

S.F. Imperial Court System Celebrates 30 Years

The S.F. Court System which was begun when Jose Sarria declared himself dowager widow of S.F. eccentric Emperor Norton, and therefore Empress of all San Francisco, celebrated its 30th anniversary with a gala coronation at the Fashion Center February 25.

Empress I Jose appeared in regal finery as an historical overview of the Court and San Francisco gay community was read. The evening was given to local and out of town courts from all over the country being presented to the outgoing



Newly Crowned Empress & Emperor
Donna Sashet & Brian Benamati

Emperor and Empress, Chuck Adkins and Anita Martini. The S.F. Court began the evening with a sparkling appearance of their membership, which included the past Emperor and Empress, Mr. & Miss Gays, Mr. & Miss Cowboys, Princes and Princesses. An out of town show the preceding night showcased the other groups, so there were only a few production numbers. One was particularly outstanding as dancers dressed in other-worldly white costumes performed an enchanting number in Circus de Soleil style. Another memorable



Mr. ETVC '95 Dillon King & Mr ETVC '94 Francis Vavra
escort Empress I Jose Sarria at Coronation Close.

act starred Empress Martini's ladies in waiting (including Empressto-be Donna Sashet) stripping out of their pink dresses and blowing them up in a cloud of smoke.

ETVC was present with a record three tables, and were well represented by current and past Mr. and Miss ETVCs, officers, and other members. Several were announced as Cotillion contestants. The evening ended with the stepping down of Anita and Chuck, and the crowning of Donna Sashet and Brian Benamati as the new Empress and Emperor of San Francisco. Ms. Sashet has ties to ETVC and has graced several past Cotillions with her singing talent. This should be an exciting year for their reign.

It's Parade Time!

by Lisa Maxwell

Hi everyone. This year's Pride Parade is taking place on Sunday, June 18, 1995. This year's parade is significant because we now have a new parade name: **The Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Pride Day Parade**. Wow! We made it into the headline banner. Don't miss this fun-filled exciting event. You'll even get some exercise and help that nasty cellulite and other fatty areas. This year we will have our familiar booth, and also, for the first time, we may manage a beer booth just filled with suds. As usual, we need volunteers to staff both booths. These

jobs are fun, involve handing out cookies and brochures, or slinging beer at a mass of thirsty people. See and be seen, make yourself count! We're trying to get as many people out to the parade course as possible; last year I counted 43 marchers; this year I would love to have more to make our transgendered presence known. We will also have a new banner that says, you guessed it, "Transgendered, etc...." with our phone number and our affiliates listed. If you are interested in having some real fun, call me at (415) [REDACTED]. See you there!

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP! SEE PAGE 5.

THE CHANCEL

PHOTO — ROXANNA ROCLETTE

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 3/29/95)	432
Membership (as of 3/31/94)	433
Total Membership last year	454

TREASURER'S REPORT

February income	\$ 6,880.42
February expenses	(\$ 4,292.22)
Difference	\$ 2,588.20
March income	\$ 892.19
March expenses	(\$ 1,631.82)
Difference	(\$ 739.63)

ETVC is a non-profit corporation. Donations are gladly accepted. How about a Fax machine?

Channel, the ETVC Newsletter, is published the last week of February, April, June, August, October and December. Submissions should arrive at ETVC by the 25th day of the previous month. Contents reflect the opinions of the contributors and the editor, and are not necessarily those of ETVC. Other organizations may reprint or reproduce uncopyrighted portions of the newsletter for their members, provided ETVC is acknowledged. Copyrighted materials may be reproduced only with written permission of ETVC.

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AD RATES

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

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

HOTLINE 510-549-2665
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EDITORS NOTES

Francis Vavra

You've got your new outfit on, checked your makeup. Checked the address. The waves of panic have subsided, replaced by anticipation and excitement. Tonight's the night! Jump in your car, drive in a blur of emotion, park, locate the entrance, hurry in. The place is alive with laughter, animated conversation, smiles. Pretty ladies together in pairs, in threes, tables of five, an occasional man, someone says hi, you smile, they disappear. You don't know anyone.** A cute girl catches your eye, you cross the room, but someone they know reaches her first, they begin talking. After a half hour watching happy strangers, you return home sad and alone, take a few photos of yourself in your new outfit and retire. You won't be back. (Ending #1).** Someone sees your lost look, comes up, introduces themselves. "Hi, I'm Cathy. Is this your first time here? How'd you find out about our socials? In a half hour there will be a theme contest upstairs for the best outfit, you're welcome to watch or even participate, let me introduce you to some other fairly new people, and several who have been members a long time. Myself? I've been coming to this group about three years, yes I'm a cross-dresser, and yourself?"... You return home happy and excited, having made several acquaintances, a possible new friendship with one cross-dresser, had your picture taken, took a free Newsletter. You'll be back next month. (Ending #2). Remember how it was at your first social or ETVC event? Sometimes we tend to only hang out with those we already know, but friends were once strangers, too. Keep an eye out for newcomers, talk to them, make them feel welcome, or they may not return, never knowing what a wonderful group we can be...



Letters to the Channel

Dear Mr. Editor,
 When I think about ETVC and how we compare to society as a whole, I realize how daring, interesting, and unique we are. Most people are so worried about what others may think about them, that they might not do what they really want to do. They are not themselves. They are what they think other people think is right. Not us. We say, "damn it, I'm going to be who I want to be, how I want to be, and when I want to be that way." We may not be normal (whatever that means) but, we're certainly not generic. In fact, nothing about ETVC is simple, generic or boring, except our new logo. It sucks! I don't mean to offend the person who designed it, because I'm sure she worked very hard on it. But, it's too easy... too dull... too expected. Let our lesbian friends keep their triangles. Keep the male and female symbols on the bathroom door. We need something as extraordinary, distinctive and unique as we are. I want a logo that sets us apart from everyone else. I want a logo that really says who we are. I

want a logo that I can be proud of. It is my hope that this new logo is not set in stone. Can we please have more time to come up with another one? Please, please, please. -Tedra T.

[Ed. note: Thank you for your input. You are not alone in your opinion; I independently made an editorial decision not to run the new logo in this Channel as originally planned. Stay tuned.]

Editor,

My femme name is Jazz. I am starting a spirit group within ETVC. This group creates a forum for its members to travel inwardly, to discover (uncover) the inner female nurturing self. As for my background, I have been initiated into numerous magical traditions over the last 25 years and have developed personal processing techniques that are simple and beautiful. I have invoked ancient goddesses from traditions around the world, have been trained in the ancient mysteries of the Egyptians,

President's Message

God Bless The Child

Jane Kamper Bentley



ETVC President
Jane Kamper Bentley

Billie Holiday used to sing a song that went "Mama may have and Papa may have/but God bless the child that's got his own." In other words, it's good to be helped, but better if you can take care of yourself.

From ETVC's inception in 1982, our first and only meeting place for 13 years was the Chez Mollet restaurant on Bryant Street. Its back room satisfied just about every need as we grew from infancy to maturity. It was a warm, welcome home that, like children, we took for granted. It had been there as far back as any of us could

remember and always would remain. Lenny Mollet and his crew were kind and loving mamas and papas, on whom we were more dependent than we realized.

When the Chez closed, it was like being evicted from the place you were born.

Fortunately, we didn't become homeless. New venues, Eichelberger's and Kimo's, welcomed us in for our socials and

the Celts and the Fairy Shaman. I have worked with the Native American Tribes, the Sufi Tradition, Eastern Mystical Traditions, Taoists, Buddhists, Tantric Traditions and have channeled wondrous energies from within. I have led 50 hour self initiation workshops, and was a renegade rebirther in the seventies and developed a deep understanding of the breath and ancient pranic techniques. I was trained by one of the founders of NLP, and was certified as a massage therapist. Jasmine (Jazz) Morningsong is a recent manifestation of Robyn Midnight and Jazz is now prepared to share many of her clear facilitation processes with the gender community.

We spend so much time working with our outward appearance. I want to create an opportunity for people in the community to have rich and rewarding internal female experiences. Let's build a small but magical community. We can experience the inner wonders that make us so special. We can have full moon rituals in a female sense, where we draw down the moon and ask for a boon or a rune (a gift or a divination). We can have healing circles and learn to nurture ourselves in times of need. We can have rites of passage for our loved ones who

have gone on, or hand fasting for those couples with deep love for each other and we can have trance journeys and visit very special places within ourselves. I can help manifest a magical fabric where we can be with our deeper selves, learn what is deep inside and grow into the many facets of manifestation that we represent.

I am not any more special than anyone else in this community. We are all breathing the same air. We are all equals. If there are

ladies of the spirit with interests similar to those that I have nurtured in myself, then let's get together and expand our inner beauty. Contact me at (415) [REDACTED] X7629 and leave a message. We need a quality space to meet in. We could meet around the time of the full moon as the female energies are at their peak at that time of the month. What do you think? What do you want? What do you need?

Congratulations to James Green, Editor of FTM, and recipient of an IFGE Trinity Award given at the IFGE Coming Together/Working Together Convention in Atlanta. James was honored for his many contributions to the gender community, particularly his leadership role in the FTM organization.

James did double duty that night, accepting a second Trinity Award on behalf of noted author Leslie Feinberg, who was unable to attend.



Trinity Award Recipient James Green

Special Events



ETVC Mid-Month "Bad Movie Night"

Wednesday, May 10th

We will be hosting a "Bad Movie Night" upstairs at Kimo's. You can enjoy one or two really bad movies, have a running commentary on the plot (or lack thereof), or just visit with friends. Popcorn will be provided. 8 PM at Kimo's, 1351 Polk at Pine, SF. Admission is FREE!

Education Seminar: Ask Dr. Lin Fraser

Wednesday, May 17th

What can I say about Dr. Lin? Just about everybody in our community knows, loves and respects this loving and supportive woman, and many of us have been guided and aided by her in our journeys as we deal with relationships or transitions. And many of us are patiently waiting "on the list" until we, too, have a chance to work with the wonderful Dr. Lin. But now, here she is! In person, live on stage up close and personal! And your chance to "Ask Dr. Lin" during a revealing and rewarding Q&A discussion. To make it easy on her, a moderator will collect question cards from the audience to facilitate our program. Please be punctual for this one, people! We'd hate to keep the good doctor waiting! Kimo's, 8 PM, \$3.

Election and Awards Nite/Flower Child Party

Thursday, May 25th

Do you remember the 60's? Come on out, be cool and have a groovy time. We will be thanking and recognizing volunteers from our various committees, and introducing our new ETVC officers. Let's show our support and have fun. Eichelbergers - 2742-17th St, at Florida, SF - 8PM. Members free, Guests \$5.

TS Seminar and Social: Dr. Charles Moser presents - Transgender Internal and Sexual Medicine

Sunday, June 11th - Early date this month due to Parade!

Dr. Charles Moser has an extensive education in sociology and human sexuality, beginning with a BS in Physics from the State University of NY at Stony Brook, 1974, receiving an MSW from the U of WA in 1975 and his Ph.D. from the Institute for Advanced Study of Human Sexuality in August, 1979. Dr. Moser went on to receive his School of Medicine M.D. from Hanemann University in May, 1991, and after an Internship at Mt. Zion and a two-year residency at St. Mary's Hospital, has since established his own private practice here in the Castro district of San Francisco. A slide presentation will highlight his work and he will discuss his practical experience working with the transgender community. Mark your calendars for this one - open to all self-identified transsexuals! A Potluck Social will follow. Kimo's provides a full-stocked bar and a special discount for the first hour after the seminar! Please bring an item to share according to last names as follows: A-G: salads - H-M: Main Dish - N-S: desserts - T-Z: Finger Foods, or bring your homemade specialty! Kimo's - 2PM. This is a FREE Seminar! Donations of \$1 however, will be gratefully accepted. Seating is limited, so get there early!

ETVC Mid-Month Dance Social

Wednesday, June 14th

You are invited to Kimo's for this dance social. It will be upstairs and Richard is the great DJ! A surprize will be given to the first 12 guests. This has been a fun event, so see you upstairs at Kimo's, 1351 Polk at Pine, SF, 8PM, Admission is FREE!

Education Seminar: The Care and Feeding of Wigs by Continental Wig Salon

Wednesday, June 21st

Louise at Continental Wig Salon has been supporting our community since 1978, and as many of you know, has created wonderful pieces for us, including former Miss ETVC's! Tonight though, she really wants to do this up right, and to do so, she needs about six volunteer MODELS from our membership. If you want to model Louise's beautiful creations and help out the Education Committee as well, PLEASE plan to arrive at 7:15 PM for fittings and styling. And if you're thinking about a new do, this is a perfect time to check out what's new, ask questions, make comparisons, or maybe learn how to revitalize your current favorite. This is a great "how-to" seminar which is a must for your schedule! See you there! Kimo's - 8PM - \$3.

The Really Big Shew

Thursday, June 29th

Head straight to Kimo's for the arrival of THE REALLY BIG SHEW! There will be live entertainment from members of ETVC and others. Let's see the future stars shine bright on stage! This should be another great evening. Upstairs at Kimo's, 1351 Polk at Pine, SF, 8PM, Members \$3, Guests \$5.

If you are interested in participating in the Big Shew, please contact Jane through the ETVC Voice Mail Box, (415) 334-3439, Mailbox code JANE.

Announcing the ETVC Rap Group!

Thursday, May 11th and June 8th

Something new has been added! A rap group will be meeting in San Francisco on the second Thursday of each month from 8:30 to 10PM at the Bethany United Methodist Church, at 1268 Sanchez Street, SF. Please drop by if you are new to this lifestyle and have lots of questions or if you have been around for awhile and can help us give some of the answers, or if you just want to make new friends. For more information, call the ETVC Voice Mail Box, (415) 334-3439, Mailbox code JANE.

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TV/TS/TG GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

A Calendar of Events for May & June



May					
1	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 937-8432
5	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
6	Bimbo's	Closet Ball	Starts at 8 PM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
7	ETVC	Education Committee	Meets at 2 PM	Kimo's-Upstairs	(415) 648-0973
7	ETVC	Newsletter Committee	Meets at 1 PM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
9	ETVC	Outreach Committee	Meets at 7:30 PM	Berkeley	(510) 534-8407
10	ETVC	Bad Movie Night	Starts at 8 PM	Kimo's-Upstairs	(415) 282-2803
11	ETVC	Rap Group	Meets 8:30-10PM	San Francisco	(510) 549-2665
11	ETVC	Significant Others	Meets 7:30-10PM	Pleasant Hill	(415) 664-1499
12	ETVC	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
12	S.Bay	Gender Discussion Group	Meets 8-10 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-5619
13	ETVC	Executive Committee	Starts at 8 PM	TBA	(415) 750-1850
13	SGA	Social	Starts at 7:30 PM	Sacramento	(916) 482-7742
14	FTM	Informational Meeting	Meets at 2 PM	San Francisco	(510) 287-2646
16	ETVC	Social Committee	Meets at 8 PM	Eichelberger's	(415) 282-2803
17	ETVC	Ask Dr. Lin	Starts at 8 PM	Kimo's-Upstairs	(415) 648-0973
17	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 937-8432
18	ETVC	Couples Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
19	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
20	ETVC	Bowling Night	Call for details	San Francisco	(415) 731-7032
21	ETVC	TS Committee	Meets at 2 PM	Kimo's-Upstairs	(415) 648-0973
25	ETVC	Elections/Awards Night	Starts at 8 PM	Eichelberger's	(415) 282-2803
27	SGA	Social	Starts at 7:30 PM	Sacramento	(916) 482-7742

June					
2	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
3	ETVC	Executive Committee	Starts at 8 PM	TBA	(415) 750-1850
4	ETVC	Education Committee	Meets at 2 PM	Kimo's-Upstairs	(415) 648-0973
5	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 937-8432
8	ETVC	Significant Others	Meets 7:30-10 PM	Union City	(415) 664-1499
8	ETVC	Rap Group	Starts 8:30-10 PM	San Francisco	(510) 549-2665
9	ETVC	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
9	S.Bay	Gender Discussion Group	Meets 8-10 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-5619
10	ETVC	SOS Luncheon	Starts at 11:30 AM	San Francisco	(510) 934-0826
10	SGA	Social	Starts at 7:30 PM	Sacramento	(916) 482-7742
11	ETVC	TS Seminar: -Dr Moser	Starts at 2 PM	Kimo's-Upstairs	(415) 648-0973
11	FTM	Informational Meeting	Meets 2 PM	San Francisco	(510) 287-2646
13	ETVC	Outreach Committee	Meets at 7:30 PM	Berkeley	(510) 534-8407
14	ETVC	Dance Social	Starts at 8 PM	Kimo's-Upstairs	(415) 282-2803
16	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
17	ETVC	Bowling Night	Call for details	San Francisco	(415) 731-7032
18	Parade	Gay Freedom Day	Call for details	San Francisco	(415) 493-8099
20	ETVC	Social Committee	Meets at 8 PM	Eichelberger's	(415) 282-2803
21	ETVC	Continental Wig Salon	Starts at 8 PM	Kimo's-Upstairs	(415) 648-0973
21	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 937-8432
22	ETVC	Couples Social	Starts at 8 PM	TBA	(415) 664-1499
24	SGA	Dinner /Social	Starts at 7:30 PM	Sacramento	(916) 482-7742
25	ETVC	TS Committee	Meets at 2 PM	Kimo's-Upstairs	(415) 648-0973
29	ETVC	The Really Big Shew!	Starts at 8 PM	Kimo's-Upstairs	(415) 282-2803

OTHER GROUPS

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. Write: PO Box 215456, Sacramento, CA 95821-1456. Call: (916) 482-7SGA. Now held at The Townhouse, 1517-21st St., in Sacramento.

Diablo Valley Girls (DVG) Meets first Monday and third Wednesday 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.

Please note: The Wednesday night meeting dates may be changed. Please call to verify.

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

ETVC Membership Application

Please Print

Mailing Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Preferred Name: _____ Family Member's Name: _____

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 Webs We Weave

An explosion of activity is taking place on the *InterNet*, a world wide network of interconnected computers. Thousands of transgender people are exchanging messages with each other using electronic mail and an electronic bulletin board called ALT.TRANSGENERATED. More recently, *InterNet* users have been creating and exploring a vast maze of interconnected electronic documents called the *World Wide Web (WWW)*. Many people have created such document pages dealing with gender issues.

One views *Web Pages* by running a special program called a *browser*. This program displays these pages on your screen, highlighting important words which serve as links to other pages, pictures, sounds, movies, and computer files. By clicking on these links, one can jump from document to document, computer to computer, exploring and learning, a process called *Web Surfing*.

One of the best web pages around, *The Transgender Forum*, is presented by our own Cindy Martin. From here one can read the local and national tipsheets, view photos of ETVC club members and friends, and peruse articles. Moreover, you can follow links to other transgender pages and resources.

So how does one get on? The major on-line services such as Prodigy and America On Line are on the verge of making web browsing a standard feature of their systems. While these services are easy to set up and use, they charge by the hour for time spent surfing, and do not presently allow full access to *InterNet* features.

If you don't want to wait for full access, or want to avoid hourly fees, you can sign up with an *InterNet Service Provider* for \$15-\$30 per month for unlimited use. Beware — some of the large *InterNet* service providers are overwhelmed by the demand for access and quality has suffered.

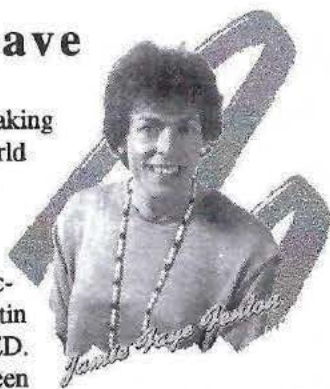
For those of you in the East Bay or the South Bay, I recommend ZOOM.COM as an *InterNet* service provider. ZOOM is operated by a supportive friend of the gender community and the quality of service is good. For further information call: (800)-9GET-ZOOM, which translates to: (800)-943-8966-6. (The extra 6 at the end is necessary.)

The electronic address for Cindy's page, (called its *Universal Resource Locator* or *URL*) is:

<http://www.zoom.com/personal/cindym/indextg>

I have a personal page as well, known as:

<http://www.zoom.com/personal/jamief/jffpage>



Atlanta Action '95- Community Spirit

by Lisa Maxwell

The Ninth Annual International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE) Convention was held from March 12-19, at the Sheraton Colony Hotel in Atlanta, GA. This year's IFGE convention was unique in many ways; billed as a leadership and community building gathering, many of the traditional staples, such as separate CD and TS educational tracks were absent. In the past, the convention offered educational events ranging from makeup, clothing, and comportment seminars to hormones and aspects of SRS. Instead, this year's focus was on community building, focusing on how to develop many of the features that we here at ETVC already have as part of our committee-run educational support structure. There were workshops ranging from state and national political organizing for transgendered rights, to local community building, to philosophical and spiritual aspects of transgenderism. The local community building featured topics such as how to start a newsletter, how to maintain a support group, how to interface with counseling professionals, and how to start a telephone hotline. Very enlightening, great people!

In addition to the workshops on community building, meetings were held of the Congress of Transgendered Organizations (CTO). This is an umbrella group of about 110 of the approximately 220 gender organizations in the U.S.! Closely associated with IFGE, the CTO meets four times annually, and attempts to speak on a national level for all of us by gathering input through our own community forum. A CTO/IFGE World-Wide-Web Home page will soon be on the Internet, thanks to our own Jamie Faye Fenton, Dawn Wilson of Kentucky, and Jenny Sands, of Oslo, Norway, co-founder of the Euro-Fantasia Fair.

The CTO made a recommendation to IFGE to try to reduce the cost of the annual convention. Because of the cost which includes Entry Fee, plane fare, hotel room, and meals, the conventions have an exclusive nature where many in the community cannot afford to attend. I don't know how we can claim to speak for the community at large when only 100+ people can afford to attend. The 1996 IFGE Convention is being held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and may be less expensive.

The Trinity Awards, conceived by IFGE, and consisting of a metal 3D replica of the IFGE rose-in-hands logo, are usually presented to people who have given outstanding service to the community. Our own local gentleman, James Green, was among the recipients for his work on transgender protection for all citizens of San Francisco. Congratulations, James!

Another new feature of this year's convention is the emergence of a strong philosophical and spiritual expression in our community. While this is most popularly associated with Kate Bornstein, with her "Gender Outlaw", "The Opposite Sex is Neither" literary works turned into theatrical performance concepts (she truly is our community entertainer), these ideas are being taken further by Martine Rothblatt, author of *The Apartheid of Sex*, and many others. What we are leading into is the realization that our strengths, in many ways, arise from us being able to understand both sides of the gender issue on a personal, intimate level. This is an incredibly powerful awareness that we are just learning how to reach and use for the betterment of humanity.

We were also able to sample the wondrous nightlife of Atlanta, and meet some of the town residents. This event is something everyone should do just once, to meet people from around the country, and for a great time. See you next year!



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Outreach Miscellany

by Telzey Adams

This year's IFGE convention was celebrated in March in lovely Atlanta, Georgia. Newt was a no-show but at least six from Northern California worked and partied at this grandmother of events. Since it was the East Coast, I started of course, by going to New York City for the shopping and cultural life. Lee Brewster still runs his two special stores for cross-dressers and it still takes all day to go through Saks, Bloomingdales, and Lord & Taylor. Sunday was for the Metropolitan Museum of Art, with Picassos and Pollacks, and a wonderful, huge portrait of a French lady and her two beautiful children in blue dresses and long curls (the wall plaque definitely gives one of the two a boy's name). Ten p.m. found me at the notorious Club Edelweiss, 11th Ave. near 43rd Street, essentially the same activity as the MotherLode, but larger, 3 rooms, with a more diverse, less inhibited crowd. Since it's New York, you can drink and dance until 4 a.m., eat at the diner next door, then walk up 42nd Street through Times Square to the subway. Taking AmTrak to Atlanta seemed a good idea, once, the leg room is wonderful in the overnight chair cars.

Part of the IFGE convention is recognition of the people who do all the hard scut work in our community. Wednesday's Trinity Awards (which our Ginny got last year), went to Dallas Denny of AEGIS, James Green of our local FTM International, Laura Caldwell of IFGE, author/transgender activist Leslie Feinberg, Sharon Stuart of IFGE and many other groups, and Linda Peacock of TriEss. Saturday night the Virginia Prince Award (presented by herself and others) went to Yvonne Cook-Riley of the IFGE, who is always there on the phone when I call for information.

Lisa Maxwell will cover the educational and party aspects of the convention (she visited every reasonable local dance club and got up for morning seminars). I preferred the hotel bar, well occupied from the other convention at the hotel, the Black Legal Students Society, and struggled to be up and dressed by noon each day. I did cross the street to a theater where Kate Bornstein did a benefit performance of her gender play "The Opposite Sex is Neither". Seven characters tell their life stories. The persona based on Billie Tipton was the best realized, and she would make some people cry by describing Doris Fish. Possibly Bornstein will be returning to San Francisco and develop a new work here.

Sunday was the kickoff for the Minneapolis convention in March '96. As it's the 10th Anniversary and that city supports a dozen transgender groups, and they're promising the moon, you might consider going. I'll probably be there.

Picked up at the convention and available by mail from IFGE: "Gender Dysphoria, Interdisciplinary Approaches in Clinical Management". Ten doctors describe their special fields, overviews, problems and conclusions when treating gender identity disorders.

"Hollywood Androgyny", by Rebecca Bell-Metereau (2d. Ed.). She describes transvestism and gender-bending in hundreds of films from the silent days to 1994. Pictures. I didn't know they wanted to make "Some Like it Hot" in color, to feature Monroe, but Curtis and Lemmon just looked awful (but sweetly pretty in black and white).

"Girl Talk: Melanie Speaks". Transsexual Melanie Phillips videotape is a "unique dramaturgical approach to achieving a convincing female voice." Worth seeing for less than the cost of one voice coach lesson.

Deborah Hammond, the local photographer who is doing glamour head shots of the TG community is still taking appointments. Call her at 415- [REDACTED] No money either way, but you get a print.

ODDS & ENDS

DVG DATES CHANGE - AGAIN

Diablo Valley Girls will still meet at JR's in Walnut Creek on the 1st Mondays of the month, and 3rd Wednesdays in April. They may change to 1st and 3rd Mondays as of June. Please check their hotline for updates.

More News on FTM Convention

The first national FTM Convention, being hosted and arranged by S.F.'s FTM International, will be held at New College in San Francisco the weekend of August 18-20. Friday's and Sunday's events will take place at the Valencia Street campus, while the Saturday workshops (9-5) will be at the Fell Street location. Registration is approximately \$100.00, and although most topics and workshops will be addressing FTM subjects/ point of view, all are welcome if interested in FTM issues. You may register early by sending \$100 checks made out to "FTM" to their mailing address: FTM, 5337 College Ave., #142, Oakland, CA 94618. Call (510) 287-2646 for more information.

Note: FTM has run out of stock of Lou Sullivan's book "Information for the Female to Male Crossdresser & Transsexual" and will no longer be selling it. This book can be obtained through the publisher, The Ingersoll Gender Center, 1812 East Madison, Seattle, WA 98122, in S.F. at A Different Light Bookstore, or borrowed from the ETVC library.

Ballots for Officers

You will soon be receiving your ballots for Executive Committee officers. Please vote (even if there is only one candidate for a particular office). And remember to send in your renewal forms for your annual membership. Thanks!

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The New Woman

Roberta "Bobbi" Dunne
*Member of the Board of Directors,
San Francisco Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/
Transgender Pride Committee*

On Saturday, June 27, 1970, thirty people, mostly hippies and drag queens marched down Polk street to the Civic Center to commemorate the previous year's riots at New York's Stonewall Inn. The following day, 200 people assembled at a "Gay-In" in Golden Gate Park. At least one San Francisco resident did not participate because he did not think "a riot should be memorialized". The police made six arrests. However, in spite of division and oppression, the community persevered. San Francisco now produces the largest annual Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Pride Event in the world.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of that first San Francisco Pride Parade and Celebration. All estimates and projections indicate this will be our biggest party ever, and as we have in previous years, we appeal to every member of the community to roll up their sleeves and come help us produce this truly amazing experience. For the Transgender Community, that appeal has a special meaning. Our event is recognized throughout the world as a profound call for personal freedom and a reaffirmation of our determination to succeed in the struggle for civil rights. It is only fitting that this year the term "Transgender" has been added to the title of the committee that produces the event, as well as to the Celebration and Parade itself. This was done in recognition of the unique identity of the Transgender Community. It was also an acknowledgement of its past and present contributions to the cause of Freedom.

This is where you come in. ETVC is likely to be assigned a Beer Booth this year and will undoubtedly gain financially from its marriage with the Parade. This money will in turn help ETVC in its efforts to provide vital services. ETVC was also invited to submit a proposal to manage the Merchandise Committee. While this contract was awarded to another organization, the inclusion of ETCV in the process of determination expresses the respect it has earned. Simply put, the members and friends of ETVC have the skills to get the job done, whatever the job. These skills translate into mutual cooperation and advantage for all diverse groups. We all gain when everyone works together.

The Parade Committee needs you. Last year, less than a dozen TGs volunteered to help with the committees developed to produce the event. One of the most often heard reasons for this dismal showing was a feeling of lack of inclusion. Well, now the TG community has been included BIG TIME. This is Your opportunity to shine. If you need to retain your anonymity, there are a number of committees that can remain sensitive to that need while benefitting from your enthusiastic presence. A list of Standing Committees include: Beverage, Booth, Celebration, Float/March, Media, Medical, Publication, Safety, Site, Special Needs, Support, and Volunteer. For a more detailed description of these committees, or for more information concerning the Parade and Celebration, or to volunteer, please call the office at 415-864-3733. We may be reached by mail at 584 Castro St., Ste 513, San Francisco, CA, 94114. Our e-mail address is SFPrize@AOL.com. You may contact me directly by e-mail at

Thank you.



Night Man

What's In a Title?
Francis Vavra

Holding the title "Mr. ETVC" this past year was not an ego trip, although I did enjoy the recognition, and was truly proud to represent the group as the first "Mr.," having started a precedent to accompany our annually crowned "Miss". Lisa Maxwell, our Vice President, worked hard to find a candidate or candidates to succeed me, and persuaded the talented Dillon to run, who successfully did so. So what is in a title? It portends promise, and can be used as a tool for dialogue and networking. A title is what you make of it, no more, no less. The Imperial Court system puts importance on their camp titles as a public focus to bring in money, as they are primarily a fundraising organization. They also use their titles as an excuse for much pomp and circumstance, theatricality and dressup, in both feminine and masculine presentations. ETVC is mainly a social and educational group, but we have many ties with the Court. Some Court people are members of ETVC, some of our members work with the Courts (and hold titles there), and we participate in each other's shows. Shauna Rose was introduced as Miss ETVC '93 when she competed in the '95 S.F. Mr./Miss Gay Pageant, and Empress Tiffany of Alameda County constantly reminds everyone she was Miss ETVC '90.

My title this past year gave me a higher profile in fundraising shows, and I used it for consciousness raising about ETVC, even healing rifts and straightening out some misconceptions between groups along the way. This was "outreach", but I did it as "Mr. ETVC" rather than using my officer title as Outreach Co-chair. The officers do all the behind the scenes work, and I am glad to have also been part of the Executive Committee the past two years, but Miss and Mr. ETVC are our most visible public ambassadors. ETVC always honors its past Miss ETVCs at our own functions (riding in the car at the LGBT Parade with the current titleholders, in the written programs and at the annual Cotillion). We also acknowledge major titleholders from the Court, present and past, who attend our Cotillion. So it was with some surprise and upset that I learned I would not be announced as "Mr. ETVC '94", but only as an officer at the S.F. Imperial Court's historic 30th Anniversary Coronation when ETVC was presented, and that the protocol cards could not be changed. I was told that announcing my past title was "not important" since past Miss ETVCs were not announced (most do not attend court functions after their reign, and those who have often sit with other groups; I personally feel their title should be announced if they walk with us). ETVC is one of the few nonCourt groups allowed to walk at coronations because of our ties, I had many friends there that night who only knew me by that title, and I had only stepped down three weeks before. I had been very active in Court related events, this evening was nothing but groups being announced and presented, and something had to be done.

Rather than remaining depressed, I mentioned my feelings to V.P. Lisa, who with her "never say never" attitude, helped me retrieve my card, which I changed just in time. There wasn't room on the card to also include my current title of Ambassador of ETVC to Empress Tiffany's ISE Court of which I am also proud, but with lighter heart I was announced with my former title. The rest of the

evening I continued introducing the current Mr. and Miss ETVC, Dillon and Tammy, to everyone I could, as it is now their year in the spotlight.

The evening ended with Tammy, Dillon and myself greeting the outgoing Empress and Emperor, Anita and Chuck, who have been very friendly to ETVC, as they stepped down, and the newly crowned Empress Donna Sachet, who started out in ETVC herself, and Emperor Brian Benamati. As we left the hall, a photo opportunity presented itself when Dillon and I escorted Empress I Jose down the steps with the media filming away, and someone began interviewing her as we remained standing on either side, Dillon wearing the Mr. ETVC '95 sash and crown, myself a small crown lapel pin and happy glow. A big to-do was made over Jose being the first Empress of all San Francisco; her stories and accomplishments are legendary. But then, a title is what you make of it.



Empress I Jose

Gender Events Around the Country

Esprit '95

Port Angeles, Washington: May 17-21, 1995; Sponsored by Emerald City of Seattle, WA, NWGA of Portland, OR, and the Cornbury Society of Vancouver, B.C. Early Registration is \$145.00 plus \$80.00 for S.O. if received by April 20, 1995. After April 20, fee is \$165.00, \$90 for S.O. Mail registration checks to: ESPRIT, P.O. Box 873, Kirkland, WA 98083-0873. You must make own room reservations with Red Lion Bayshore Inn, (206) 452-9215. Enjoy an ocean cruise, High Tea in proper British tradition, Jim Bridges boutique, classes, speakers, dining, dancing. Additional sightseeing tour includes Lake Crescent, Hurricane Ridge, possibly coastal rain forest (each trip approx. \$45.00).

13th Annual Be-All '95

Cincinnati, Ohio, June 7-11, 1995; the Midwest's largest and oldest gender conference; held at Holiday Inn Blue Ash. Includes a "paddle-wheeler" dinner cruise on Ohio River, many workshops and well-known speakers. Write Crossport Be-All, P.O. Box 54657, Cincinnati, OH 45254 for registration form and information. Low rates for hotel rooms (\$59, rather than normal \$125) sell-out quickly, so get registration checks in early.

4th Annual Transgender Law and Policy Conference: TRANSGEN '95

Houston, Texas, Hilton Hotel Southwest, June 14-18, 1995; Sponsored by International Conference on Transgender Law and Employment Policy, Inc. (For lawyers: will apply for 25 CLE and CEU hours). A number of speakers and workshops on jobs, health, insurance, rights, and documents (if transgendered), including our own Melinda Whiteway. If you can, stay one additional day for "Town Meeting II", a huge gathering of lesbian, gay, bi, and transgendered art and business exhibition booths and entertainment at the AstroHall. Send for registration form (or just send check to: Phyllis Randolph Frye, Executive Director, ICTLEP, Inc., 5707 Firenza Street, Houston, Texas 77035-5515. [Entire conference is \$140 if received before April 5, \$158 received before June 5, \$175 after June 5.] A bargain for much transgendered legal advice.

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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.

An Ode to Julie

by Ginny Knuth

(with sincere apologies to Elizabeth Barrett Browning)

How can we thank you? Let me count the ways ...

*For your courage not to run and hide
But to stand proudly with him, side by side.*

*For your faith and insight to his deepest needs
And your gift of his right to sow those seeds.*

*For your commitment to help others along the way
When the tides were rough and the skies were grey.*

*For the generous time you gave us to listen and empathize and care
As we scrambled to pick up the pieces wishing life were more fair.*

*For the intelligent, positive spin you gave our unique lifestyle
Giving us new hope and the belief we could go that extra mile.*

*For the hours, days, months and years you devoted to helping us meet
To gain personal strength and the confidence to stand on our own two feet.*

*For five years of hard work, keeping us active and scheduling our days
How do we thank you? Oh, Julie, how we do love you ...
We couldn't count all the ways!*

For over five years, Julie Freeman has been devoting a great deal of her time to our Significant Other Support Group. Julie has contacted you every month asking for hostesses for both the SOS Group meetings and the Couples Group meetings. As you know, not everyone is comfortable enough to open their homes to public knowledge of where they live, and many of our members just come for a short while and then are able to go on beyond that point

A Letter to a Disapproving Son:

by Sandra Brewer

It is unfortunate you feel my affliction robs you of the father you need; I suppressed it for several years partly to give you this father when I felt you needed him the most. Still, it has always been there as a major part of my psyche, which I was able to suppress because I knew of no outlet for it 20 years ago, and because another part of me wanted to be the father in a family held together by love. Credit my mother for planting this seed in me. The love I have as a father for my children will always be there, even if part of it must be from afar. It is perhaps ironic that it was my revelation that helped you realize an appreciation you had not previously displayed for the "old" me. This "old" me is still alive, and will always love you even if you can't accept my lifestyle. I apologize for the confusion I must have caused you by suppressing this for so many years.

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, May 11 and Thursday, June 8. There will be a Saturday luncheon meeting on June 10. You are welcome with open arms. For more information call Ginny at (415) [REDACTED]

Significant Others Support Group HALL OF FAME



Julie Freeman

of acceptance. So this "little job" of finding meeting locations month after month for over 60 months tends to finally wear you down.

Julie also sent a letter to all members with meeting locations and times listed. She created the letter, she folded, stuffed and begged for stamps to mail the letter every month for over five years. But Julie didn't stop there. She heard a need from some of the SOS members to have a luncheon meeting on Saturday. She organized these luncheons on a quarterly basis thereby

finding a way to help a few more lost souls out there.

Now Julie has some other irons in the fire, some of which will continue to be geared toward helping transgendered couples, and has asked to be relieved of her overall responsibility to our SOS Group. Fortunately, we will still see her at our functions when she can make it, but we are now looking for a new coordinator/facilitator for our group. Are there three or four of you out there who would be willing to fill Julie's shoes? Please call me at 415-[REDACTED] just as soon as you can.

So, as we say thanks to Julie for all her dedication and loving efforts over the years, I kept thinking there should be some other permanent way to say thank you, like putting her into the Hall of Fame, except we didn't have one of those. And then it seemed to me we should have a Significant Other Support Group Hall of Fame, and so now we do — and I'm happy to announce the first inductee to our Hall of Fame is (drum roll, please) Yes! it's our friend and leader, Julie Freeman. **Julie, you're the greatest!**

The situation has changed now. The family has grown up and moved on. The gender community provides an excellent outlet for new members as well as a social outlet for established members. At your request I have spared you the details, but I am solidly into this lifestyle - deeper than you can imagine. The rest of the family knows most of these details which I am ready to discuss if you show any interest.

I am not proud of my lifestyle, although I do take pride in some of the things I've accomplished while living it. Neither am I ashamed of it; it doesn't break any laws or violate anyone, so I am not apologizing for it. It's not clear why I have this affliction in the first place, only that it started very early, and it won't go away. The whole idea of gender identity is only a social construction, so it is purely a value judgment to reject anyone because of it.

It will have to be your decision to accept me as a person even if you still can't accept my lifestyle. I sympathize with the



Please help us... please consider hosting either a Significant Other Support Group Meeting or a Couples Social in your home. Many of you have found ways to live with the transgender lifestyle and don't need our support anymore, but now these support groups need you to help others who are looking for answers and understanding. Please call me at (415) [redacted] if you would be willing to hold even one meeting in the next six months in your home. It's a good feeling to help others; you are uniquely qualified to do so and for once you'll be glad you agreed to volunteer. Thanks for your consideration.

Another Saturday luncheon is planned for June 10th at Mama's Restaurant in San Francisco (near Union Square and all those wonderful stores like Saks, Neiman Marcus and the new Gumps). The luncheon is for significant others, but if your partner wants to bring you, there will be another table set up for him/her. Please note this is a non-crossdressed event (attend in DRAB). Call (510) 934-0826 for reservations.

Even more kudos to Julie and Donna Freeman for receiving an Alicia Lichy Spirit of California Award at the recent California Dreaming Event in Southern California. These awards are presented annually to honor people who have gone above and beyond in the service of our community. It is good to know the extraordinary efforts of this couple is being recognized in other parts of the country. We, of course, have known of their outstanding contributions of love and concern for others for many years, and we have been blessed to be the recipients of their gifts. As Minnie Pearl would say,..." Julie and Donna, we're just so proud to know ya!"

A reminder of the national conference for significant others coming up soon. The SPICE (Spouses, Partners International Conference for Education) convenes in Memphis, Tennessee from July 27th to 30th. These conferences are put together by caring significant others from around the country and give top level support, especially to the newly aware significant others of transgendered persons. For details, write or call Linda Peacock, PO Box 24031, Little Rock, AR 72221, (501) [redacted]

difficulty you are having with this, although I did not anticipate it. It has been my experience the ones having the hardest time with this are the macho "rednecks". Most women, and men of intellect (such as yourself) whom I've known can handle it without much trouble; but I realize it is harder when it hits so close to home.

My gender identity is as much a part of me as the color of my skin (which can't be changed as easily as hair color). I don't see how we can ever be close in any practical sense unless you learn to accept me in spite of our differences. Ask yourself why you feel so strongly against gender dysphoria; do you really even know anything about it. If your feelings don't change, we have no recourse but to get on with our respective lives.

Love, Dad

[Note: As sad as this is, Sandra is fortunate to have another son who is supportive; in fact he very much enjoyed the recent Cotillion with his "Dad"].

PFLAG Reaches Out To ETVC

by Ayme Michelle Kantz

To hear Sam and Julia Thoron tell their story on Wednesday, March 15 was enough to make one realize how truly blessed are those of us with understanding parents, who are willing to cope and progress positively with the issues surrounding the agony and joy of having a child that is gay, lesbian, bi or transgendered.

Although sparsely attended, those of us present gathered in a circle listening and relating to one another, as the Thorons told of having a daughter come out to them as lesbian and learning how necessary it was to have someone else to talk to about it...other parents in the same situation. They founded a national non-profit organization called Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) which encouraged parents to tell their stories and offered a mission of education, support and advocacy. And in a long and growing, ever evolving process, came to realize that they were free to "throw away their scripts they'd written for their children", and to let them be themselves, as long as they were truthful and honest about how they really felt.

PFLAG is a wonderful organization and its presence and message so powerful that they successfully educate where few minority advocates dare to tread: PTA's, Lodges, Country Clubs - acting as a bridge between the "straight" world of intolerance, bigotry and hatred, and the world of unconditional love that the Thorons and others like them live in. They are committed to help change negative attitudes and to create an environment of understanding so that all gay, lesbian, bi and transgendered people can live with dignity and respect.

Sam and Julia taught us that many parents, learning that a child is lesbian, gay, bi or transgendered, feel alone and upset, and that parents who support their gay children can help others who are isolated and distressed. We learned that society distorts attitudes about homosexuality by promoting limited and negative stereotypes. Misinformation interferes with relationships in the family. PFLAG members grow and change by meeting gay people, sharing experiences with other family members, and reading and educating themselves. But mostly, PFLAG realizes that homosexuals are victims of discrimination and social, political and economic oppression. Parents and gay children often feel that they must remain silent because of the ignorance and prejudice of others. PFLAG promotes education and outreach at schools, religious and civic groups, as well as the media. They help each other to speak out and work for human rights and respect for their sons and daughters.

PFLAG's early emphasis on providing mutual support and forums for discussion has provided a rich tradition. Sharing the stories of PFLAG families is especially effective when friends testify and lobby as they reflect personal experiences and perspectives that can ground public policy regarding gay, lesbian bi and transgendered issues in reality.

PFLAG affiliates are located in more than 340 communities across the United States and in 11 other countries. For information about PFLAG in your area, contact the national office at: PFLAG, 1012 14th Street, N.W., Suite 700, Washington, DC 20005.

If you're a parent dealing with a special child, or even if you're just interested in learning more, call Sam and Julia Thoron, San Francisco Chapter leaders of PFLAG at 415 [redacted] or write them c/o PO Box 640223, San Francisco, CA 94164. They meet every 2nd Sunday of the month and are wonderful people...I can't urge you enough to get involved with this terrific group of loving and caring parents. Makes you feel warm and fuzzy all over...can't beat that with a stick!

International Congress on Gender, Cross Dressing and Sex Issues: A Dialogue Between Professionals and Those in the Community

Following are two reports on a conference held Feb. 23-26, at Van Nuys, California, by the Center for Sex Research – Institute for Social and Behavioral Sciences, California State University, Northridge, and Co-Sponsored by:

AEGIS; FTM International; International Foundation for Gender Studies; Outreach Institute of Gender Studies; Renaissance Education Foundation; Society for the Scientific Study of Sex; Tri ESS.

United We Stand, Divided We Fall

by William A. Henkin, Ph.D.

Because I was scheduled to talk about cross-gendered personalities as a form of human experience that is not a mental or emotional disorder, I attended this conference in my therapist persona and swapped theories and business cards with other gender therapists and researchers whose efforts I admire. Because my own principal femme persona is such an important part of who I am as a whole human being, I also spent time with some of my favorite members of the wide-ranging gender community. What made this congress uniquely important to all of me — and to all of you, gentle readers — was that often the people in the first group were also people in the second group, so that hour by hour I swapped cards and personal stories over the same endless cup of coffee.

Yes, it's true; lots of professionals who provide services to the gender community do so not just to turn a buck, or to control the gateways to hormones, surgery, and a life of stress-free bliss beyond. Many of us are here because we want to be here, and want to help others as a result of some deep personal interest. One person's interest may be that he, his spouse, SO, parent or child is transgendered; another's may be that as a gay or intersexed person her experiences clearly disqualify her for life in the unexamined mainstream; the interests of another may be piqued because something genetic, bio-chemical, psychological or sociological said that the universe of gender diversity and exploration is not a DSM diagnosis or something weird that other people do, but is instead or in addition a meaningful world where people wrestle with the question of what it means to have a human identity at all. I have never before been to a formal congress as full of M.D.s and Ph.D.s as this one, that so studiously included an equal number of people whose qualifications derived specifically from their own life experience crossing gender lines.

My chief complaint was that I could not attend every lecture, panel and discussion I wanted to attend because there were so many excellent opportunities taking place at once in different rooms. For example, 10:30 Saturday morning I had to choose among Kim Stuart, Martine Rothblatt, and Kim Tee in one room; JoAnn Roberts, Dallas Denny, Kimberleigh Richards, Jane Thomas, and Sandra Cole in another; Walter Bocking, Richard Green and Nancy Nangeroni in a third; and Holly Devor, Ray Blanchard, Kathryn Black, and Ted McIlvenna in a fourth. In order to make my own presentation alongside the inestimable director of FTM International (N. Calif.), James Green, I had to miss Vern and Bonnie Bullough, Richard Docter and Winnie Brandt. Sometimes I made choices and rued what I'd missed; at the same time I was delighted with what I'd heard; other times I grazed, darting from one room to another in a fantasy that I could pick up something about everything. Every now and then I just quit, sat down, and found myself in an elaborate discussion with the very same people I'd just heard, failed to hear, or wanted to hear present their researches, experiences, or ideas.

I hope it is obvious that my complaint is no complaint at all. For years members of the gender community have self-defined as people who used and/or were abused by provider services; and service providers have often self-defined as beleaguered helpers, students, and observers; and there has been a chasm separating us. To me that chasm has seemed divisive, unnecessary, and false; chiefly, it has served the best interests of those dangerous extremists who would happily see us all hang, separately or together.

At an awards luncheon Virginia Prince, Stanley Biber, Lou Sullivan and Roger Peo were honored for their contributions to the gender community, the latter two posthumously, and as Vern Bullough said, there are many more people for whom such honors would be equally fitting. The conference was also something of a tribute-in-progress to co-chairs Vern Bullough and James Elias, who had the vision to recognize that it was time to truly bring us together, and the will to make it happen. It was a tribute as well to the officers of the co-sponsoring organizations that a conference such as this could finally take place; and it was a tribute to the men, women, and others who participated that the days were as full and free from strife as they were. On the last night Shiela Kirk made a moving plea that all of us work together toward our common goals and cease the infighting and back-biting that have too long kept us divided. Perhaps we are beginning to discover that each in our uniqueness and with all our differences, common needs, desires, goals, and interests require that we learn to live as one community.

Gender Issues Conference Stirs the Pot

by James Green

To those in the community the event lived up to its promises. One hundred and twelve presenters gave workshops, reports, or opinion papers on topics ranging from "Origins of Gender Identity Disorder: A Child-Clinical Perspective," to "The Use of Dance/Movement in Adjustment of Gender Conflicted to a Preferred Role."

The most exciting aspect of this conference for me was its interdisciplinarity. Participants were anthropologists, sociologists, therapists, surgeons, artists, writers, lawyers, sex researchers, and others interested in or living with the phenomena of the trans community and trans experience.

So much was packed into the three solid days of sessions that it was impossible to participate in everything. Many people trying to get as much as they could of as many presenters as possible. Participants came from across North America and from Europe. It was an incredibly stimulating weekend.

Highlights of the program included lectures by Roger Gorski, Ph.D., of UCLA ("Recent Breakthroughs in the Biology of Gender Behavior"), and Xia Zhao Ji, M.D. of Beijing ("Some New Surgical Developments"). Dr. Gorski is responsible for much of the current theory and research on sex differentiation of the brain, and Dr. Xia



Cotillion Skybox

by Pam Souza

At the time of this writing, early March, there is no settlement to the baseball strike. You may be reading this after an April of games played by replacements (scabs). I hope that reason will prevail over greed to salvage the national pastime from a disappointing asterisk marked season, but I fear otherwise.

Rest assured, gender fans, the same fate cannot befall this beloved pastime of ours. One plus of ETVC being an entirely volunteer organization is there are no salaries, no salary caps, thus no walk outs over threat of such. We all pay the same fees. No one gets any financial perks or discounts for filling an executive position. Mr. and Miss ETVC attend socials for free, but have to shuck out their twenty bucks each year to vie for, and maintain their titles. In a sense, we're all union, with some filling elected posts of limited authority and responsibility. Guests participate as themselves, not as representatives of the club. You'll never see any scabs squeaking through to attach the ETVC name to their works. Nor will you ever find a non-paying replacement columnist writing for this skybox. Now that I've finished my blue collar diatribe, it's on to the end of another membership year and its accompanying awards:

Rookie/Manager of the Year: Rarely does one person win both awards in the same year. Conventional wisdom dictates that first year phenoms not enter positions of high responsibility. Lisa Maxwell is not one to bow to conventional wisdom. No sooner had she finished shattering her closet door into kindling, Lisa became Vice President and took on the duties of coordinating ETVC's Cotillion and Freedom Day Parade. Her efforts produced our largest turnouts for each event, with high levels of satisfaction for participants. Even better news is the fact that Lisa shows no signs of falling victim to a sophomore slump.

is the surgeon responsible for the widely reported, though unfortunately mistranslated, procedure exchanging the sex organs of a man and a woman. Western newspaper reports implied that an entire sex change had occurred simultaneously in one operating room in a swap procedure, and the word skin was mistranslated as leather in the procedural descriptions, leaving the impression in the reader's mind that something very strange was going on in China. But as Dr. Xia (pronounced "Shaw") explained, the actual procedure involved standard techniques for surgical sex reassignment (the MTF patient had received a penile inversion vulva and vagina construction, and the FTM had received a forearm flap phalloplasty and chest reconstruction). What Dr. Xia did that was new and different was to transplant the ovaries and testes of two SRS patients in an effort to avoid the risks of

M.V.P. (most valuable protection): San Francisco's transgender rights law is proof of what good can come of people making sacrifices and taking risks to speak out on behalf of the rest of us. The many people who brought this about deserve our thanks, which can best be displayed through sacrifice and support efforts of our own. "The condition upon which God hath given liberty to man is eternal vigilance", John P. Curran, 1790.

Best Rival Columnist (non-Channel): As much as I would like to single out a favorite at this publication, I will not risk snubbing a potential future editor. That aside, I pick my favorite columnist from the talented ranks of the Devil Woman staff and award the "Pammy" to Janet Nichols. As much as I indulge in wisecracks and verbal razzle-dazzle, I appreciate Janet's sincere, slice of life style in writing. It goes straight to the heart because it comes straight from hers. That's just...Janet,

Best Rival Publication: Love it or hate it, and I often do both within the same issue, Genderflex is unique. Sometimes controversial, sometimes confusing, Billie Jean and her eclectic mix of guest columnists are never predictable. The rough around the edges style reminds me of the Beatles' White album, or better yet, the Rolling Stones' Exile on Main Street. Ms. Jones and company remind us that social acceptability may come at the steep price of our energizing shadow selves.

Best Transgendered Flick: Slam dunk kiddies. "The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert" wins it by several lengths of a fuschia painted bus, with costumes and music reminiscent of a

Halloween dance party or the upstairs lounge of Product in its 1993 heyday. The story of two drag queens and one transsexual may not be the most inclusive demographic presentation of our community, but it does convey the adversity we endure and the vibrant spirit we embody. If I ever have to run from the police, I'll eschew the back seat of a white Bronco for the roof of a fuschia bus any day.

So long for now, gender fans. I hope to see the traditional boys of summer at the ballpark soon. And I hope to see you non-traditional boys and girls of summer on Market Street and at the ETVC booth this Freedom Day.



L-R Bonnie Bullough, James Green (holding plaque for Lou Sullivan), Virginia Prince

exogenously administered hormones. The results were that the ovaries lived in their new host for 12 months, and the testes in their new host for 9 months. Neither gonadal organ produced the normal amount of hormone while living in its new host; the testes produced about 50% of normal testosterone, and the ovaries also produced less estrogen in the new host than they produced in their original environment. These procedures were definitely experimental, and though they did not ultimately succeed, they may lead to further research in the transplantation of gonadal tissue. "

[Ed note: This event was the first of its kind, with transgendered individuals having a dialogue with practitioners in the field, all listening to and learning from each other. The Channel welcomes additional input about this congress].

The Doctor Is



Part Two of two parts, Kevin Horwitz interviews gender specialist Dr. Lin Fraser

KH: Do you find that crossdressers have more of a swing, or a gray area?

LF: In terms of self-labelling, I would say yes. If a person who by the time I see them is self diagnosed as TS, it's rare that that changes. Most of the time, they are pretty sure; maybe 70% are not sure. That's what they are seeking help about. They know they are atypical and they don't know what to do about it.

KH: Do you find particular differences that you could quantify between the two directions? Are FTM's different than MTF clients?

LF: I think it either has to do with how our brains are organized or how we are socialized. I'm not sure. I find that FTMs in general have better verbal skills, and are able to tell me more easily what their experience is. I don't know why. I don't consider myself an expert in science or anatomy or brain sex research. What I know about is talking to people.

KH: Hands-on experience?

LF: Hands-on, but I haven't dissected anyone's brain. I tend to believe people, and lean in the direction of accepting someone's experience of their subjective reality. People who have been socialized as female generally, not always, have better verbal skills, so it's easier for me to get a sense of their experience.

KH: They'll come in, and they'll be able to get at it quicker.

LF: They can describe it. It's less accessible in the other direction. With female to males I ask them more about their dreams, in general. I ask everybody about their

dreams (and there are many articulate MTFs). But overall, if there was a difference, that would be one. As I see more FTMs, I see there is just as much of a range as in MTFs. Early on, the FTMs who saw me were generally sure of who they were and what they wanted to do. They were quite articulate. Years ago, there was an FTM who could not get surgery because he was gay. He was having difficulty because he didn't fit any criteria. I thought that was absolutely ridiculous. Here was a living example of a human being who could express easily who he was. The literature didn't say this person existed, so what it meant to me was that the literature was wrong. He obviously existed; he was sitting in front of me. He was healthy psychologically, articulate, clearly TS, and he was gay. So I helped him get his surgery. As I see more and more FTMs, what I see is that there is a tremendous range of people.

KH: When someone is coming in for therapy it's one thing, but when they are coming in to get a letter for SRS, do you feel they

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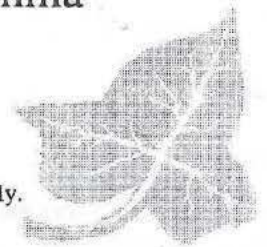
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would be as honest?

LF: Well, I don't know. From a feminist perspective, I think everybody has a right to make decisions about their body, yet from a clinical perspective, what I've noticed over the years is that individuals who are absolutely adamant about their diagnosis, angry at authority and want their surgery now, often are the ones who change their minds. I don't want to participate in anyone's having an irreversible procedure when there's a good chance they might change their minds. I do follow the Standards of Care. The biggest quandary I have is with people who don't have much money. In those situations, if they are coming for a letter, I might see them for a year, for 15 minutes at a time. What I am looking for is stability. That's what the Standards are about, stable gender identity over time. When you see somebody who one month is one way, and the next month another way, you don't want to validate something irreversible, because the history is of instability. In these cases, I look for an instability that stabilizes, and once it stabilizes for about a year, which is what the Standards call for, the chances of it reversing are almost negligible.

KH: Just a year? I have heard of people who have actually cross-lived for 4 to 6 years, and what I've heard is not so much wanting to go back, as just a fuller socialization into their gender role, and maybe not feeling as excited about it.

LF: Oh, sure, but that's normal. That's just like me. I mean, I'm not that excited about being a woman.

KH: You're not?

LF: It's not that big a deal. I spend very little time thinking about being a woman, it just is. And because it just is, I spend my time thinking about all kinds of other things.

KH: But you're not saying that you want to be a man, so much as that it's not of interest to you, being a woman either.

LF: Not much in the sense of my own gender identity. Gender itself is obviously fascinating to me.

KH: Why are you interested in gender? What in specific interests you about it?

LF: Everything. I came from a family where the relationship was egalitarian. Both my parents were professionals, and I was very much encouraged by both of them to be all that I could be. But I was never encouraged to be a homemaker. My mother was a person born in the wrong times in some respects. She was a director or nursing, but she should have been a doctor.

KH: That's incredible, because during that time, so many women were encouraged in housewifery.

LF: I was fortunate that I was a very bright little girl, and very much encouraged my whole life. Since age 4, if I said I wanted to be a doctor, everybody said, "you're going to be a doctor", and that was fine. Then, I hit the culture.

KH: Was that in the Bay area?

LF: I was born in New York, and raised in Brazil. I was not living in the U.S., so I had exposure to two cultures. I was bicultural, so I don't have difficulty with people who have two genders. I had two cultures, and was raised in a family where my gender was irrelevant. When I was exposed to the wider culture, it felt like, "this is ridiculous. I have a good mind, why shouldn't I be able to do whatever I want to do?" One of the things I wanted to do was travel, so right out of college, I flew for Pan Am. This helped shape my interest in gender. I got to travel all over the world, and learned that there were many different ways human beings

could be. Pan Am was much better than the domestic airlines, but there were still cultural stereotypes about stewardesses. I still ran into being related to in a way inconsistent with who I was, based on gender. I was right at the beginning of the feminist revolution.

KH: You have said that a few times, could you expand on that?

LF: I went to Duke University in 1964, all of the women were very bright, and we had consciousness raising groups. Then I came to Stanford in 1966, and was right in the middle of 60's consciousness, I worked at the Haight-Ashbury Clinic for awhile. I was also interested in East-West psychology, because I was traveling to India a lot. The net result was that I decided to become a therapist.

KH: What did you learn in India?

LF: India is a very vibrant place, colors are different, and the exposure to the rawness of seeing death around you on a regular basis is powerful. I had a love-hate relationship with India. The British bureaucracy they adopted is much worse than ours, so trying to get anything done in India is impossible because of all the paper work. If you leave behind the need to get anything done, and just slow down, it makes you more aware of the spiritual connectedness there.

What I learned there was more about goddesses. I was interested in spirituality. There were images of women in India that were more than Mary and Mary Magdalene, the mother-whore dichotomy as she is in this culture. I am talking about images of goddesses in a culture that are not visible. Our culture and Indian culture as well, are patriarchal. Our culture has a sky (transcendent up there) god - it's masculine. When you go into other cultures, you find images which are not all male.

ETVC Acts Join Show at KIMO's

Francis Vavra

ETVC's LuLu Blau co-hosted and MC'd a recent drag show with Alexis Miranda on Friday, March 24 at KIMO's upstairs in San Francisco. Ms. Miranda, herself a sparkling performer, has hosted shows in the past at KIMO's and Lily's.

ETVC was proud to again work with the gay drag community bringing their talents together.

Our members are always encouraged to participate in such "open" shows (I

got my start there several years ago), and this one was a great combination of acts. Tammy,

Miss ETVC '95, performed a sexy

hula, Lulu and Jasmine sang live, Pam

Sousa offered her entertaining comedy routine, Victoria Secret

invited audience participation in a

hilarious lip synch number,

yours truly traveled to

the past with Marilyn and

Bogie's



Lulu



Tammy



Frank



Natalie

help. The lovely drag queens, including several new to these shows, playfully seduced the audience, as did the wild Tiger Lily, Ms. Miranda's other half made a special drag appearance, and S.F. Grand Duke Frank performed a fun song. Alexis and LuLu plan to continue this collaboration the third Friday of each month. Anyone wanting to perform is invited to do so.

Your chance to try out new things, or overcome stage fright before an intimate, appreciative audience. Bring a tape, instrument, props and arrive early to get on the list, or to just enjoy the show. Doors open at 9:00 p.m., show starts approximately 10:00-10:30. No cover, 2 drink minimum. Located at Polk and Pine, S.F.

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"A Valentine"

by Jo Anne Owens

Have I told you lately that I love you?
Have I told you lately that I care?
Have I told you just how much I love to
Wear your sexy underwear?

Have I said that when we're parted
That my smile becomes a frown?
Have I said how I get turned on
When I wear your silky, red night gown?

Have I said I like to kiss you
On your Full, ripe, rosy lips?
Have I said I love to hug you
While I wear your lacy slips?

Have I said just being with you
Is something that God ought to bless?
Because I love to have you see me
When I wear a pretty dress.

Have I said that when I see you
I know that we'll never break up?
Because I feel so gorgeous
When I'm wearing all your makeup.

Oh my darling, I do love you.
Want you for my Valentine
If you'll just accept my dressing
As a woman, time to time.

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How I Became a Know-It-All

by Ralph Judd



Post card from Ralph Judd's collection, titled Miss Vesta Tilley... Postmark on reverse is dated Sept. 9th, 1907

In the late 1970's I met a cross-dresser who was lip-synching drag numbers in a Tenderloin night club. I asked myself, "What is this all about?"

I went to the San Francisco Public Library and looked in the card catalogue under the subject "Female Impersonation in the Performing Arts." There was a card with that subject but not one book was listed as a reference.

I said to myself, "Something's got to be done and I'm going to do it." I began to collect drag photos from the movies and I began to write a book.

I was acquainted with memorabilia dealers across the country because I had earlier collected all the film material dealing with the Coast Guard. I called a dealer friend of mine in New York and asked for movie drag photos.

He asked, "Are you writing a book?" He had helped me on the

Coast Guard book. I said "yes." I never heard from him again. Six months later his friend Homer Dickens authored "What a Drag" which was published in Australia. Some friend!

I continued collecting and writing. Years later (about 6 to be inexact), I finished writing "Drag Show." I got an agent and she almost sold it but not quite. However, an Australian book came out titled "Drag Show." What is it with these Aussies?

I then decided to get a Ph.D. in Communications. I managed to get grades of 4.0 in all my courses. I submitted "Drag Show" as my final project and thesis. Of course, I changed the title. I called it "Origins of Crossdressing: A History of Performance en travesti". So far no one has stolen that. I got another 4.0 to give me a perfect score.

I expanded my collection slowly to include television photos, lobby cards, posters, theater and concert material, magazine articles, record albums, postcards, and sheet music — all illustrating drag.

I was invited to do a column for the Buzz-Tattler in San Francisco - a specialty tabloid. I went to the Gay Day Parade. In the Civic Center I noticed a booth with Nancy Ann in high heels towering over the City Hall dome. I joined ETVC.

I found out about the alternative publications and began getting published in those as well as a few mainstream publications. The rest is history. In fact, it's all history. (I've got to start stealing better phrases).

Groucho Marx said he didn't want to join any club that would have him as a member. I am delighted that ETVC will have me as a member. I am not a cross-dresser. I am not a significant other. I am either in the "significant" category or else I'm in the "other" category. Whatever.

[Ed. note: R. Judd has a very impressive collection of drag/camp/cross-dressing ephemera, both MTF and FTM. These reprints are a very small example. We are glad you are in ETVC!]



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Brothers Network Celebrates New Quarters

Report by Francis Vavra

On the evening of Friday, March 17, 1995, the Brothers Network, a service organization for the San Francisco African American gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community, focusing on AIDS prevention and other needed services, marked the acquisition of their new offices at 973 Market Street, Suite 650, with a well-attended celebration and ribbon cutting ceremony.

The new space is a beautiful suite of offices. There is a conference room, reception area and spacious offices for the directors of various departments. A scrumptious soul food buffet was served (this reporter went back for seconds), and there were well-made videos about Dr. Martin Luther King and artist Langston Hughes shown in two areas. Photos of local African American activists, some transgendered, were featured on one wall, as were artworks by local African Americans. Several staff persons from the Transgender Clinic, LGBT Task Force member Larry Brinkin, Supervisor Tom Ammiano, and many others attended. Doris Robinson, Prevention Case Manager, herself transgendered, did work along with others in the efforts resulting in the S.F. transgendered rights law. Randy Miller, Executive Director of the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention, cut the ribbon for the new space, assisted by Gregory Walker, Program Director of the Network. Kristin Griffith, one of the Lost Girls, puts in volunteer time, and the talented Jealousy, Miss Gay '94, worked there until recently. I introduced myself to many people and did networking for ETVC. There was live entertainment after the ribbon cutting (which I couldn't stay for) and a good crowded time was had by all.

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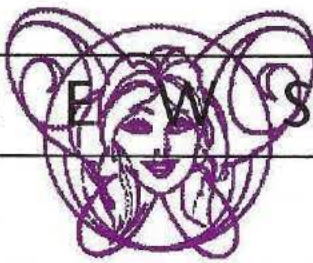
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S.F. Imperial Court System Celebrates 30 Years

The S.F. Court System which was begun when Jose Sarria declared himself dowager widow of S.F. eccentric Emperor Norton, and therefore Empress of all San Francisco, celebrated its 30th anniversary with a gala coronation at the Fashion Center February 25.

Empress I Jose appeared in regal finery as an historical overview of the Court and San Francisco gay community was read. The evening was given to local and out of town courts from all over the country being presented to the outgoing

Emperor and Empress, Chuck Adkins and Anita Martini. The S.F. Court began the evening with a sparkling appearance of their membership, which included the past Emperor and Empress, Mr. & Miss Gays, Mr. & Miss Cowboys, Princes and Princesses. An out of town show the preceding night showcased the other groups, so there were only a few production numbers. One was particularly outstanding as dancers dressed in other-worldly white costumes performed an enchanting number in Circus de Soleil style. Another memorable



Newly Crowned Empress & Emperor
Donna Sashet & Brian Benamati



Mr. ETVC '95 Dillon King & Mr ETVC '94 Francis Vavra
escort Empress I Jose Sarria at Coronation Close.

PHOTO — ROXANNA ROCHETTE

act starred Empress Martini's ladies in waiting (including Empress-to-be Donna Sashet) stripping out of their pink dresses and blowing them up in a cloud of smoke.

ETVC was present with a record three tables, and were well represented by current and past Mr. and Miss ETVCs, officers, and other members. Several were announced as Cotillion contestants. The evening ended with the stepping down of Anita and Chuck, and the crowning of Donna Sashet and Brian Benamati as the new Empress and Emperor of San Francisco. Ms. Sashet has ties to ETVC and has graced several past Cotillions with her singing talent. This should be an exciting year for their reign.

It's Parade Time!

by Lisa Maxwell

Hi everyone. This year's Pride Parade is taking place on Sunday, June 18, 1995. This year's parade is significant because we now have a new parade name: **The Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Pride Day Parade**. Wow! We made it into the headline banner. Don't miss this fun-filled exciting event. You'll even get some exercise and help that nasty cellulite and other fatty areas. This year we will have our familiar booth, and also, for the first time, we may manage a beer booth just filled with suds. As usual, we need volunteers to staff both booths. These

jobs are fun, involve handing out cookies and brochures, or slinging beer at a mass of thirsty people. See and be seen, make yourself count! We're trying to get as many people out to the parade course as possible; last year I counted 43 marchers; this year I would love to have more to make our transgendered presence known. We will also have a new banner that says, you guessed it, "Transgendered, etc...." with our phone number and our affiliates listed. If you are interested in having some real fun, call me at (415) [REDACTED]. See you there!

THE CHANNEL