ETVC

Educational TV Channel Newsletter

VOLUME SEVEN, NUMBER 5 MARCH – APRIL, 1989

KIM'S CORNER

ETVC's Potential

With the fabulous success of the 5th Miss ETVC Cotillion more ETVC members are discovering the enormous potential of our club. In the last five years ETVC has grown from 70 members to 330 and still growing strong. We have socials, rap groups, couples, poker parties and more, but what else can we do as group?

Where do we go from here?

ETVC is growing at an exponential rate, and the time has finally come for it to become incorporated as a nonprofit corporation, but for this to happen several things must occur.

First, the office of coordinator needs a name change to president. We will also need to create a new office of vice-president and we will need to establish an education committee. The new corporation would also require a board of directors who will help with ideas and advice. Finally, the focus of the group needs to shift some to more educational activities.

None of this means taking away any of the socials or other activities that we now sponsor, but it does mean that several educational activities need to be added.

I have worked on the idea of incorporating as a nonprofit for over four years and I feel that it is now the time to seriously consider it.

ETVC in the 90s!

Imagine these possibilities: A new member joins and in her packet is a course schedule for makeup, voice, fashion, etc. The classes are taught every month in a 2-3 day seminar at a local hotel. She discovers that she can take Gender 101 being taught by ETVC members at U.C. Berkeley. ETVC members are teaching about TV/TS/TG at the Human Sexuality Institute to help the new therapists. Our packet describes the new TV sitcom called TGIF "Transgenderism is fun" on Channel 4. New pamphlets, books, video tapes, audio tapes and documentaries are being generated by our committees. All of this and more is possible.

What else is needed for ETVC?

The biggest factor in a strong group is a strong central organization with active members, but especially members who want to be officers of the largest single chapter gender group in the U.S.

In April we nominate members for office in ETVC, but before then we will try to make members aware of what the duties of the officers are and encourage as many people as possible to run. ETVC can do great things, but it is up to the members to make it great. Active participation for committees is needed. The next time someone asks you about running for office or getting involved in ETVC just remember: ETVC has tremendous potential, but it is up to all of us to help it grow and prosper.

MISS ETVC 1989 - SUSAN!

More than 200 people, the largest ever for an ETVC event, saw Susan become the 5th Miss ETVC at Cotillion 1989.

Susan, who succeeded Kimberly Ann for the title, wowed the audience with an exuberant version of "Hey Big Spender" from the show "Sweet Charity" Susan's performance was one of several showstoppers at the California Club event.

One of the more memorable performances came from Randi, who was first runner-up and winner of the Best Talent award for her performance of "Rio de Janeiro Blue." Michelle was second runner- up and winner of the Best Legs competition. Tied for third runner-up were Kimberly and Sheryl.

The show, which is getting larger and better each year, was produced by Diane. It was her second Cotillion and definitely not her last, though next year she hopes to direct rather than produce the show.

"Next year I want to put my talents into the creative rather than the administrative side of the show," Diane said.

"Backstage things went well this year," she said, though there was one little vignette she won't soon forget.

"Sharona who was going to do the male impersonation of Billy Idol was back there trying to hide her breasts while all the men were asking for help putting on their bras," she said. "It was quite an interesting contrast."

Besides the finalists and winners, the other contestants included Dale, Kate, Kim, Teri, Kristyn and Martina.

Emceeing the show were Phoebe Planters and Tommi Rose, two great and funny ladies who really kept things moving.

Special thanks to them and to Tatianna, who flew in specially from Reno to entertain us all.

The list of people to whom ETVC is also indebted includes many others whom we would like to collectively thank for their great contributions to a stunning show.

(See more Cotillion articles inside on pages 6 & 7)

Passing Comments

We are growing at a faster and faster pace. New members are joining the club in increasing numbers, and the publicity from the Cotillion is likely to bring us more new faces in the coming months.

Perhaps we need to realize now that we aren't a small group of close friends who know each other and agree on what we are all doing. Neither are we a group of people who are all at the same level of experience with dressing.

As we grow, we can expect more folks who are newly out of the closet and perhaps in the throes of what one psychologist aptly calls "blowout." Maybe you remember it or are looking forward to it.

It is that time when you want to tell everyone about everything you do. You want EVERYONE who is the least bit supportive to be involved with everything you do too. Anyone who is pleasant is a possible best friend because you share the same secret.

As a group we have to be understanding. At socials we all have to be a bit prepared to deal with blowout. We have to moderate out-of-control behavior without - and this very important - destroying the joy of being out of the closet.

We can't encourage potentially harmful conduct or ideas - going public without considering the implications. Things that sound great in the heat of blowout may be something to regret later. Leading someone to believe you are their best friend simply because you are friendly and sympathetic and not telling them that you would like to let things develop slowly can be a problem. We aren't therapists either. Be realistic but don't burst their bubbles either.

The excitement and joy of finding a place where you can express something that's been bottled up and hidden behind a structure of lies is pretty wonderful and should be savored. So let's try to do our best with every new blowout case and help them enjoy the new territory they've discovered. Try TO remember what it was like for you when it was new and try to be the guide or big sister you wished you had then.

More new people also means more personalities and different styles of crossdressing. As we are an open group we have to expect that everyone may not share the same goals or aesthetic sensibilities.

For the most part, the average person at a social is pretty demure-dressy, but demure. We are a remarkably conventional bunch. We seem to be trying to be our unconventional selves in the most conventional ways. And yet many of us are working out a kind of public or semi-public presentation of our fantasies.

I notice that I'm always a bit put off at first by someone who doesn't share my style of dressing. I realize that I have to be open to people who aren't on my fashion wavelength.

We needn't all be demure middle class matrons. I may not want to be seen with you at three in the afternoon if you're wearing a prom gown and six inch heels, but I can appreciate the look at the Chez. Fantasy tempered with a realistic appraisal of where it is best expressed is the idea. I don't exactly believe in passing, but you can choose how much attention you will get by how you match your surroundings.

ETVC socials should be where there's room for everyone's expression and we can enjoy the variety. Let's try to be as open as we can be - we are always saying how we want acceptance so let's start with acceptance "at home." Don't look down your nose at someone who doesn't meet your exacting standards, be they passing or whatever.

I have this soapbox simply because I take the time to write. I'm interested in your reactions. Write if your agree, disagree or can say it better. –Thalia

In Memoriam Joanna Caron

Our beautiful friend Joanna Caron passed away on Jan. 17, three days after she was to have emceed our Cotillion for the third year in a row. She was stricken with an AIDS related condition (ARC), diagnosed just one week previously. Joanna, a professional entertainer and transgenderist (female impersonator), was a member of ETVC and brought us together with many friends and contacts in other communities.

Her talent, realism and sense of humor set the positive tone for many ETVC evenings of fun and entertainment.

We will miss her...very much.

No memorial services were held at Joanna's request, but her high energy, generosity and love created an important cornerstone for ETVC. She will live on in the soul of this organization.

ETVC

ETVC is a non-sexual, membership based organization with the purpose of 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, newsletter subscriptions, and classified ads, please write to: ETVC Secretary, PO Box 6486, San Francisco, CA 94101.

OFFICERS

Co-ordinator	Kim
Secretary	Donna
Treasurer	Nancy Ann
Outreach	Evelyn & Thalia
Social	Martina & Susan

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Membership (as of 1/31/89)	343
1987 Membership	268
New members this year	120

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance (as of 11/30/88)	$1,468.32

The ETVC Newsletter is published in February, April, June, August, October and December. Newsletter contents reflect the opinions of the contributors and the editor, and are not necessarily those of ETVC.

Other organizations may reprint or reproduce portions of the newsletter for their members, provided ETVC is acknowledged.

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	Marie	Diane
	Jane	Martina
	Ginny	Gloria

AD RATES

	per issue	per year
Business Card	$10	$50
4" x 5"	$25	$125
8" x 5"	$40	$200
8" x 10"	$80	$400

PERSONAL ADS

ETVC will accept personal ads from ETVC members at the rate of $1 per 3 lines. We will not accept ads with a purely sexual objective.

Send ad copy and a check for the appropriate amount to: ETVC, PO Box 6486, San Francisco, CA 94101.

Ad Deadlines are the first weekend of the month of publication (June, August, October, December, February, April).

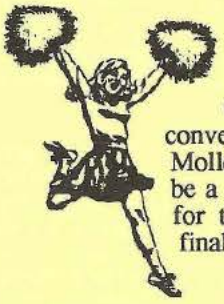
BIRTHDAY GIRLS (and guys)!

Each month there will be a prize for a Birthday Girl at our social.

March—Andrea P., Betty M., Bobbie Jean, Donna F., Eva Bree, Ileah, Jennifer C., Joan S., Kathy Ann J., Kaye F., Linda D., Lucy Ann, Lydia, Melinda, Radene, Ricki, Robyn W., Roxanne P., Sheery, Susan Y., Telzey

April—Barbara P., Camille, Carol Ann, Darlene, Dawn B., Diane S., Diane T., Emiko, Julie, Laurie T., Lynn B., Maxine M., Mikie L., Pakela, Ralph, Sandy Y., Vicki F.

SPECIAL EVENTS



IFGE Kickoff Party
March 30

Get psyched up for the big IFGE convention at our March 30 social at the Chez Mollet where the fun starts at 8 p.m. This will be a great time to talk with friends about plans for the convention and to square away those final details. $3 members and $5 guests.

SOS

The Significant Other Support Group wants to invite all Significant Others to attend our SOS group meetings. Group members define Significant Others as wives, lovers, friends, children and others close to TV/TS persons but are themselves not a TV/TS. We encourage you to ask the SO in your own life to come to these meetings, particularly if the SO feels they need support from their peers in dealing with their feelings about the TV/TS in their lives. It is important to emphasize that all meetings are kept STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL. This is to help insure that a safe, supportive environment is created in which all attendees will feel secure enough to really be able to share and talk about their feelings. The SOS group meets the second Thursday of each month from 8 to 10 p.m. in the homes of members. You are all welcome with open arms. Next meetings are March 9th and April 13th. For more information call Ginny at [redacted]

ETVC/RGA Rap Group

The most exciting rap group in the Bay Area meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at the New Community of Faith Church in San Jose. The address is 6350 Rainbow Drive in San Jose. The next two meetings will be on Monday, March 13 and Monday, April 10 from 8- 10 p.m. There are only two rules: no one dominates the discussion and no discussing the rap group outside the group. If you know the way to San Jose, join us. If not contact Kim (408) [redacted] or Martina at (408) [redacted] for info.

Looking for fun and excitement in your crossdressed life? Join the social committee! Contact Martina at (408) [redacted] or Susan at (415) [redacted]

IFGE Social and Dinner
April 7

This April 7 event is going to be one of the year's biggies as ETVC hosts the folks attending the IFGE convention with a dinner and social at the Chez Mollet. This is basically a private party for our gang that begins with a cocktail hour at 7 p.m. and includes a prime rib dinner, and an informal fashion show with IFGE participants. Modeling will be done throughout the evening with models drifting throughout the Chez describing their outfits. $15 for members and guests.

Carnaval!
April 27

Hard to believe as it may be, Carmen Miranda was only 41 when she died. Well Carmen is gone, but her spirit lives on and will certainly be evident on April 27 when EVTC has its Carnaval social. Yes, it's time to dig out those South-o'-the Border outfits (did you know that Carmen was the person who introduced platform shoes and tutti-fruity hats to a waiting world?). And what Carnaval would be complete without games? We'll have 'em, including the always popular boob toss as well as other fantabulous events and a raffle. $5 members and $8 guests.

Couples Group

The couples group will be meeting again on March 16th and April 20th. The group is alive and well and having fun at its buffet dinners in the lovely homes of our friends around the Bay Area. Come and be a part of another party just for you and your loved one. To find out more, call Ginny at [redacted]

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OUTREACH - TVs on TV and lots more – by Thalia

The Cotillion went quite well and was a great group effort. We also picked up some decent public relations with the KTVU crew reporting on the show for both the 6 and 10 pm newscasts. Thanks to Kim, Kate and Michelle for their interviews. I wasn't able to see the actual broadcasts as I was shepherding the news crew around, but I've been told that we were presented in a realistic and decent manner and not as another freak show.

Betty Ann Bruno, the KTVU reporter deserves a lot of credit for the sensitivity of the presentation. I'm looking forward to perhaps another story on the group done by her.

One side effect of the Cotillion was that continuing Outreach programs were put on the back burner temporarily, but now it is time to get the springtime momentum going.

We were presented in a realistic and decent manner.

The Tip Sheet: I get requests for this from new members and have no idea how old or accurate the information is. Let's get those word-of-mouth references on paper for more people to use. Remember there are members who are unfamiliar with this area or have little experience purchasing goods and services.

On the subject of new members: Is anyone interested in a type of "big sister" program? I frequently get requests from people who need a place to dress for the socials. Now we all know that the Chez is a good place to meet but a pretty lousy place to get dressed. And we all know that at one time or another we could have used a little advice and help from a more experienced person. I realize that for some it would inhibit your dressing ritual to share it with someone else but for those who can start their social evening early by helping someone else get to the Chez looking their best, it could be fun. Think about it and let me know if your are interested.

Libraries: Orders for materials (video tapes and articles) are way down. Is everyone aware of what we have? Do we need to give you more frequent updated lists of library holdings? See Martina for the articles and Lauren about videos. Yes, there will be a Cotillion tape available, $10.00 for three hours.

Support Directory: This was held up by the Cotillion program, ticket and promotional material production as well as Gloria's illness. We have it back on track again and hope to get this very important ETVC service available to other groups around the world.

By the way, our past coordinator, Gloria, has been doing all the graphic production on the newsletter, the Cotillion program and invitations, the Tip Sheet, the Support Group Directory and various brochures we have done for the upcoming IFGE convention. How about some help out there? We need someone who has the computer graphics capabilities (a Macintosh and page layout program would be ideal) to take on at least one of these projects.

Incidentally, Monica stepped in at the last minute when Gloria took ill in December and got the last minute work done on the newsletter. We all owe her a big thank you.

Speakers Bureau: We have been working on developing more places to speak. Contacting radio stations and colleges with MFCC programs has been the latest effort. We have a small list of people who have volunteered to speak, but others who would like to speak are most welcome and should get in touch with Evelyn or me. In the near future, we want to have a couple of speakers meetings to share experiences and help prepare anyone for an appearance. As you may have heard, Group W contacted us to get a couple to go on their new marriage counseling-oriented show. I think the more couples and significant others who are willing to appear the better, because it puts crossdressing into the context of a relationship and brings it out of the realm of the singular and into the experience of more society, and I think that's what we need to do.

Ed note: Thalia is available at most of our socials or you can contact her by mail through ETVC, PO Box 6486, San Francisco CA 94101.

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Next Outreach Meetings:
March 6th–Santa Clara
April 10th–Oakland
Call Evelyn–(415)[redacted] or
Thalia–(415)[redacted] for more information.

ETVC offers the following informational listings:

Video Library	**Free**
Article Library	**$1.00**
International Support Group Directory	**$2.00**

To oder please send a check or money order with your name and address to:

ETVC–Outreach Committee
PO Box 6486
San Francisco, CA 94101.

TV/TS/TG GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES
A Calendar of Events for March & April

DATE	WHO	WHAT	TIME	WHERE	FOR INFORMATION
MARCH					
1	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8 - 10 PM	Berkeley	(415) 841-6224
3	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 988-0790
4	**ETVC**	**Executive Committee**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**San Francisco**	**(415) 664-1499**
6	**ETVC**	**Outreach Committee**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Santa Clara**	**(415) 465-5701**
7	**.....**	**Dressing Up**	**7 - 9 PM**	**Oakland**	**(415) 893-0123**
8	**ETVC**	**Significant Others Support**	**Meets 8 - 10 PM**	**San Francisco**	**(415) 664-1499**
10	**ETVC**	**Poker Social**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**San Francisco**	**(415) 664-1499**
11	**ETVC**	**Goal Setting Session**	**1 - 5 PM**	**Oakland**	**(415) 763-5247**
13	**ETVC/RGA**	**Rap Group**	**Meets 8 - 10 PM**	**San Jose**	**(408) 243-3919**
14	**ETVC**	**Social Committee**	**Starts at 7:30 PM**	**Oakland**	**(408) 984-5619**
15	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8 - 10 PM	Berkeley	(415) 841-6224
16	**ETVC**	**Couples Social**	**Meets at 8 PM**	**Oakland**	**(415)-664-1499**
17	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 988-0790
21	**ETVC**	**IFGE Convention Committee**	**Meets 7 - 10 PM**	**San Francisco**	**(415) 664-1499**
24	Pac Ctr	Open Rap	Meets 8 - 10 PM	Berkeley	(415) 841-6224
25	SGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Sacramento	(916) 362-8131
30	**ETVC**	**IFGE Kickoff Party**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Chez Mollet**	**(415) 664-1499**
31	Pac Ctr	Open Rap	Meets 8 - 10 PM	Berkeley	(415) 841-6224
APRIL					
1	**ETVC**	**Executive Committee**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**San Francisco**	**(415) 664-1499**
3	**ETVC**	**Outreach Committee**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**TBA**	**(415) 465-5701**
4-9	IFGE	Convention	All day	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
4	**.....**	**Dressing Up**	**7 - 9 PM**	**Oakland**	**(415) 893-0123**
5	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8 - 10 PM	Berkeley	(415) 841-6224
7	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 988-0790
10	**ETVC**	**Rap Group**	**Meets 8 - 10 PM**	**San Jose**	**(408) 243-3919**
11	**ETVC**	**Social Committee**	**Starts at 7:30 PM**	**Oakland**	**(408) 984-5619**
13	**ETVC**	**Significant Others Support**	**Meets 8 - 10 PM**	**Palo Alto**	**(415) 664-1499**
14	**ETVC**	**Poker Social**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**San Francisco**	**(415) 664-1499**
15	**ETVC**	**2nd Goal Setting Session**	**1 - 5 PM**	**Oakland**	**(415) 763-5247**
19	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8 - 10 PM	Berkeley	(415) 841-6224
20	**ETVC**	**Couples Social**	**Meets at 8 PM**	**Berkeley**	**(415)-664-1499**
21	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 988-0790
22	SGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Sacramento	(916) 362-8131
27	**ETVC**	**Carnaval**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Chez Mollet**	**(415) 664-1499**
28	Pac Ctr	Open Rap	Meets 8 - 10 PM	Berkeley	(415) 841-6224

OTHER GROUPS

Pacific Center for Human Growth, a counseling-oriented growth center, sponsors all-inclusive gender support groups on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, and last Friday of the month at 8:00 PM. The Center is located at 2712 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley. Call (415) 841-6224 for more information.

Rainbow Gender Association (RGA) meets on the 1st and 3rd Friday of the month at 8:00 PM at the New Community of Faith Church, 6350 Rainbow Drive, San Jose. RGA can be contacted by writing: Rainbow Gender Association, PO Box 700730, San Jose, CA 95170.

Sacramento Gender Association (SGA) meets at 7PM on the fourth Saturday of each month at the Town & Country Inn's restaurant 2060 Auburn Blvd. Sacramento; Lady Garnet's Show is upstairs at 9 & 10:15 PM; call (916) 441-8045 for directions. Write Jennifer Richards, PO Box 417701, Sacramento, CA 95841.

The Tenderloin Self Help Centre meets every Wednesday from 4-6 PM at 191 Golden Gate (at Leavenworth), San Francisco, CA. This is a project of the Central City Community Hospitality House funded by thze Community Mental Health Services. Call (415) 554-0518 for details.

Fifth Annual

MISS ETVC COTILLION 1989

"It was one of the nights of my life," Randi said. "I don't think I ever felt more totally pampered. It really was just a great, great experience."

Miss ETVC contestants:Sheryl, Kate, Kim, Teri, Susan, Randi, Michelle, Kristyn, Dale, Kimberley, Martina.

On and Off-stage by Cindy

Susan's big number - "Hey Big Spender"

Phoebe Planters and Tommi Rose, the MC's

Susan and Randi, the top finishers in the Fifth Annual Miss ETVC Cotillion, had more in common than just the stunning performances that floored a packed house at the California Club.

Both have long ties to the entertainment world, and both were performing for the first time in their feminine personas, though one could hardly have guessed that from a seat in the audience.

"I've been a performer; I sang briefly with Stan Kenton once, but I wanted to do it as a woman," said Susan, who would be crowned Miss ETVC that night. "I've been before big crowds; I guess the biggest was about 80,000, but this was real different and I was still nervous as hell!"

Nervous or not, Susan's enthusiastic and saucy rendition of "Hey Big Spender" lit up the crowd of 200-plus.

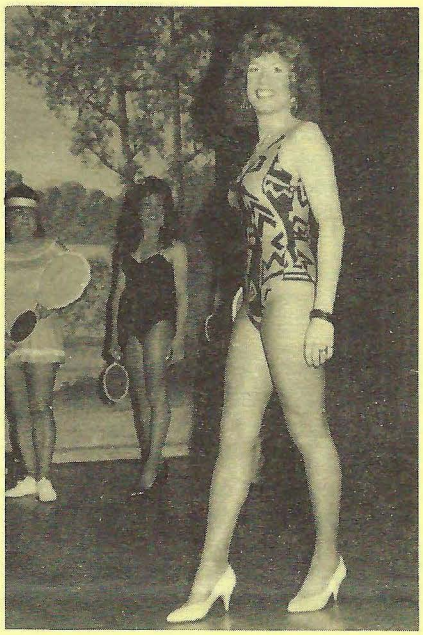
But there was more to come as Randi, who earns her living as an entertainer in her male persona, simply crushed the audience with a rendition of "Rio De Janeiro Blue" that had them yelling for more in a standing o. Randi walked off with the Best Talent award and was first runner up to Susan as Miss ETVC.

Those who saw the show might find it hard to believe that Randi has been a member of ETVC only since November 1988 and is very recently out of the closet. Public appearances as a woman are quite new to her and have raised some interesting personal issues.

"The night before the show my ex-wife called and said she was afraid I'd be humiliated," Randi said. She said the ex-wife's concern was that there would be negative media exposure as a result of the performance, something Randi, too, had worried about.

"When Diane (the producer) said that television and the Examiner would be there, I was extremely apprehensive," she said. "But I just thought it was something I didn't have to be ashamed of, especially being involved in the TS experience and all that entails," she said. "This (transexualism) is nothing I've asked for, and it is something I have to deal with in all its levels. This was just an opportunity to get my feet wet."

Randi performing "Rio de Janeiro Blue"



A Cross-dressed Debut by Cynthia Jean

Wow!! You'll never guess what I did last weekend. I went to the cotillion! Yeah. Like that! This was only the second ETVC event that I have been too, and I had the time of my life. It was great.

It was all I could do not to tell everyone at work on Monday what I did Saturday night! Imagine me, a debutante on stage, there before all the world, dressed in my femme best. If only my parents could see me now...wait a second, they were filming this, weren't they?

Oh no, what if I'm on TV like this, I'll be ruined! I'll be the laughing stock of the whole company. I'll lose my job. They'll arrest me and throw me in jail. They'll run me out of town on a rail. They'll, they'll...wait a second. Kim and Michelle were on the news for interviews, weren't they? Well, maybe I shouldn't worry; I mean after all who is going to recognize me under all this camouflage? I guess I worry too much.

So loosen up and have fun.

Could you believe the talent of the contestants? They were all so good!I wish I had a recording of all of them. I think my favorite was Dale's untitled composition. I could have listened to her perform all night. And I still can't get over Michelle's legs. If they ever turn up missing well it'll be a good bet that I have them!

And so they crowned a new queen. What a job to choose only one from all the contestants. And the news was there to film it. Oh no! The camera man is filming the audience and the camera is pointed right at me! Panic, panic, what am I going to do? Oh well, as I always say, here is your chance world. Pick me out if you can!

And my thanks to all involved for a wonderful evening.

P.S. Oklahoma was never like this!

The judges: Trixie, Augusta and Mark Gibbs

The competition finalists, Randi, Susan and Michelle

Randi did indeed get her feet wet and appeared live on Channel 2 during the show.

"Two girl friends saw it live and later they said I looked great. Since then they've offered to go shopping with me!"

While both Susan and Randi said they had plenty of fun doing the show they also recognized that the Cotillion was much more than just a good-time experience.

As the winner, Susan will be representing the club, and by extension all cross-dressers, to a basically unenlightened general public.

"I guess the thing is that I hope I can project some class and dignity to people I may speak to," Susan said.

"I'm sure I'll be asked if all cross-dressers are like me since most people don't know much about us," Susan said. "Obviously I don't represent everybody, since there are so many different kinds of people in ETVC, but I hope I can get across that we are just people like anyone else," she said.

Randi expressed similar views: "Augusta (one of the judges) asked what I would do if I won," Randi said. "I said that I would endeavor over the coming year to bring additional dignity to our organization and to further elevate both the clubs image and the image of cross-dressers generally."

And how will Randi remember her big night?

"It was one of the nights of my life," Randi said. "I don't think I ever felt more totally pampered. It really was just a great, great experience."

Past Miss ETVCs - Kimberly Ann, Pakela, Barbara, and Andi

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J2CP Information Services provides information/referral services formerly provided by the Erickson Educational Foundation and JANUS Information Facility. **J2CP Information Services** is a separate entity and is not affiliated with either of its predecessors.

J2CP Information Services provides an information package consisting of pamphlets and literature concerning gender dysphoria syndrome, transsexualism and transvestism. This information package is available at a cost of $25.00 to cover research, printing postage and secretarial services. Additionally, **J2CP Information Services** will attempt to provide referrals to reputable counselors, psycho-therapists, or gender programs, and peer counseling groups near your home.

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Just ask Renee...

Dear Renee, You know that Fats Waller song, "Yer Feets Too Big?" Well, that's me, Gunboat Gertie! How can I shoe my navy at a reasonable cost. Gertie

Dear Gertie, I sympathize Gertie, and the remedy is...catalogues! Not Penney's, Valenci or Sears, but Spiegel for the classier sorts, Lerner Roaman or Lane Bryant for the more pedestrian shoes: Spiegel 1-800-345-4500 Roaman's 1-317-266-3395 Lane Bryant 1-317-266-3397 Lerner P.O Box 8303 Indianapolis, In 46283-8303 And while we're on catalogues, here's a few addresses for clothing purveyors: Tweeds, Avery Row, Roanoke, VA 24012-8528 Avon 1-800-562-0258 J. Crew 1-800-562-0258 Clifford & Wills 1-800-562-0258 Chadwick's of Boston 1-508-583-6600

Dear Renee, I know about ordering girdles with built-in hip pads from Frederick's (1-800-323-9525) but I'd like something a little more ...voluptuous. Got any ideas? Helplessly Hipless

Dear Hipless, You might want to try taking an electric meat-cutting knife to some 2" foam and cutting yourself out some largish kidney shaped pads, tapered around the edges and wearing them under pantyhose hose or a long-leg girdle. It takes practice but it will offset those lovely but telltale football shoulders and help your walk more womanly.

Dear Renee, That IFGE convention coming up seems awful expensive and highbrow to me. Is it just for the elite or is it really meant for us Plain Janes? Jane

Dear Jane, There ought to be lots of food for thought during the workshops for those with an introspective bent, wanting to understand themselves better, and help others do the same. But for those just wanting some fun, the excursions, socials, entertainment and banquets are reason enough to call in sick for a week and kick up those high heels.

(For more on IFGE see related articles in this newsletter)

Planning Retreat

ETVC is growing by leaps and bounds. We should see our 400th member joining this year if we continue to expand at our present rate. While this is certainly good news it is also time to pause and to consider what ETVC means as an organization of this size.

A series of planning sessions are being organized to define a framework and set the goals to take ETVC into the 90s. The first session will be on March 11 and a second on April 15, both from 1 to 5 p.m. with locations yet to be announced. The meetings will be facilitated by Karin who does planning and goal setting on a professional level.

I encourage any and all who want to see ETVC grow and prosper to attend these meetings with enthusiasm and ideas and to take an active part in shaping the future of ETVC. If you would like to attend or just pass on your ideas, call Susan (415)[redacted]

Getting Our Story Told
by Donna

We are all justly proud of our newsletter. It is one of the most colorful and professional in the gender community, and one of the many ways we provide leadership to that community. But how many of us are aware of the activity behind the scenes?

In the past, Diane Richwine prepared the articles and Gloria and Thalia composed the newsletter on Gloria's Mac. When Diane's time became taken up with planning the Cotillion, Cindy took over as editor. The January/February newsletter was only rough copy in mid-December when Gloria was taken ill and hospitalized.

So, the day after Christmas, a small band of volunteers assembled at Monica's (who also has a Mac) to put the newsletter together. Ginny, Kate, Kim, Nancy Ann, Thalia and I, along with Monica, all gave up our holiday so that the presses could roll. We probably missed a comma, or two, in our haste, but it was a labor of love. I would like to express my thanks to that hardy group, especially Monica, for a job well done.

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Which Restroom?

Editor's Note: Should TVs be allowed to use women's restrooms? Our outreach people inform us that the question of which restroom TVs use in public facilities is almost always asked when they participate in public presentations and speeches. It is also a question new members of our club, both male and female, ask when they attend our socials.

As we become more visible this issue is likely to also become a matter of more general concern, but right now it is already at the center of a rather nasty little argument between the editors of the Emerald City News, a newsletter for a Seattle TV organization, and Twenty Minutes, the voice of the XX Club of Massachusetts, a TS organization.

The editor of the TV newsletter backs allowing TVs to use the ladies room while the editor of the TS newsletter is basically against it. The question itself arose as a result of statements made to the Seattle Times newspaper by an assistant city attorney who said that a TV did not have the right under a new anti-discrimination ordinance to use a women's restroom.

Our Rights Attacked!

By Janice Van Cleve

Emerald City News–November 1988

(In an article advising club members what to say in letters to city officials:) Point out in your letter that:

The ordinance specifically states that there shall be no discrimination in any public facilities (and it names public restrooms) against any sexual minority (and it names transvestites).

Your purpose as a transvestite in the ladies room is to answer nature's call and powder your nose - just like any other lady in there.

No incidents have been reported. In fact most women have been either amused at first or didn't care.

The abuse, discrimination and violence visited upon transvestites just because somebody "didn't feel comfortable around them" is rooted in the same prejudice that violated the rights of blacks, gays and women until the recent victories for civil rights.

We are not transvestites by choice. We were born this way. We have a clear track record of responsibility.

The violation of one minority's rights is a violation of all citizen's rights. Transvestites are citizens, voters, residents, and taxpayers, too, and Seattle should be proud to lead the nation in it's commitment to protect all minorities-including transvestites.

Toilet Training - A Rebuttal

by Veronica Jean Brown

Twenty Minutes–December 1988

A male transvestite is a man and has no business in a woman's toilet, crossdressed or not. A M-F transsexual, whether pre or post-op, who knowingly doesn't pass as a woman also has no business in a woman's toilet...The right to use sexually or gender-designated public restrooms is determined by anatomical plumbing, secondary sexual characteristics and not by the covering of the body.

I've been in a few gay bars where persons of both sexes freely used either restroom but these were small enough to only allow one person in at a time...

If a male transvestite is passable enough and can get away with it, go ahead, let him use the women's restroom. If a transvestite knows he doesn't pass and 95% of them don't, let him use the urinals and the urinals ain't in the women's toilets. Let the male transvestite exist in the real world as a man in drag (and not a 'lady') and let him find acceptance there as thousands of transsexuals have done. I'm in favor of transvestite groups going out in public and using designated men's rooms, either men's or women's. But don't hide behind a local ordinance prohibiting discriminatory practices against other minorities. This makes a travesty of minority and gay civil rights.

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IFGE: Synergy and unity the goal by Cindy

While estimates are vague and based on very flimsy research, it is believed that about one percent of the U.S. adult male population are true transvestites. That works out to more than 800,000 male TVs , plus an unknown number of MTF transexuals nationwide. Locally, this would mean there are roughly 17,000 male TVs in the Bay Area.

Despite these large numbers, TVs and transsexuals have long been an isolated minority. It has only been in the last decade that TV/TS social organizations like ETVC have become widespread in the U.S.

Now a national organization of TV/TS groups has emerged and is organizing along with ETVC the first open convention of cross- dressers in history.

Merissa Sherrill Lynn is a founder and director of the International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE) which is holding its 3rd annual convention, but the first open to "rank and file" members of the gender community and their friends, on April 4-9 in San Francisco at the San Franciscan Hotel.

ETVC: What is the purpose of IFGE?

Merissa: The idea behind IFGE is what we call symbiotic synergism. There are all kinds of different entities (in the gender community) ...IFGE's job is to create the synergy for all these (groups) to work together and create an effect that is greater than what a single organization can do on its own.

ETVC: So IFGE is like an umbrella organization for all the TV/TS groups around the country?

Merissa: IFGE is less an umbrella than a unifying factor (for TV/TS organizations nationwide) and a place where everybody can say their piece and work on mutually beneficial projects. For instance, IFGE is coming to California with a convention that is intended to be the community's convention...people who serve us will be here to show us their wares, but it is also intended to strengthen the local organizations and services. As we build and grow, we hope to move the convention around to other cities to help strengthen the groups in those cities.

ETVC: It is interesting that crossdressers have organized enough to actually have conventions. Where were the other conventions and what where they like?

Merissa: Both were in Chicago, but they were oriented to movers and shakers in the gender community. This is the first convention that is open to broader participation; anyone can come and hopefully it will be a good time for everybody even though there will still be an emphasis on seminars that are aimed at the people who sweat bullets for this community.

The reason the first two conventions were more limited is that our community hasn't ever really been a community, just a mishmash of individuals doing their own thing. So the first order of business was to develop a sense of community on a national level and that meant getting our own collective act together. This was done by drawing together the most active people around the country and bringing them together to discuss the issues and problems we all share.

But now we feel that with that step taken there is no reason to exclude everybody else.

ETVC: Transvestites and transsexuals have been around forever, but it sounds to me like you are saying that a national organization, no less a convention, is very new.

Merissa: Oh yes, we are all plain old neophytes, just beginners. Before what is happening now, the only person who caused any kind of national awareness for the gender community was Lee Brewster (now owner of Lee's Mardi Gras Boutique in NY, which was also one of the first openly TV/TS stores). What people always forget about the beginning of Gay Liberation was that it was all started by drag queens at the Stonewall. Out of that, Brewster started the Queens Liberation Front (in the early 1970s). It was a great idea but it was tied too closely to the gay community and had very little to offer for the mainstream community, most of whom wanted nothing to do with it.

Still Brewster was the only person in the whole country who was stressing community...but it was still drag and couldn't be sustained.

ETVC: But doesn't the special nature of cross-dressing make it a lot harder to develop local organizations, not to mention a national one?

Merissa: Well of course, I mean think about this: we have an office here that people can call for information and so on. Do you know that this is the first time that representatives of our community have had an office in this country as far as we know?

The problem for us and for developing a truly strong community like the gay community is that most people who cross-dress have no reason to get out of the closet. A lot crossdress when the mood strikes and don't need to be with other people. So they are in and out as far as dressing, and that makes it very, very difficult to generate the leadership and dedication and work force who will work on other people's behalf.

All you have to do to see this is look at ETVC or any other group: there are plenty of people who are members of ETVC who only show up when the mood strikes, not many of those people are going to take leadership or even very active roles in the community.

ETVC: Given all the difficulties of organizing crossdressers, what is in the future for IFGE?

Merissa: Ultimately we hope to develop a trust and foundation with grant money to develop outreach projects and research projects built around the goal of further developing a true community.

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Coming to the Convention?

So you say you can't afford the IFGE convention in April?

We say you can't afford to miss this fabulous opportunity to meet and learn from gender community leaders from around the country and world! People from everywhere are taking their vacations, paying air fares and hotel accommodation rates just to have the opportunity to have what you have--access to a great gender convention in San Francisco!!

The convention runs from April 4-9, with a pre-registration day of activities on April 3, and will be at the San Franciscan Hotel.

You have all kinds of options for participating. You can sign up for the full convention - $205 individual or $350 per couple - which includes the San Francisco Bay cruise, the banquet, Sunday's brunch and ETVC'S Showtime (otherwise $15 by itself). You can sign up for any three days - $175 individual and $275 couple; a Friday - Saturday package, $125 per person; or single days for $75 person.

ETVC is sponsoring all sorts of activities events during the convention including shopping and cultural tours as well as a social, but the ONLY way to take advantage of these unique events is to register for the convention or volunteer to help out a a specific event.

You can offer to help ETVC with hostessing, taking registration, guiding tours, decorating the Chez or taking part in Showtime. Helping ETVC doesn't cost anything except your time, but you can still be part of the action and mingle with many truly marvelous people.

We encourage you to make your plans now to do whatever you can to take advantage of the convention being held in our own backyard. ETVC is proud to be the host organization for the IFGE convention—we are a great group, and we will be delighted to show off our gorgeous girls and beautiful city.

For further registration information or to volunteer, call Nancy Ann or Ginny at [redacted]

Coat Check Girls Help AIDS Research

Three times over the last two years ETVC has provided coat check girls for major gay community events. We charge each person a fee to check their coat and have lots of fun doing it. At the end of the enjoyable night ETVC donated ALL of the proceeds and sometimes more to the aids project or other worthy charity. ETVC and the coat check girls go home with a feeling of pride for their service and good work.

On February 22 and 25, we were asked to help out as coat check girls for major events and we donated a portion of the funds to the charity of the evening. To sign up for future events, please contact Kim at (408) [redacted] You'll be glad you did. ETVC is proud to support the gay community and AIDS research as well as other charities. Thanks to all the coat check girls who have helped so far—nice job.

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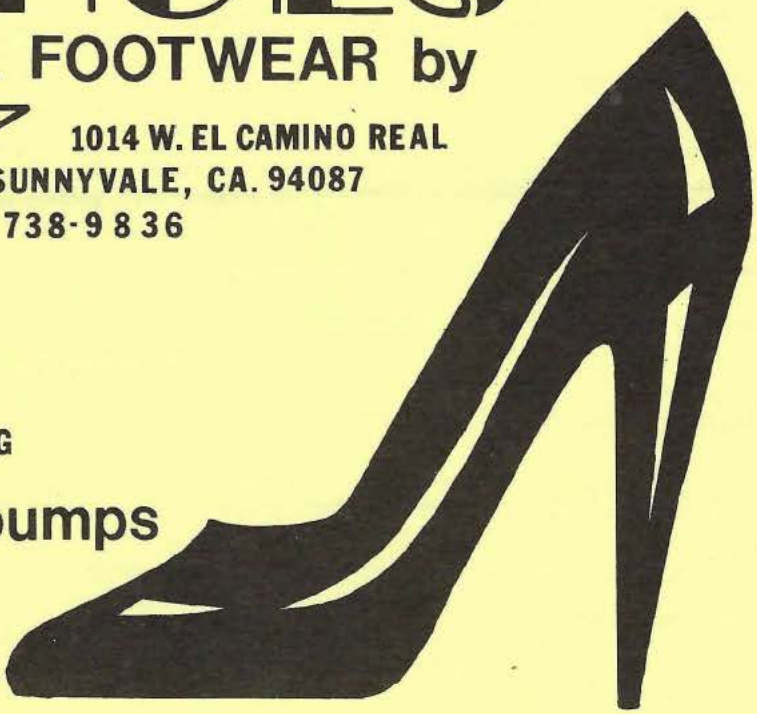

Officer Elections

Nominations for ETVC offices are going to be taken at the April 27 meeting. That night nominations will be taken for Coordinator, Secretary, Treasurer and co-chairs for the Outreach and Social committees. The election of officers will be held the May 25 annual business meeting.

The office of Coordinator is equivalent to that of club president and this person is responsible for coordinating the activities of the other officers.

The Secretary is responsible for club membership, mailing lists and the ETVC newsletter. The Treasurer handles all the financial accounting and record-keeping.

The Outreach co-chairs handle recruitment, services such as the article and video libraries, as well as the speakers' bureau. The Social committee co-chairs handle all social functions for the club.

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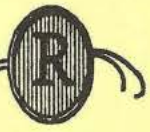

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Coming Out At Work by Kim

On Friday, Jan. 13, I summoned some courage and explained my transvestism to two of my co-workers at the electronics firm I work for. This was in preparation for my being interviewed and filmed by Channel 2 as a male and female for the Cotillion. The 6 and 10 o'clock news broadcasts were well done, but I was also very recognizable as a male and as a transvestite. I prepared Sunday night for work the next day by putting some photos of me as Kim in a photo book, as well as some TV pamphlets (never leave home without them!)

On Monday morning, I entered my shared office at work and the first person, the guy collecting computer paper said, "Didn't I see you on the news?" I was nervous and said, "Yes, that was me." I was comforted by his reaction but nervous about the next person's reaction. An assembly gal said, "I saw you on the news?" and so the day went with six people coming up and talking about transvestism with me and wanting to see my pictures. By Tuesday, a lot of people had heard and were saying " Did you know that Jim was on television wearing a dress?" Prepared with my photo book, some nerve and the ability to answer a lot of questions, I had a nice week.

The best comments were from several gals who said, "I bet you know more about makeup than I do!"

A lot of people in the company will never approach me because they are not mature enough to discuss the subject. I have been successful because I've been at the company for four years, and people have worked with me in all kinds of situations.

It's nice to be able to discuss fashion or make-up. But I also know a lot of people will have difficulty understanding my hobby at all. I know I can lose acquaintances, but not any friends.

The freedom to discuss gender is nice, but deep down inside I wonder if I was ready for this. Fifteen years out of the closet, four years plus as coordinator of ETVC and active in groups, and yet I live in the real world where prejudice and bigotry are all too real.

I'm enjoying myself now but there is a very long way to go before people can accept transvestites and transsexuals for who they are: people.

Be A Writer

Your newsletter wants your letters, opinions, personal stories, observations, tips and articles.

It's really quite simple to get your bon mots into the ETVC newsletter. Simply send in your article (typed and double-spaced is preferred) to ETVC, Newsletter Editor, PO Box 6486, San Francisco, CA 94101. You can also leave your article with an ETVC officer at any social.

Deadline for the May-June newsletter is April 1.

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