ETVC

Educational TV Channel Newsletter
VOLUME EIGHT, NUMBER 4 JANUARY - FEBRUARY, 1990

VIVA LAS VEGAS NIGHT A BIG HIT !

ETVC and Tri-Ess members enjoy an exciting evening of entertainment and gambling.

The Viva Las Vegas night at the California Club on November 18th was a night to remember. Although it started late, the party continued long into the night. About 100 people were in attendance and were there to enjoy Renee and Stephanie putting on a great stage show. Tiffany made a surprise guest appearance as a comedienne. The gambling was brisk toward the end of the night and when the chips were cashed in for raffle tickets, Ulla from Hamburg, West Germany, spent more time on stage collecting her raffle prizes than sitting in the audience. Both Joe and Denise were taking pictures in the drawing room with Joe doing portraits and Denise spending time in both the hall and the drawing room. I hope that we will be able to display some of these pictures at our next social event. Special thanks go to Wanda and Toodie for handling the brisk business at the bar, Jennifer, Nancy Ann and Ginny for handling the entrance table and the drink ticket sales with assistance from Telzey and Martina, and all of those who assisted in making this production a success. I personally would like to thank Renee and Stephanie for taking time from their busy schedule filled with ISE functions to entertain those of us who showed up for this night and Maxine for helping with the music. Without Diane Ingram, Melissa Foster and Jim Bridges of Tri-Ess this event would have been only half as enjoyable and Donna, also from Tri-Ess, did a great job as emcee. Last, but not at all least, if Franchesca had not sacrificed her entire evening by carrying the stage production by herself, the entire show would have been a flop and for that she should be thanked by all of us. Thank you, Franchesca, from the bottom of my heart. By putting on this production, we have proved that it is possible for two groups within the gender community, although we might have different policies, to work together as a unit. —Sandra

(Ed. Note: Though Sandra has modestly not included herself among those who made this great night work, the event could never have happened without her. Thanks Sandy!)

Don't miss An Enchanted Evening —

The Sixth Annual

Miss ETVC Cotillion

January 20, 1990

7pm until Midnight

California Club

1750 Clay Street, San Francisco

see page 3 for details

Editor's Notes

Tres Bizarre...A girl in town for the Tri-Ess Holiday En Femme reported that there are therapists in the Upper Midwest who are recommending a "12 step" program to "cure" crossdressing.

Now I'm just a layman and certainly no expert on psychological theory, but the idea that TVs are "addicted" to crossdressing seems absurd on its face. To me there would appear to be a large difference between the person who abuses drugs like cocaine or alcohol or nicotine and someone who is compelled to put on a dress. Drug addiction will kill you. But sequins? No way.

The only way I can see crossdressing as being "harmful" is when it becomes an excuse to avoid life's hard realities or when it interferes with relationships and career.

The unfortunate truth is that there are members who have lost jobs and relationships because of their crossdressing. Yet usually this happens because someone else has a problem with the concept of crossdressing, not the TV.

It also cannot be denied that some people use dressing as a way to escape life's knocks. Some people go fishing or play tennis or go shopping for the same reason. You can overdo anything, of course, but there is a world of difference between an avid golfer and a drug addict killing herself slowly with chemicals. Keep it in perspective ladies...

Onward...A very important series of bylaws changes are going to be put before members attending the January 25 meeting. One would permit absentee balloting for bylaw changes and officer elections.

The other has to do with the basic structure of the club and its committees. You will be asked, in effect, to give the Social Committee autonomy in deciding what events it will stage.

This is a change from current bylaws which state that both the general membership and the Executive Committee, comprised of all club officers and committee chairs, have to authorize the themes for socials.

There are several implications to such a change. On the one hand, it will eliminate a cumbersome process and allow the social committee greater flexibilities to decide what events to stage. On the other hand, it will remove some of the oversight authority for socials now vested in the members and the Executive Committee.

Consider your vote carefully.

Letters to the Editor

Here is my review of the "Halloween Ball." The atmosphere was stimulating and this being my first calendar attendance, I was very impressed by the entire proceeding. I had never been around more than one or two crossdressers before. The decor (balloons, lighting) certainly contributed to the pleasing atmosphere. The fashions were modern and appealing, being largely evening wear of stretch fabric, strapless gowns, ankle length sheaths, lycra and metallic tops. Visually, both the tall, slim femmes and the shorter, curvy figures were quite seductive and nice to look at. All that glamour. Franchesca, the hostess, was a doll, the dress quite ravishing, a pleasing ensemble look. I liked the presentation announcements Franchesca gave. The blonde I sat next to wore a white dress, a black vest, lightly polished fingernails, topped off by a pleasing, gentle manner. The contest was for me an opportunity to move like a geisha and make better use of the makeup, costume and stylization of onnagata-derived presentation. The two renaissance-style costumes were quite impressive. The leotard cat contestant and cocktail waitress were good night club looks. I wish the Elvira person had competed, as well as the blonde sitting next to me, but she wasn't sure, I guess. I was shocked when she told me she didn't belong to ETVC because she was very nice. I'm sorry if I seemed too inquisitive and asked too many questions. It's like the "time machine." The inventor was frustrated because he wanted to find out about the world and to share his philosophy. -- Ray

Happy New Year to all of our members, families and friends!

New Ad Rates

New ad rates were approved by the executive committee and become effective January 1, 1990. The new ads are shown to the right.

ETVC NEWSLETTER

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

President	Charlotte
Vice President	Barbie
Secretary	Donna
Treasurer	Nancy Ann
Education	Melanie & Sandra
Outreach	Evelyn & Telzey
Social	Franchesca & Maxine

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Membership (as of 11/30/89)	344
1988 Membership	286
New members this year	85

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance on 10/1/89	$3,138.50
October income	$1,679.80
October expenses	$1,186.67
	=======
Balance on 10/31/89	$3,631.63
November income	$2,291.69
November expenses	$1,671.60
	=======
Balance on 11/30/89	$4,251.72

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.

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Editor:	Cindy
Design & Layout:	Gloria
Photographer:	David Swanson
Production:	Donna

AD RATES

	per issue	per year
Business Card	$20	$100
4" x 5"	$50	$250
8" x 5"	$80	$400
8" x 10"	$160	$800

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 and April).

HOTLINE 415-763-3959

An Enchanted Evening

Beautiful gowns, great music, and best of all, the ETVC girls who will thrill and enthrall you at the Sixth Annual ETVC Cotillion on January 20 at the California Club. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the show will start promptly at 8 p.m. By far our biggest event of the year, the featured entertainment is the competition for the title of Miss ETVC 1990. The crown will go to the person who is judged best overall after showing her stuff in the talent competition and the evening gown competition. The winner will succeed Susan, our current Miss ETVC. The new Miss ETVC will win several valuable prizes and will be ETVC's official representative at the San Francisco Gay/Lesbian Freedom Day Parade.

No cotillion would be complete without a presentation of the debutantes. Anyone can take participate in this part of the evening, and we don't care if you're over 18 and your Dad doesn't belong to the country club. As an added bonus, this is a FORMAL event. Yep, you cannot be overdressed for this event, this is the perfect night for that "social occasion" dress you've been eyeing in the Macy's ads. All of this, except for drinks, is just $18 per person in advance, $25 at the door. Send in your order, with a self- addressed stamped envelope to ETVC Cotillion tickets, PO Box 6486, San Francisco, CA 94101 before December 31, 1989. Please make your checks out to ETVC. Tickets are also available at the Chez Mollet, 527 Bryant Street, San Francisco and at RGA functions in San Jose. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to Project Open Hand. The California Club is located at 1750 Clay St. (between Van Ness and Polk), in beautiful San Francisco, and parking is available at several nearby lots on Van Ness.

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, January 8 and Monday, February 12 from 8-10 pm. 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 more information.

Chez Mollet
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OUR 22nd YEAR
SERVING SAN FRANCISCO
CONTINENTAL CUISINE
COCKTAIL LOUNGE
DINNER 5:30 - 11 PM
7 DAYS A WEEK
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10:30 AM - 3:30 PM
SUN., MON., TUE.
Prime Rib
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Soup or Salad
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Plus our regular brunch menu
PARTIES ACCOMMODATED IN OUR BANQUET ROOM
Where dinner is a pleasure and parking is a blessing.

HOLLYWOOD STARS

Hooray for Hollywood! Here's your chance to get out that platinum wig you never wear any more and spend a night as Marilyn or Jean or Jayne. Dress as your favorite entertainer, actress, singer or just come out and star gaze at the Chez Mollet on January 25 for ETVC's Hollywood Stars Night. The fun starts at 8 p.m. Members $3 for members and $5 for guests.

TALK LIKE A WOMAN

Come to the Chez on February 10 for a Talk Like A Woman session with Miss Renee of Miss Renee's Charm School. Learn how to turn that deep husky voice into a feminine sounding one. Admission is $3 for members and guests.

CRAZY THURSDAY!

In February, all the world celebrates Crazy Thursday in one way or another. In Europe it's Carnival or Fasching, in New Orleans it's Mardi Gras and of course in Rio it's the real thing, so let's all get crazy for this night. Anything goes and the crazier the better. Let's see if you can top Halloween! It all happens at the Chez Mollet on February 22 at 8:00 PM. Members $3.00 and guests $5.00

SPECIAL INVITATIONS

Be a writer -- volunteer to write an article on a recent social or other event. Remember that the newsletter deadline is almost a full month before the newsletter is due to be delivered. Please send your items to ETVC, P.O. Box 6486, San Francisco, CA 94101. Deadline is the first Sunday of February, April, June, August, October, and December.

The decorating committee meets the night before the regular social. Be a part of the crew that brings you your enjoyment. The hostess committee performs a critical function during every social. It needs people to take party fees, give newcomers introductions, and see to it that we do not have any beautiful wall flowers.

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

OUTREACH

The fog was deep and cool as the day dawned on what promised to be an exciting adventure. As Kate and your reporter were in transit to Golden Gate Park in San francisco, we were reviewing all that has happened to our support group and its varied aspects of socialization for its members this past year. Could we say "We have just begun?" Or have we reached a comfortable maximum in our efforts. The answer to this was a resounding assertion that many mountains remain to be climbed with untold vistas yet unseen. Much more outreach remains ahead for all of us.

Being an outreach chairperson has brought a whole new excitement to my public and private life. The joy at seeing the shining look in the eyes of new arrivals at the Chez when they sense the acceptance and approval of who they are, as they are, is gratifying to say the least.

Stepping out into the chill of the early AM (8:25) at the Concourse our anticipation grew. Opera in the Park isn't for everybody, but for Kate and me, we were ready for an enjoyable time. We, by far, were not the first people to arrive for the day. We had to choose the "right" location to see and be seen. Fortunately there were still some good open spaces in which to spread our blanket and set up chairs.

We were now ready to wait for the festivities to begin amid the cool breeze that circulated around our legs and blew gently at our hair. "Showtime" was to be at 2 PM. A newspaper boy sold us a special opera edition of the Examiner so we had plenty of reading matter to occupy our time. Shortly, a group of three fellows came and spread out their blanket in front of us. They smiled as if to indicate acceptance of and knowledge of what we were. Soon we were all discussing a variety of worldly subjects including our particular preference to be transvestites. Your reporter is an old hand at breaking the ice in this type of situation.

The cool breeze continued to chill our bodies but not our spirits. At about 10 AM the outreach opportunity of the day occurred. A new couple squeezed in to our left and set up their area. the lady smiled approvingly at both Kate and me. A little while later, yours truly, turned to this lady and asked if she had had the opportunity to meet any crossdressers up close and personal. No, was the answer, but she was very interested in learning more about us and why we were there, etc.

Katherine was her name and Don, her husband's name. She told us that she was presently in an intern program for her MFCC degree. Well, Kate & I, of course, gushed out all over her after learning this important fact. The remaining hours before the concert passed in a flash. We gave her a couple of our newsletters, cards and flyers about ETVC and asked her to use them to introduce us to her instructors at school, assuring her of our desire to conduct speaking engagements for their classes.

We have not yet heard from this contact, but outreach is much like pump priming, your pour a little into the effort and get a lot back, we will be getting a lot back soon. This entire story is a prime example of the axiom that you never know where outreach possibilities exist until you put yourself out there to find them.

—Evelyn

Next Outreach Committee meetings:
January 8 in San Francisco,
February 5 in San Jose.

Call Evelyn at 415-[redacted] or
Telzey at 415-[redacted]
for more information,
during reasonable hours please.

EDUCATION

Guess what ladies? It is that time again . Here is the report for the months of October and November. The October session with Joni Israel was sparsely attended; however, those who were there enjoyed the open forum very much. The November event with Miss Renee was very well received with about 25 people showing up for numerous pointers on Passing Plain and Fancy.

Library Donations Are Always Accepted

ETVC is accepting books, magazines and tapes for the ETVC book library. Make room for more dresses in your closet by donating some books or magazines to ETVC, P.O. Box 6486, San Francisco, CA 94101. A few of our members have even made sure that when they pass on their gender library will go to ETVC by setting up living trusts. So give us your books, magazines and articles so we can help even more transgendered persons...you'll be glad you did.

Gender and Self-Acceptance Group

The Gender Minority Program is forming a Gender and Self-Acceptance Group. Group formation will be ongoing. The group will provide structured group consultation with the examination and support of issues surrounding gender and self-acceptance, employment, nurturing, empowerment, self-education and other related issues.

The group is scheduled to meet bi-weekly in San Francisco on Tuesdays from 8 to 9:30 p.m. Group fees are $15.00 for the public and $12.00 for GMP clients. The group will have 5 - 15 individuals from the transsexual (m-to-f and f-to-m) and transvestite (crossdressing) community. Please call Joni Israel at (415) [redacted] or write P.O. Box 4447, San Francisco, CA 94101, for more information.

The Emerald City's
90 in 90 Weekend
April 26 - 29, 1990

Will be held at the beautiful Red Lion - Bayshore Inn in Port Angeles, Washington.

Our sisters from NWGA Portland and the Cornbury Society, Vancouver, BC will be joining us for the weekend.

Friday, we will ferry over to Victoria, BC for high tea at the famous Empress Hotel as well as the sights and shopping in this wonderful and historic Canadian city.

Saturday will include a trip to the absolutely breathtaking view of the Olympic Mountains from Hurricane Ridge.

Our $90.00 registration will include a wine tasting Thursday evening, Friday and Saturday night banquets and brunch on Sunday, among other events.

Room rates will vary depending on accommodations requested, but are most reasonable.

For further details and registration package, please contact Janice Van Cleve or Michelle Lee at:

The Emerald City
P.O. Box 31318
Seattle, WA 98103

Registration will be closing on March 16!!

TV/TS/TG GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

A Calendar of Events for January & February

JANUARY

3	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(415) 841-6224
5	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 988-0790
6	**ETVC**	**Executive Committee**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**San Leandro**	**(415) 481-1894**
8	**ETVC/RGA**	**Rap Group**	**Meets 8-10 PM**	**San Jose**	**(408) 243-3919**
8	**ETVC**	**Outreach Committee**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**San Francisco**	**(415) 964-3655**
10	**ETVC**	**Social Committee**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**San Leandro**	**(415) 483-9090**
11	**ETVC**	**Significant Others Support**	**Meets 8-10 PM**	**Oakland**	**(415) 664-1499**
12	**ETVC**	**Poker Social**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**San Francisco**	**(415) 664-1499**
17	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(415) 841-6224
18	**ETVC**	**Couples Social**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Sausalito**	**(415) 664-1499**
19	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 988-0790
20	**ETVC**	**Miss ETVC Cotillion**	**Starts at 7 PM**	**California Club,SF**	**(415) 367-0359**
25	**ETVC**	**Hollywood Night**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Chez Mollet**	**(415) 483-9090**
26	Pac Ctr	Open Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(415) 841-6224
27	SGA	Dinner/Social	Starts at 7 PM	Sacramento	(916) 362-8131

FEBRUARY

2	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 988-0790
3	**ETVC**	**Executive Committee**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**San Leandro**	**(415) 481-1894**
5	**ETVC**	**Outreach Committee**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**San Jose**	**(408) 243-3919**
7	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(415) 841-6224
7	**ETVC**	**Social Committee**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**San Leandro**	**(415) 483-9090**
8	**ETVC**	**Significant Others Support**	**Meets 8-10 PM**	**Pleasant Hill**	**(415) 664-1499**
9	**ETVC**	**Poker Social**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**San Francisco**	**(415) 664-1499**
10	**ETVC**	**Talk Like a Woman**	**Starts at 2 PM**	**Chez Mollet**	**(415) 481-1894**
12	**ETVC/RGA**	**Rap Group**	**Meets 8-10 PM**	**San Jose**	**(408) 243-3919**
15	**ETVC**	**Couples Social**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Sunnyvale**	**(415) 664-1499**
16	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 988-0790
21	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(415) 841-6224
22	**ETVC**	**Crazy Thursday**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Chez Mollet**	**(415) 483-9090**
23	Pac Ctr	Open Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(415) 841-6224
24	SGA	Dinner/Social	Starts at 7 PM	Sacramento	(916) 362-8131

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 upstairs at the Town & Country Inn's restaurant 2060 Auburn Blvd. Sacramento; call (916) 441-8379 for directions. Write Jennifer Richards, PO Box 417701, Sacramento, CA 95841 for more information.

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 the Community Mental Health Services. Call (415) 554-0518 for details.

First Impressions: More responses

A female friend of ETVC, Susan S., recently posed a series of questions about crossdressing in an open letter to ETVC members. In the last newsletter, we published responses to the first four of her questions. Here are some responses to her last four questions:

1. When you decide to go out alone to shop or do some other activity what triggers the need to go out dressed. How are you feeling then and how do you feel when you get back home?

"I have no idea what triggers the need. And by the way I don't consider it a "need." It's a lifestyle preference! Nonetheless getting ready to go out is great fun: almost like going on stage for a magic show. The challenge is to see how well I pass. My guess is that I pass maybe 20% of the time, but I don't know which 20%." —Janelle

"I don't know what triggers the need to go out dressed, only that I need to do so. I suspect that a lot of it may be opportunity. I don't know as a matter of certainty, but I think I would be dressed the majority of the time if I could, I just don't have the chance...I feel the same way in both circumstances (home and out) - happy, content and comfortable." —Carolyn

"I only know that the more I do get the opportunity to (dress) the more I enjoy it and more natural I feel in "exposing" Judy to her public. While out I don't feel anything strange at all. My mode of dress is hopefully what anybody who glances at me would expect from me at this time and in this place. And, when I get back home, I'm thrilled that Judy has done it again. My only regret is "pumpkin time." —Judy

2. Do you want to be in a traditional women's role such as nurturing or child care or is dressing as far as it goes?

"If 'traditional women's role' is limited to nurturing and child care, absolutely not! I think my children would agree that I've done a good share of nurturing and caring..." —Janelle

"I am already in a "traditional women's role." My wife commutes a long distance. She leaves early and gets home late. I am the one who primarily tends to the needs, emotional and physical, of our child - a job I highly recommend." —Carolyn

"As a teacher, I feel as though I'm already involved in a profession overwhelmingly held by women. However, I have not as yet acquired the desires associated with nurturing a child...I plan to continue teaching till I'm carried from the classroom kicking and screaming that I'm not ready for retirement yet!" —Judy

3. What kind of response would you like from women?

"I'd like to be regarded as simply another human being. A human being with the same hopes, fears, insecurities, vanities, weaknesses, desires, and dreams as other human beings. What we wear are only the props for the social charade that has developed over thousands of years." —Janelle

"The best response I could get from other women is none at all - to have them simply not realize there is anything different about me. As to those who know there is a male body in there, I would like their reaction to be one of acceptance. I present myself as a woman, I need to be accepted that way, and I would like them to do just that." —Carolyn

"The response I'd most cherish from women would be that of support. I'd hope that they would see in me a fellow human being - (a woman, but for the accident of birth) - who like them is most concerned with the betterment of our fellow human beings — our future Americans, who today are in our care, in our classrooms." —Judy

4. What would you tell a woman who is new to all this.

"I'd be reluctant to "tell" her anything. What we'd have to do is agree to go on a journey—side by side—of discovery, much the way explorers venture out. These kinds of adventures are difficult. I'm not sure what we'll discover. We might discover that, in the final analysis, we're people." —Janelle

"First, that the people she is seeing are those who have a very strong need to express an important aspect of their personalities. The need is so strong that we risk being ridiculed by others who hold dear that societal norm which requires that men never display feminine qualities. Further, that crossdressing is a very harmless way to express our needs...Above all I would ask her to reserve judgment on it and see if she can come to accept us for what we are - people with a need." —Carolyn

"That like her I am a human being with all the foibles of a human being! I have the hopes and desires of us all. I'm reasonably intelligent and want to see peace and justice in our time too! ...I love expressing the feminine part of my nature. But, unfortunately, our culture is less than encouraging when men try to emulate all that is wholesome in women. Hence, Judy has evolved with Jim into a complex being over these past 60 years. They have disavowed the guilt once carried as teenagers and have accepted each other as simply components of the whole. They are aware of their innate goodness; and are happy to be able to share of it. Hopefully, the world will be a better place for their being there." —Judy

John Zinn

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DANCERS STAGE
60 BRADY
SAN FRANCISCO
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558-9355

The instructions said, "Check in at the Hotel Californian then register in the hospitality suite." I knew I would have a roommate, but did not know who. When I checked in, I saw the other name on the reservation sheet, but it did not mean anything to me then. I walked up one flight of stairs to the room where I was to check in with Tri-Ess. There I first met a wonderful lady, Diane Ingram. I was a little early as I had arrived at about 11:15 a.m. Off to my room to change and let Janette come alive.

Dressed in a nice purple, very proper, lady's business suit, Janette felt like a million dollars. I went back down and registered for the holiday and was assisted by another nice gal, Terri, from Phoenix. When my roommate walked in, I was extremely happy to see a lady we all know, Donna Freeman. I knew we would have a great four days.

Each afternoon there was a tea at 4 p.m. with a different topic. The first was traveling en femme and the experiences related by the sisters were great. That evening was the welcome party and Janette tried to meet everyone but was so fascinated with everything that it was difficult to meet all.

Thursday afternoon was my scheduled time for a makeup session with Jim Bridges, a professional makeup artist from Hollywood. I really felt pampered. A trip to a local high class French restaurant for dinner was great. The people there treated me like the lady I felt I was in my beautiful evening clothes. A trip to the FI show at "La Cage" rounded out the evening. The show was very good and we sort of stole the show or should I say, we were the show.

Friday brought a trip to Alcatraz. Lots of looks by many. A young woman was on the boat on the return trip. Very nice, she was curious like many others and asked to have her picture taken with us. Nobody in the group refused, not when there were pictures to be taken! Lunch at the wharf was great and so was dinner at Dudley's at the hotel. Donna and I went to the Chez for the ETVC party; I couldn't miss seeing my ETVC sisters.

Overall, I loved the entire four days. It came to a sad end only because it was over too quickly. I do have a small item to remember it by. Janette, being the airhead she is, lost her ticket for the parking lot next door. I went to get my car out, and the attendant was not going to let me have it. I could understand why. I said, "Let's get the registration and I will show your my driver's license to prove it's my car." Well, with a little embarrassment on my part, the poor attendant just about turned six shades of red. From that point on it was "Yes, ma'am" and "No, ma'am." I felt sorry for him. The next day I went to the hotel manager with my parking problem. He gave me a signed business card with the following statement: "This guest lost HER parking ticket, please allow HER to get HER car." Now if that doesn't make the day for any TV, nothing will. I could have kissed him; almost, anyway.

The friends that I made those four days are priceless to me. Sunday getting ready to leave was a very sad time. Five days before we were total strangers and Sunday morning, the very best of friends. Beverly, from British Columbia, Diane and Terri from Phoenix, Jan from NY, and all the others. The hugs and tears were everywhere. I have never felt like this before. I had to walk out before I let anyone know that I was crying. You see I had returned to my boyself that morning for the trip home and that was not the manly thing to do! After driving for an hour or so and reflecting, the tears came again as they are right now. I think of the hug I got from Christy, Diane and others and can feel the caring loving thoughts each of us shared. It is almost beyond explanation. I want all my sisters to know that right now I believe I am more Janette than my boyself; it is too bad I must share some thoughts and a body with him. I truly wish I had stayed a little longer and put my boyself aside for those good-byes no matter how I was dressed.

Virginia Prince and Diane Ingram enjoy a quite moment during the Holiday En Femme.

Many thanks to ETVC and Tri-Ess for making this weekend possible. I truly thank you from the bottom of my heart.
—Janette

P.S. – Saturday evening at the California Club was a blast, and the first time in my life that I have ever won at blackjack.

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The next IFGE Convention is in Boston, March 27-April 1, hosted by the Tiffany Club. I'll be there because I'm the ETVC club rep to the "Congress of Representatives" to meet new people and old friends and be Telzey for a week, to see Boston for the first time, and hopefully, to learn a few things. See their ad, register by Jan. 1 for a 10% discount. Should you care? The IFGE is a very loose organization, with few obligations on members (whose definition is shifting). Subscribe to Tapesty (please) and you can vote for the Board of Directors. Clubs have no particular responsibilities beyond keeping information flowing both ways. Finances are always precarious. There are other national groups, and groups that take hard political stances, but in my opinion, the IFGE is really our best hope to make the gender community strong, to gain friends in the right places, and to influence legislation where friends aren't enough. Heavy stuff? Also, I want to visit the Tiffany Club, which seems to be the only TV/TS group, aside from London, to own its meeting house.

New books available from the IFGE, Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778:

My Husband Wears My Clothes by Peggy J. Rudd, Ed.D. $11.50 postpaid. The expression "clothes don't make the man" has never had a greater meaning. Dr. Rudd is the wife of a crossdresser, who brings a strong educational background to deal with the subject in a family situation. Highly recommended, up-to-date treatment.

The Spirit and the Flesh by Walter L. Williams. $11.50 postpaid. The land mark study of the American-Indian berdache, the gender-variant men. A sourcebook on their status in a wide variety of Native-American societies.

Gender Blending: Confronting the Limits of Duality by Holly Devor, Simon Fraser U. $14.50 postpaid. Make checks to IFGE. Working with a small group of females who were often mistaken for men, Holly examines the social construction of gender and its implications for the lives of gender blending females and for society in general.

The ETVC Hotline is 415-763-3959. Questions have been asked about its purpose. It is not a sex-talk line, nor a dating service, nor do we make referrals to therapists or to third parties who want long conversations. We do try to offer information about ETVC, its events and the location and events of similar groups in this area. The callers include crossdressers, their partners, families, helping professionals, the media and anyone else who gets the number. We advertise widely, as well as using the number in official mailings and in resource lists such as the Tapestry. If you call, you will usually hear a recording of coming events, most taken straight from their calendar, followed by a request to leave your number if you want to be contacted. And within a few days this will be done. Several days of the week we have a live person answering from 7 to 10 PM. Many times I've been unable to reach anyone at the number left, so we want as much live contact as possible, which means volunteers. Surprisingly, we have enough now, but want more for backups. Contact me if you are interested in being a hotline volunteer. The telephone is an expensive, time-consuming item for the club, but necessary both as a first point of contact for newcomers, and a way for anyone in the country, including ETVC members to reach a knowledgeable person when there isn't time to write.

Sick of quake talk? You could have been in Charleston, SC, where the local chapter of Tri-Ess had their social date scheduled at a hotel the same night as hurricane Hugo came ashore. The club leaders thought most members would notice and didn't ask radio stations to carry word of the cancellation. But at least one out of town guest arrived at the hotel just in time to be evacuated.

A) Knock, Knock B) Who's there? A) Sorry, Miss, we're going to have to evacuate you; it's the hurricane B) Oh! Just give me a minute to get my purse and call S.O.S.! Give me a better last line by Jan 30 and win a prize!

The Gulf Coast Transvestite Chapter and Tau Chi of Tri-Ess announce a jointly sponsored weekend for the transgender community to be held May 4 – 6, 1990, in Houston, Texas, and called Fantasy adventure. It is their second venture of this type and will include the usual seminars, dinners, social events, and trips into the local community. You can see me for more information and a registration form or write GCTVC, c/o Jackie Thorne, Box 441754, Houston, TX 77244.

The Emerald City club in Seattle is planning a big get-together, everyone invited , for the last week of April. Rather than in Seattle, it will be held in Port Angeles, on the Olympic Peninsula, across from Victoria, Canada (trips to which will be included). The usual events in a more scenic, rustic area. Inquire at: The Emerald City, P.O. Box 31318, Seattle, WA 98103. (See page 4 for more information.)

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FRANCHESCA'S SOCIAL CORNER

Those of you who didn't venture out for the October Social missed a great event. We had one of the most costume clad nights that I can remember and once again Lenny (owner of the Chez Mollet) generously gave us $100.00 to split between the two top winners.

Judy took half of the top prize while the other half was split between Melissa and Cheryl. Most Outrageous was won by Nancy Ann while the prize for Most Original went to Carmen (aka Cindy). The prize for best group was taken by Sabina and Sophia 1924 (aka Diane and Susan).

Just a small sample of the creative costumes evident at the ETVC Halloween party.

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Couples Group

The couples group is alive and well and having fun at its buffet dinners in the lovely homes of our friends around the Bay Area. The group will be meeting again on January 18 at Lisa's in Sausalito and on February 15, at Rose's in Sunnyvale. Come and be a part of another party just for you and your loved one. To find out more call Ginny at [redacted]

Significant Other Support Group

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 too really be able to share and talk about their feelings. We are frequently assisted by a helping professional with a specialty in our area of concern.

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 January 11 in Oakland and February 8 in Pleasant Hill. For more information call Ginny at [redacted]

Dear Miss Renee,

You smug egomaniac, you're giving my husband ideas, like that it's OK to think he's a woman, and dress up when he pleases, and act like my sister instead of my man. Shame on you, I want my man back, you husband-stealer! –Incensed

Dear Incensed,

Do you remember the Beatle song: Ob-La-Di, Ob-La-Da life goes on...? Well, my dear, it does and if we don't bend to what IS really going on, we break, our marriages break up, and we're left broken-hearted. If you listen to the words of the song carefully, Desmond and Molly Jones actually do change roles and he event paints "pretty face and in the evening SHE's a singer with the band."

I can only say to you that I appreciate your fear and unwillingness to let go of the familiar and societally-approved way you two had been living: change is scary. But the only way to keep your relationship alive is to re-examine some of your inflexible attitudes and get yourself some outside support during this difficult time. Your feelings are perfectly natural and normal, but if you don't learn to enjoy your newly-hatched part-time sister, you better start looking for another Real man...but don't be surprised when you catch your future Mr. Macho in your panties and bra. We ALL seem to repeat our mistakes until we finally learn our lessons. Ob-La-Di, Ob-La-Da life goes on..good luck.

Dear Miss Renee,

I am a lesbian and am meeting more and more of "your" people at our local bar. They seem harmless enough, but to my eyes at least pretty bizarre, I just don't know what to make of all this affected girlishness. They seem to have such a silly and shallow image of being a woman and talk and act like men pretty much anyway, just what gives?? And how do I deal with them? –Quizzical

Dear Quizzical,

Imagine how the Dykes on Bikes must look to John Doe; it just takes a little getting used to. Yes, some men feel trapped in their male roles and sometimes, bodies; it is so deep-seated there is no way to entirely sublimate this urge to cross the gender line. Given this mysterious fact, that some men reel and act out this compulsion, just as mysteriously there are women who seek out other women as partners. The question is, should they hide this need or is it healthier for everyone that they accept themselves and seek out their own in public? How else will society begin re-examining its absolute but absurd taboo on this behavior?

The lesbian community at least shares with these unusual men a mistrust of men and male patriarchy. Although they are often unaware of the political implications of their behavior, they do in fact call into question the inalienable right of men to lord it over women, just by even temporarily and perhaps a bit awkwardly relinquishing their male trappings. If you took the time to do some education with these T's, you might find surprising openness to your perceptions of our society, which they in turn could bring back with them to their marriages and jobs. Welcome them into your bar and teach them about being real women; it could be fun!

TS Rap Group

Moderate to advanced issues. No "bitch" session, positive infor. Moderator: Lori Spencer. RGA "Church" Room #1. 4th Monday each month, 8 p.m. 415-969-1480

Dear Miss Renee,

Short of working with you or a speech therapist what can I do to feminize my voice? –Raspy

Dear Raspy,

Listen to female news commentators or disc jockeys on the car radio and mimic them. Notice not only their pitch, but their timing, breathiness, rhythm, intensity and vocabulary. They say that women speak several languages, with children, with each other and out in the Man's world. How many do you speak?

Dear Miss Renee,

My beard is utterly Neanderthal; how can I hide it? –Alley Oop?

Dear Alley,

Use a quality electric razor, like the Braun, or Noxema shaving cream on moist warm skin with new, double-bladed top notch brand disposable razors-like the Schick. Then put on a moisturizer, such as 98% aloe vera gel, then a theatrical sub-base available at California Theatrical Supply (9th St.) in San Francisco to match your skin tone, and then the Max Factor Pan Stick closest to your natural skin. Use a lot of transparent powder over that to help fill in the pores and then get a move on! Without electrolysis those prehistoric hairs will be popping out in no time...oops!

Send your questions to: Just Ask Miss Renee, c/o ETVC, P.O. Box 6486, San Francisco, CA 94101

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A Note to Our Members From the Executive Committee

During the January Social we will be voting on some important changes to the ETVC Bylaws. The proposed changes may seem small to most of you, but they should not be taken lightly as they will have an effect on future operations within the club and are somewhat necessary so that we may pursue Federal Non-profit status. The first proposed change is to amend the club bylaws to permit absentee balloting for all elections, including officer elections. Currently all those members present during meetings when an election is held have a voting right.

The second proposed change amends the bylaws to change the powers and authority of the Social Committee.

Currently, the social committee is required to get the advance approval of the Executive Committee and the advance approval of the membership for upcoming social activities.

The proposed change in bylaws would make this unnecessary and give the Social Committee sole authority to decide on the themes of all social activities.

We encourage those of you who don't come out much to at least do so for this social so you can have a say in how your group is managed.

If you don't understand anything about the bylaws, feel free to contact any executive committee member or any member of the bylaws committee being headed by Martina.

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BIRTHDAY GIRLS (and guys)

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January

Barbie Sue, Blair S., Carolyn T., Cassandra, Catherine W., Cindy P., Dana C., Emma H., Iam N., Janet N., Janette, Jeanine Y., Lori S., Marie W., Patricia H., Rachael G., Ray E., Shirlee G., St. Paul Patti, Susan L., Tina S., Tracy A.

February

Alexis S., Billi G., Cecilia S., Denise D., Diahanna T., Evelyn H., Gina N., Jackie E., Jan P., Jane M., Jennifer C., Jessica S., Karen A., Linda H., Margo J., Michelle B., Michelle L., Michelle P., Michelle S., Monica A., Philip G., Robin E., Sal C., Sara W., Sharon M., Shirley S., Stephanie S., Toby R., Vanessa S.

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This column is the second in a three-part series on things I have learned from my transsexual experiences. Part one dealt with setting goals and modifying behavior. This part deals with your appearance.

The appearance challenge is this: How does one take a basic male body and transform it into a passable and attractive female body? We begin by looking at the differences in physical appearance between men and women.

It is important to keep in mind those secondary sexual characteristics that are created by testosterone, those that are the result of the absence of testosterone and those that are created by estrogen.

First in general, men have a larger bone structure than women. The female bone structure is the way a person develops in the absence of testosterone. The testosterone in a maturing male causes the bone structure to grow in the male direction. This includes your facial bones, shoulders, arms, legs, feet and hands. Women also tend to have wider pelvis bones and a wider pelvic cavity. Plastic surgeons can alter facial contours to some extent, but most of the bone structure is something with which you will have to live. There are many women who are also large boned. You, like them, will need to learn clothing styles that flatter your figure and avoid those that emphasize your deficiencies.

Testosterone causes the facial and body hair to develop in the male direction and can cause male pattern baldness. These are all things that estrogen, the basic female hormone cannot change once a male has passed through puberty. The one possible exception is that the lack of testosterone may change your body hair in the female direction. Also, with the absence of testosterone, male pattern baldness should be arrested. My endocrinologist told me that it was her opinion that male pattern baldness is arrested in about six months on her prescription. Today, there are plastic surgery techniques that can be used to modify the pattern of hair distribution.

Whether it is the lack of testosterone or the influx of estrogens, the skin gets smoother with female hormones. Pores get smaller. Another thing that sometimes does change with estrogen is muscle mass and physical strength. I noticed a definite reduction in the size of my arms and shoulders. Typically, with the taking of estrogens, you should see some breast development. How much will depend on your prescription and on your heredity. If your breast development is small, you may want to consider breast enlargement surgery. Finally, estrogen will tend to change your body fat distribution in the female direction. However, for me this progress has been the slowest. After 20 months on estrogen I now can see a definite change in my hip and thigh contours, but it has taken a long time.

If you plan on taking female hormones, do so only under a physician's care. You can kill yourself. Also, remember, more is not better. There are no guarantees. Each individual will react differently. Also, most people experience some change in emotional makeup and some may experience mood swings. This varies by the individual, but keep in mind that the process of becoming a woman involves both your body and your soul.

For most of us, electrolysis to remove facial and possibly body hair is a must. It is a long, painful, expensive process. However, the reward will ultimately be the elimination of the close shave that never really gets it all. A five o'clock shadow is a dead giveaway to TS's who try to cross-live with little or no electrolysis. Believe me, it will be enough to put on a little makeup in the morning before going to work. And that is another reward, a little or no makeup and out the door. It tends to be validating. My electrologist is Carole Young and she has considerable experience doing TS's. Electrolysis with someone who does not know what they are doing can permanently damage your skin.

Even with electrolysis and hormones you still may not pass your own standards for femininity if your face has strong masculine contours. In this case you may want to consider cosmetic surgery. Male secondary sexual characteristics may include a larger nose, extended brow bone, wide jaw bone, extended chin or an Adam's apple. There are reputable plastic surgeons who are experienced in dealing with these areas. I have seen some remarkable results. So have you, if you come to ETVC periodically.

You should know that most sexual reassignment surgeons will not accept you as a patient if you are over a certain weight limit for your heart. You need to consider health regimens that will help create the you that you want to be.

Smoking is disastrous for anyone, but for a woman it's worse. Besides shortening your life, smoking is terrible for your skin. Look at the skin of people who smoke heavily, especially around the eyes, and you will see the characteristic wrinkling effect. Also, the chemicals in cigarettes are dangerous in combination with the hormones. So whatever it takes, quit. The future woman in you will thank you someday.

Last year when I sat down and set my goals, one of them was to have a firm, healthy, fit body. I resolved to take an exercise class, but it took me awhile to develop the courage to go to an aerobics class. Doing dancing steps while scantily dressed in front of almost exclusively other women similarly dressed is a real test. I was nervous the first time, but I seemed to do okay, so I went a second time and so forth. I have now put in many hours and feel that these sessions have done me much good. I want to be in the best possible condition for SRS surgery. Besides there are other benefits like muscle toning, the sheer fun of dance, the grace that you learn in the movements as you copy other women and finally, I find it validating to me as a woman. The female instructor talks to the class in subject matter and language that is exclusively for women.

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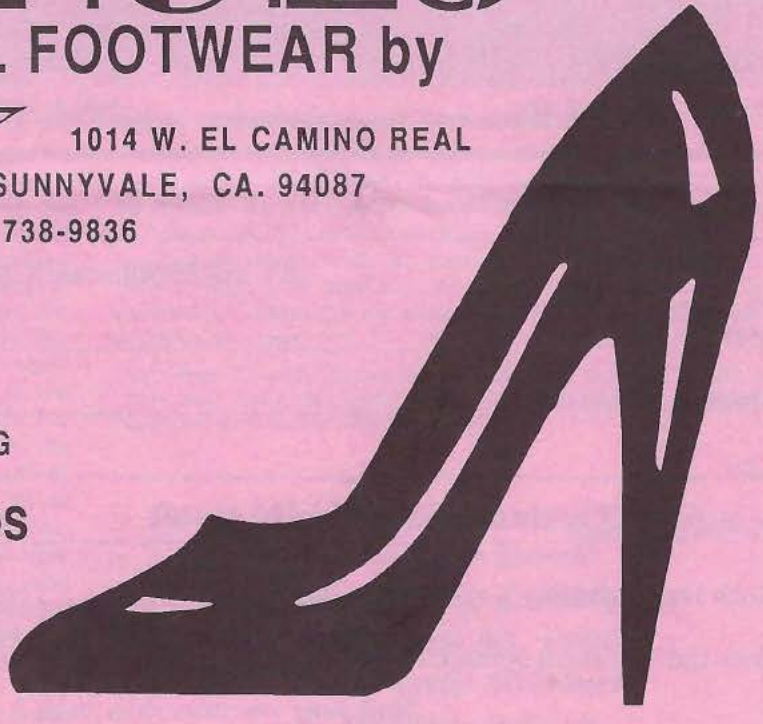

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J2CP Information Services provides an information package consisting of pamphlets and literature concerning gender dysphoria syndrome, transsexualism and transvestism. This information package is available at a cost of $25.00 to cover research, printing 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.

Certified checks or Money Orders should be made payable to **J2CP Information Services.** Please specify whether you are male-to-female, female-to-male, or transvestite when writing. If transsexual, please provide your place of birth.

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South Bay Gender Event Information Line

Martina has changed her hotline to a gender event information line with emphasis on South Bay events. Due to technical dificulties the message is not as long as she would like. However, she has promised to advertise any event concerning crossdressing. Call anytime (408) [redacted] Don't be surprised if the recording becomes live during the evening hours.

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