on Sunday, July 21, 1996. In the past we have enjoyed the exhilarating 6.2 mile walk in the park, accompanied by good friends, and raised a couple thousand dollars for AIDS charities — and there is still time to be a part of this special event.

The purpose of this AIDS walk is to raise money. Call Jane Kennedy at [redacted] today! She will put you on the list of registered walkers and tell you how to get your sponsor sheet. Then you can canvass your friends and neighbors, coworkers, etc., for donations. They give you the money for so much a kilometer (the Walk is a total of ten kilometers) and you write down their name and amount donated on your sponsor sheet. The goal is for everyone to collect at least $100 for their walk and the sponsor sheet and money is turned in to the Aids Walk coordinators at Golden Gate Park before the walk begins.

Ginny and Nancy Ann will host a buffet following the walk at their home to appease all those appetites you worked up on the walk.

Don't hesitate — don't procrastinate — this is important. Call me right now and take part in this positive, fun outreach effort. Thanks.

Changing of the Guard

by Ginny Knuth

The Rainbow Gender Association proudly announces the election of its new President, Trina Martina Bloom. Diane Holloway resigned after three and one-half years of loyal service to RGA and its members.

Trina Martina Bloom

Trina has been a supporting member of RGA and other transgender organizations for over ten years. She has been an ETVC officer for seven years and was a founder of RGA's South Bay Discussion Group.

At a recent interview, Trina expressed her desire to continue the tradition of RGA in welcoming all people who walk in the door seeking information, support, understanding and love in the gender community. We wish her and this fine organization continued success.

Transgender Research

by Carolayn Hughes

Mariam Jafari, MA, is conducting a study concerning feelings and experiences of transgendered individuals as her final research project at the California School of Professional Psychology. She is limiting this study to:

- male to female transsexuals
- aged 22 to 45 (though she has "stretched" this parameter by ten years in at least one case.)
- individuals must currently be in individual psychotherapy, group psychotherapy and/or a support group.
- Living as a female is not required; only the "strong wish" to live as a female is necessary.

To participate, please write to Ms. Jafari at [redacted] or call her at [redacted].

ETVC members often share a more positive outlook on the transition process than other segments of our community. Our participation on an individual basis will give balance to her study by adding a perspective that might otherwise go untapped. I have talked with Ms. Jafari and completed her questionnaires. Feel free to call me if you are interested or would like more information at [redacted].

Not Just Being Read, But Being Scarlet

by Veronica Smith

At the March mid-month social, Juana and I met Helen and Sarah, a couple from Manchester, England. As we seemed to get along so well, I invited them to ETVC's bowling night later that week and Juana suggested that we should go to dinner beforehand. We picked a restaurant where I had been dressed en femme once before, but it had been over a year and a half ago and (I guess) before the staff had gotten to know Juana and me. Since that time we'd been there often, but only as Mr. and Mrs.

That Saturday, we picked up Helen and Sarah at their hotel and drove to the restaurant. The maitre d', who showed just a hint of surprise, recovered quickly and showed us to our table; he told us our waiter (who Juana and I knew) would be with us shortly. Hardly anyone looked up and I didn't detect any gasps or stricken stares.

Just then our waiter, loaded with plates, came rushing around the corner. He first saw Juana, smiled and nodded hello, and as he hurried to a large table, his gaze slid past me to take in our guests.

Suddenly he froze, came to a dead halt, and his bulging eyes darted back at me. I've never seen any comedian do a better second take, only this was obviously unplanned. He let out an Ed McMahon "Whoa-oo," bent over and literally shook his head as if to clear it before looking up again. It was a wonder he didn't drop the plates.

Finally, and from the middle of the restaurant, he shouted out my male name and asked, "What the hell's going on? Is this a Bud Light commercial? Is it women's league night or something?"

At that point, everyone stopped what they were doing and turned around and broke out laughing. However, it was really okay, since both Juana and I couldn't help but laugh as well. Juana yelled back that we were in fact going bowling after dinner, which caused more laughter. It certainly didn't feel unpleasant. It just felt as if everyone was sharing a funny San Franciscan moment.

But when we looked back at our poor guests from across the Atlantic, they looked as if they wanted to sink beneath the table. Becoming very gallant, the waiter said, "I'll be right with you, ladies."

After he went back to the kitchen and the hubbub died a bit, I said, "That went well."

Helen said, "I guess that is what's called being read." To which I responded, "I'd say more scarlet than red." I couldn't believe how dark Helen's blush was beneath her foundation and beard cover.

The waiter did an excellent job of serving us and even bought us a bottle of wine. The owner of the restaurant came to our table and was very complimentary.

He told me to call next time and he'd dress up too! I think he was joking, but we couldn't be sure.

Makeup Master Bill Jones Dazzles Us Again

by Sandra Brewer

On April 17th, San Francisco State Theater Arts Professor Bill Jones presented 16 of us at Kimo's with some valuable makeup tips and individual assistance.

Bill provides his makeup expertise at SFSU as well as at San Francisco Opera; in his 'spare' time he works as the costumer for the long-running Beach Blanket Babylon production.

This was his fourth workshop seminar in the last four years; his seminars are always well received, and well-appreciated by all of us able to attend.

Bill reminded us that men, especially when "past their prime," tend to have a minimal crease in the eyelid. He suggested that light-colored eye makeup — possibly darker in the outside corner — usually works best for us.

Pan stick and a Dermacolour powder that closely matches your skin works well to cover the beard in most cases. He likes the Mehron brand of foundation. All these products are available at the California Theatrical Supply located on the second floor at 132 9th Street in San Francisco.

True to his title as a makeup "artist," Bill likes to use artists' paint brushes of various sizes to apply makeup. He indicated most makeup keeps well over time but mascara, eyeliner, and anything contained in a narrow tube can breed bacteria, and should be discarded after about six months.

Use whatever works best for you to remove makeup, but it should all be removed at the end of the day to prevent clogging the pores in your skin.

Several other valuable makeup tips were presented. Many of these can be found in a series of 'Beauty Secrets' articles that Bill shared with us in the ETVC Channel. You can find them in the following issues:

* Nov-Dec, 1993 Eye Makeup
* Jan-Feb, 1994 Foundation Makeup
* Mar-Apr, 1994 Wig Selection & Use
* May-Jun, 1994 Lipstick & Breastforms
* Nov-Dec, 1994 Eyebrows & Gaffs

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ETVC: Tool of Empowerment

Melanie Yarborough

Melanie Yarborough
President, San Diego's "Neutral Corner"

Being closeted means being powerless. A closeted person fears being humiliated. A closeted person knows of few — if any — public places where he can safely socialize en femme. A closeted person has nobody to confide in about his desires to live as a woman — and no input on how to handle these desires.

For those who are closeted or coming out, organizations like ETVC are the best vehicle for growth a crossdresser or transsexual has.

The group provides contact with others who are transgendered. Knowing you're not alone means an incredible sense of relief and hope. It also means a sense of belonging to a larger network of people like yourself.

The group provides access to resources. When you join the community, you learn about the available books, movies and videos on gender issues. You find out the vendors of necessary goods, from breast forms to beard cover to large size high heels. You can make contact with mental health professionals skilled in specifically transgender issues, as well as other transgender organizations in California and across the country.

The group provides an end to shame. Transgender pride means accepting ourselves for who we are, and taking responsibility for it. It's an affirmation of our own identity and being able to look the world in the eye and say "Transgendered and Proud!"

Some may see ETVC just as a support group, only for meetings and the newsletter. But others can seize the opportunity to make it a vehicle to learn about gender and sexuality, and to grow as a person.

The group is not here to wave a magic wand and "poof!" — solve your issues. It's here to provide you with the tools to start to work on those issues yourself.

— ETVC is only as good as you choose to make it. —

TRANSSEXUALS

Candid Answers To Private Questions

by Gerald Ramsey, Ph.D.
192 pp-$24.95-Cloth; ISBN 0-89594-700-0;
The Crossing Press

Review by Kim Stuart

Gerald Ramsey is a clinical psychologist and a psychotherapist who practices in Virginia. Over the span of the last twenty years, he has worked with over two hundred transsexual men and women. His training and his experience in diagnosing and providing psychotherapy for transsexuals has been within the context of a formal gender identity program.

TRANSSEXUALS, Candid Answers To Private Questions is a book written in the form of questions transsexuals, their families and loved ones and the general public have asked Dr. Ramsey over the years. What is gender dysphoria? What is a transsexual. Aren't transsexuals homosexuals? What is the treatment? What's the difference between transsexuals and transvestites. What about surgery?

These types of questions are posed provocatively throughout the book, and Dr. Ramsey attempts to address them in an informative way based upon his clinical practice. That's one of the strengths of the book. He provides us with a personal glimpse of many of the feelings and experiences his clients have shared with him over the years, and he conveys a genuine warmth toward their plight as he tells their stories.

The other positive feature of the book is that Dr. Ramsey clearly understands that the forces which seem to inexorably drive transsexuals toward achieving some sort of harmony between their bodies and their internal gender identities are immutable, and not subject to amelioration through psychotherapy. He also makes it quite clear that sexual orientation, within the context of preferred gender roles, is a separate issue from gender identity. He correctly points out that transsexuals express their sexuality in gender roles that they adopt in pretty much the same fashion as everybody else—a majority are heterosexual, some are homosexual, and a few are either bisexual or asexual.

So far, so good, and on the basis of these two points, I feel that Dr. Ramsey's book is worth reading for persons exploring their gender identity and for those who want to understand some of the compelling mysteries of the transsexual phenomenon.

On the other side of the balance sheet, the book is strongly colored by Dr. Ramsey's very rigid attitudes about pursuing gender reassignment, some very questionable statements, and an extremely paternalistic attitude with respect to transsexuals.

There is no index, so the reader has difficulty referring back to previously read material without taking notes. In this day of search commands on computers, the compilation of an index is a relatively easy task. Not to provide such a reference, I believe, reflects a lack of careful preparation.

The bibliography, which is supposed to list other work the author discusses in the body of the text, or that he has consulted in researching his material, is incredibly weak. Other than his clinical observations, he apparently has only relied on the *DSMIV*, the *H.B.I.G.D.A. Standards of Care*, *Droland's Medical Dictionary*, *The Merck Manual of Diagnosis and Therapy*, two journal articles and one unpublished article. There is not one researched or analytical text on transsexualism cited.

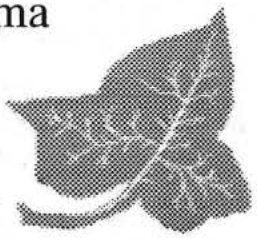
> *"Dr. Ramsey has very strong opinions and beliefs about what transsexuals are and are not ... He believes in putting transsexuals through hoops..."*

Dr. Ramsey has very strong opinions and beliefs about what transsexuals are and are not and what they must do to demonstrate that they should be allowed to pursue gender reassignment. He believes in putting transsexuals through hoops, and he says so in no uncertain terms. He believes that transsexuals can be assured of success only if they submit themselves to the rigors and judgments of a gender identity committee that is part of a gender identity program. He advises against surgery by anyone who is not part of a gender identity program. He does not believe in hormone therapy in order to facilitate cross-role living in the initial stages. He says that he doesn't necessarily think that transsexuals present with mental disorders beyond gender dysphoria, but he is adamant that they receive psychotherapy for several years before sex reassignment surgery and beyond. In short, Dr. Ramsey is rigid in his views, inflexible and totally unrealistic.

Many of Dr. Ramsey's views, and some of the very questionable statements he makes, seem to be based strictly on his personal clinical observation. No research is cited, and no empirical data is presented. One has to wonder what his criteria is for a successful transition when he says that successful transitions can only be assured within the context of a formal gender program. Is his criteria socio-economic as it was in the now thoroughly discredited Meyer Report?[1]

Dr. Ramsey states flatly that most transsexuals have very low sex drives and that they seldom masturbate when cross-dressed. That reminds me of a male to female transsexual I interviewed who related an experience she had when she approached a recognized gender program. When she indicated that she had fathered four children, the intake interviewer told her flatly that she couldn't be a transsexual because transsexuals didn't like to use their penises. Well, so much for all the male to female transsexuals who have children.

The Uninvited Dilemma
A Question of Gender
by
Kim Elizabeth Stuart
Research Supplement available separately.



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Dr. Ramsey's book is full of dogmatic statements that seem to be based, not on empirical evidence, but rather on personal clinical observation and beliefs acquired within the context of a formal gender program. Some of the statements made in this book do not match my knowledge, and they are not the universal conclusion of many other experts.

To sum things up, one can rightfully conclude that Dr. Ramsey's opinions are based upon his interpretation of established documents. In a word, there is no unique or compelling perspective here. No new ground is broken. In many ways Dr. Ramsey follows furrows that are only too familiar to transsexuals. He brings his personal interpretation as to what is a man or a woman to a setting that strives to convince everybody that it is impartial and scientific in its approach:

> "Still, a woman is so much more than the absence of male genitals. Acquiring the right walk, talk, look, smile, attitude and heart are all essential parts of becoming female." [p 90]

Is the above paragraph a scientific evaluation of how a male to female transsexual should present herself in order to make a successful transition, or is it possibly how a chivalrous southern gentleman views a lady who catches his eye?

TRANSSEXUALS Answers to Private Questions is a very readable book and puts forth some valuable information. It also, very forthrightly, lays out an **attitude** that many transsexuals are faced with in the provider community. Consumerism and freedom of choice are not thoughts that even cross Dr. Ramsey's mind. The book should be taken with a grain or two of salt; transsexuals and their loved ones should understand that not all providers share Dr. Ramsey's very rigid and inflexible views.

Kim Stuart
May 20, 1996

Kim Elizabeth Stuart is a widely recognized authority on the subject of transsexualism, and is the author of The Uninvited Dilemma, A Question of Gender, *and the* Research Supplement To The Uninvited Dilemma., *both published by Metamorphous Press. She also is the author to a booklet entitled* A Guide For Male To Female Transsexuals Considering Shifting Gender Identity *published by ETVC. Kim Stuart can be reached at her Internet address which is:* [redacted]

[1] Meyer and Reter, Johns Hopkins Gender Identity Clinic, 1979.

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Lending Library

by Ginny Knuth

The book reviewed by Kim Elizabeth Stuart in this issue of the Channel, *Transsexuals*, written by Gerald Ramsey, PhD., is available from our lending library along with over 200 other books, videos and cassette tapes for you to borrow. Our Library Committee meets on the third Thursday of every month at 1 PM in the afternoon to update our records and catalogue our material. You are most welcome to be a part of this Committee. Call me at [redacted] for information.

Of course, we are still holding our open library night on the second Friday of each month if you would like to stop by and check out the library — or check something out of the library. Let me know you are coming by calling the above number. Library hours are from 7:00 PM to 11:00 PM, and you must be an ETVC member to be admitted..

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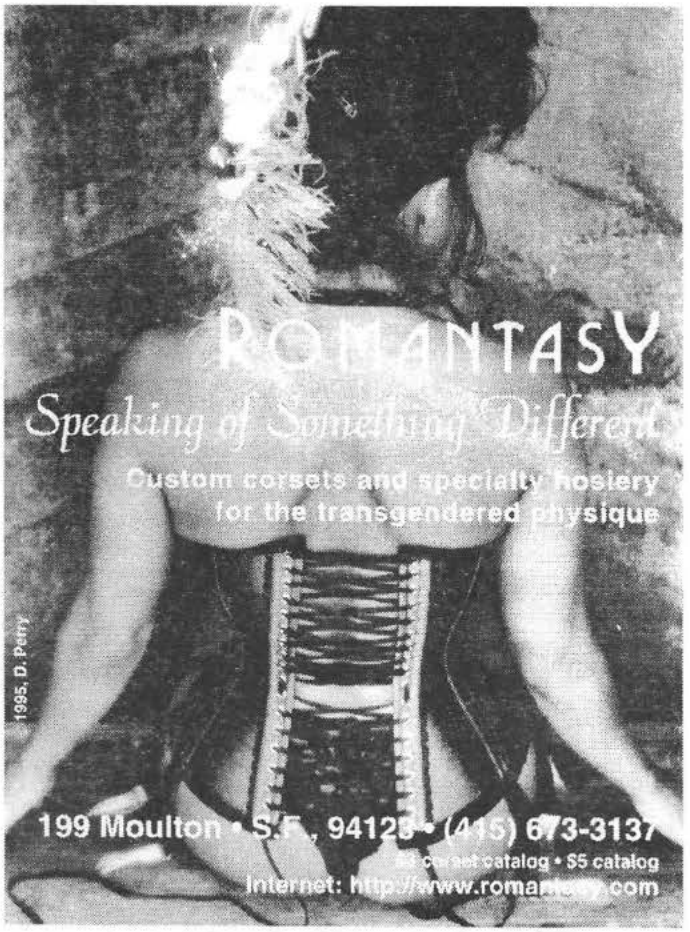

Other Voices

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

Wife and Times of A Crossdresser

Part III

by Juana Smith

He's No Angel...

What was the first thing you noticed about your partner when he/she began crossdressing? Could it have been self absorption or self-centeredness? Although over time and with familiarity this characteristic subsides somewhat, initially for the partner, it ain't easy. For instance...

There is no experience quite like sharing with a cross dresser the preparation for an evening out — especially one who is just learning the techniques and methods of applying make-up and doing hair. What might take me an hour to do takes the "new woman" three to four hours. Or so it was with my Veronica.

Generally, during the first year Veronica was out, I would give her the bathroom first. It seemed easier to let her transform first because she was so tense; plus, I hated letting my make-up grow old before going out. Also, initially, I liked reliving my teen years by watching my husband change as I must have when I was "blossoming." The novelty wore off fast. Those hours he spent getting ready, I spent reading or watching TV. As I was being entertained, he would be getting anxious: about his make-up; about his wig; about his dress choice; about going out as Veronica.

I had far more difficulty dealing with his anxiety than I did with his desire to cross dress. His hissy fits when he glued together his eyelids while applying false eyelashes or his frustrations at what to do with his hair drove me up the wall, and his nagging questioning about whether this scarf looked good, or was a belt better, made me have evil thoughts about surreptitiously spilling red wine on a white dress or stepping on a hem line. But what really stuck in my craw, what really broke the camel's proverbial, was when this "Jane-come-lately" would rush ME!

As I mentioned, it took Veronica three or four hours in the bathroom to get ready. However, she expected me to be ready in 15 minutes. Please! Since when does it take anyone, with or without make-up, 15 minutes to get ready? There was nothing so irritating about someone saying to me, as I got out of the shower, "Okay, let's go." Go where??? I'd point out that I at least needed to dry off, and she'd say, "Oh, sorry. Take your time." Only to say five minutes later, "Well, let's go," when I'd just finished lining one eye.

This was not an occasional event; it happened every time we went out as Veronica and Juana. And, believe me, it was hard not to say something. Finally, that last time Veronica stupidly said, "Let's go," I calmly replied, "Please, go on without me. I'll take a cab and join you when I'm ready." I said it all very calmly, as I gave her my look that means the "next thing you do may bring death." So, Veronica thought very carefully and has since always paused before saying anything. And I also figured out that I should shower first, then do as I always do, spend the spare time doing "alone" activities. Then the half hour before we leave, I get the bathroom and Veronica gets a make-up mirror on the kitchen table. Simple solutions for a simple couple.

Since we resolved the "Hurry up, let's go," problem, things have run pretty smoothly. And as far as my husband's vanity regarding Veronica, it did calm down (or I've gotten used to it). I still have to say, he's no angel, but then again...(to be continued).

Significant Other Support Group invites all Significant Others to attend our meetings. Group members define Significant Others as wives, lovers, friends, children and others close to TV/TS persons who are themselves not TV/TS. We encourage you to ask the SO in your own life to attend, particularly if she or he needs support from peers in dealing with feelings about the TV/TS in her or his life. All meetings are kept STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL to help insure that a safe, supportive environment is created in which all attendees feel secure enough to freely share and talk about their feelings. We are frequently assisted by a helping professional with a specialty in our area of concern. Our next meetings will be Thursday, July 11, and Thursday, August 8. We are planning our annual family picnic (a non-cross dressed event) on Sunday, August 18th from 10 AM to 2PM at Lake Chabot Park in Castro Valley. You are welcome with open arms. Call (415) 664-1499 for more information.

Ginny's

We've been working hard trying to talk our members into Walking for AIDS this year in Golden Gate Park on Sunday, July 21st. This is certainly not an event only for gays or cross dressers; in fact, PG&E, Bechtel, AT&T, Levi-Strauss, etc., etc., are just a few large San Francisco industries who send hundreds of employees along the path that morning, all for the purpose of raising funds for AIDS charities in the City to give real support to those stricken with this terrible, painful disease and to fund research to try to find a cure. It behooves us all to find a cure ... it can spread like wildfire, and without preventive care, anyone can get it — even me, or you, or yours.

So, if your mate is walking with ETVC that Sunday morning to fight AIDS, why not join along? Call Jane Kennedy or me at [redacted] and we'll get you registered right away and get a sponsor sheet to you so you can canvass your neighbors and friends for donations. Work hard with it, even if it hurts a little. Maybe it will help someone from hurting quite so much. Thanks.

It's SPICE time — the Fourth Annual Spouses/Partners International Conference for Education. This is a reminder for those of you who are interested to make those reservations now if you haven't already done so. This Conference for significant others of cross dressers will be held from July 24-28 in the Wilmington Hilton Hotel (near Philadelphia.) It is a totally non-cross dressed event, if your CD's attend with you. Call [redacted] for details.

Lastly, we are having our Third Annual Family Day Picnic in Lake Chabot Park in Castro Valley on Sunday, August 18th from 10 AM to 2 PM. Bring the kids (this is one of ETVC's few non-cross dressed events) and your own food. It's a pleasant way to meet one another's families in a lovely setting, so call [redacted] for directions if you can make it. Hope to see you there!

Couples Who Make It Work

by Veronica Smith

Nine couples and several others gathered together at Ginny's house Wednesday night, May 22 to discuss the various ways they have dealt with the TG lifestyle.

The duration of these relationships ranged from as recent as eight months to well over thirty years, yet certain similar fears, doubts and humor were shared by all. However, the range in how these couples dealt with this particular situation varied considerably. For some, it was an exciting addition to an already happy partnership; for others, it was incorporated with little or no trouble; but for a few, the husband's secret part of himself became connected with unpleasant and destructive aspects of the relationship.

The great thing about even the most troubled relationships was the ability of the couples to come to grips with their situation, evaluate what their relationship meant to them and seek for ways to make it work. That was inspiring to hear. Honesty, communication and respect as the elements for maintaining partnerships were stressed over and over again. It was added that humor didn't hurt, either.

The participants agreed that they would like to continue the couple discussions once every two months. So look for our next meeting in July.

S P.I.C.E.

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Education			2,200	1,960
Social			4,300	4,120
Outreach			1,180	3,120
Vice President				
Parade	1,500	425		
Cotillion	12,175	9,445		
Total Vice President			13,675	9,870
Secretary				
Membership	9,260	2,090		
Newsletter	3,620	8,570		
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Experiences With Hormones Shared at Seminar

by Sandra Brewer

On April 21st a dozen and a half of us gathered at Kimo's to learn more about how taking female hormones affects our bodies. Though we were unable to get an endocrinologist to attend the seminar, the sharing of our own experiences with hormones provided a wealth of valuable information. We all learned something new from each other.

Estrogen is the most important hormone taken to induce the development of secondary female characteristics. It comes in many forms with Premarin being the most common, and Estinyl the most potent. Spironolactone (a.k.a. Aldactone) and other drugs are sometimes used to reduce production of the male hormone testosterone.

All these are steroids, and the pronounced effect they have on the body should not be taken lightly. Estrogen can be obtained from some natural (herbal) sources but these are generally less effective. The type and doses of hormones prescribed varies widely between doctors since not enough is yet known about their long-term effects on our bodies.

The effects of taking female hormones varies between patients. Breast and hip development usually peak between 18 and 24 months. This has been known to resume after sex reassignment surgery (SRS). Female hormones usually reduce the capacity for sexual arousal; male hormones have the reverse effect. When taken for 12 to 24 months, female hormones frequently reduce the growth of body hair. Unfortunately, Facial hair and vocal pitch are unaffected by female hormones taken after puberty.

Residents of San Francisco can obtain female hormones at no charge through the Tom Wadell Clinic located at 50 Lech Walesa (formerly Ivy) Street. There is usually about a two-month wait to obtain service at the clinic; new patients are seen from 5:00 to 7:00 PM every Tuesday.

Priority is given to those with a low income, and to those already taking hormones without supervision or monitoring. It can be very dangerous (sometimes fatal) to take hormones without regular blood tests to monitor the liver function and prolactin level.

The Harry Benjamin Standards of Care are followed by most of the medical profession when treating transsexual patients. These require the recommendation from a therapist for the prescription of hormone treatment by an endocrinologist. Doctors who "bend the rules" should be avoided, especially if they are lax on monitoring the blood tests mentioned above.

Some local doctors with good reputations for treating transsexuals include:

Robin Dea, Redwood City (Kaiser)
Charles Moser, San Francisco
Joy Shaffer, San Jose
Renata Smilo, San Francisco
Lisa Snow, Berkeley

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Sharing

Slip gently under my skin
so that you feel the world from inside of me
Experience life as my feminine self
and love life as the woman I am

See beauty through my eyes
and you will not feel shame as tears fall
when a spectacular sunset takes your breath away.

Touch those you love
with soft tender caresses from my hands.
In those moments you will sense the
comforting peace a woman's love brings.

Speak loving words through my lips
with the warm, soft tones which
emanate in a woman's heart
And feel the joy that spreads in the one spoken to.

Grasp the power that a woman feels
when kissed by the one she loves . . .
or kicked by the tiny child she bears.
Pure womanhood will come alive in you.

Take this offer to share my life . . . as woman,
Savor the richness of my life.
Touch, taste, smell, feel, and love my womanhood;
Open wide to the wonders I have known.

Bury yourself deep into my heart and soul
use prying eyes and listen to the rhythms of my femininity,
Share my deepest emotions and take them . . .
So that the beauty of being a woman can be yours.

— By Toni Genalo

The Struggle for Love

Screaming out in pain . . . crying, hoping to be freed
Searching, struggling somehow to find approval
Crossing over the line to release my lifelong suppression
As I visibly divulge my fragile feminine side

Despite the intense insolent condemnation from society
I have a love that calls from deep within my essence
So as I explore the intangible emotions of the feminine
I can be shattered by even the most gentle touch

In the physical expression of my admiration for women
I experience an inner peace and complete love of life
Transcending the gender boundaries, freeing my stifled spirit
For enfemme there is an evolution of my entire being.

Crossdressing is not my choice, it's part of who I am
For without my femininity, I question my own identity
Though I hope for a woman's acceptance, what I need is her love
A woman who can see beyond the reflection of society

And overcome the fears created by conservative socialization
Inviting me to share her femininity, without judging me.
Hopefully through compassion and understanding we may find love
Asking her for nothing, except the freedom to be who I am.

— Valerie Genalo (Miss ETVC 1996)

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