ETVC

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME FOURTEEN, NUMBER 3, NOVEMBER – DECEMBER, 1995

THE CHANNEL

Miss ETVC 1995 Steps Down

Tammy Kingsley Hands Title to First Runner-Up Erin (Pam) Souza

Special Announcement by V.P. Lisa Maxwell at ETVC August Social

"Hello everyone, I have an important announcement to make. I would like to read a personal letter from our former Miss ETVC 1995, Tammy Kingsley:"

Erin Souza
Miss ETVC, 1995

Dear Pam:

You're probably wondering what the hell is going on, and why am I sending the crown and sash to you. It has taken me much thought and time. My most humble apologies for not reaching my conclusions sooner. I can not think of a more deserving and dedicated member of the transgender community than you. Thus I am therefore resigning as Miss ETVC 1995 and handing the crown over to you. I am seeking a box to mail the scepter as well.

I feel that ETVC is a great asset to the community of Transgender. It gives much support and information which is necessary for all of us. But there comes a time for each individual to make choices, and mine is knocking on my door. I've decided to go blend back into Mainstream society and move on as I had been doing before the pageant. I have a wonderful man in my life who has proposed to me. You've met him. We would like to be married and have children some day soon.

I ask that you please be forgiving and understanding of my special situation. I go with much reservation. I have met some of the most wonderful people. I will always have fond memories.

Aloha, Tammy Kingsley

[reply letter from Pam]

Dear Tammy:

Your kind words and noble gesture have touched me deeply. No apologies are necessary, for decisions as difficult as yours can not be made in haste. Few of us have the compassion and courage to search within our souls and ask "what is best for me and those I care for?" The fact that you have demonstrates how worthy you are to have held the title of Miss ETVC. I shall do my best to prove equally worthy.

I hope you find whatever your heart desires. You have the qualities to go far in this world. You and Bill have each found someone truly wonderful in one another, and I can only wish the best for your future together. Please feel free to call or write me at any time for whatever reason. I would love to hear from you again. If you ever desire to visit, and I hope you do, you have my assurance that you are always welcome at my side at ETVC. May God's love shine upon you as it does within you.

Yours fondly, Erin "Pam" Souza

"And so, my friends, I would like to announce her successor, the first runner-up from the 1995 Cotillion, Erin Pamela Souza. She has graciously agreed to assume the title of Miss ETVC 1995. Erin, would you please come up here to the microphone, please?"

[as Mr. ETVC 1995 Dillon King was unable to attend, at Lisa's request, Francis Vavra, Mr. ETVC 1994, sashed and crowned Erin and read the following statement]:

"I hereby confer upon you, Erin Pam Souza, the title of Miss ETVC 1995. All rights, privileges, and responsibilities that pertain to this title are now yours. You will be forever known as Miss ETVC 1995, and will represent ETVC in that capacity at all future events!"

Thank you very much, let's have a hand for Pam, who in addition to becoming Miss ETVC 1995, has also changed her name to Erin. Hooray for Erin Pam!"

[applause all around].

Francis Vavra, Mr. ETVC '94 crowns Erin 'Pam' Souza Miss ETVC 1995 as Lisa Maxwell announces the event.

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.

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SECRETARY'S REPORT

Membership (as of 9/30/95)	221
1994 Membership	456
New Memberships this year	16

TREASURER'S REPORT

	INCOME	EXPENSES	DIFFERENCES
July	$5011.66	(1939.08)	3072.58
Aug.	$2450.39	(3626.71)	(1176.32)
Sept.	$1609.10	(2705.27)	(1096.17)

ETVC is a non-profit corporation.
Donations are gladly accepted.
Donations to ETVC are TAX DEDUCTIBLE
on both federal and California income tax returns.

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	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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EDITORS NOTES

Francis Vavra

This has been an amazing and growthful year for me personally. I've been on testosterone just over a year, gone through male puberty (thanks for putting up with me, I've mellowed out), been fired from my job, took the summer off, created art, edited The Channel, been interviewed for three magazine articles, including the S.F. Weekly, been quoted and photographed with Roxanna in Marjorie Garber's bisexuality book, Vice Versa, and found a wonderful new job. I've attended Imperial Court fundraisers and coronations in the Bay area, been in the Big Shew, spoke on an "other options" panel at the first FTM convention, done public speaking at S.F. State with Roxanna and others, attended all our socials, and kept the promise I made at last year's Cotillion to continue networking with various groups that have an interest in transgender issues. I've made numerous new friends, become active in FTM again as I crossed further over the gender line, and become more at peace with myself as my extremes integrate toward more balance. Many lessons learned, much fun had. I will be there as ETVC continues to expand, though my present role within the group is in transition. To my loyal "Night Man" fans, thanks for your support and kind words. Cindy even put some of my stories on the Internet transgender web page she created. I am discontinuing my column at this time to focus my energies on a book by the same name (the expanded "NC17" version of those adventures).

A giant thanks to all who contributed to The Channel this past year, for your personal stories, interesting articles and coverage of events! I will be editing one more Channel after this one, as my new job and book take over my free time. Please help me find a new Editor. He or she doesn't have to be transgendered; we have had S.O. editors in the past. It could even be You, dear Reader! Power, Glory and photos of Yourself in The Channel will be yours for free! People may even whisper that You are the Voice of ETVC! A computer with state of the art programming by your benevolent overseer and computer genius Secretary, Jamie, will also be yours if you don't already have one. If you can proofread, enjoy organizing, can handle the responsibility of being part of one of ETVC's most important functions, our Newsletter, contact Jamie, Ginny or myself.

Empress Tiffany Woods (Miss ETVC 1990) and Emperor Taco Tony of the Imperial Star Empire of Alameda County stepped down September 2, 1995 at their entertaining Coronation, theme "Alameda Goes to Hell" wearing stunning costumes by Jacqui Jewels. Their successors are Courtney Saint James and Darryl Wandry. Evette has been appointed Ambassadoress of ETVC to the court, taking over from Lauren and Francis, who were jointly appointed by Tiffany last year. Tiffany and Tony brought a new standard of fundraising and caring to Alameda County; ETVC wishes the new Empress and Emperor an equally successful year!

President's Message

Jane Kamper Bentley

Political activism is in the news again. By the time you read this, the latest transgender march on Washington will have taken place. It's exciting to picture transgender people fearlessly pacing the halls of Congress; we need participation at the highest, most public level. But if we believe that merely petitioning or picketing representatives and senators will unlock doors, we are grievously mistaken.

The late Speaker of the House, Tip O'Neill, used to say that "all politics is local." He was right. It's a lesson our adversaries on the religious right learned after electing Ronald Reagan president in 1980 and seeing their agenda die before it got to Congress. So they went back to their home districts to run for school boards and town and city councils. They built a power base with roots in thousands of counties and municipalities, and branches that now reach into the United States Congress, and are growing. What were formerly local prejudices are becoming law.

ETVC President
Jane Kamper Bentley

It's frightening, but it's also a lesson. What our enemies did (organizationally, anyway), we can do, too. How does one become an effective political player? You can start by joining a political club. Then put in time gaining credibility. Lick stamps, pass out literature, give money and listen more than you speak. Make friends. Learn who seeks power, who has power, who can be trusted and who cannot. Find out which issues interest others, even if they have no bearing on the transgender community. Make yourself important to somebody else's agenda in order to make your agenda important to others. Oh, and let them know you're transgendered.

If you don't like joining clubs, you can still seek out candidates who appear to be transgender friendly, or educable. Give them money, help to raise money, and let them know who is giving it. Work hard for their election and when they're elected remind them that you and the transgendered community helped put them there. Put powerful people in the position of owing us favors, such as making one of us part of their paid staff.

Another path to power is to acquire expertise in fields crucial to governmental function. Shelley Salieri, an aide to supervisors at San Francisco City Hall, was a respected, sought-after authority in transportation before she breathed a word about transgender rights. When the opportunity came to put protection for transgendered city workers into law, she was able to cash in on her credibility to our benefit.

These are the kinds of backstage activities that will one day lead to full civil rights and transgender politicians getting elected to school boards, city councils, perhaps even congress. Someday you will turn on your television and see one of us interviewed not about "duh, which bathroom do you use?" but the European Common Market, the space program and the decline of intolerance.

Believe it, and, as Capt. Picard would say, "Make it so!"

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February 27th — March 3rd, 1996

...in Dallas Texas!

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For information call, write or fax:

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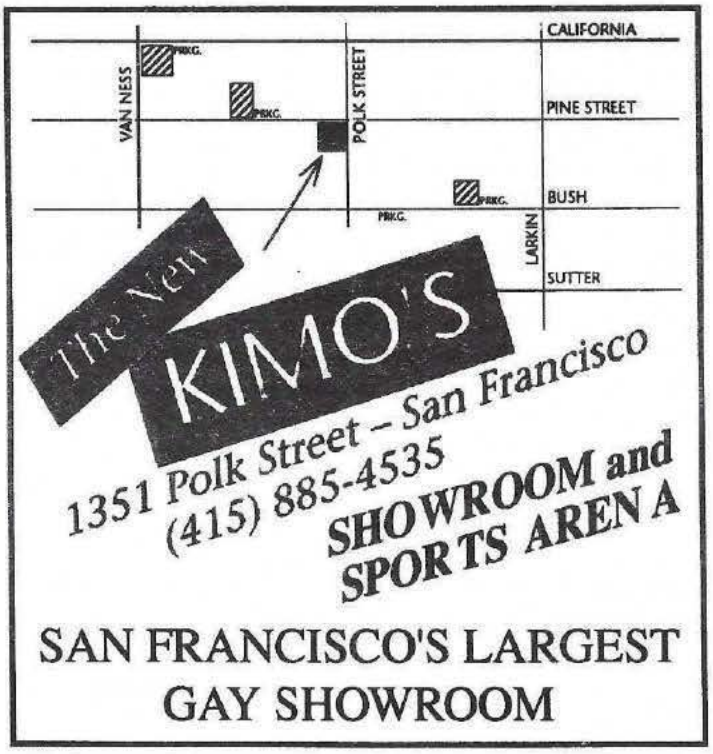

SAN FRANCISCO'S LARGEST
GAY SHOWROOM

Special Events

Mr. and Miss Gay Pageant

Saturday, November 4

The Imperial Court of San Francisco will sponsor the Mr. and Miss Gay Pageant on Saturday, November 4, 1995 at the California Club, on Clay between Van Ness and Polk Streets, beginning at 7PM. Tickets are between $10-$15 and this is a very entertaining event with top rate numbers by many of the contestants. Stop in and enjoy the show!

Educational Seminar:

Transgender Resources in Cyberspace

Wednesday, November 15th

This month we will explore the many resources available to the transgender community through computer bulletin boards, the Internet and the World Wide Web. The amount of information out there is enormous so be sure to come and see for yourself what Cyberspace has to offer the transgender community. Kimo's, Polk & Pine SF, 8 PM, $3.

ETVC Miniature Golf Tournament

Sunday, November 19th

Put on your best active wear and join us for an afternoon with Erin, our new Miss ETVC, in the autumn sun for fun at the first ever ETVC Miniature Golf Tournament, to be held at Malibu Castle Golf and Games in Redwood City (off Highway 101). The starting time is Noon and the cost is $8 per golfer. The four best scorers will compose the final foursome who will compete in the championship round for the coveted ETVC Winner's Cup. Gather your friends for a foursome, or enter individually and get matched up with new friends. For registration and information contact Erin Souza at (415)[redacted]

Country Swing

Thursday, November 30th

With turkey dinners behind us (literally), it's time to shape up, so "Annie, get your girdle" and hoe on down to the Showdown. Boots or barefoot, cute jeans or frilly frocks, Bonnets or Stetsons or just "big hair" — they'll all go down! Join Dolly Parton and Daisy Mae and the Farmer 's Daughter at a new place for us — Jelly's, down by the Bay, with lots of free parking, easy access and space to kick up our heels. Bring along a jar of those preserves, or fruit you've just canned (Jelly's, remember?) or maybe a hot pad you've just crocheted for the Harvest Sale Table. Ladies... display your bounty! Jelly's, 295 China Basin Way (at Pier 50), in San Francisco • 8PM • $3 members, $5 guests.

Gender Bowling Night

All levels welcome

Third Saturday of each month

call

(415) 731-7032

ETVC Christmas Party

Sunday, December 10th

Ladies in red (and green), it's time for mistletoe and holly! Once again the Social, Educational and TS/TG Committees are getting together to welcome you to the Christmas season. Come and join us for a Holiday Potluck Party at Kimo's, Polk and Pine in SF, on Sunday, December 10th at 2 PM. Please bring an item to share according to your last names as follows: A-G; salads• H-M; main dish• N-S; desserts• T-Z: paper goods • FREE! Elves will gratefully accept any donations.

Auld Lang Syne

Thursday, December 28th

Imagine it's cold outside (that's what we do in San Francisco). Sweep through the door at Jelly's, slip out of that new Christmas coat and turn heads as you turn to gaze at the dazzling lights of our fair town, together with friends new and old. What a year to remember ... and new dreams to dream. There's time to share, a little band, a good cook in the kitchen. Later we'll break open the champagne, sing a few songs, throw some streamers and make some noise. Cheeks rosy, it's time to wander out to the terrace and look across the Bay as snowflakes (remember, it's San Francisco and imagining should be even easier now) ... as snowflakes drift lazily toward the New Year. 8 PM. $5 members, $7 guests. Jelly's - Pier 50 - San Francisco.

Jelly's

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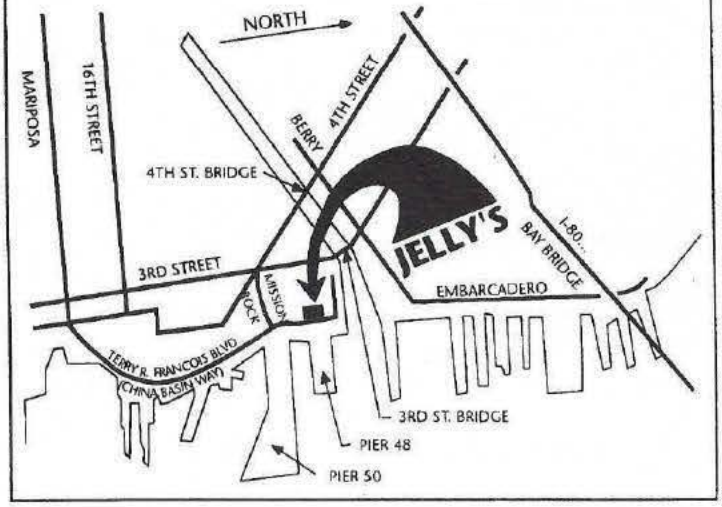

TV/TS/TG GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

November

2	DVG	Pacific Center Rap Group	Starts at 7PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 939-7711
3	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
3	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
4	Imperial	Mr. and Miss Gay Pageant	Starts 7PM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
5	**ETVC**	**Newsletter Committee**	**Meets at 11 AM**	**San Francisco**	**(415) 664-1499**
5	**ETVC**	**Executive Committee**	**Starts at 4 PM**	**San Francisco**	**(415) 750-1850**
6	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 937-8432
9	**ETVC**	**Significant Others**	**Meets 7:30-10PM**	**Palo Alto**	**(415) 664-1499**
10	**ETVC**	**Poker Social**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**San Francisco**	**(415) 664-1499**
10	S.Bay	Gender Discussion Group	Meets 8-10 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-5619
10	**ETVC**	**Lending Library Open**	**Hours 7-11 PM**	**San Francisco**	**(415) 664-1499**
10	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
11	SGA	Social	Starts at 7:30 PM	Sacramento	(916) 482-7742
12	FTM	Informational Meeting	Meets at 2 PM	San Francisco	(510) 287-2646
13	**ETVC**	**TS/TG Committee**	**Meets at 7 PM**	**Kimo's-Upstairs**	**(415) 750-1850**
13	**ETVC**	**Education Committee**	**Meets at 8 PM**	**Kimo's-Upstairs**	**(415) 750-1850**
14	**ETVC**	**Social Committee**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Eichelberger's**	**(415) 821-6509**
15	**ETVC**	**TG in Cyberspace**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Kimo's-Upstairs**	**(415) 750-1850**
17	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
17	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
18	**ETVC**	**SOS Luncheon**	**Starts at 11:30 AM**	**Richmond**	**(510) 934-0826**
19	**ETVC**	**Miniature Golf Tourn.**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Redwood City**	**(415) 731-7032**
20	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 937-8432
25	SGA	Social	Starts at 7:30 PM	Sacramento	(916) 482-7742
26	**ETVC**	**Cotilliom Committee**	**Starts at 6 PM**	**Palo Alto**	**(415) 493-8099**
30	**ETVC**	**Country Swing**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Jelly's - SF**	**(415) 821-6509**

December

1	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
1	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
4	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 937-8432
7	DVG	Pacific Center Rap Group	Starts at 7 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 939-7711
8	**ETVC**	**Poker Social**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**San Francisco**	**(415) 664-1499**
8	**ETVC**	**Lending Library Open**	**Hours 7-11 PM**	**San Francisco**	**(415) 664-1499**
8	S.Bay	Gender Discussion Group	Meets 8-10 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-5619
8	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
9	**ETVC**	**Executive Committee**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Palo Alto**	**(415) 750-1850**
9	SGA	Social	Starts at 7:30 PM	Sacramento	(916) 482-7742
10	**FTM**	**Informational Meeting**	**Meets 2 PM**	**San Francisco**	**(510) 287-2646**
10	**ETVC**	**Christmas Party**	**Starts at 2 PM**	**Kimo's-Upstairs**	**(415) 821-6509**
11	**ETVC**	**TS/TG Committee**	**Meets at 7 PM**	**Kimo's-Upstairs**	**(415) 750-1850**
11	**ETVC**	**Education Committee**	**Meets at 8 PM**	**Kimo's-Upstairs**	**(415) 750-1850**
14	**ETVC**	**Significant Others**	**Meets 7:30-10 PM**	**Pleasant Hill**	**(415) 664-1499**
15	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
15	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
16	**ETVC**	**Bowling Night**	**Call for details**	**San Francisco**	**(415) 731-7032**
18	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 937-8432
19	**ETVC**	**Social Committee**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Eichelberger's**	**(415) 821-6509**
22	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
23	SGA	Social	Starts at 7:30 PM	Sacramento	(916) 482-7742
28	**ETVC**	**Auld Lang Syne**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Jelly's - SF**	**(415) 821-6509**
29	**ETVC**	**Cotilliom Committee**	**Starts at 6 PM**	**Palo Alto**	**(415) 493-8099**

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) 827-2646.

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 $20.00 (Family - $30.00).

Part year membership from January 1 - May 31 is $10.00 (Family - $15.00) (New members only).

Please remit by check or money order to:

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

The First FTM Conference

(You'll never know what you missed!)

by Jano

A bunch of guys got together to spend a weekend in San Francisco. Big Deal? Yes. It was!

This was the first conference ever held to celebrate being a "new man"; that is FTM, Female to Male. The conference was very impressive in its organization and quality, and its numbers. They were expecting about 200 people and got 300. These wonderful men, their friends, lovers, and supporters met the weekend of August 18-20 in San Francisco. I learned we have a lot to learn from our brothers.

Those of you who remember being alone, isolated, and feeling alienated because of "certain feelings" of being different, will have no problem imagining how a person feels waking every morning in a body that has characteristics that your inner self does not identify with. In this case, we are talking about a man who was born in a female body and wants to, and in many cases does, adapt his female body so that he may live in the world as a man.

Why would a person born in a female body prefer to live as a man? There are many individual answers to that question - all of them sum up to "I must. I have no choice."

Conference topics included: relationships, spirituality, racism, therapists, political and legal issues, academic perspectives, coming out, parenting, sexuality, medical issues. It was impossible to attend all the workshops. Everything I attended was excellent.

In one session, two men, including San Francisco police officer Stephan Thorne, discussed their experiences of successful on-the-job transition. Their stories were very similar to those of transgendered women who have made successful transitions.

There were general themes in workshops I attended. Like the MTF (male-to-female) community, the FTM community is troubled by diverse issues of acceptance. Many FTMs have a background in the lesbian community, and feel a deep sense of loss, and often experience rejection by that community. Some FTMs identify as gay men. Sadly, homophobia exists among FTMs, just as it does among MTFs, and the general populace. There is anger at the more long-established transgender organizations for ignoring FTM issues. It is easy to see a parallel with the struggles of lesbians and bi-sexuals to be included by the gay male community.

Sunday's all-day medical presentation was also excellent. The panel included two endocrinologists, a plastic surgeon who discussed chest surgery, two who made a presentation on genital surgery, a general practitioner who addressed general health concerns, and an electrologist. Because a whole day was devoted to medical topics, there was plenty of time for questions.

There are many choices for the FTM, all of them difficult:

- Male Hormones. Many of the guys are taking male hormones. Male hormones can change one's outer appearance within months. The voice becomes lower as hormones actually alter the vocal chords, muscle bulk develops, hair grows darker and in places "normal" for a man such as the beard, male pattern baldness may occur, and so on. Male hormones may also have undesirable side effects (some forms of male hormones can cause liver damage).
- Breast Reduction. Some of the men have had breast reduction surgery or are contemplating it.
- Hysterectomy is often done or contemplated.
- Phalloplasty. A neo-penis is often created via surgery or contemplated. This expensive surgery can be done in stages. Men with an "older model" may get an "upgrade" as the medical art improves.
- Other options (some choose to live full time, some live part time as a man). The no hormones, no surgery options are chosen by others.
- Cross Dress. This seems to imply part time and "just for fun"; but, some people take their cross dressing seriously and rightfully command respect for their manly efforts.

FTM convention team (F. Vavra Photo)

Many change their name, outward appearance, and live as men. Others cross-dress whenever they can.

As with transgendered women, there is great diversity among transgendered men. One thing binds these guys together. They are all FTM (female to male). They all relate to the conflict of being born in the "wrong" body; of wearing clothing that feels inappropriate for who they feel they are; men.

The guys at this conference were from all over the U.S., and a few from Canada and Great Britain. Some are living isolated in communities that do not know they are there! This was the first time for many of these men to speak openly and freely and to meet with other men like themselves. Many had never met another FTM.

Jamison ("James") Green, director of FTM International/Oakland, opened the conference with a powerful speech, telling his brothers "Your courage is phenomenal and rare". Many have had to rebuild their lives alone, letting go of friends, family, jobs and wardrobe!

Although I learned a great deal about FTMs at this conference, I learned even more about myself. Some of what I learned relates to core stuff and caused me to totally reevaluate my "me-ness". Again, I ask myself what does it mean to be a woman or a man in this world. How do I fit into the "norms" of society when the boundaries are being pushed?

I'm sorry that you missed this FTM Conference. The next one is in two years. Put it on your calendar!

ELECTROLYSIS

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The Summer of Love

(The Happening)

by Lisa M.

Get out your beads and holey jeans, and ancient broomstick skirts, but don't forget Twiggy, big belts, and bell bottoms too; find that old VW microbus and drive across the land on a whim! Do your own thing... and leave your job! (and just breathe for a while, with friendly trees). Follow Lou Reed's verse: plucked her eyebrows, shaved her legs on the way, as he became a she. (and vice versa) take a walk on the wild side! Go and become somebody completely new-forever. Does this sound familiar? Yes, it's the 1996 Cotillion!

Our theme this year is The Summer of Love, San Francisco, 1967. We are children of that era, even if we were adults or weren't even born when it all happened. That experience, like our own changes, has affected us in ways that we are even now just coming to understand. Many of our coming out experiences started in the sixties with Stonewall '69, and the New Years Drag Ball of '65 held at the California Hall, right here in San Francisco. We also ended up with Health Foods (Tofu), a cleaner environment, unisex clothing, and the women's movement. Quiz: what else? A: Peace, Love, and Crunchy Granola! Anyhow, Love is what it is truly all about!

Our director this year is the famous Ms. Tiffany Woods, recent Empress of the Alameda Imperial Star Empire, and Miss ETVC 1990. Tiffany has done amazing things over in Alameda, and is very excited about directing our show. This is another kind of homecoming for her! This year, we are planning a tightly scripted two to three hour show for your viewing pleasure. So tune in and get turned on.

Considering Contestants, as always, we need you! We already have some contestants signing up for this magical event. So please do come on this wonderful journey with us - It's a real learning experience. Remember, your wishes always come true!

We are calling on all members to think about what you can do to help us make the next Cotillion another big success. You all have such diversified talents and we hope you will be able to share your expertise with us. Cotillion Committee meetings are planned for Sunday, November 26, 1995 at 6 PM and Friday, December 29, 1995 at 7 PM. Both meetings will be held at Lisa-land in Palo Alto, call (415) 493-8099. We need help in all areas ... program ad sales, helping with contestant talent presentations, stage hands, technical staff people, waitresses, choreographers, sign makers, ticket takers, program layout, flyer art work, hall decorations, getting prize donations, flower arrangements for tables and bouquets for our winners, judge's assistants, media contacts, flyer and ticket distribution ... you name it — Auntie Lisa needs YOU!

The show will start at 8:30 PM and we are planning for a capacity crowd, so you may want to think about reserving a table soon for you, your friends and your significant other. Call Ginny at (415) [redacted] to reserve a table early. Preferred up front seating is available . Look for the Cotillion Reserved Table Application enclosed with this newsletter for more details on ticket prices and location, etc.

Do come, work with us and celebrate the 1996 ETVC Cotillion on January 26, 1996. For additional information or to volunteer your help, please call Lisa at (415) [redacted]

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The Middle Way

by Lauren Rene Hotchkiss

The ~~Feminine~~ Masculine Mystique

The following article is based on information contained in the recent books: "The Trouble With Boys," by Angela Phillips, Basic Books; and "What Men Want; Mothers Fathers, and Manhood," by John Munder Ross, Harvard University Press.

For the millennia that transgendered people have existed, and particularly the last forty years or so that we have been an organized community, male-to-females have been absorbed with what it is to be a "woman." Our male personas meanwhile, have been vilified at worst, and relatively ignored at best. We have been re-conditioned by our coming-out process to regard that side of ourselves as "insensitive males," "hormone-driven warmongers" and the like. The "problem with men," according to this wisdom, is that they are not women.

According to Phillips, although men may be more inherently aggressive than women, social factors such as the contradictory definitions of masculinity that exist within a rapidly changing society are far more responsible for many of the problems boys and men find themselves confronting.

If there is any single-most difficulty encountered with being a boy, she continues, it lies in his concept of what is involved in becoming a man. If the only role-model of men available is that of a brute, then in order to be considered male he must be brutish. For many this becomes an objectionable and unacceptable alternative.

Instead of focusing on cultural and social factors, Ross conjectures, perhaps we've been too busy blaming men for being men. Though feminists, and to a certain extent male-to-females within the gender community, have taken the lead in this blame game they are not alone. Many therapists tend to approach the male persona in MTF patients as a beastly nuisance. The result is that men all too easily play the parts the scripts require. Nowhere is this more clearly seen than in the backlash among transvestites whose male sides often become all the more macho in reaction to their emerging feminine personas.

No less than most women, men are often puppets on the end of a social-deterministic string. And no more than women are they easily able to leap out of a complex and often subliminal matrix of deeply ingrained social and psychological conditioning that, from birth, has defined them in certain ways.

Turning to demographical evidence, the research of both Ross and Phillips indicates that in nearly every country in the world, young men are the likeliest perpetrators of violence. They are also the greatest risk of becoming its victims. The United States, unfortunately, is no exception. Correspondingly, in all major industrial societies, girls do better than boys in school. Eighty five percent of children categorized as "special" are male. Fidgety young boys, often categorized as suffering from "attention disorders" of one sort or another are separated out, turned over to therapists, or fed Ritalin.

How much all of this is the result of "wiring" is impossible to say. According to Phillips, the cultural acceleration in the polarization of the sexes may have begun, however, with the post-World War II world which shifted women's roles rather radically to the work force and also shifted men's loyalties away from family and toward their corporations or institutions as the owner of their lives, well-being, and energies; as his family away from home. In the process, vital child rearing functions of the husband and father were ignored.

Women, too, he continues, began to conform to the "extrafamilial power structure that began to govern American and other industrialized nation's lives;" a structure that values "economic necessity and the world of production above the nurturing of human life." This can particularly be seen in the female executive's role in the corporate world, where, to succeed, she, in essence, takes on a male role.

Complicating the issue further, according to Ross, is the increasing trend toward single parent (usually mother) families with a father missing due to divorce or abandonment or just unavailable due to alcoholism, drug problems, or workaholic proclivities. According to the paradigm espoused by author Robert Bly in his book "Iron John," boys from such families suffer from a deprivation of a positive male role model.

Perhaps it isn't anything about men in some essential or strictly predetermined sense that invites or causes trouble. Instead, perhaps it's a society that requires certain things from men — responsibility, protection, a stoic determination to get the job done — which also increasingly denies many of them respectable work and respect for the work they do when they try to live up to these standards.

How can we redefine masculinity? A difficult question. What often emerges in modern, new age psychological testing, says Phillips, much more so than traditional psychoanalysis allows, is that men (and boys) want to be like women (and girls). Even as girls may yearn for the ostensible "external" excitement of the male world, boys yearn for the relational warmth and safety of the female world, as they have themselves experienced it as sons.

Perhaps this is a partial cause of male-to-female transgenderism. Although not generally acknowledged in the psychological community, Phillips states, males are, by nature, just as variable and complex as females. Lessons in violence, indifference and separation which are provided every day for male children tend to sociologically reinforce a very strict code of gender unanimity.

Confusing the issue further, Ross conjectures, is the mixed messages men and boys now receive in our society. If they are rough and anxious they are seen as aggressive, but at the same time they are given little encouragement to show weakness either.

Crying and distress in boys are less tolerated and less tended to than in girls. Boys are still ordered to shape up. Much greater latitude is permitted to girl tomboys than to boy sissies. There are few socially sanctioned ways in which boys can show their anxiety and ask for help.

It seems reasonable to assume that learning of this conditioning mechanism would make men wish to escape it, but perhaps, as the process is so subliminal, there is an unconscious agreement among men to defend the status quo.

Perhaps we need to take a closer look in order to see just how hollow current perceptions of sexual and gender difference really are. In many ways, we seem no closer to appreciating the reality of male and female differences and the complexity of integrating them into the framework of our own identities and into our relationships with one another than we ever were. Until we do so, the process of accepting equality between the sexes and finding peace and balance in the gender continuum within ourselves will continue to elude us.

[Ed. Note: Regarding Lauren's column in the last issue, "Premarin — The Untold Story", there is an expanded version balancing both sides of the controversy, available on the ETVC BBS under the title Premarin.as2].

Gender Skybox

By Erin Souza

Ch-Ch-Ch-Ch-Changes

Welcome back to the Skybox where the immortal lyrics of David Bowie supply the theme for this issue's column. As I approached another birthday a few months ago, I felt I could no longer stand on the sidelines, envying others who were living the kind of life I wanted to live. My split, compartmentalized existence, which often forced me to deny and hide much of who I am to people close to me, was taking its toll. The role of kid brother and youngest son, who only referred to his life in vague terms, was a lie that was slowly sucking the life out of me. My experiences as Pam had brought so much joy, love and meaning to my life, that the role of Paul, often lived out for other people's comfort and convenience more so than my own, felt like a spiritual betrayal. It was time for a change.

I needed to acknowledge my feminine side at all times. Paul, as a name, failed on that account. But since I also want to date and work as a male, Pam would sound too incongruous on that side. Enter Erin, the feminized version of my confirmation name, Aaron. Perhaps, at thirteen, I subconsciously knew I would need an androgynous name later in life. It meant enough to me to go through the extra expense of changing it legally through the court. Otherwise my family, to whom I had recently come out, would not realize how important this is to me. As it is, there is still resistance on the part of some of them to address me as Erin, but these things do take time. Not wanting to part with either Pam or Paul completely, (I've had too many special times as each), I've decided to keep them as my middle name: Erin Pamela Paul Souza.

Had I known there would be a promotion involved, I would have changed my name long ago. My appointment to the title of Miss ETVC coming on the heels (pun intended) of the changes I initiated is probably just a coincidence. Then again, it could be the miracle of my acting on behalf of my own personal truth. But this is supposed to be a sports column so I'll set the metaphysics aside. Needless to say, if you read the news earlier in this newsletter you now know there is no truth to the rumor that the last A's game I attended was Tiara Give-away Day at the Oakland Coliseum. Besides, everyone knows they hand those out at a night game.

But wait, there are more coincidences. It could just be the water at the University Cafe, where we hold our meetings, but Cotillion contestants should take note: Lauren, Francis and now Erin have all been, or still are, co-chairs of the Outreach Committee: Gateway to Mr/Miss ETVCdom. Face it, the main focus of the regents is outreach. What better place to prepare for your future regal duties? If you do good work, you may even learn the secrets of Lauren's Stealth Evening Gown Strategy. Even if you're not vying for a title, it's a great way to get involved and help with our Speaker's Bureau. If you are interested in speaking or in researching and contacting new venues for others to speak, please contact Speaker's Bureau chair Denise Howes at (415)[redacted]

Fore! What else are you going to do on a Sunday when the 49ers are not playing? That's right, gender fans, it's time to come out and play miniature golf! Sunday, November 19th is the date for the first ever ETVC Miniature Golf Tournament, at Malibu Castle Golf and Games in Redwood City, beginning at noon. Make new friends in a randomly determined foursome, have fun, eat pizza and maybe win a prize or trophy in the final round. Call yours truly at (415) [redacted] for details.

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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.

SPICE '95

by Diana Sexton

Well, they've done it again! For the third year, the Spouses'/ Partners' International Conference for Education (S.P.I.C.E.) put together and presented a bang up program of seminars and workshops geared toward opening up the lines of communication between cross dressers and those who are in committed relationships with them.

With presenters like Dr. Sandra Cole, Dr. Phil Van Maris, Gil Fairfax and Joe Roberts, Dr. Peggy Rudd, B. J. Seymour and yours truly, everything from the effects of hormones to when and how to tell the kids/family to sexuality to humor was covered.

Most interesting, for me, were the programs led by B.J. Seymour, Gil Fairfax and Joe Roberts, and Dr. Van Maris. The central theme this year seemed to be communication.

B.J. Seymour led discussions designed to help you communicate honestly with yourself. Gil and Joe discussed when, how, and whether or not to communicate with your children (if you have any, that is), Dr. Van Maris concentrated on how your body communicates with you (hormones, etc.), Sandra Cole taught us how to communicate sexually, Peggy showed us how to communicate emotionally and there were several panel/group discussions on the necessity for open, honest and effective communication. It's true - women and men DO communicate differently and this is something that many of us who attended this year's S.P.I.C.E. learned.

We even had a little fun in a workshop on humor and finding the lighter side of ANY situation.

S.P.I.C.E. is not about acceptance. It is not about crossdressing. It is about human relationships. It is about self-discovery. It is about our validity as human beings - regardless of what we wear or which gender role we prefer. It is about learning to accept ourselves so that we can more readily accept others. It is about recognizing differences and that it's okay to BE different. It is about talking to each other and understanding each other. It is about getting beyond the facade to the true person. Most importantly, though, it is about those of us who are in committed relationships with cross dressers providing support, understanding and a sense of family and community for each other.

It's also about 4 days long (Sorry, Ginny, I couldn't resist at least ONE funny!)

For anyone, male or female, who has not attended S.P.I.C.E. I would heartily recommend that you consider attending at least ONCE. You never know, you just might learn something useful.

(Our thanks to Diana for this report direct from the recent SPICE Convention. Many congrats to Diana who has just been appointed Editor of "The Sweetheart Connection", a newsletter for wives and partners in Tri-Ess. Call Diana at (510)[redacted] if you are interested.)

Just a quick note to remind you there are no couples group meetings in November and December because of all the other things happening at this time of year. There may be some individual parties coming up, though, so keep your eyes on your mailbox for notices and invitations coming your way.

We do want to point out we have scheduled a special SOS luncheon on Saturday, November 12th at 11:30 AM at a restaurant in Richmond. These luncheons are occasionally planned for the benefit of those of you who cannot get away on Thursday nights for our regular SOS meetings and everyone is welcome. Your crossdressing partners are asked to appear in DRAB if they want to come. They will be seated at a separate table in order to keep the confidentiality of the SOS group discussions intact. Call (510) 934-0826 for location and details.

Significant Other Support Group

The Significant Other Support Group invites all Significant Others to attend our meetings. Group members define Significant Others as wives, lovers, friends, children and others close to TV/TS persons who are themselves not TV/TS. We encourage you to ask the SO in your own life to attend, particularly if she or he needs support from peers in dealing with feelings about the TV/TS in her or his life. All meetings are kept STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL to help insure that a safe, supportive environment is created in which all attendees feel secure enough to freely share and talk about their feelings. We are frequently assisted by a helping professional with a specialty in our area of concern. Our next meetings will be Thursday, November 9 and Thursday, December14. A special SOS luncheon is planned for Saturday, November 18 in Richmond. You are welcome with open arms. For more information call (510) 934-0826.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS !!

Once again it is my favorite time of year... Thanksgiving; a time to reflect on the blessings we have been given, and share with our families, and Christmas; the season where love, charity and kindness abounds as we share the joys of being with our loved ones and the warm and cozy emotions of Christmas cheer.

I encourage you to take a special moment somewhere along the frenzied line of "getting through the holidays" to allow the beauty within the cross dresser in your life to be expressed and appreciated. A special gift for him or her could be a most meaningful moment to reaffirm your love for one another. Also, an object of beauty from the cross dresser to his loved one would be most appropriate at this time to complete the romance of the moment. Be sure the kids are in bed, the music is soft and the candles are low. The pure joy of love is wished for each one of you from each one of us.

In Loving Memory

On September 14, 1995, we lost one of ETVC's important supporters, Grand Duke XVI Bruce Harrelson. Bruce worked with us putting together many of the recent Education and TS Seminars at Kimo's. He also was the Bar Manager for many years at our Cotillions. He was always there to help us and always worked with his aassistants as a volunteer. We will very much miss this kind, loving man and want to extend our most sincere sympathies to his family and his dear friend, Michael Bowman. Thanks, Bruce, for all the good times.

New Lending Library Books

by Ginny Knuth

Newly acquired for the ETVC Lending Library are the following items:

B0175 ***`Gender Blending*** — Holly Devor
Examining the social construction of gender and confronting the limits of duality. Copyright 1989.

B0176 ***Hormones for the Male to Female, Third Edition*** — Sheila Kirk, M.D.
Hormonal Therapy for the Male to Female Transgendered Individual. Copyright 1994.

B0177 ***KOFY - Channel 20 - Part I*** — VHS Tape
SF Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Freedom Day Parade — June 16, 1995. (Donated by Brenda)

B0178 ***Third Sex, Third Gender*** — Gilbert Herdt
How societies in other times and places have included space for sexual identities diverging from our notion of what is "normal". Copyright 1994.

B0179 ***How To Be a Good Legal*** — Naomi Owen, J.D.
Consumer Guide to helping you become a better-informed consumer of legal services.

B0180 ***Gender Outlaw*** — Kate Bornstein
Ms. Bornstein's observations on gender in gay and straight culture provide a fresh perspective on the fluidity of gender definition. " Copyright 1994.

B0182 ***Prayers for Bobby*** — LeRoy Aarons
A mother's coming to terms with the suicide of her gay son. Copyright 1995. (Donated by Bow-K)

B0183 ***Laurel and Hardy*** — VHS Tape
Movie short subjects. Many skits show Laurel and Hardy in drag. (Donated by Ralph Judd).

B0184 ***Identity Management in Transsexualism*** — Dallas Denny, M.A.
A practical guide to managing identity on paper. Copyright 1994.

B0185 ***The Bisexual Option*** — Fritz Klein, M.D.
A variety of perspectives is used to help one understand the complexities and fluidity of bisexuality. Copyright 1993. (Donated by Ginny)

Hormones in Transsexuals

(Taken from Science, Vol. 267, Jan. 20, 1995)
['Random Samples', p. 334, ed. by Constance Holden]

How do sex hormones affect human behavior? That's a tough question to address, as experimental monkeying with people's hormone levels is unacceptable. But a team of Dutch researchers at Utrecht University Hospital's Department of Psychiatry has found a population volunteering for just such manipulation. The results of the ensuing study, the researchers claim, support a powerful role for hormones.

The subjects in the experiment, headed by psychologists Stephanie Van Goozen and Peggy Cohen-Kettenis, were transsexual candidates: 35 women who wanted to be men and 15 men who wanted to become women. Each was given a battery of baseline tests measuring anger, aggression, sexual interest, spatial relations, and verbal fluency. Then, after 3 months of testosterone for the females and anti-androgens and estrogens for the males, the tests were administered again. The same tests were also given to two control groups, 20 men and 20 women recruited in an Amsterdam supermarket.

The researchers report in a paper to be published in April in Psychoneuroendocrinology that while not all tests yielded a consistent picture, a larger pattern did emerge. The authors write, for example, that "after 3 months of testosterone administration (female-to-male) transsexuals were more anger prone and reported more aggressive tendencies, they had a stronger sexual motivation and arousability, and they were better in visuospatial ability and worse in verbal fluency." The results for the male-to-female group after androgen deprivation went in the opposite direction. The authors conclude that the behavior changes they witnessed "are likely to be due to the effects of the hormone therapy and not to...[the transsexuals'] stereotypical ideas about... the desired sex." Van Goozen says these findings are more compelling than the existing data on sex differences, which are based on correlations, because "this is the only study involving an experimental intervention."

Response among researchers familiar with the work is mixed. McGill University psychologist Barbara Sherwin, who studies how hormones affect women's sexual behavior, says the results are just what her own work would have led her to predict. "It blew me away," she says. Psychologist Brian Gladue of Cincinnati University, however, says generalizations can't be made from this study because transsexuals "are not your typical people." Gladue says, "I think the findings are interesting and suggestive but nowhere near definitive."

B0186 ***Crossdressers: And Those Who Share Their Lives*** — Peggy J. Rudd, Ed.D.
If a picture is worth a 1,000 words, this book speaks volumes about cross dressers and those who love them". Copyright 1995.

B0187 ***"Horizons": KQED-FM Radio*** — Audio Cassette Tape
30 minute Audio Tape on "TS Issues" with Kim Elizabeth Stuart and others. (Donated by Lorraine Ellen Hall).

Many thanks to all the people who have donated items to our library. Do you have a book or two you can donate to help others coming along the road? We will gratefully accept any donations or offers to assist us in organizing and preparing an up to date Library List for our membership. Please call me if you can help — Ginny (415) [redacted]

Orgasms Are Overrated

by Rachael Johnston

The feminine mystique beckons us as we journey down roads that tantalize and promise. Our wives and lovers may or may not appreciate the compass heading and many of us know full well that they might decide to get off at the next corner. But understanding our female counterpoint beckons as surely as the north star in our life's journey. What does it mean to explore this path? What does it mean to say that our female side needs to experience? How can we find meaning in becoming Rachael, or Katie, or any of a number of wonderful people who make up the community of which we are a part?

I experienced my first night out at the recent ETVC social this month and heard someone describe me as a newbe. A new being indeed! A woman conceived and delivered as a composite of all the women I have known and loved through the years; my wife, my mother, sisters, aunts and lovers resonating throughout my being. And I pick and choose the pieces that allow me to function and perform as Rachael. As time passes and experience accumulates, the personality of Rachael will take on her own character and become a functional member of the community. Part of that character on my part is to search for a deeper meaning on all the levels of my existence. I dream of an integrated person, content and peaceful in the light of purpose. How does searching for my female side serve that purpose? Am I just indulging in fantasy at the expense of my Sister?

I remember the first time I looked out and saw Rachael in the mirror. My world shattered and I lost the perspective that allowed my boy to function. The contrast from man to woman was astonishing and Huxley's words rang loudly in my head, that if the doors of perception were cleansed, we would see the world as it truly is. The newbe becomes saturated with new feelings, new emotions and new experience. Without the palate of responses from the boy, it became difficult for me to talk, hard for me to walk. I began to cry and I can remember vividly my wife wondering what the hell was happening.

Now I can see that I really was a new being, born again with a clean slate, hungry for experience, and for the dharma of life to continue and fold me in a loving embrace as a woman. But I was frozen by the overwhelming flood of experience. My wife became frustrated, not wanting to take responsibility for this new girl child. It was hard enough for her to just sit there and watch the man she loved turn into a woman she didn't know, but to see him turn into an emotional baby, well, this was all too much. Why does this happen? Why was the contrast so great, the distinction from man to woman like jumping across a deep chasm in the earth? Is there something about this experience that we can glean a truth, bring back a pearl of great value to offer others going through the same thing?

At the social, I met a lovely woman who was coming out for the first time. She was in her head, saturated with emotion, tense with fear, her only desire to be accepted as who she was. It became clear how I could bring meaning to my own life, and as a woman, to live the dharma and help bring peace to others. The bodhisattva returns as a cosmic midwife to help others in their quest for understanding, for growth, for continuance. I could feel the bodhisattva settle in my heart with a simple smile, a kind word shared between new friends. Soon she began to relax. I had found the pearl and had learned how to offer it to others. What is the wisdom that can allow this flowing of energy? Is this the fundamental truth that we are trying to achieve, learning how to connect and share? Was this fundamental truth lost in the driving forces of unbalanced male energy going off at 120 decibels when we were children? Why did we lose this perspective?

"In our personal relationships, women sound a resounding chord. The fundamental need is to connect, to share life and to love."

All of us are born and grow through childhood at a rate that allows us to process and categorize the world. It takes us years to become functional members of society, years spent learning about ourselves and our world. This is a flowering of a core personality that we come to believe is our identity, who we are, what we become. Most of us declare our gender to align with our sex. Boys grow rich in the flow of yang energy fed by the sun with our heads in the clouds. Girls grow rich in the flow of yin energy, their feet planted deep in the earth, their bodies ruled by the energy of the moon. In a balanced society, we would grow in both, our animus a creative force, our anima receptive to the world around us.

But, western society has transformed the creative male energy into a destructive force. Men seem to be running the show and have devalued the Female in our society. We create at the expense of our world; an increasing burden that is coming due in our lifetime. We only need look at the ravages of conflict, an overburdened environment, our poor and hungry children against a backdrop of billion dollar tools of war to see this. At the heart of this one eyed dragon

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is a bloated, coarse corporate world, sucking the energy of life from the earth, connected to nothing, responsible only to itself and selfish in its own greed. Yang energy, without the balance of the yin, will end in a flaming judgment day, with the walls of our humanity tumbling around us as we count our cash. As men we share responsibility for this turn of events. How can we make an impact on such a broad scale of events? How can we reach for the heart of the dragon and turn it away from a course of self destruction? All things are connected. We impact the grand scale by working on ourselves.

In our personal relationships, women sound a resounding chord. The fundamental need is to connect, to share life and to love. Orgasms are great, but to connect and share is the overwhelming desire. This is the core of the receptive, the core of the female experience; but young men are taught to use things without becoming connected. In general, we hear that men use women, kind of like we use our tools: when we have dulled the blade, the tool becomes useless and is discarded. For today's man, the orgasm is the target. We go out looking to get laid, to find a fleeting moment so that we can forget, for only the briefest moment in time, who we have become. If we get too close, or connect too deeply, we feel threatened. Because to connect, we need to remember who we are. And who we are is not all that pretty. Young men count coup by bragging about how many women they have laid without lasting commitment, how many orgasms they can have, how well they perform. Is that all there is? I think orgasms are overrated.

...young men are taught to use things without becoming connected... If we get too close, or connect too deeply, we feel threatened.

I can remember being a young boy in bed before sleep, only 5 or 6 years old, praying that God would turn me into a girl as I slept. Even at so young an age, I could perceive that the male environment in which I was expected to partake lacked a certain grace, a certain beauty of form. The boy's world seemed to leave a dry taste in my mouth, as if an important piece of the puzzle was missing. The girl friends of my childhood, one of whom is now my beautiful wife of 23 years, seemed to live, love and flower as they blossomed into gorgeous young women, deeply connected to the earth and each other and searching for their connection to heaven. I was distraught about being left behind. I wanted to share in their transformation but was left only with a poorly conceived notion of who I was and the conflict that ravaged my soul. How could I have this male body, and desire so strongly to be a woman? What cruel twist of fate would leave me hanging to twist slowly in the wind? Who was I and what would I become?

Years later, I can now see that as special people who bring both yin and yang to the table of life, as a gender that is "neither", we have the wonderful opportunity to grow not just a single flower of yang energy depleting the ground in which it grows, but a garden of both yin and yang, rich in color and sound, warm and flowing against the tapestry of life. We have the power to use our yin energy to connect to others, receiving energy from those around us and helping them to connect with mother earth and her nurturing. With our yang energy we can help them to create a connection with the sun, or loving father bringing the energy of life. We are each a living bridge capable of connecting heaven and earth. We have the ability to transcend the boundaries that keep us separate and alone, the power to ease the transition of acceptance and love to find the boy within. I don't think that our problem is finding the girl within. She is right there with us, in all her dazzling glory, demanding to be heard. Am I right? The goal for me is to find the boy within, to let him know he is loved and needed to make that integrated, balanced, loving person who can help ease the pain and conflict of others on the same path with a simple smile and a few kind words of friendship.

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Sexuality, The Role It Plays In The Lives Of Transsexuals

(A talk by Kim Elizabeth Stuart at Northridge Gender Conference, February, 1995)

When I hear people say, "Transsexualism, Oh that's a sexual thing," I'm always taken a-back. Well of course it's sexual - to the extent that we're all sexual. But it's not sexual in the context that the statement implies. The implications of statements like that are that transsexualism must somehow originate, or be linked to, some sort of eroticism that goes beyond the bounds of ordinary cross dressing. Some extreme form of transvestism or homosexuality, if you will.

Well, that's not the case! And it's not as though we don't know anything about it. For those who say that sort of thing, you just haven't been listening to what transsexuals are telling you.

Ninety percent of the male to female transsexuals I studied experienced serious gender dysphoria - discomfort, if you like before they entered kindergarten. Seventy percent of the female to male transsexuals I studied had similar experiences.

Their gender dysphoria was not erotic in nature. They were just very uncomfortable with the gender roles they were being socialized in. Sexuality and eroticism entered their lives many years later, in most cases.

When transsexuals experience puberty - of course sexuality comes online - big time for most of us. That's a very frustrating time, because most of them have normal reproductive organs, hormonal activity and sexual urges.

Urges - ah! The expression of those urges - therein lies the rub. What about the expression of those urges?

As we all know, many transsexuals grow up and fulfill their biological imperative. Indeed, they frequently become fathers and mothers. But what about their emotional imperatives? That's what I wanted to explore, and I found out something quite interesting. Eighty percent of the female to male transsexuals indicated that, prior to any gender reassignment, they fantasized themselves as male during sexual activity, and eighty four percent of them fantasized that their partners were females.

"As we all know, many transsexuals grow up and fulfill their biological imperative. Indeed, they frequently become fathers and mothers. But what about their emotional imperatives?"

Seventy percent of the male to female transsexuals told me they fantasized they were females while engaging in sexual activity but only thirty eight percent of them fantasized that their partners were male.

Most transsexuals in both groups told me their fantasy roles intensified as they passed into adulthood. These figures seem fairly consistent with one other question I asked. I wanted to know what their sexual preferences were in their chosen gender roles. Eighty percent of the female to male transsexuals told me that they were heterosexual in their chosen male roles, while only fifty two percent of the male to female transsexuals identified as exclusively heterosexual in the female role.

Now - what are we to make of that? Just this. Sexual orientation always has to be interpreted from within the framework of gender identity. To do otherwise is to paint a completely unrealistic picture. I don't know how many times I have had to say it, but I'll say it once again. Gender identity and sexual identity are separate issues.

The Uninvited Dilemma
A Question of Gender
by
Kim Elizabeth Stuart
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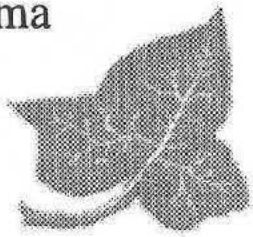

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To be sure, eroticism is involved in the lives of transsexuals when they reach puberty. That's to be expected. Sometimes there's eroticism connected to cross dressing - but not always. And it's much more common in biological males than it is in biological females. The eroticism that occurs with respect to adolescent and adult male to female transsexuals would seem to be more testosterone driven than anything else.

But we're talking about gender identity - gender identity and gender roles when it comes to transsexuality. Sex is only one part of that equation. We have to recognize that gender identity is probably even more immutable than national or ethnic identity. And look at how much blood has been spilled to preserve national and ethnic identities. Look at what happened when the yoke of communist tyranny was lifted from the Caucuses, or the former Yugoslavian province of Bosnia, home to Croats, Muslims and Serbs. No one even knows how much blood has been shed by transsexuals in their frustrations. I've seen it first hand and up close, and I can tell you that it's not pretty, because abandoned lives erodes the dignity and meaning of the celebration of life.

Gender role discomfort usually precedes sexual maturation, and it does not mysteriously emerge from the mists of erotic experience.

Sexuality needs to be viewed within the context of gender role identity - gender role identity presentation and the life that is lived - not as the animus for someone being a transsexual.

When Harry Benjamin popularized the term Transsexual, he and others didn't stop to differentiate between the concepts of gender identity and sexual orientation. Maybe it seemed to make sense at the time. Why not? Men wanted to change their primary and secondary sexual characteristics. There weren't any FTM's requesting surgery in 1965. The word sex was within the term itself. That's what it was all about as far as they could see.

But the concept of gender roles is more or less a social construct, rather than some sort of a biological description. Transsexual men and women want and need to live in gender roles with which they are comfortable, and that usually includes participating in a sexual manner consistent with those roles. That's what transsexualism is all about.

"I don't know how many times I have had to say it, but I'll say it once again. Gender identity and sexual identity are separate issues."

Gender role discomfort usually precedes sexual maturation, and it does not mysteriously emerge from the mists of erotic experience. It may be awakened in the consciousness then for some, but that's not the beginning - and it sure isn't the end.

The other issue I want to touch on briefly concerns respect. Transgendered persons often feel they are being indulged, and frankly, treated like children by some providers and members of the academic community. There has been an us versus them climate established that is very patronizing, and it only can lead to further schism. We had a good example of that right here yesterday. The purpose of this conference was advertised to get the academics, providers and transgender community all talking with one another. Despite that goal, a workshop about therapy was listed on the program, and all except therapists were turned away. I was told by a therapist they would make an exception for me because I would understand the discussion. That whole incident was in direct opposition to the spirit of this congress, and there shouldn't have been any exclusions. This sort of thing only serves to reinforce in the minds of transgendered people that some people in the provider and academic communities deliberately marginalize transgendered persons. The transgendered community has professionals in all walks of life who know a great deal about our own needs and conditions.

There's Sister Mary Elizabeth, who spent years working for the civil rights of transgendered persons, and who now devotes her time to working for people with HIV and AIDS; James Green, a man instrumental in the passage of an equal protection ordinance in the city of San Francisco, and the President of FTM; Sergeant Stephan Thorne who was also instrumental in getting that San Francisco ordinance passed, and who has dragged the San Francisco Police Department to the brink of a new millennium; Phyllis Frye, a Texas attorney and Executive Director of the annual International Conference on Transgender Law and Policy; Kate Bornstein, playwright, author and performer who addresses transgendered issues in her work.; Dallas Denny, founder and Executive Director of Aegis; Janice Van Cleave, who's responsible for the city of Seattle, Washington, having one of the few ordinances in the country protecting the civil rights of transgendered people; there's the late Lou Sullivan, founder of FTM and a distinguished biographer; Marilyn Bruner, an astro-physicist, one of only six scientists in the world who designs satellite experiments to study the sun, and who educated the people at NASA about transgender issues. Think of the implications! The National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

I could go on and on. These are just a few of the very professional transgendered people that I can talk about, who have touched down in my life.

I think we need to address some of the attitudes, stereotypes and perceptions that different groups have toward one another. There needs to be an atmosphere formulated with a lot less of them in it, and much more of us in the mixture so that all of us can breathe a little easier.

Transgendered people are stepping out on their own, and we're going to do our own thing, with or without those who would patronize us, treat us in a condescending manner, or try to control us because of their own hubris. If other professionals want to ride on the same carousel, great - but don't tell us to ge off and just watch. Keep in mind that it's our own God damn merry-go-round.

Ask the Therapist

Luanna L. Rodgers, M.A., MFCC

Sexuality and Gender

Sexuality and gender are two distinctly different, but often interrelated concepts. Gender refers to one's classification as a man or a woman. Gender identity refers to one's internal sense of being male or female, which may or may not be expressed openly in one's public presentation. Sexuality concerns one's pattern of erotic desires. Sexual identity refers to erotic object preference, that is, whether one is attracted to men, women, both or neither. Simply put, gender identity specifies something about who you are; sexual identity specifies something about who you want.

"Simply put, gender identity specifies something about who you are; sexual identity specifies something about who you want."

Many crossdressers, transsexual or transgendered individuals discover just how intertwined sex and gender can be when they experience temporary or lasting shifts in their actual or perceived sexual identity through changing their gender in the world, whether for a night or a lifetime. It appears that the majority of cross gendered individuals - just like individuals in the general population - are predominantly heterosexual with respect to their gender identity. The male who crossdresses on Saturday night as a woman, but basically retains a male gender identity, most commonly will relate sexually to a female; their union is appropriately considered heterosexual. What happens, however, if the crossdresser, while crossdressed as a woman is sexual with his female partner? Perceived from the outside, this sexual act could be seen either as lesbian or heterosexual sex, depending perhaps on the angle of the observer, but what is going on in the participants' heads?

It is a common fantasy of crossdressers to be made love to by a woman, or a man (I'll get to that later), while crossdressed and to be treated as a woman during their lovemaking. Does that mean their gender identity has shifted from male to female, making woman to woman sex "gay sex" and sex with a male "straight sex" or does it just mean that the man being made love to as a woman be considered heterosexual, homosexual or bisexual? See how complicated it gets? Often, in the head of the worried crossdresser experiencing these fantasies, the matter becomes especially complicated because of fear and misinformation. It is natural and normal for people to fantasize. Our minds are a wonderful and easy place to shape-shift into new genders, roles and fantasies. Many people explore elements of crossing gender in their minds or erotic life. Bisexual thoughts and feelings are regularly accessible to a great many people.

Crossgender experience not infrequently leads to being in a different "headspace", an interpretation of the gender one is occupying, sometimes resulting in situational bisexuality. What crossdresser has not considered what it would be like to be escorted to dinner or held by a tall, physically larger male, if for no other reason than the societally sanctioned heterosexual image it satisfies. Thoughts such as these, harmless and often not ever acted upon, can be intensely distressing to those experiencing them who fear that these thoughts mean they are secretly homosexual. Just as distressing to some are the aforementioned thoughts of wanting one's wife to make love to them as though they were a woman. Still others feel that the fluidity of their gender expression, coupled with the fluidity of their sexual fantasies is too big a roller coaster ride. One way to conceptualize the situation that can be calming is to remain aware that sexual fantasy and variation is normal and that one can make choices about what to act on in their life.

Gender and sexuality are interrelated but not directly parallel. Gender change and fluidity can and does impact sexual feelings, fantasies and behavior. Homophobia within the transgender community itself too often prevents an open discussion and acknowledgement of bisexual feelings or the shifting fantasies which occur as gender change collides with sexuality. All crossdressers and transgendered people benefit from the freedom to explore their feelings and find their own way in an open, non-judgmental atmosphere. It is a benefit to each crossgendered individual to know they are not the only one experiencing cross gender feelings. It is similarly important for each individual to know that their sexual feelings are not different than all others around them.

[Luanna L. Rodgers is a Bay Area psychotherapist specializing in work with the crossdressing, transgender and transsexual community].

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Transgendered

by Bishop P. M.

As I talk to and about transgendered people, I find that the term transgendered takes in a lot of folks in one form or another. Many of these folks view themselves as social outcasts. Many straight people have no idea what crossdressers are about or what they do. Many just see all crossdressers as drag queens. A stereotype of course, but easier than thinking.

Even more important than public image is self image. Many doctors will tell you that in many ways you are what you think you are. You will become how you visualize yourself. If you see yourself as an outcast you will never "fit in," or "pass" because you will feel inferior and hang your heads.

If you spend 15% of your time as a woman, you are then 85% of the time male. 85% socially acceptable right off. As for the 15% woman, are you ashamed of being partly woman? If you are, don't leave the house! Women are wonderful people and socially acceptable. So when you get dressed to go out, don't go with the guilt of a man dressed as a woman. Use your self visualization and go as a woman. Hold your head up and be proud of who you are.

A feminist friend told me a crossdresser can never be female. But being a WOMAN was a state of mind. A girl does not become a woman by virtue of reaching a certain age. She learns the mannerisms and thinking of an adult and sticks up for her rights and tells the world this is who I am now. You can be a male woman.

Jesus always stopped to help outcast people. He was caring and sensitive to the needs of people who did not "fit in" with mainstream society. He preached the love of God for everyone. Jesus spent his time going in search of lost sheep. Even Jesus was a social outcast, but he stayed true to his self image, doing God's will. Work on your self image and accept yourself, love yourself. Show compassion and understanding to those you meet while "out", and it will also be great outreach.

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32 Most Guilt-Ridden Words

by Kim Hellman

Millions of transvestites, transgenderists and transsexuals have been hurt and have felt guilt-ridden because of the following Bible Passage:

Deuteronomy 22:5: "The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a womans garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the Lord thy God." (From the King James version of the Bible)

These words have a little truth to them, but King James in the 16th century changed their meaning. Deuteronomy was written in the 7th century B.C. for the tribes of Israel. The original words have different meanings. The abomination pertains to the idea that a woman shall put on mens clothes to impersonate holy men and go into the temple. Men dressing in womens garb is an abomination if the man impersonates a woman to rape or pillage—in both cases these are abominations.

The words and meaning have changed several times in 23 centuries, but the King James version has led to millions of TV's, TS's and TG's feeling miserable for a long time.

Just remember that crossdressing is fun, exciting and enjoyable—there's nothing wrong with it.

In today's terms: Just do it and be happy!

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Quite A Year - Editor's Commentary

ETVC has grown in visibility and viability this past year, in the Bay area and throughout the country, as our members continue to outreach and raise consciousness about transgender issues. Several officers attended the annual transgender legal symposium and other gender events around the country. We moved to the front of the S.F. LGBT Pride Parade for the first time, marching with several other transgender groups.

The new tradition of Mr. ETVC continued with the crowning of my successor, Dillon King (and hopefully will continue this coming year - contestants?) Our Social chair, Lulu, put on several shows and produced a great Big Shew in conjunction with performers from the greater drag and transgender community. Our President, Jane, continued her work behind the scenes with the LGBT Task Force of the Human Rights Commission, which is continuing to shape equal rights for transgendered people. Bobbie Dunne did major networking for us on the Parade Planning Committee, and may do so again next year. (Bobbie is also making transgender history with her termination lawsuit - good luck!) There have been many new faces at our socials and education events, the participation of more TS and transgendered identified persons, including the occasional FTM helping me kiss hands. We have had a wonderful year at Eichelberger's, thank you Cornelius and Dennis!

ROXANNA ROCHETTE PHOTO

President Jane 'X-X dressed, hangs out with Bogart

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A year in the life of Lisa Maxwell

Where were you on January 29, 1994?...

I remember where I was; I had been out for only two weeks, was an absolute novice, and a wide-eyed debutante on that cold, starry night at the Russian Center. Since then, the changes have come so fast, I am having trouble looking at them all! But one thing I am sure of: I am happier now than I thought I ever could be with my life. I am me, finally me.

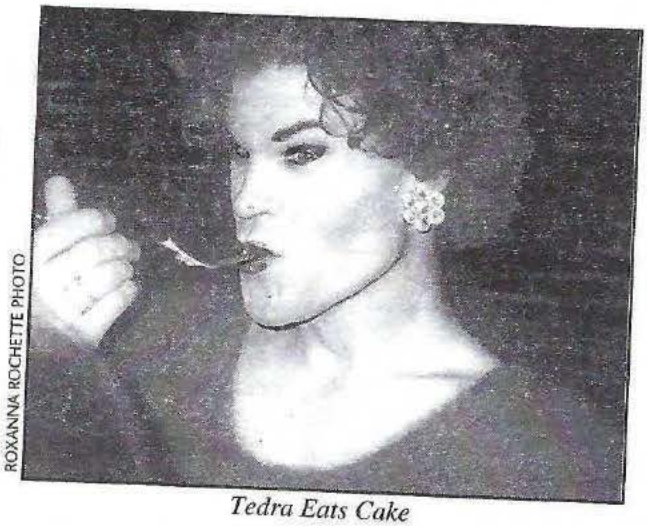
In the Beginning: When I took the position of Vice President of ETVC, I had only been out for four months, and the entire thing was very new to me. I really had absolutely no idea what I was getting in to. I was told that it was a burn out position, but I decided to do it anyway. Why -because I like to challenge myself; it's how I grow, and personal growth and life are conceptually synonymous for me.

First, there was the Parade: I had never even been to the Gay Freedom Day Parade when I found out about what it was I was supposed to do. I must admit, I was somewhat taken aback by the thought of organizing an event of this nature. Who would I call, what would I do? I found out. The Parade is probably the most fun event to put on - it's relatively easy to pull together- if you are organized, and the rewards are very, very high. It is truly our greatest marketing and media event of the year, since we can be seen very visibly. In 1994, we had 42 marchers, and

ROXANNA ROCHETTE PHOTO

S.O's Juana and Susie sing at the Karaoke Social

we were in position 174, about 2/3 of the way through the parade. In 1995, we had about 122 marchers, most of them from ETVC phone trees, and we marched at the head of the line in position #11. In 1995, we had an information booth, a beer booth and a merchandising booth, and were active on the Parade Committee. I think that involvement with the Parade Committee is in our future, especially now that the name Transgender has been added to the title of the Parade. After all, we are all in this together.


ROXANNA ROCHETTE PHOTO

Tedra Eats Cake

Then, there was the Cotillion: As you know, my first Cotillion was in January of 1994. I had never put on a show before, but this seemed to me to be even more fun than the first event. The key to putting on a Cotillion, I have found, is to plan ahead, develop your contacts, and work hard! If you are able to delegate important responsibilities to enough people, you will find that your job is greatly simplified. This is something that cannot be done all by oneself; the sheer number of tasks involved in putting this on will overwhelm you! Putting on the Cotillion last year, with all of its faults, was probably the most fun that I have ever had in my entire life. A word of caution: A perfect show is impossible. So we try the best we can, knowing that our volunteers are human, and love it the way that it is. Last year we created a special magic on the Cotillion Committee; my number one goal last year was to make the event and the planning process very special and intimate for contestants, cast, and Cotillion Crew. And we succeeded, with your help- Thanks again!

ROXANNA ROCHETTE PHOTO

Mr ETVC 1995 with Miss ETVC's 1994 and 1992 at the GL&TG Freedom Parade

Today: As I write these words, my thoughts are consumed with putting on another Cotillion, to be held on January 27th, 1996. I must tell you, I still need your help; as a contestant, as someone with a major or minor responsibility, as someone there to simply help that evening. Call me at 415[redacted] if you're interested in helping me! Thank You Very Much! - Lisa

Reflections on 1995

by Jamie Faye Fenton

1995 began with Lisa Maxwell (and many helpers) producing our best Cotillion ever: "Alice in Genderland". Tammy Kingsley and Dillon King were chosen to represent our organization during 1995. While we did not realize it then, the San Francisco Transgender Rights Law went into effect that night.

Francis Vavra takes over as Channel Editor and our newsletter gets even better.

Cindy Martin launches her electronic gender community newsletter on the Internet called "The Transgender Forum". Listed as an outreach project of ETVC, by the end of the summer over a thousand people visit this place each day.

Lisa uses her magic again and over 120 of us march in the Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/ Transgender Freedom Day parade. We raise a substantial amount of money for our organization and our community.

The phones get answered, newsletters are mailed out, memberships are renewed, our socials and educational events take place, we all have fun and our community grows. A lot of good work done by good people.

On the national scene, Transgender political activism comes into its own with the formation of the Transexual Menace. A new executive director takes the reins at the IFGE. A successful conference is held in Los Angeles, the first to bring transgenders and professional caregivers together to discuss scientific issues.

What can we look forward to in 1996?

This January, an even better Cotillion, put on by an experienced production team.

In April, a major regional transgender conference, California Dreamin' 1996, held right around the corner from Kimo's.

Sometime soon, I hope we can find a permanent home for our activities like the Chez Mollet of years past. Eichelbergers and Kimo's have been most hospitable, but they are way-stations.

This year our members have taken notice of our non-profit status and have been donating money to our organization. Thanks to everyone who has sent something in! Our challenge is to use this money wisely, to further our activities and to help our community. Please contribute time, money, and suggestions on how we can have fun and do good in 1996!

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To My Spirit Guide - by Mercury

Your spirit moves me now and then
You've gotten bigger by about times ten
You're passing through me all the time
Like a lightning ball of God's design

Your power moves me - you are not mine
You're so big and so fine
Finer than my heart's desire
You help me let my old ways fall
Grow new ones now
I'm allowed to evolve

I'm speaking with a different voice
I'm different now... I rejoice
Nothing to be proud of though
I've tried pride as pride goes
It's not all bad, it's not all good
Not too hard to be understood

Proud of self is a way to be
An end-all way? Not hardly
It's a comfortable nest for a common man...
Can help keep birds of prey on land

Predators of all kinds
That walk the earth by God's design
Can be disarmed with pride sometimes
I'll not brag of what I find
Pride and guilt I chase around
A game of tag... all fall down
Sometimes I'm it - It got me good
"I'll get you for that" I have withstood

Down the toilet and back up
Hate them - love them
They can be good
But good can also get in the way
Good and bad must balance, they say

Even for people who know it all
They can forget to balance... and fall
I've gotten used to being too tall
And not to mind a little fall
To evolve with pain, not be the same
Just not too much, please - in God's name

Guilt and pride move on aside
So I can respond to what I have inside
Not guts or blood or bones or eyes
YOU are there, my spirit guide
I just didn't see you until now
No regrets or hope for the past allowed
Spirit guide you're on my mind
You're so sweet and very kind
You are a caring God's grand design
You ARE God! God is a girl!
In case we don't know the world

Our world's a green and fertile place
No man like you can procreate
No man or beast ever treated me as well
As you my spirit guide
You are so swell

When I get you to talk to me
You'll do it ONLY from 1 to 3
I asked you why and you said
You had other duties and chores before
And so I am as I stand outdoors
Thinking of so very much more

Nothing's mine in time or space
Of course I'll share your sweet, smiling face
And when it's time for you to go
You smile so sweet high voltage flows

Thanks so much, my spirit guide
For this life on Earth
This terrific ride.