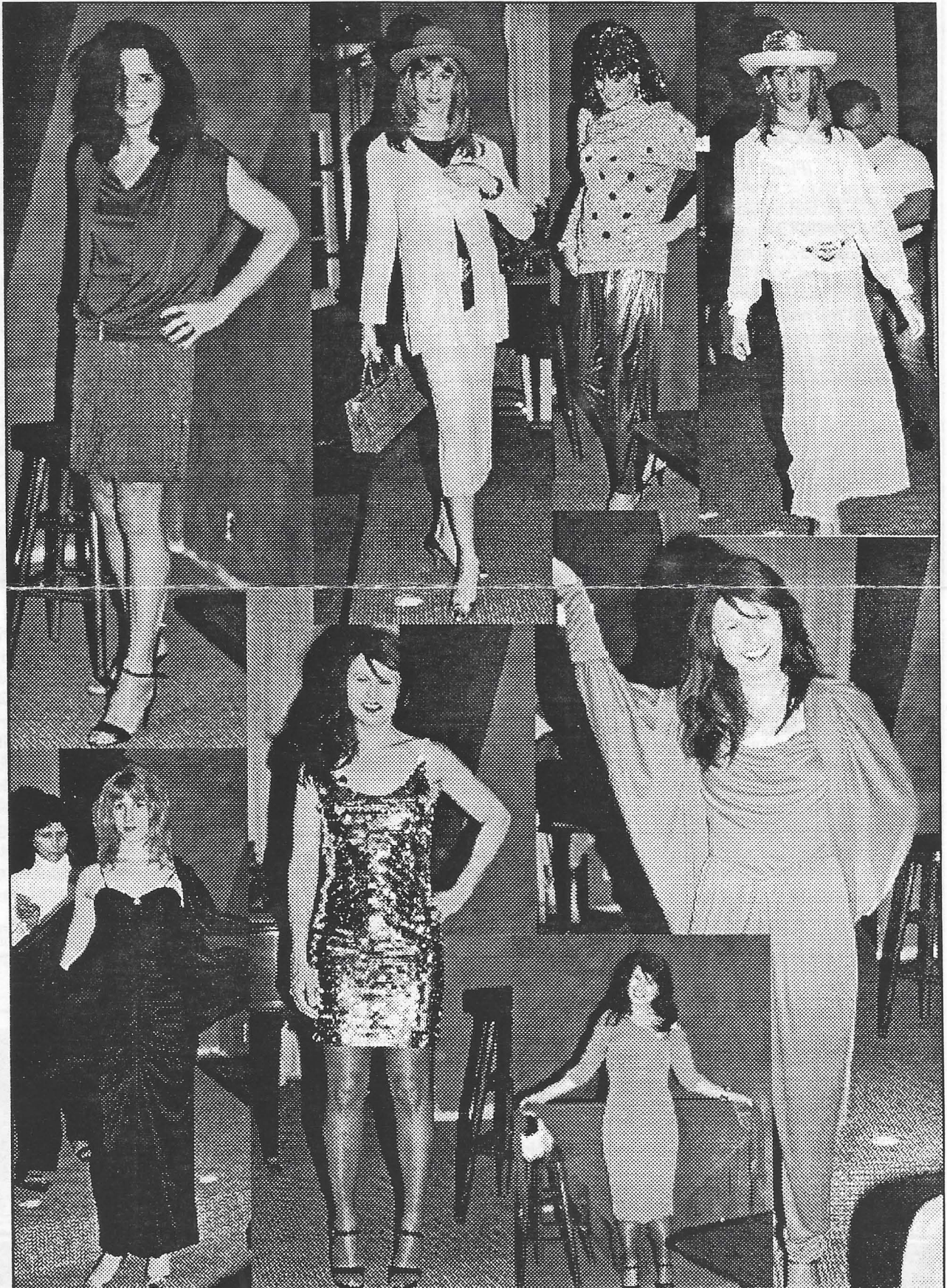


ETVC Fashion Show at Charpes

The Channel

ETVC

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The Channel

ETVC, Inc., a non-profit corporation, is a non-sexual, membership based organization serving the educational, social, and recreational needs of gender-gifted 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.

ExCom 1998-99 Officers

(Fiscal Year: May 1 - April 30)

President Leslie Bailey
 Vice President Lulu Blau
 Secretary Veronica Smith
 Treasurer Lisa Ronald
 Education Nancy Cupps / Juana Smith
 Outreach Sandra Brewer
 Social Nicole Cook / Evette RoqueLaurie

Secretary's Report

Membership as of August 2, 1998 218
 Total Fiscal Year 1997-98 Membership 327
 New Memberships this year 28

Treasurer's Report

Account Balance as of July, 1998 (estimate) \$X,XXX.xx
 The "Home for ETVC" fund (included in above) \$2,017.50

ETVC is a non-profit corporation. *Donations to ETVC are TAX DEDUCTIBLE on both Federal and California income tax returns. Talk to your tax advisor for details.*

The Channel, the ETVC Newsletter, is published monthly. Submissions should arrive at ETVC by the 15th day of the month preceding publication. Contents reflect the opinions of the contributors 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 as the source of the material. Copyrighted materials may be reproduced only with written permission from ETVC.

Newsletter Staff

Editor and Advertising Ayme Michelle Kantz
 Contributing Photographers Telzey Adams, Nicole Cook
 Vernoica & Juana Smith and Jamie Fey Fenton

Ad Rates

	Per Issue	Six Months	Per Year
Business Card (3-1/2 x 2)	\$ 25	\$125	\$ 250
4x5	\$ 60	\$300	\$ 600
Full Page	\$100	\$500	\$1000

Personal ads from ETVC members: \$10 for up to 40 words. We will not accept ads with a sexual objective. Ad deadlines are the 15th of every month. Send ad copy and check or money order to ETVC, Advertising Dept., PO Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486

Hotline & Voice Mail
415-564-3246

FROM THE EDITOR



Although this is a late notice, I thought an explanation was due you for the last minute change in venue for the August End of Month Social held on August 27th. ExCom was informed by the staff at Charpes on August 13th that they would be closed for remodeling from August 24th to September 8th and would reopen

with a new name. Unable to notify the entire membership of this change in time, the only option was to post a sign on the door of Charpes redirecting people to The Blue Muse just up the street. ExCom apologizes for any inconvenience this may have caused those members who attended, and trusts that you found The Blue Muse welcoming and enjoyed yourselves. As soon as we know the new name Charpes will change to, we'll let you know!

Ballot Casting 101

Yes ladies, it's finally here...the big Ballot you've all been patiently waiting for...you'll find it on page 18. OK class, pay attention! Puh-Lease take a pair of scissors (rounded ends for you little girls among us!) and daintily trim it out of this newsletter. Ah ah ah...don't forget to read what's on the back first! Then my darlings, please pick up your pencil, pen or crayon and select one of the two choices clearly marked there for your approval. Now here comes a tricky part...fold and place the Ballot inside an envelope (did you remember to address it properly?) ...yes that's very good. Now then, the hardest part of all...postage! Yes 32 little cents is all it takes. Stick It or Lick It Ladies! Class dismissed...and if you want to pass my class just you think about this: if you forget to mail it, then you fail it!

The Budget Blues

Ahh yes, the Budget...that 'ol bugaboo. First let me offer apologies on behalf of the President and the Treasurer for not publishing a current account balance. Like weeding a garden you can't stop once you start, so it's taking them some time to find out where we were so they can determine where we are! But the coffers are swelling again but only because it's membership renewal time. Compared to prior years when the budget was more strictly enforced, during the last two or three years there was, indeed, a relaxation of the checks and balances necessary to operate this club at a profit. This occurred for a number of reasons that are extremely complicated to go into without pointing fingers at a bunch of people and there's no point in crying about it now. Fiscal responsibility is priority numero uno with the current ExCom under the direction of our very capable and talented (and generous!) Leslie

Continued on Page 3

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Leslie Bailey

To Change Or Not To Change

I'm in favor of the name change for three basic reasons. TGSF is unambiguous, current and inclusive.

Several of us were in a community meeting recently at the Harvey Milk Institute where we announced that we represented ETVC. Later in the discussion when someone familiar with our group was trying to remember exactly what our initials were, they finally gave up and simply referred to us as the alphabet people. I have yet to meet anyone who hasn't looked a tad puzzled as I have explained what those letters represent and I think that is because they invariably start with the pre-conceived notion that the word television should be in there somewhere.

I can't imagine what Leslie Feinberg's book *Transgender Warriors* would have been about if she had instead titled it *Transvestite Warriors*. Although I love cross dressing as much as the next girl, the real issue has been to recognize and deal with my transgendered (or intergendered or crossgendered or bigendered) nature. Our noble past (e.g. berdache, two-spirits, trans priestesses, cross living, trans military, etc.) is about the fluid nature of gender itself and the full range of human experience not being tied to one's sex. What clothes we wear is only a part of the issue. I don't want to imply that there is anything wrong with the term transvestite but only to note that the important dialogue of today that deals with our community is centered much more around the vocabulary and concepts of words such as crossgendered, transgendered and transsexual.

The letters ETVC focuses attention away from the larger issues and onto one aspect of the "gender" community. I don't doubt that there are some for whom clothing is the principle focus. I do not have any argument with them. However most of the people that I know well are far beyond that single issue and are self-identified as something more complex. The term "transgendered" includes all: straight crossdressers, gay femmes, transsexuals, cross living males or females, males in touch with their feminine side, women in touch with their male side, etc. (if I have left you out it is only because this article is not about how long a list I could come up with...you're still in there).

The name ETVC is an old and cherished friend. It was there for me when I needed it most. Some will vote to keep it because of tradition, the value of name recognition and all that the name has meant over the years. However, our membership is so much more diverse today and our name is not at all reflective of the changes. Nancy Cupps outlines how we can successfully change the name without losing its recognition value and has conducted some informal polling.

Janet Bowman has made a very intriguing and sincere offer (not to mention generous) which you will read about in the newsletter. While it certainly brings into focus how strongly Janet (and many others) may feel about this issue, I trust that each member will vote according to their own views on the matter.

This is important. It's your organization. Please vote.

From the Editor

Continued from Page 2

Bailey, rest assured that matters have been corrected and she's steering a steady course. Personally, I think it had a lot to do with officer turnover...let's face it: over the years ETVC's officers have been people who perhaps have not been graced with an aptitude for financial budget construction (many have been clear on the concept, others haven't). We can't expect them all to be financial wizards. While they have all taken their volunteerism and responsibilities to the club seriously, wrangling with liabilities versus income statements is the last thing some of them paid attention to - they wanted to plan parties and events, dress up and have fun just like everybody else! But the really amazing thing here is the response the membership has made to the crisis...donations continue to pour in, some of them quite sizable. It's certainly nothing to sneeze at but we can't operate this club based on dues and donations. So what happened?

To Charge Or Not To Charge!

Back in the "old days," End of Month socials were geared around a theme. One month it was Friendship Bingo, another month it'd be a Corset Fashion Show or a Black & White Ball...you get the idea. In conjunction with a low-rent (often times NO rent) controllable space, and Ginny Knuth faithfully at the entrance dispensing name tags and collecting fees, ExCom could count on the EOM's to generate a tidy piece of change. But there was always a "draw" that made the charging of a door fee acceptable to both members and non-members alike, whether they could really afford it or not. Of course that was then, but now we're faced with higher operating costs (but with friendly cooperative locations like Charpes or the Blue Muse this may change soon) plus the competition from the Net and other groups in the area, and the concept of a themed social has fallen out of favor. I guess there were only so many themes relating to the transgender experience available and a lot of them were used repeatedly, so people got bored with it. Is this true? Did you like the "theme" concept? But without a theme, how can ExCom, in all good conscience, charge for the event? If they don't, then what are they going to do to replace that source of revenue? Hire a DJ (expenses!) and dance every month?

It's a sticky wicket, what? I'm concerned that if ExCom plays to just break even at our events, then ETVC isn't going to grow. Raising membership dues is an option but how far will that get us? Roxanna's article in the Reader's Respond pages expounds upon this further. Obviously we need to do something here. Again I think the answer has to come from our membership - we need some brainstormers to join our Committees!

OK, So What Happened To The Old Logo?

The question originally posed by Betty Byrne (see "Club X" in August's Reader's Respond pages) and again mentioned in Roxanna's letter (this issue) leaves me little choice but to comment on it, again though, without pointing fingers at anybody. This is

Continued on Page 12



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August 1998

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

The monthly meeting of ETVC's Executive Committee was in Livermore on August 2, 1998 at 3:00 p.m. In attendance were President Leslie Bailey, Secretary Veronica Smith, Outreach Chair Sandra Brewer, Social Co-Chairs Nicole Cook and Evette RoqueLaurie, Education Co-Chairs Nancy Cupps and Juana Smith. Guests included Debbie Cook and Jamie Fenton. Absent were Vice President Lulu Blau and Treasurer Lisa Ronald. The Meeting was **called to order** at 3:40 p.m.



Communications and Announcements: Leslie said she would attend the Gender Conference at the Harvey Milk Center on August 6. She reported that Nancy Ann Martine wanted to know if any officers wanted tickets to the Closet Ball on August 8 (an event to which Nicole pointed out there were three competing events: TGIF, SGA and Masquerade). Leslie will host a Cotillion planning meeting on August 16 at 4:00. The Really Big Shew is scheduled for September 25 or 26. Nancy brought to the ExCom's attention that the famous British transvestite comic, Eddie Izzard, will be in San Francisco August 12-30; call 415-433-9500 for details. The prospect of getting together a group was discussed. Evette announced that the ISE is sponsoring a golf tournament in Castro Valley on August 16 and that their Coronation will be on September 26; ETVC will pay for an advertisement in their program.

The Minutes: Nicole moved that July's Minutes be approved, Juana seconded; they were approved.

Old Business: None.

President: Leslie will confirm the time and place of the Cotillion this month with a \$2,000 deposit. The President believed ETVC needed to do more on-the-town events and increase involvement with more economically challenged members of the TG community. Leslie will contact TARC to explore ways in which ETVC can be of service. Juana suggested self-esteem counseling, résumé writing advice and make-up seminars. Nicole offered a TG community Internet job search.

Vice President: Still in Mexico.

Secretary: Membership is 218 with 28 new (compared to 210 with 35 new as of last year's August 10 meeting). For the second month in a row, membership numbers were ahead of the previous year, bucking a three year trend. Secretary Veronica sent out reminder letters to 150 non-renewed members and about 25 have responded so far. Veronica sent a copy of ETVC's new by-laws to the *Tennessee Val Gals* at their request. In the past month, Leslie, Ayme and Veronica met twice to divvy up mail box items and discuss club business and the newsletter.

The August issue of *The Channel* (which was 18 pages) cost \$305 for 300 copies with a mailing to 261. Leslie, Telzey, Juana and Veronica did the stuffing and mailing. Sandra and Telzey had pruned the gratuitous giveaways of the newsletter from 130 to 78 and Sandra reported that eight of the 29 advertisers were also members. Juana stressed that members should tell vendors where they saw their ad. Veronica reported that the Minutes are now up-to-date in *The Channel* and she promised in the future to trim them down (but that was before she realized that this meeting would last four hours). Veronica also pointed out that the calendar page and facing page are as the ExCom had directed at the last meeting. Leslie wanted the calendar to reflect that the library and poker socials, are now being offered. Nancy suggested that groups be listed by initials on the calendar since they are explained in full just

to the left of it. Veronica would mention this to Ayme. Veronica had asked the printer of the newsletter to match the price that ETVC presently pays for envelopes. Veronica wanted to give regular business to this printer who was giving ETVC such a break, a break that ETVC is only getting because of Editor Ayme.

On the subject of Ayme, ETVC used to pay around \$450 simply for the layout of each issue and copying used to cost more than \$800 per issue; whereas through Ayme's connection, ETVC is paying approximately \$160 per issue. On top of that, Ayme has done an extremely diligent job as Editor and has taken on the ugly, unpleasant, onerous task of handling all the advertising. She has been amiable and cajoling when needed with finicky vendors and has raised nearly \$3,400 in ads in the first four months of her editorship. Simply put, Ayme has greatly contributed to the placing of ETVC on more solid financial footing and every officer of the ExCom wanted to reward such contribution. Leslie moved that Ayme charge \$125 for the layout of each newsletter. She would be paid for layout and design, since such a relationship had previously existed with all other professional layout and design people. Sandra seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried.

Treasurer: Leslie will meet with Lisa soon.

Education: Nancy has C.C. Parrot set for a shoe (and perhaps purse and hat) demonstration on August 26 at Kimo's. Sandra will write it up for the newsletter. Juana reported that the Sybil/Henkin seminar at Kimo's was not well attended. Juana is intending to change the book club discussion group to a week night. She is also interested in a seminar involving the Tom Waddell clinic. Nancy has Meltzer and Ousterhout scheduled for September and October at Kimo's, for which Sandra will supply Nancy with a list of TS labels. Nancy has tentatively scheduled a wig seminar for November. Jamie has a slide projector for their use. Jamie also floated the concept of a virtual educational seminar via a chat room.

Outreach: Sandra turned in the money she had collected at the social, various donations and honoraria. Sandra's Outreach Workshop had a total of 14 people. There was a healthy exchange of ideas, and the workshop further developed good relations with Charpes management, who have so far been receptive and friendly. Ten or twelve members ordered breakfast and the management did not charge for the backroom for the four hours it was used. Jamie, Roxanna, Francis and Vicky Grey have volunteered (or shown interest) for the hotline as Erin resigned from it. Sandra has decided to rearrange the way she has handled the Speakers Bureau: from now on she will monitor the request and compliance of ETVC speakers but will allow their scheduling by direct contact from requesters. However, there are two very good reasons why she should be informed of all speaking engagements: the keeping of a list and the requesting of honoraria for the club. Sandra will send another letter to everyone requesting speakers.

Social: The well-prepared Nicole with her stalwart spouse, Debbie, presented her agenda of numerous items. However, the first point created the greatest response. Nicole was against charging members for end of month socials. She said she had been communicating via e-mail with members who are not attending the end-month socials because they cannot afford the \$5 entrance fee. Veronica took umbrage at the idea that someone who was chatting on a \$2,000-plus computer and paying AOL (or some other server) twenty bucks a month couldn't afford five bucks to come to a social. The nearly raving Secretary pointed out that ETVC was just now getting back in the black and she resented people so cheap that they *take-take-take* from ETVC but can't bring themselves to contribute the cost of a drink whenever they come to the party. But Nicole retorted that when a TG is presented with the various options for going out, she usually gets

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Meeting Minutes

Continued from Page 4

bigger bangs for her bucks; if she pays to go to Trannyshack, she'll get to dance. What does she get for coming to ETVC? Leslie agreed there was a point to what Nicole said, but there has also been a tradition of charging for the socials to help raise money for other things that ETVC does; if ETVC did not charge for the socials, then membership dues would have to be higher. Would that be fair to members who never come to any event? Juana said that ETVC cannot be everything for everybody and if Trannyshack is more appealing to this TG then she should go there; but Juana found it hard to believe that it was really the \$5 fee that was causing that person not to come to ETVC. Nancy did not think such people were truly representational of the membership and warned against having one percent of the membership dictate policy for the rest of the club simply because they whine the loudest. Sandra pointed out that if a person really could not afford the five dollars, she could still get in. Sandra added that another one of the older members told her that ExComs in the old days were much better at making money than the present ExCom. But Juana said things were different nowadays. The old ways of creating revenue are simply not there any more, so the officers have to raise money where they can. Envelopes, stamps, copying, phone bills, state filing fees, tax preparation fees, all cost money. Veronica added (unnecessarily and again at great length) that the stress of the last two years of being constantly in debt had been very frustrating and painful. Nicole, after patiently listening to Veronica's tedious harangue, wondered if this topic should be more thoroughly discussed at the Retreat next month.

Moving on to other things, the Halloween Party is confirmed for the Billy DeFrank Center and Carla's for October 24th. The plan is to use the same DJ that Darcy used last year. Flyers will be ready on the 15th. Nicole and Debbie plan to sponsor a drink; in other words, they will supply the drinks that people say they want, but then those people will be responsible for the leftovers. For example, Leslie should request six or so bottles of tequila, and if she doesn't drink all of the bottles at the party, she will buy the remaining bottle or two. The reservation for the Billy DeFrank Center for The Really Big Shew has been sent. The responses to the New Venue Mailer were very positive. Nicole plans to go to check out each venue. Because September and October's official socials will be held in San Jose, Nicole wants to do second mid-months at Charpes. There has been no response to the credit card inquiry Nicole sent to six companies. Nicole and Debbie changed the phone numbers on the parade banner. And the Dynamic Duo are ready to distribute the Resource Guide, perhaps advertising it on TG Forum.

New Business: Leslie was distressed that the meeting was now over three and a half hours long. She wanted to get back to meetings being limited to two and a half hours. Did she have to be more ruthless in cutting off or speeding along certain speakers. She thought the meeting might move more swiftly if the officers would have filled out the agenda form Veronica had e-mailed to everyone. But Sandra was not in agreement; she often drives a hour to an ExCom meeting and if it takes more than two hours to get something settled, so be it. She thought an artificial time limit did not help matters, and she did not think there had been that much extraneous discussion at this particular meeting.

One strange piece of new business was that Veronica was trying to trace whatever happened to a box of wigs contributed last fall. A member donated the wigs to ETVC with the hope of raising money, and the member even received a thank-you card

from someone, but she could not remember who. But Veronica didn't know anything about these wigs. The contributing member mentioned them in an e-mail recently. Since Veronica doesn't know what happened to them, she cannot list them or any revenues received for them as donations. The same member has also recently contributed some used breast forms and shoes. No other officer of the ExCom wanted to encourage this kind of contribution. Sandra said they are often much more trouble than they're worth and required someone to dispose of and be compensated for the donations. Nancy and Leslie were also strongly against officers having used goods sent to them. Veronica said the contributor only had good intentions but acknowledged that she herself had not thought it through. Veronica had been responding to a lot of different e-mail and the idea of a rummage sale had sounded good at the time. But the ExCom had no plan for a rummage sale. Veronica apologized and said she will take care of the stuff. However, she would still like to know what happened to the wigs and be able to account for them to the contributor.

The most serious bit of new business had to do with the name change debate and an offer made by Janet Bowman. She feels strongly that the organization should change its name to reflect the fact that the club includes more than just transvestites and she was disappointed that the ExCom had postponed the vote. She offered to donate \$2,000 if the club changed its name to TGSF. This name was by far the most popular name in the May election, but only 66 people voted. However, the name change issue had been included in the last four newsletters and had been stressed in Veronica's reminder letter that she had sent to all the non-renewed members. Certainly if any member really felt strongly about it, she would have no excuse for not voting. The ExCom had already more or less decided to have the name change ballot in the September newsletter, but Leslie emphatically did not want it to look as if this member were buying the name for \$2,000. *This club*, she said, *was not 3Com Park!* Whereas, Nancy and Veronica's joint shrug seemed to suggest that they thought such offers should not be refused out-of-hand and, if the price were right, the initials TCTG* might be alright with them. Leslie moved that the vote should be completed by September 15. In other words, the ballot and addressed envelope should be included with the September newsletter and must be post marked by the 15th to be counted. Juana seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried. The September issue of *The Channel* should have the last pro and con discussion on it and the ExCom would be done with the name change issue by October. Nancy would write an article favoring change. Sandra pointed out that she had mentioned a name change some time ago in her column.

Adjournment: At 7:45 p.m., Juana moved to adjourn. Evette seconded the motion, the motion was passed. Leslie, Veronica and Sandra went over materials from the mail box.

Next ExCom Meeting is on September 6 at 9:00 a.m. in Sebastapol at Nicole and Debbie's.

* *ThreeCom TransGender*



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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH, 9:00AM

SEPTEMBER EXCOM MEETING (A MINI RETREAT)

Well it is time to take a look at the big picture and see where we want to go in the future. We will be meeting to see what volunteers will be doing what activities in the upcoming months. Of course new volunteers are welcome to take part. If you are such a volunteer, Email or call me (Nicole) and I will arrange for you to get directions. [redacted]@tgforum.com or (707) [redacted]

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH, 10:00AM-6:00PM

RAINBOW FESTIVAL IN SACRAMENTO

A Gay Pride Street Fair; 3 performance venues. 20th at K Street. Call Trina for more information 916/[redacted]

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH, 8:00PM

MID-MONTH SOCIAL

As a result of our questionnaire mailing to several San Francisco venues. We have decided to hold the Mid Month at the Coco Club. The Coco club is located at 139 8th street, but the entrance to the club is around the corner on Minna. This is a club Darcy talks about in the Jan 98 newsletter, if you would like to read more about it. Debbie and I were there Wednesday the 29th of July, and it looks like it would make an interesting mid-month. We have had six very positive responses to our questionnaire. All indicating they would like to have us there more often, so I plan to have us visit all of them.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH, 1:00PM

EDUCATION SEMINAR: FEMINIZATION OF THE FACE BY DR. DOUGLAS OUSTERHOUT, M.D., D.D.S., F.A.C.S.

Looking feminine, appearing as a female, is of course extremely important to you. First impressions are often made based just on your face. That which is seen in an initial contact is what frequently defines you. It establishes not only just who you are but frequently what you are as well. As a transsexual, perhaps nothing is more important to you than appearing sexually as you feel emotionally. Facial feminizing surgery can help bring these two together.

Many of the aesthetic surgeries Dr. Ousterhout performs involve changing facial contours, to modify the basic bony support configuration of the face. Surgeries such as a rhinoplasty (nasal surgery), chin, cheek, and forehead modifications (either reduction or augmentation), and modifying the angle of the lower jaw have frequently been completed for patients from around the world. These procedures reduce the differences between a male and a female skull, and assist in changing one from from distinctly male to female. Dr. Ousterhout is also happy to work with those who wish to be feminized, to any degree, but are not planning on genital reassignment surgery.

Dr. Ousterhout was certified by the American Board of Plastic Surgery in 1974 and has been in the practice of Plastic Surgery in San Francisco since then. He has fellowships with 18 medical societies, is and has been on the board of many plastic surgical societies, has helped found one medical journal and has been on the editorial board of four different plastic surgery journals. He is

on the Advisory Committee for "Recommended Guidelines for Transgender Care", AEGIS. In addition to holding staff memberships at several hospitals, he has published scores of scientific papers and the medical textbook "Aesthetic Contouring of the Craniofacial Skeleton".

Before-and-after slides of some of his patients will be shown side-by-side during his lecture, followed by a question and answer period. When you see his presentation, you'll understand why Dr. Douglas Ousterhout is known by transgendered people around the world. Dr. Ousterhout's helpful staff may be contacted to arrange a confidential consultation in his private office at the San Francisco Institute of Plastic Surgery at Davies Medical Center in San Francisco. Telephone: 415-626-2888. 1 PM, Upstairs at Kimo's, Polk & Pine Sts., SF. Donations appreciated.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1998, 8:00PM

END OF MONTH SOCIAL

Well we were planning to do the Big Shew this month but logistical difficulties have got in the way. So we will be meeting at Charpes for the End of Month Social. I don't have a theme yet but I will try to come up with something before the social. Don't be surprised if there is a new name on the restaurant. I hear they are changing the name. Charpes is located at 131 Gough (about a block north of Market).

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1998, 5:00PM

ISE CORONATION 98 (IMPERIAL STAR EMPIRE - ALAMEDA & CONTRA COSTA)

YWCA, 1515 Webster, Oakland. Doors open 5:00 p.m. show starts 6:00 p.m. \$25 tickets at ETVC table. URL - <http://www.geocities.com/westhollywood/2451> or call Leslie Bailey for ticket info 510/[redacted]

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Calendar of Events - September 1998

OTHER GROUPS

Pacific Center for Human Growth

A counseling oriented growth center sponsors all-inclusive gender support groups on every Friday at 8:00pm, 2712 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley. 510-841-6224

Rainbow Gender Association (RGA)

Meets 1st and 3rd Friday of the month 8:00pm at the New Community of Faith Church, 6350 Rainbow Drive. San Jose. Write to RGA, PO Box 700730, San Jose, CA 95170 or call 408-984-4044.

Sacramento Gender Association (SGA)

Blue Rose Chapter meets 8:00pm the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month in Sacramento. Write PO Box 215456, Sacramento, CA 95821-1456 or call 916-482-7SGA (7742) for meeting locations.

Diablo Valley Girls (DVG)

Meets 1st and 3rd Monday of every month. 8:00pm at Just Rewards Nightclub, 2520 Camino Diablo in Walnut Creek. Write to DVG, PO Box 272885, Concord, CA 94527-2885 or call 925-937-8432.

DVG Rap Group (RCC)

Meets 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month. 7:00pm at Rainbow Community Center, 2637 Pleasant Hill Road (@ Taylor Blvd.) in Pleasant Hill. For more information call 925-937-8432.

FTM

A support group for Female-to-Male cross dressers and transsexuals; Holds open Informational Meetings and closed Support Meetings. Write FTM International, Inc., 1360 Mission Street, Suite 200, San Francisco, CA 94103 or call 415-553-5987.

TGIF (TransGenderism Is Fun)

A social group for transgenders. Meets one Saturday each month at a private home in Santa Rosa for a potluck social from 4:00pm until early evening. Space is limited - Reservations Recommended! Call Diane or Anne at 707-██████████

Silicon Valley Gender Association (SVGA)

A new transgender support group meets at the Billy De Frank Community Center in San Jose on the 2nd and 4th Friday of every month from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. For more information, call 408-293-2429.

Far West Women (FWW)

A support group for TGs affiliated with the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Alliance in Humboldt County. Meets every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month at 8:00pm in the GLBTA Center at Fourth and "D" Streets in Eureka. For information call the Center at 707-445-9760.

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

		1	2	3 7:00 PM DVG (RCC)	4 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap 8:00 PM RGA	5
6 9:00 AM ETVC: ExCom 10:00 AM RainbowFest - Sacto	7 8:00 PM DVG	8	9 8:00 PM ETVC: Mid-Month @ Coco's	10	11 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap 8:30 PM ETVC: Library / Poker Night	12 1:00 PM ETVC Education Seminar 7:00 PM FTM Benefit Film 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
13	14	15	16	17 7:00 PM DVG (RCC)	18 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap 8:00 PM RGA	19
20	21 8:00 PM DVG	22	23	24 8:00 PM ETVC: EOM @ Charpes	25 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap	26 4:00 PM TGIF Social 5:00 PM ISE Coconation 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
27	28	29	30			

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JAN	10	13
FEB	7.5	10
MAR	5	7
APR	2.5	3

Our Readers Respond...

DEAR EXCOM,

I threw up my hands in frustration when I read the August Channel. So, the decision on the name change has been postponed AGAIN!

I feel strongly about this, so I'm going to make you an offer in hopes of breaking the logjam and simultaneously helping the club. I'll donate \$2000 to our organization, provided the name is changed. My check is enclosed; you can see it's made out to TGSF. It is not to be cashed by ETVC!!

Perhaps some may think I'm offering a bribe, or trying to manipulate an ExCom decision. Think what you will, but I'll get no benefit from this other than personal satisfaction. I'm doing this in plain sight of all members, with the intention that this letter be published in the next newsletter issue. If someone on the other side of the issue wants to outbid me, let them. The club will benefit either way.

I acknowledge the arguments Debra Darling made in her letter in support of retaining the old name. I agree with her assessment that most of the corporate makeovers you see these days are a huge waste of money and confuse the public more than they maintain brand loyalty. But sometimes makeovers are needed more than other times. When you're selling cat food in a can labeled dog food, you need a fix, and you need it fast. I disagree that the "TV" in ETVC is like a valuable trademark. It's misinformation, it's confusing, and it's off-putting to anyone who doesn't see herself as a transvestite (which is a creepy word, even if you are one.) And how "famous" is ETVC, really? Famous to whom, the miserable 169 people that our membership has dwindled to? I say it's famous only to the tiny hard core of TV's who renew their membership year after year. It's NOT famous to the newcomers to whom we're trying to reach out. If we're so famous, why isn't our membership growing? Something's wrong here, and having a limiting, confusing name is only making matters worse.

My goal in making this offer is to help in a small way to make an organization that has helped me greatly, and has the potential to help many others, become the pre-eminent transgender group in the West. And the vision I have for that organization is that it CLEARLY welcomes all transgendered persons, not just those who identify as "transvestite".

You know where a lot of the members who were in the club a few years ago went? They were TS's (or anything other than TV's), and they got what they could get from a "TV" club and moved on. I can think of many examples just from among the handful of members I've happened to meet in the few years I've been regularly involved. A name change won't bring them back, but if they'd felt this was really an organization for them they might never have left.

I'm all for Debra's idea that a permanent home is an important factor. My incentive offer unfortunately won't buy any San Francisco real estate, though it may be a small step in that direction. But let's not let that issue distract us from the importance of changing a name that is just flat out WRONG. It IS broke, and it needs fixin'!

Because of what I see as a pattern of foot-dragging, I'm putting a time limit on my offer. ExCom, please don't wait for an uninvolved membership (dominated by TV's because few others are left) to give you a clear mandate. Don't waste time on yet another vote. It matters less what the current membership thinks than what a complete novice just beginning to learn about the TG world might think. Put yourself in that person's place, and decide. Do the deed yourselves and put this to rest. Change the name by October 1, 1998, or my offer is withdrawn. Sincerely,

Janet Bowman

DEAR ETVC,

Enclosed is my membership renewal. Since I am now living and working full-time, my last name and address have changed. Although it has been from a distance, I have been a member for the last 10 years or so.

I would like to thank ETVC for being there and being a support system. Without connection to others, however distant, my transition would have been impossible. Thank you all!

Jennifer Dakota

DEAR EDITOR,

I read with interest the exchange between Sandra Brewer and Dr. Barbara Anderson in the August edition of The Channel. Part of it touched a chord in my own life and dealt with something that has been part of my thoughts for some time. Specifically, the question of whether or not it is necessary or even advantageous for a person to be able to pass successfully in order to transition successfully.

Prior to my own transition a few short months ago, I had developed the techniques and ability to pass quite easily and comfortably in almost any circumstance or situation. Since the news of my transition plans was met by a rather thorough media blitz, and since I have a rather high profile job in a relatively small community, the ability to pass became rather a moot point rather quickly. Those abilities, however, were not wasted. For those who did not know me on sight, it made the ability to go out in public to the stores and restaurants easier, since I could still "pass" in those circumstances. More importantly was that the creation of an acceptable and believable female image made it much easier for my friends, acquaintances, colleagues, and even my students to be comfortable with the change and accepting the "new me." Even those acquaintances that have trouble with the whole gender change thing can buy the image and live with it. Several people have let me know that the image I present has made it easier for them.

There is little doubt that self-esteem, confidence, and an acceptance of ones transgender self is very important. I could not survive in this community without it. But I believe that I could tell people I'm female till I'm blue in the face, but unless others can buy the image and believe it themselves, I'm still treated as a "guy in a dress" and that doesn't do the old self-esteem much good at all.

I have been a member of ETVC for over ten years, and although distance precludes my contributing very much to the organization, I appreciate from the bottom of my heart the arrival of each newsletter, and the group just being there has been a great support and inspiration for me, and in some way helped me find the strength to make the transition in an occupation where I would have never thought that it could be possible. I'm a high school teacher. Thank you,

Jennifer Wilhelmi

Email Your Officers:

President, Leslie Bailey@slip.net
Secretary, Veronica Smith@aol.com
Social Chair, Nicole Cook@tgforum.com
Editor, Ayme Kantz@aol.com

Our Readers Respond...

DEAR EDITOR,

Just call me bad Roxanna for daring to think the ExCom is responsible for operating within budget. The ETVC Bylaws, Duties of Officers, VII B, seems to suggest this might be the case. It is not my desire to engage ad infinitum with "back atcha's," (1) and perhaps my prior letter in the July newsletter was not clear enough, so I will make another attempt.

With this in mind I hope some members can feel my disappointment upon reading Veronica's digressive retort to my previous letter. My initial reaction was to realize how smart that 80% of the membership is who don't vote and probably seldom, if ever, get involved in the inner mechanics of ETVC. Having pursued the nonsensical as an artist my whole adult life perhaps I am wrong thinking common sense should be a criteria of the ExCom. Still, I don't buy Veronica's lack of common sense pose, for I believe her to be highly intelligent, someone I would much rather be a friend of than not, and someone whose style I've always enjoyed. Maybe a vacation is in order for "dour old" Veronica. (2)

As for my letter, it was originally addressed to Veronica, not the editor, along with our membership renewal, so I was a little surprised to see it published, but not upset, nor would I change a word. (3) I'm such a troublemaker. As to Veronica's discourse on what some of the current officers have done for ETVC, I already had a pretty good idea having been a member for about 10 years now, picking up a few clues to just how much many of the past and present officers and other volunteers have contributed through their time and energies. They are all worthy of praise, past and present, for making ETVC what it is today. Additionally I've had a bird's eye view of the ExCom and newsletter through my good half, Francis Vavra, who was an officer (and gentleman) for 2 years, as well as a former newsletter editor.

From those insights I felt my own volunteer efforts could be best served outside the sphere of the ExCom. For at least 5 years I've been on the Outreach Speaker's Bureau, giving talks about crossdressing mostly to a variety of college classes. I was also on the ETVC hotline for about a year, which I plan to rejoin soon, if they will have me. Personally I'm very much into one-on-one communication, offering an understanding ear and encouragement, feeling it can represent some of the most effective support and outreach. I know my limited efforts can't compare to all the hard work many of our officers and newsletter editors have given, but it is what I can do, and if I learn of any other safe niches in ETVC, I will be interested in volunteering.

Specifically to the issue of future cotillions, I wish to make it very clear I have always considered them to have great value as celebration, outreach to a larger community, and like frosting on our cake, an opportunity for a night of theater and glamour, and anyone who knows me knows I am very much into image and glamour. However, sometimes hard reality interferes with the dream, calling into question can we continue to afford seemingly ever more expensive cotillions? Even our new first-rate newsletter editor called into question their expense at any cost. That is also all I have suggested. Wasn't anything learned from an increasingly expensive newsletter? Only a crisis dictated by lack of funds brought about a drastically reduced production cost to allow the newsletter to continue. The newsletter is ETVC's linchpin, without it the club would be adrift, lost at sea. Veronica is correct in stating most past cotillions and other annual events usually broke even or made some profit. But that was with a larger membership and a bigger bank balance, plus opportunities for other sources of revenue. Now we have a much smaller membership and a shaky bank balance. (Don't let the July bank balance estimate fool anyone as this is the usual annual renewal surge.) The fact is the past two major events, the 1997 Halloween party and the 1998 Cotillion lost money. (4) Just how many more times can ETVC handle these kinds of losses

before it really goes broke? All I am suggesting are possible less expensive arrangements, and if that is not workable then maybe some kind of hiatus for major events until ETVC's fortunes improve and a renewed growth in membership numbers. To sail on as if there is no tomorrow will effect the regular monthly events and a continuing newsletter if we lack basic operating funds.

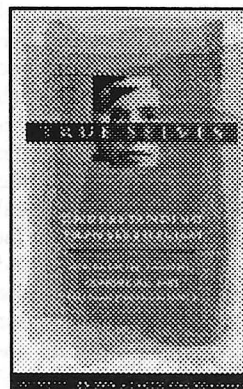
Individual donations are a wonderful addition, but not the solution for a consistent income. Though I wouldn't go so far as increasing dues to \$100 a year, as one letter writer suggested, it does seem the recent \$5 increase is not nearly enough. It's laudable to have a can-do attitude, but my feeling is that by setting high ticket sales goals in order just to break even, does set the event up for a loss. I truly hope the next cotillion scheduled at the same venue (I agree it was the best place ever) makes a tidy profit, or at least breaks even. If not, will Leslie or someone else be there to bail us out once again? What would Judge Judy say to our officers helping to bankroll ETVC? I believe this sets a bad precedent where in the future maybe only well-heeled members need volunteer to be officers. And worse it makes the membership beholden to the officers who make sizeable loans or gifts. This creates a membership caste where all members are not necessarily equal. My ideal is a membership where everyone is equal, with a voice, pro or con, whether as hard working officer or member who does no more than pay the annual dues.

To Betty (I'm not sure if we have met), thanks for the kind words of support. As to your question of what happened to the old logo, I make no secret of my opposition to its removal. Speaking personally I felt the old logo may not have been of the highest aesthetic, yet it possessed an innocent sweetness which in my view seems to be missing in our ever agog cyber-oriented organization. I'm happy for everyone who is eagerly riding the transgender net into the 21st landscape, but for myself I'll stay with my bright red hair, black lace on black, and all those flowing scarves, having serious fun with my own brand of feminine expression. I still would like to believe there is room for all kinds and styles of diversity in the only game in town.

Roxanna Rochette

Editor's Notes:

- (1) My apologies Roxanna. That was my fault for lacking good titles for reader's letters. It's "Dear Editor" from now on!
- (2) In defense of the dour old dear, if someone would (or could) take her place I know she'd be out of here like a shot!
- (3) Veronica told me she did make an attempt to contact you, but discovered the number she had wasn't current. I thought it was a good letter so I ran it anyway. Thank you for graciously understanding.
- (4) The 98 Cotillion technically did break even.



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Our Readers Respond...

DEAR EDITOR:

I just received the August issue of The Channel and there are so many things I want to comment on that I hardly know where to begin.

First, let me compliment you on the changes to The Channel. It has become much more informative and timely with the expansion to a monthly basis. I am glad to see so many more people contributing columns, as well as the addition of a letters column. (My only criticism is of the photo of Leslie that you ran on the July cover; she is such a beautiful person and that photo didn't do her justice!)

Second, my hat is off to all of the members of the ExCom. I am greatly impressed by the efforts of the officers to turn around the financial situation and recent loss of membership; I think you gals are doing an outstanding job! Veronica Smith's reply to Roxanna's recent critical letter was right on the mark. We need more involvement from the membership, rather than mere criticism (I say, while being critical). I believe that you could get more involvement if you ran brief "help-wanted" notices in the newsletter every month listing small or one-time jobs that need doing. Perhaps you could off-load some of the workload of the officers that way.

Third, you have gotten a ball of fire in the person of Nicole Cook (and her wife, Debbie). We are privileged to have them as mainstays of the TGIF group up here in Santa Rosa. In fact, Nicole has helped enlarge the attendance at our monthly socials to the point where we can't accommodate more people. Her suggestion of finding folks closer to San Francisco (particularly the east bay) to host a similar gathering is a really good one. Our experience is that a lot of folks really like having a low-key gathering in a home setting. (This in no way implies criticism of the helpful, fun, and educational activities that you also sponsor!)

Fourth, while I admire Sandra Brewer and appreciate all she is doing as the Outreach Chair, I was glad to see you include a rebuttal to her criticism of some of Barbara Anderson's statements which had been published in a previous newsletter. Sandra also gives her opinion that "passing, at least reasonably well, should be an additional requirement [to have sex reassignment surgery]." Dr. Anderson refutes that position very well in her response to Sandra's criticism. In addition, I would like to point out that just such a requirement used to be accepted by therapists only a few short years ago, with the resulting effect of causing an increase in the suicide rate among those TS's who were rejected. My personal experience has been that "passing" would be nice, but that it is still possible to be accepted by society without being "passable" by projecting an appropriate demeanor: reasonable attire, feminine behavior, and a non-threatening/non-victim attitude.

Fifth, while I absolutely love Jane Bolig (she was instrumental in my own voyage of self-discovery and transition to living full-time as the woman I have always felt myself to be), I must take exception to her recent column in which she states, 'I can't recall any instance in which marriage between a heterosexual woman and a transsexual partner continued or ended happily.' On the contrary, we have a number of TS's attending TGIF who continue to be happily married and intend to stay that way even if (or when) the surgery is finished. In my own case, while I am not planning (at least at this time) on having the full surgery, my understanding and wonderful wife of 35 years has made it abundantly clear that she intends to stick by me no matter what, and we both feel that our relationship has never been better. Jane's point, that 'wives are frequently treated like collateral damage in the transsexual's bull

DEAREST ETVC,

As a long time "checkbook member" of ETVC, I want to express my tremendous appreciation and gratitude to the leaders and active participants of this valuable organization for their individual and collective efforts on behalf of us all.

Although my life currently prohibits my own participation, I am able to provide a small amount of financial support. Organizations have infinitely more political, economic, social, and even psychological clout than individuals, and I feel honored that the truly dedicated leadership of ETVC continues to carry the torch that profoundly benefits me. Love,

Patsy

(Editor's note: this was accompanied by a \$500 donation!)

Attention Pub Crawlers!

Looking for something exciting to do in The City? Nicole is looking for Social Coordinators. The job entails each coordinator to organize a club excursion once a month. How hard can that be? I will even help you set it up and attend them. The group will be from 4 to 10 members interested in trying new night spots or visiting old favorites. If you want to be a Coordinator or a member of the excursion group email me [redacted]@tgforum.com or talk to me at the socials.

rush [to be a woman]' is all too true and should help those of us who plan to stay together with our life-partner to remember that it is critical that we consider her feelings and concerns at every step of the process. Also, Jane implies that TS's should not even consider telling their children of their situation until they are grown. While this may be true in some/many/most cases, I personally know four TS's who have confided in their young children (and in three of those cases, are living with them full-time in their adopted gender) without causing undue problems. On the other hand, it is impossible to state a recommendation that works for everyone; the people involved will need to consider a host of factors before making such an important decision. It is important to make allowances for individual circumstances and personalities - in self, marriage, family, employment, and community there is no one answer that is best for all. Aside from these observations, I am enjoying Jane's column immensely; she is a thoughtful lady and has much to offer.

That's about it; I hope I haven't been too negative. You are welcome to print all, none, or any part of this letter in your next newsletter. Obviously I read every word of The Channel and find it very thought-provoking. I look forward to doing so for many years to come. I'm sorry that I don't get down to the city more often to participate in your great activities, but you are always in my thoughts. Keep up the good work! Love,

Diane Giles

The Uninvited Dilemma

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by

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SANDRA REACHES OUT

by Sandra Brewer

Fourteen of us gathered at Charpe's on the last Sunday in July for our second Outreach Workshop; the first was co-sponsored with the Pacific Center over a year and a half ago. Most of us enjoyed an early afternoon brunch before moving to the backroom to conduct our business. The management of Charpe's continues to be very receptive to our events; we were allowed the use of their backroom facility the whole afternoon without further charge. We discussed several outreach topics ranging from our speaking engagements to how we are perceived by the world at large. As with the first workshop everyone who participated in the event felt it was well worth the effort. I hope we can repeat this event more frequently in the future; it's not only illuminating as we learn from each other, but it stimulates interest in our outreach efforts.

Two items discussed at the workshop were answering phones for KQED pledge drives, and for our own ETVC hotline. To sustain participation in the KQED event we may reduce the frequency to once a year; also we have requested notification when their programming featuring transgendered subjects is scheduled. Interest in the ETVC hotline was expressed at the workshop. Some of us answer the hotline on regular shifts twice a month; others serve as alternates when the need arises.

To facilitate the scheduling of outreach speaking engagements, I expect to put together a contact list of speakers to distribute to the most frequent requesters. Several requesters contact their speakers directly already. The list will include the speakers' names, telephone numbers, and possibly their cities and email addresses, but not their home addresses. It will be given only to trusted requesters we know well, and no one's name will be on the list without their permission. I will still act as a contact when needed, as I expect Diane will for the North Bay. The list should facilitate scheduling, especially when more than one speaker or more than one requester are involved. I will encourage all speakers to request honorariums for ETVC when possible, and to keep me informed of their engagements.

I want to thank Barbara Anderson for her timely response to my last column. Neither her comments nor mine are likely to convince anyone who already has an opinion on the issue of transitioning without passing. She represents well the prevailing feeling of the professional community, and indeed it has come a long way since the time some of us still remember when so much energy was spent trying to 'cure' us at all costs. Still, we have to live in the world every day; although it has improved in recent years, our society has a long way to go to accept us under any conditions.

Check out the article on transsexuals in America on page 48 in the July 20th issue of Time magazine. The two-page article focuses on two professionals, an MTF and a FTM both named Shannon, and describes social and medical conditions related to the transgendered community. It discusses how far the world has come in accepting this new minority, and on its efforts to gain the same legal rights won by the gay community in recent years. Please let me know when you see transgendered subjects covered in the media, and I'll try to keep our members informed as well.



JULY SOCIALS IN REVIEW

By Nicole Cook

The July 8th Mid-Month Social started off slow at Cafe Mars. At first there was two groups of us, one in the back by the pool table having something to eat and another group at the bar. It wasn't until about 10:00pm when both groups merged at the bar that the attendance picked up to around 15 of our girls. It was a pretty usual social for Cafe Mars with a few of our girls socializing with the other patrons and most of the group socializing amongst ourselves at the bar. There wasn't any dancing in the isles unless it happened after we left.

I certainly had fun at the July 30th End of Month Social at Charpes. It looked like about 40 of us showed up. Many of you were not aware that we had arranged for a fashion show. Jo An from the I Love it Consignment Boutique provided the fashions. Serena, Gia and I were the models. We alternated through about 6 or 7 outfits each while Jo An's husband read the details of each outfit to the audience. To say I had fun would be an understatement. I had a blast. The audience seemed to be having a good time too. Since we filled the back room, the models would take a stroll up front to show the remainder of the crowd the outfits.

On July 6th we ventured out to DVG for their social at JR's. It looked like about 30 or so people turned up. Considering how hot it was that was a pretty good turn out. I don't remember too much more from this social except that I tried on Rachel's shoes which I thought were nice. I also remember Donna was wearing an outfit appropriate for the warm weather.

As it turned out Debbie and I served as Assistant Social Hostesses for the July 11th SGA Social since Janet was suppose to be out of town. The social started with a little confusion. The newsletter indicated that the social would start at 8:00pm (an accidental hold-over from last month after the Freedom Fair). However, members began showing up at 7:00pm anyway. There were around 20 girls in attendance, most of whom were regulars. There were 3 new people from Davis. Jessica who had been to a meeting once before about 6 months ago brought a couple with her, Julian and Jade. After dinning and lounging at Joseph's about 8 of the attendee's (including the 3 new people) ended up at Faces for a night of dancing. And so ended another fun filled SGA social.

From the unbelievable 40 people in June to a much more cozy 15 in July. Yes, 15 people braved the 90+ degree heat and found their way to Anne and Dianne's house in the Santa Rosa hills for the July 18th TGIF social. Both Tianna from San Francisco and Kristen from Castro Valley drove over with Debbie and I. Once the sun went down the temperature was not bad.

Continued on Page 13



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Continued from Page 3

from memory now and mine ain't what it used to be, but here goes: it was around the 93-94 year. One of the President's objectives that year was to change the name of the newsletter and in doing so change the logo as well. There were strong vocal arguments on both sides of that particular coin; Proponents arguing that the old logo was unrealistic considering the idealistic and unattainable (un)reality it seemed to represent. The pre- and post-op TS's in the organization were increasing in numbers and were represented well on the Board that year. The old logo didn't say everything to all people anymore. (Does this sound strikingly familiar to you??) Dissenters on the other hand, appealed in much the same way as Debra Darling did last month in favor of retaining the ETVC acronym - they saw the old logo as an institution, a recognizable symbol.

Anyway, a compromise was reached of sorts. ExCom voted to change the newsletter's name to *The Channel* (in keeping with the name of the group after all) and also to hold a contest to design a new logo. In the interim, the old logo would be quietly retired. Seemed like a good idea at the time and thus forward it went. A Judging Committee was selected from a wide variety of members, vendors and helping professionals so that it was representative of as wide a swath through our community as possible. A call went out for entries and many were received. The deadline came and went and the Judges got to work. They selected their numbers one, two and three choices. So far so good, right?

Wrong. Here's where ExCom that year made a big mistake: they didn't put the results to the membership for a vote. Call it an executive decision but that's what happened. Since much time, money and energy had already been spent on the logo issue (this took much of the year to accomplish) the general mood was that the old logo was history, long live the new! To involve the membership at that point would only drag the process on interminably. Hey, it was a bad call born out of a lot of frustration. So the winning logo was unveiled at a Social (upstairs at Eichelberger's I believe), effectively putting the old one to rest for good; the winners were given their prize money and that was that. Or so they thought! Sheesh you should've heard the uproar!

By the ensuing month, it was quite clear the members didn't like the new logo. In ExCom meetings, the Dissenters had plenty of "I told you so's" to go around, but little to say when asked where their design entries were when they were needed. The majority of the Board didn't like the new logo, yet at the same time the old logo's use was outvoted as well, creating a deadlock. Having gone with the much publicized contest thus far, it was too late to back

out now and another contest was out of the question. They'd painted themselves into a corner. ExCom voted to drop the whole thing - No logo at all was better than all that fuss and trouble, bad feelings, irritation and downright hostility, not to mention that the whole process totally invalidated the efforts of the Judging Committee (some of them quite prominent within the community). So it was to avoid embarrassment to them and the time consuming hassle of staging another contest, that a generally defeated and fed-up ExCom, seeing no other solution, decided to let the whole kit and caboodle surrounding both logos die a quiet death. No ballots, little or no newsletter coverage...swept under the rug and breaths collectively held that it would all just go away. And it worked until now!

How do I know all this? I was an Officer of ExCom that year. I don't offer this tale as an excuse, but only in answer to recent questions and statements I've received and is solely from my remembered perceptions of those events. It was a long time ago and an issue I'd personally like to forget. Every member of that ExCom was affected by what happened and it hurt many of them deeply, so I'm hoping this will suffice, that you'll forgive us, and that we can all move on now.

Another Can Of Worms?

So what happens if we change our name to TGSF? On top of the hassles to change legal documents, bank and postal accounts, stationery, etc. ad nauseam, is now the time to think about a new logo to go with the new name? And please, do us all a favor...just forget about that old logo...it rests in peace now. I'd like to see us progress with the new name (should it come to pass) with a new look as well. It's a sensible and reasonable expectation. It just wouldn't do to have the "Miss Fairy Butterfly" image accompanying a handle like TGSF, now would it? So there it is...get your can openers ready ladies! But all in good time please - remember ExCom is facing fiscal problems right now and they're going to have to prioritize issues such as these.

Significant Other Support - East Bay

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0908	Melanie Hildebrand	0919	Michael Hynes
0908	Vikki West	0923	Frances Frinak
0910	Shoshanna Gillick	0924	Juana Smith
0914	Dian Devine	0924	Milton Miskel
0914	Jenny Cotton	0930	Misty Ford
0914	Kimberly Blake	0930	Sylvia Hakansson
0930 Valerie Genalo			

Many Happy Returns of the Day, Ladies!

Now Available!


1998 RESOURCE GUIDE

Well you have been hearing about it and now it is available! The 1998 ETVC Resource Guide is available at cost to all ETVC members. You can bring \$3.00 to the next social or we can mail it to you for \$3.00 + \$1.50 postage. If you are a service listed in the guide you can get copies for \$5.00 each plus postage. The Resource Guide will be available to everyone else for \$10.00 each.

The 1998 ETVC Resource Guide is your one source for virtually all the Transgender Resources in the Greater Bay Area (From San Jose to Sacramento to Santa Rosa to San Francisco). The Guide covers where to go to have a good time on the town, where to shop, where to get services like Make-up, Electrolysis and Beauty Salons, as well as where to stay in the San Francisco area (and Russian River Resort Area). You can also locate professional services such as Doctors, Psychologists, Lawyers, Voice Therapists and others. The Guide also contains information on other Gender Information and Education Groups. If you are going to visit the San Francisco area - This is the guide to have!

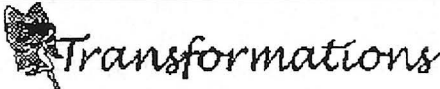
If you would like a guide by mail you can send a check for \$4.50 (per copy) to: ETVC, Resource Guide, P.O. Box 426486, San Francisco, CA. 94142-6486. Please be sure to indicate on the check that it is for the Resource Guide.

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July Events in Review

Continued from Page 11

I would like to make a comment about something that happened at the End of Month social which I consider to be inappropriate. During the show one of the models asked a person at the entry table who was talking loudly to please quiet down so they could hear their queues. All accounts indicate that the request was made in a very courteous lady like fashion. When the request was made a second time, the loud person responded in a confrontational (testosterone induced) manner saying something to the effect "Don't ever tell me to be quiet, I'm just going to get louder." I heard of the incident later and at first I thought it was just one of the men from the front bar probably drunk, and there would not be much we could do but ask the person to leave should the problematic conduct happen again. Subsequently I found out it was one of our members in drag. I could not believe it. Obviously this is not appropriate behavior for our socials. It should not be necessary to remind our members to conduct yourself in a lady like fashion and please leave your macho tendencies at home. I would like to commend the model who was the target of the aforementioned conduct. She handled the situation in a very dignified and lady like manner (Much better than I could have done). Also, I would be happy to assist in getting an apology into the Channel should the loud member mentioned above wish to write one.

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CHOICES

by Jane Bolig

Part III in a continuing series.

Your heart may tell you that even today is too late to begin living full time, but if you want your tomorrows as a woman to be happy and successful, use today intelligently: build a financial foundation. The formula I propose is simple. When you get your check, pay yourself first by putting as much as you can into savings. Unless you're already invested and know what you're doing, stay out of the stock market and especially high risk areas such as futures. 5% per annum in a savings certificate is not a lot of growth, but it's minimum risk.

Hardware and Software

In computer terms, hardware is equipment, and software is the programming that enables useful function. In human terms, hardware refers to our bodies, and the changes we make to them; software refers to our inner life, our interaction with others, and our maturation, or lack thereof.

We're lucky. Unlike computers, we can work on our software before the hardware is in place. It is vitally important, therefore, as we repair the mechanics of our life, that we do not forget to live.

Few of us are as completely passable and stunningly gorgeous as we'd like, and we know it. Men don't swoon when we enter a room; we're too tall; our voices are too deep; our hands are too big; our faces look like a map of the Rockies. To survive, we must harvest our inner resources and develop our inner strength; when we do, life becomes so much more than survival. It flowers.

If we haven't done that all important inner work by the time we're technically ready to live as women, god help us. Some of the saddest "T's" are those who have all the right equipment, but that's all they have.

Last spring I flew up to Portland to accompany my friend Lisa back to the Bay Area after her SRS. The morning before we left, Lisa, gregarious as always, made her usual rounds, visiting all the other "T's" recovering from a variety of gender surgeries. "Hi!" she would siren, "how aaaaarrrrrre you!" It wasn't a question but an affirmation, with the unsubtle subtext of "Life is great! Let's enjoy it!" We entered a room where one of the most beautifully passable transsexuals I've ever seen was propped up in bed looking like the bogeyman had stolen her last cookie. "How aaaaarrrre you!" exclaimed Lisa, and the young, petite beautiful woman answered with a sulky sigh. "Well, honey, I just came in to say good-bye." Later, I asked Lisa what was wrong with her friend. "I dunno. She's always been like that." "Why?" "She's done nothing but take care of the hardware. Now that it's all built she's got no software for it." Put another way, "Life," as Auntie Mame said, "is a banquet and most poor suckers are starving to death."

Friends

The men's world taught us self-sufficiency, competitiveness, self-aggrandizement; to detach ourselves from our inner lives, to distrust our emotions and disdain vulnerability as weakness. If we depart that world, but do not escape its orbit, we cannot fully enter the better world that awaits us.

"Only connect," said T.S. Elliot. I'm not sure what he meant, but if he had been a woman, I think it would be "Make all the friends you can."

Connect within the "T" world, of course. But don't get stuck there. If you're going to become a woman, seek friendship with other women. Friendship and community is one of the great joys of being a woman. If you already have women friends, you know something of the richness, depth and variety available in human relationship. If you don't, oh, what a treat is in store for you! In starting friendships, I find it helpful to be confessional about mildly embarrassing things, to ask questions, and most of all, to listen. As my good friend Jane Kennedy says, "Be open. Listen. Be vulnerable. Be the person who needs something."

Reach out. On this journey you will need companions both transgendered and genetic. Reach out. You will be amazed at how often a hand offered in the dark is met by another.

The difference between men and women's relationship is exemplified for me by the behavior of each gender in their respective public restrooms. One evening not long ago I was sitting in a stall in the women's room, when two young women, roommates, walked in. One took the stall next to me; the other stayed by the sinks. "I'm stuffed," said the one outside. "I could do with a little dessert," said the other. "Do we have any goodies at home?" "Yes, remember the cheesecake in the freezer? Oh, and I think there's still a piece of that chocolate cake." "Oh," said the woman in the stall, "that sounds perfect. Do you mind if I have it?" "No, that's fine." "And may I have a glass of milk, too?" she added playfully. "Only if you're very good." They giggled softly. It was an epiphany. I remembered the no-talk rule in men's rooms; or that, if you do talk, you discuss sports and business in loud, abrupt, emotionless language. You never voice endearments and never, NEVER smile or say hello to a stranger. For men,

Continued on Page 18

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PLANNING FOR THE FEMME CONFERENCE

by Veronica Smith

On August 6 at the Harvey Milk Institute, Leslie Bailey, Juana and I attended a planning meeting for the Third Annual Femme Conference (scheduled for November 1999). The original idea of the first conference two years ago, as described by the one of its organizers, was to explore all aspects of *femme*. But many of the discussions had evolved to include the subject of *gender*. In fact, so much had *gender* become a major topic that now the organizers are considering changing the event's name to be much more inclusive.

Indeed, *inclusion* was the watchword of the evening and the gathering included a wide variety of folks presenting a wide variety of how to be *femme*. Compared to an average ETVC planning meeting, these participants were generally much younger and far more playful in attire. Frankly, I was a little concerned about how we would be received; after all, our club does have a reputation of being somewhat conservative. And coming directly from work, I doubted if Leslie and I were *anyone's* idea of *femme*. But I had worried needlessly; we were graciously and enthusiastically welcomed. And fortunately, we were soon joined by the younger, much lovelier ladies, Miss Q and Nikki Rillingale, who greatly enhanced the club's representation.

The discussion's range and depth impressed me. Every participant was well-spoken and knowledgeable about post-modern, deconstructionist, gender and queer theories. It shortly became obvious that the term *femme* was used within a totally different frame of reference than we were familiar with. Leslie even asked for a definition. There actually wasn't a succinct one given, but if I understood it correctly, the organizers seemed to use the term as a touchstone for the exploration of gender expression and sexuality, and through this exploration, take control of defining one's self. In other words, by looking at *femme's* multitudinous meanings and finding ways in which those meanings connected significantly to their own lives, they were taking possession of the word, empowering it, and, since the word was applied to them, empowering themselves. One of the organizers then asked Leslie how we used *femme*. Leslie mumbled something about how when we go out dressed we say we are *en femme*. In the pause that followed Leslie's response I couldn't help but feel like we were in a seminar and hadn't done the reading. However, Juana, who's up on most literary theories (because of all the radical feminist stuff she reads), got us up to speed and we eventually got in the groove.

At the end of the meeting, I felt we had taken the first step of a great outreach opportunity. Whether she is aware of it or not, every ETVC member, from closeted cross dresser to fully transitioned transsexual, is part of a broader transgender movement, a movement in which I feel it is essential for us to become more active. Our participation in this conference might be enlightening for the club, maybe even enlightening for the conference and surely enlightening for the individuals who participate. For many of us older cross dressers, the knowledge of the feminine within us has not always been an empowering experience; it has too often been associated with shame and hurt. If we can rid ourselves of any of the guilt associated with our femininity, so much the better. If we can make it a source of empowerment not only for us but for younger TGs as well, so much the better for all of us.

ETVC Donations - Our Girls Who Give

as of August 31, 1998

Brenda Altman	20	Lin Fraser	20
Robin Barrett.....	5	Jenine Johnson	25
Jane Bolig	20	Suzanne Linden	20
Rose Cox	70	Patsy	500
Tetra Thompson		10	

Bless you for caring and thank you!

START PLANNING FOR HALLOWEEN!

by Nicole Cook

Well we have located a great venue for the Halloween Party this year. This Year we will be going to Carla's in San Jose. Those of you that know Carla's might think it is too small. What you don't realize is that the metal roll-up door in the back of Carla's opens onto a Auditorium in the Billy DeFrank Community Center. The auditorium has a stage, dance floor, sound system & stage lights. For those of you that don't know about Carla's, let me give you a description. Carla's is a combination Social Club, Boutique, and Salon that caters exclusively to the Transgendered community.

If you have been looking for that easy chance to get out, this is it! It doesn't get any easier than this! Carla's has parking and is one of the TG friendliest places around. Carla's is about 1/4 mile from the San Jose Cal. Train Station, and we are in the process of making arrangements with the 2 hotels around the corner from Carla's for group room rates. We plan to be running a van between Carla's & the Hotel. We will also do pick-ups and drop off's at Cal. Train. Carla's is also located about 5 min. from Mary's (formerly Hamburger Mary's) of San Jose. So if some of you want more exposure into the community at large that will be available too. So start planning now for what promises to be one of the best Halloween parties ever.

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New online mailing list for wives and SOs of crossdressers and men who consider themselves to be transgendered; no topic off limits. Attitudes range from complete acceptance to really struggling. Open to women only—no crossdressers please! Women need a place where they can feel safe to discuss these issues. Write to Jenni at www.aluckywife@aol.com and explain a little about your situation.

THE NAME GAME

by Andrea Drane

So why all the fuss about changing our name? The obscure and cutesy play on words? The apparent focus on transvestites to the exclusions of other forms of transgender expression? Is it really that we need a new name, or is it just that we need to find new meaning in our current name?



Existing recognition is the primary argument for retaining the ETVC name. The Internet lists 44 references to ETVC (www.infoseek.com), and the majority involves transgender books, publications, and resource lists. Most of the others are medical topics—did you know that ETVC is an acronym for Endotracheal Ventilation Catheter?

No one, including ourselves, really refers to “The Educational Television Channel.” Even the by-laws only use it once. The wonderful thing about acronyms is the games you can play. Erin does a wonderful comedy bit about car names as acronyms (“Toyota—Totally Obnoxious Yuppie on the Advance.”) Once upon a time, there was a software company named NBI, Inc. What did NBI stand for? “Nothing But Initials,” naturally. So who’s to say that ETVC doesn’t really stand for “Every Transgender Variation Celebrated?”

Let’s explore keeping the name ETVC, but remain vague about just what the initials stand for. Of course, this will mean renaming “The Channel” —perhaps to “Transgender Celebration.” Still, this seems a reasonable compromise:

- We retain the significant and widespread recognition of the ETVC name.
- We don’t imply favoritism of any one particular transgender expression.
- We don’t incur all the paperwork, filings, and expense required to change the name of a corporation.

So, I’m casting my vote to keep the name ETVC. How about you?

We, of all people, should not be afraid of change.

by Nancy Cupps
Education Committee Co-Chair

CHANGE TO TGSF

With the exception of Educational Seminar descriptions, I’ve never submitted anything for publication in our newsletter. However, I now feel compelled to ask you to consider a name change for our organization. My letter is addressed primarily to those of you who aren’t sure which way you will vote, and to those of you who think the name should remain ETVC.

I’ve read each article regarding the name change in recent issues with great interest. There is plenty of merit on both sides of the argument. Those of you who want the name to remain the same seem to fear a loss of identity, especially because the name ETVC has been in existence for 16 years and is associated with what our organization has accomplished during that time.

An organization is only as good as it’s members. A name is just a label, an identifier that should provide some indication of what the organization is. Whether the name of our organization is ETVC or TGSF, our members will likely stay the same, but having a more meaningful name might make it easier for other transgendered people to find us!

I spoke to transgendered people I met when I traveled during 1997; to Chicago for the Be All in June, to New York City for an event hosted by the Imperial Queens and Kings of New York in August, and to Atlanta for Southern Comfort in October. I explained who I was, where I was from, the name of my organization

Continued on Page 17

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Change to TGSF

Continued from Page 16

in San Francisco, and my position as co-chair of the education committee. When I mentioned the name ETVC, I frequently received puzzled looks, and was usually asked to explain what the letters meant. When I told them we were considering changing the name, and asked their opinion of my choice, TGSF, everyone I spoke to thought it was a good name, meaningful, and befitting an organization based in San Francisco. I also believe it will be easier for people to remember. I described these experiences when I spoke to other members of the ETVC Executive Committee at our monthly meeting in December 1997, saying TGSF was a very flexible name that could be interpreted in several different, but similar ways. The TG part could be "TransGender", "TransGendered", "Transgender Group of", or "Transgendered Group of". In my opinion, the term "transgendered" describes our membership better than any other, and therefore, having "TG" in our name will fit us well.

I think of San Francisco, Los Angeles, and New York, as "Meccas" for transgendered people. These are the places transgendered people move to when they want to be part of a larger TG community. These are also three cities well known by two letters: SF, LA, and NY. How many cities can make this type of claim?

Having a name with "SF" in it puts us on the map. San Francisco is a city known throughout the world. When people ask where I'm from when I travel internationally, I don't give the name of the small city I live in south of SF, because I know few people will have heard of it. I tell them I live near San Francisco, and usually no further explanation is required. They've either been there or know where it is. Let's take advantage of this wide reputation and use it to put our organization on the global map!

We, as transgendered people, must often become masters of change. We change our clothes, put on make up to change our faces, wear wigs to change our hairstyle, change the way we speak, the way we walk, and change our names. Some of us pursue permanent changes through electrolysis or surgery. The decisions we make are not always easy, yet we pursue them because we know we must, in order to look the way we feel inside. We want others to perceive us in the same way we feel. This is also how some of us who favor the name TGSF feel.

"Change" means the new state of things is different from the old state of things. Change is omnipresent; change will be one of the few constants in the late 1990s and into the next century. Organizational development helps leaders address and embrace change from the perspective that change is an opportunity, not a threat. Most demands for change come from outside an organization - from competitors, customers, and the larger society. Sometimes demands for change come from

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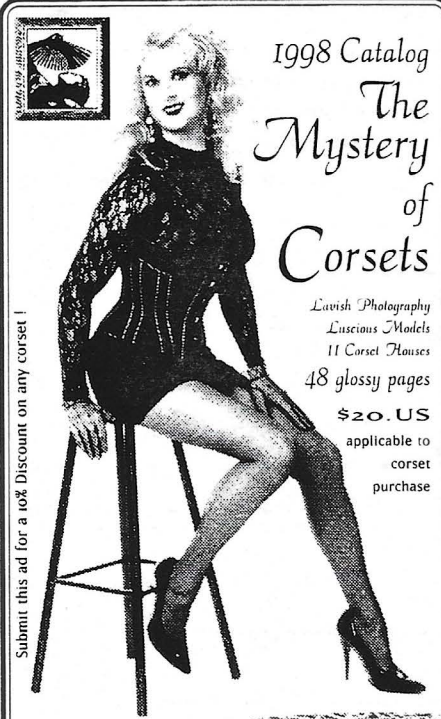
within the organization - a new president, obsolete products or services, a new strategic direction, or declining profitability.

Change has different facets to it. For example, change can be deliberate (planned) or accidental (unplanned). The magnitude of change can be large or small. In terms of scope, it can affect many elements of the organization or only a few. It can be fast (abrupt, revolutionary) or slow (evolutionary). The new state of things can have an entirely different nature from the old state of things (fundamental, or "second-order" change) or the new state of things can have the same nature with new characteristics or features (incremental, "first-order" change).

Our organization is not the same as it was 16 years ago, and neither is the world around us. We have an opportunity to make a meaningful change that will better align us with the times. As someone who has done introductory studies in organizational development, I propose making a gradual, planned change over a period of time, for example, one or two years. Doing so will give people a chance to adjust to the change. Certainly, implementing a change in this manner will avoid "losing" anyone during the process. During the first year, our Channel newsletter, web site, Pride Parade banner, etc., could state the name of the organization as: "TGSF, formerly ETVC" in same size letters. The following year, it could have TGSF in large type, with "(formerly ETVC)" in smaller letters. After that, only the new name would be used.

I perceive costs associated with a name change to be minimal, on the order of a few hundred dollars at most. One or two legal documents, a bank account, printing of new checks, a relatively small amount of business cards and stationery, etc. Most of these items need to be purchased on a regular basis in either case.

Please make your choice, then vote, but please remember that we, of all people, should not be afraid of change.



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Choices - Pt. III

Continued from Page 14

the bathroom separates; it's a bit of necessary business to attend to; pee, poop and get out. For women, the restroom is a clubhouse, where you can be friendly with strangers and share confidences with friends.

Body and Soul

Pamper your body. Appreciate it even if it isn't yet the right body. Instead of always jumping in the shower, now and then linger in a tub filled with bubbles and fragrance. If you can afford it, indulge in aromatherapy facials, a pure sensory and olfactory delight. Get a full body massage. If give yourself into it, it will more than relax you; as memory and emotion is released from your armored muscles and joints, it will reveal the mind/body connection and foster respect and reverence for your over stressed limbs.

Exercise. Not in stuffy gymnasiums but outside in parks, countryside and seashore. Delight in the natural world. See the sun rise. Listen to crickets and frogs. Smell leaves. Learn the names of birds. Let the rain soak you through. Observe grandparents and grandchildren.

All of these things are not only pleasurable, they are absolutely necessary. They are the poetry of life.

Part IV will continue in the October issue of The Channel.

The 2nd Annual East Bay Lesbian and Gay Film Festival

SPECIAL FTM BENEFIT!

The 2nd Annual East Bay Lesbian and Gay Film Festival presents a benefit showing of *You Don't Know Dick*, a documentary about female-to-male transsexuals, along with *Adam*, a claymation short. Following the film, there will be a panel of cast members to tell their stories and answer those questions you've always wanted to ask.

Saturday, September 12, 7:00pm at the Parkway Theater in Oakland at Lake Merritt (1834 Park Blvd.). Tickets are \$5.00 and will be available at the door (arrive early - there is limited seating).

Proceeds will benefit Female-to-Male International (an education, support and resource agency for female-to-male transsexuals).

The Festival runs from September 11-20. For a complete schedule call 510-814-2400 (special events line) or see www.eastbayqueerfilm.com.

ETVC Name Change Supplemental Ballot 1998

OK you've read all the pros and cons, now's your chance to have a say in it. If you've paid attention in Class, you know what to do by now. Please select one of the two names below that you feel best represents this organization and its members.

Please do it now or else!

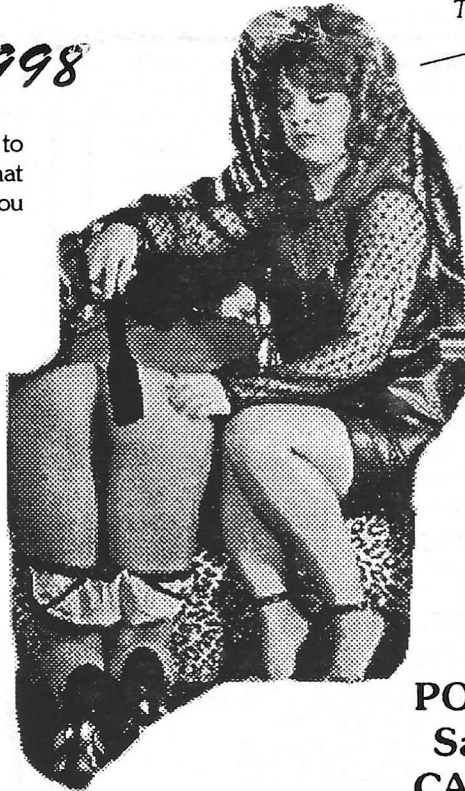
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