

TV GUISE

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A Polygenderous Publication

June, 1991

TV Sets Example

A visiting cross-dresser, working temporary in the Sacramento area, has contributed more than twenty-five hours of community service to the Lambda Community Center on her days off.

In addition to answering phonelines, baby-sitting and providing AIDS information, this 'sister' has been involved in passing out condoms and safe-sex information at the Lambda Freedom Fair.

"I really enjoy working there," she said in response to being asked how her days off had gone. "I had always wondered what it would be like to work 'en femme,' and working at the Center provides an opportunity to gain some insights to that, as well as the opportunity to help people."

This sister deserves the Cross-dresser Community Service Award for the month of June.

Now, who will be the next TV to channel their energy in such a shining example?

Queen of Queens

Hold on to your wigs and skirts, darlings— a whirlwind of Queens will sweep into Modesto July 12 & 13. Yes, the annual pageant that is Queen of Queens is rapidly approaching, so mark your calendar and start getting ready!

The preliminaries will be held at the Mustang Club, Friday night. Contestants will perform one act, and be judged on bar etiquette and circulation.

Saturday night will be the biggie. Inside the American Legion Hall, a talent show (up to three acts by each contestant), poise and beauty judging on day and formal wear, and— selection of the Queen of Queens!

JTC Guards Win

Security guards under contract to JTC apprehended all four suspects in two incidents of assault and robbery early Monday morning, June 17. All items were recovered. No one was hospitalized. City police are positive convictions will result.

Cats Strut Stuff

The Sacramento Do-Cats wowed the crowd at Joseph's Town & Country showroom, Saturday night, June 15.

Presenting music from the 40's through the 80's and into the 90's, this show was the most ambitious and professional that the Do-Cats have attempted.

Frankly darlings, I was nearly blown out of my stockings.

Each and every performer had at least one outstanding performance, and one can only speculate as to how spectacular a show these talented individuals will present next.

Since Lady Garnet has ascended the Imperial Throne, Ross has taken over the coordination of the Cats, Janice recorded the music, and both sang live as well as running the sound booth. Superb job on all counts.

Other highlights: The ever-fiesty Helena Holiday crooning in a blue beret; the brassy Barbara Love belting Aretha in a black teddy; the ravishing Raven roaming the room; the wandering Gypsy sharing Cher; the Imperial Empress's 'new look' hair; Rob Thorbin in God-drag doing "He's Got The Whole World In His Hands"; the enigmatic Grace gracefully fashioning her Jones; the demure Diana making her mark; the sultry Shondra shimmering in sequins and beads; the best of Bradley: Janis Joplin AND John Denver; the racy Racine revving it up one more notch, one more time; the incredible ensemble of gender-bending dancers gyrating around Chelsea's celestial Madonna impression.

Lordy, lordy, lordy—I can hardly wait until the next show, July 27. Golly-gee, the only good thing about waiting that long is I have time to get a new outfit.

Thanks, Cats.

PS: Emperor XVIII Leonard Harris, who regally operated the spotlight, reported that \$50 from the 50/50 raffle will go to the Lambda Center.

Calendar— see back page

Billie Jean Blabs

4 June 1991

Dear Darlings,

What an eventful month May was! I don't even know where to start... I suppose at the beginning... let's see now— oh! First, I was told to stop publishing this very rag you're reading, but since only one person said that and I couldn't understand why, the May issue was published on schedule. (A note of thanks to all the people who have encouraged the effort, and to those business's who have allowed the distribution of same— Thanx!)

Second, after not talking with my wife for over two weeks, she called late Friday afternoon and acted nice, and asked me to rent her a car on my credit card for the weekend. She would pay me back and wanted the car at 6:30. Okay, I said, trying not to smear my make up on the receiver, but I'm getting ready to go to Café Lambda; do you want to go? No, she said, I don't want to go out with you tonight if you're dressed— but I don't have a problem with you renting me a car while you're dressed. So I finished my make up, did my hair and dressed in a silky black skirt, red and black low-cut blouse, nude stockings and black heels. As soon as I finished my nails (Red Hot Red), I sashayed out of my apartment and drove downtown to the car rental place. As soon as I walked in I could tell she was a little more uptight than on the phone. She hadn't filled out the papers yet, and so we stood quietly in line. When it was our turn, she selected a car and loudly announced it was to be charged to "his" card. Everyone else in line stepped back and stared. The male clerk handled it all very well. Since I was nearly out of gas, I asked my wife to follow me to a gas station where I fueled up. The male attendants likewise handled it well. The wife wanted to borrow a couple of things from my apartment, so we drove there and she touched up my hair before we both went our separate ways.

We chatted later that night, and again on Saturday morning when she told me she had decided to spend the weekend alone. On Sunday night she called and we talked and at the end of the conversation she said I never considered her, that I just did what I wanted to do. Then she accused me of being "a fag" and "a drag queen who married [her] for cover," *SLAM*.

On Monday evening, she left a message that divorce was the only option for our relationship. On Wednesday she said I wasn't a fag, "you're a woman." She also told me she had kept the rented car. So I met her at a restaurant, "to settle things," as she put it. I listened to her for over an hour while she told me various things that were true (to her), including the fact that I was going to be a woman; that I was too confused to know that; and that she had "gone over my head" in order to know that (at a psychic reading as it turned out).

Well darlings, in that kind of situation there is really nothing that can be said, so I asked her for my bag-o-clothes that was at her house, payment of money she owed me, and the return of the rented car. She said I owed her a car, that she would take it back Friday, and that I should pay for it. No, I said, that wasn't the deal. Our waiter came over and asked us to leave

since they were closing.

We walked to the parking lot and argued and she screamed "fag, fag, fag" before I blasted away.

According to her, I am a stereotypical male who just takes, takes, takes; doesn't care about her or anyone else; and am blind to the facts. On the other hand, I am also a stereotypical fag/homosexual/drag queen who hates women. On the third hand (?), I am a woman, not a man. All this from a woman who I've been with for three years; who knew I was a TV before we married; a woman who I've bared my soul to.

The point? Just this: it is incredibly difficult to sustain a fluid relationship in a culture that is rigid. Our society is more than happy to hammer round pegs through square holes, and the result of this constant pounding is that individuals disregard who they are in favor of who they are told they should be. This is a reality for all couples, not just TV's. However, it is mighty convenient for TV spouses to blame cross-dressing for all relationship difficulties, even when (such as this case) they had been previously supportive, and there are many unresolved relationship issues other than cross-dressing.

What to do?

Live.

Step by step.

Some things just don't work out. When that happens, you must work out of the situation. It has been said that every dark cloud has a silver lining. For me personally, I'm looking forward to what I will learn over the next few months as I heal the bleeding wounds of a severed love.

Thirdly, I finally made it to an ETVC social, May 30. Had a lot of fun and met several new people, and am looking forward to their future Education Committee presentations (highly recommended by several new friends). The most interesting part of the day occurred before the social. For the first time in my life, I made up and dressed up somewhere other than my home. My daughter, who lives in Oakland, had invited me to a concert Friday night and we had planned to spend the day together. So when I told her I was going to S.F. the night before, she offered to accommodate me overnight. Since she works nights, we tried to figure out how I'd get a key, and came to agree that I would come early, we'd have lunch, and I could get ready at her place. So there we were, father and daughter putting on our make up together (well kinda— it takes her a half hour, me two and a half). She left at 5:30, I finished at 7:30, clicked out of her apartment house and strolled into the cool evening air.

Step by step.

Luv,



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Conversation with Emperor & Empress XVIII

(This "interview" was conducted in a pet store owned by the Emperor & Empress (E&E) on May 11. Hundreds of chirping birds rendered the tape recorder useless, and the following is the best translation from scribbled notes. Where possible, the remarks have been separated as follows: Emperor XVIII Leonard Harris (LH), Empress XVIII Lady Garnet (LG). In other cases, the designation E&E is used either because the notes are not clear, or because these two people, together for twenty-six years, sometimes finish a sentence one has started, and often co-equally answer a question.)

TVG: "What can you tell me about CGNIE?"

E&E: "Well, it was originally incorporated eighteen years ago to raise money for charity. Now there are separate corporate Empires in Nevada and Stockton, for example, that used to be part of CGNIE. Our boundaries are North to the Oregon border, East to the Nevada border, South to Stockton and West to... here's a map." (Showing to the coast, excluding S.F. (the first Empire) and part of Mendocino County.)

TVG: "What is your vision for The Imperial Court Of The Lion and Red Rose?"

LG: "We want to unite the community in order to upgrade the court."

LH: "Upgrade by active participation of members within the court and into the community."

LG: "Because the court is part of the community, and we want to be actively involved by maintaining a visible presence and partnership."

LH: "Court business may include community affairs because we are part of the community."

LG: "We want to share our experience; we're older than many of this community, but we have value other than youth."

TVG: "Ah, experience. I often wonder what the value of wisdom is, in a society that discards one of its most valuable assets— 'Those who fail to heed the mistakes of the past are condemned to repeat them.'"

LG: "I like you already."

TVG: "Thanks. So what activities will the court be putting together?"

LH: "We have a lot of required out-of-town appearances to make, and that will take a lot of time."

LG: "We want to have a Closet Ball in October, the week before Halloween."

TVG: "What goes on at a Closet Ball?"

E&E: "A King And Queen are elected from applicants who have never been in drag or have not been in drag for two years. First they model as men, or women— most guys grow beards before the Ball and pose real tough; women who would be King try to look real feminine— then they have one hour to transform, but other than shaving, they can't touch themselves, other people have to help them. Then everyone comes out to be judged based on how different they now look compared to their non-drag look."

TVG: "What does the audience do for the hour it takes?"

LH: "There's a show between."

TVG: "Will there be other Balls?"

LG: "The new Grand Duke and Duchess elections will be in August, followed by the Ducal Ball. They will organize a Valentine Ball in February, plus whatever other fund-raisers they decide upon."

LH: "We're considering a Cinderella Ball (a masked Ball) hopefully in November."

LG: "And we hope to organize Bingo once a month."

TVG: "Well, if you don't mind, I'd like to explore gender issues: Why do you appear as Lady Garnet?"

LG: "For the attention. As Gary, nobody paid any attention to me. As Lady Garnet, I'm known all across the country."

LH: "Her hair was a signature— 'The Wedge,' nobody else had it."

LG: "But putting on all that stuff is a pain— a lot of work. It's a lot easier just being Gary."

TVG: "Tell me about it, it takes me four-and-a-half hours. Do you identify as a woman?"

LG: "I identify as a woman as Lady Garnet; when I put the last thing on— my wig, then I say, 'oh, there she is.' And I'm more reserved, and even Leonard says so. When I'm a man, I'm Gary and I'm more aggressive. It's like a triangle: On one side of the base I'm Lady Garnet; on the other, I'm Gary."

TVG: "Have you ever done drag, Leonard?"

LH: "Yes, but not for about twenty-five years. Thirty years ago I was performing in L.A., in strip clubs. Until I took off my bra, you couldn't tell I was a man."

TVG: "So you did it as a job?"

LH: "Yes."

LG: "And back then, by state law, you had to wear at least five items of mens' clothing."

LH: "We were pretty creative— two jock straps, jockey shorts, a man's watch, and a man's belt for no reason, just to comply."

TVG: "Do you think you were expressing a feminine aspect of yourself?"

LH: "I probably was."

TVG: "Why did you stop?"

LG: "He was too tall for me, I'm not very tall and he towered over me..."

LH: "I liked five-inch stiletto heels."

LG: "And so we came to an arrangement where I wear the wig."

TVG: "Leonard, did you ever cross-dress as a child?"

LH: "No."

TVG: "Lady G?"

LG: "No. Well, I probably did with the other kids— playing dress-up— everybody did that, but not by myself."

TVG: "Have you both always identified as men?"

E&E: "Yes."

TVG: "Have you both always been attracted to men?"

E&E: "Yes, although we both married once."

TVG: "Any final words as regards the court?"

E&E: "We will be open to the entire community; we want everyone to feel welcome."

TVG: "Cross-dressers included?"

E&E: "Yes, and women too— everybody."

Our Community & Some Issues

Ari Kane, Director of both The Human Outreach and Achievement Institute (HOAI), a non-profit educational organization, and Theseus Counseling Services, gave a talk after the ETVC Educational Committee meeting of June 8, at the Chez Mollet restaurant in San Francisco.

HOAI, in addition to providing a comprehensive and integrated array of programs to the gender community and related helping professions, also sponsors Fantasia Fair, now in its seventeenth year. Fantasia Fair offers a unique opportunity to live in the gender of choice and to explore alternate gender lifestyles in an open and accepting environment. For the nine days of the Fair, participants are integrated into Provincetown, Massachusetts, a community with a long history of accepting alternative lifestyles. The Fair itself is the oldest event of its kind in the U.S., and provides a non-stop schedule of seminars and activities described as, "a joyous mix of social, practical, and educational experiences that cannot be duplicated."

Ari is also Ariadne Kane, and has been 'out-of-the-closet' for twenty-five years. Armed with a Masters degree in education, Ari/Ariadne set forth into the world of work and quickly became a consultant in the fields of Real Estate and Finance, before developing various counseling and support services. Self described as an innovator and creator, Ari/Ariadne is committed to expanding the CD/AN/TG/TS Community (Paraculture), as well as the American Community at large (Culture).

What follows is a subjective interpretation of the talk as presented, based on notes and subsequent telephone conversations. In order to aid a deeper understanding of the points made, I've taken the liberty of presenting "A Gender Glossary" produced by HOAI:

"Over the years, there has been some misunderstanding about the terminology relating to the gender community. In the interest of improved clarity and better communications, we present this glossary of terms.

CROSSDRESSER (CD): A person who wears articles of clothing of the opposite gender (includes Transvestite (TV) and Female/Male Impersonator).

ANDROGYNE (AN): A person who can comfortably express either gender role in a variety of socially acceptable environments (includes Bigenderist).

TRANSGENDERIST (TG): A person who lives permanently in the "opposite" gender role and who may not desire sex reassignment surgery (includes Crossgenderist (CG) and Preoperative (Pre-Op) Transsexual).

TRANSSEXUAL (TS): A person who desires anatomical congruence with the preferred gender role and seeks sex reassignment surgery (SRS).

NEW WOMEN/MEN: A person who lives full time in the preferred "opposite" gender role and has had sex reassignment surgery.

CD/AN/TG/TS COMMUNITY (Paraculture): People whose general behavior patterns include gender-related activities."

Ari Kane:

Culture and Paraculture (as in parallel culture): We live in a Euro-American society that now includes African-Americans, Asian-Americans, Chicano-Americans, and a further mix of Ethnic-Americans and lifestyles all forming the current Culture. This culture controls information. Several paracultures have little or no voice, and are largely defined by the larger culture. It is necessary for the paracultures to define themselves, as women have been doing for the last twenty-five years or so. A look at feminist literature reveals a great variety of perspectives and voices, and shows that women can flex their rights as human beings.

This is an important lesson for the gender-related paraculture. We are on the frontier of choosing paths for gender explorations. We have options for how we want to define our selves as individuals.

A new vision of gender is developing beyond the vision that we learned in our families, schools, and the culture at large. The USA is undergoing a Gender Revolution, and women are leading the way by defining femininity themselves, rather than allowing the patriarchal culture to impose its definition on them. This creates a schism for the definition of masculinity because the hierarchy placed men over women. Now that women have taken their right to define themselves, men must do the same. Some questions for men are: Do men have minds or just bodies? When a female wants more from a male than a body, how can the man attract?

Perhaps more importantly, what attributes do you choose to develop your total personage?

The New Perception is that change is individual. While men's literature is far behind women's there are two books I would like to mention. 1) Warren Farrel has been involved with men's liberation from early on to the present. His latest book is *Why Men Are The Way They Are*. 2) Robert Bly, a poet, has recently released *Iron John: A Book About Men*. Both take the position that men have a choice to define themselves, instead of accepting stereotypes.

Cross-dressers, to a certain extent, have presaged the men's movement, and we at The Institute, have been collecting literature relative to the gender paraculture for some time. We publish a comprehensive, annotated catalog of books and publications that are informative and useful for all people involved in this paraculture.

We have a history. We should be aware of our historical context as well as recognizing the contributions of those that came before us—they have opened doors for us.

(Continued on next page)

I'd like to share some of our more recent history: Thirty years ago Virginia Prince tried to clarify Cross-dressers who were heterosexual (the gay community already had Drag Queens— homosexual cross-dressers). The Foundation for Personal Expression (FPE) got the ball rolling. FPE became Tri-Ess (Society for the Second Self). On the East coast, TVIC (Independent Chapter) formed as an open group. On the West coast, CHIC (Hollywood types) formed as a closed group (they were paranoid of discovery). These groups would generally meet in someone's home.

On the East coast, Suzanna Valante put on the first "events," weekend outings in a primitive camp in the Catskills— little more than bunks and barracks. Marilyn from the State of Washington organized The Dream Experience (in Oregon— far enough away from Washington to avoid repercussions), this event was the first to present fashion/beauty/charm seminars. These early groups passed information from member to member; their existence and the events largely remained in the closet.

Then Fantasia Fair became the first non-existent closet— nine days out in the larger community. This allowed cross-dressers to see their defects, to work harder to refine their gender presentation, and to explore personal growth through cross-dressing. Fantasia Fair spread this vitality through the USA by sponsoring mini-fairs in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago, Washington DC, with the result of spawning independent gatherings such as Be All, Pajaro Dunes, California Dreaming.

Club newsletters, special interest magazines, television and other media forms now carry messages about who we are and what our events are about.

The International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE) was conceived and founded on the concept of providing a forum to bring diverse segments of the paraculture together, to share perspectives and issues relevant to individuals and groups; to cross-fertilize the various groups, world-wide. Through IFGE's efforts, people have come together at their annual conventions, and a diversity of views have been published in *The TV/TS Tapestry Journal*.

The gender community has been and will continue to be hampered by the Cult Of Personality. Many organizations have fallen apart because whoever controlled the club address list has decided to abandon the organization. Get away from Cults and get into establishing leadership roles for your organizations.

Some terms— for the last thirty years many terms have become outmoded. Some, such as Transvestite, which has outlived its usefulness and has taken on a negative connotation in the larger culture, should be replaced— we use Crossdresser. I would like to touch upon some others as I present a Gender Path:

Gender Perception: Gender Perception refers to how you perceive yourself and, to the extent of how you

present yourself, how others perceive you through gender attribution. It is not germane to say gender identity, as this only refers to an unclear notion on gender.

Gender Shift: In this culture we have choices, a diversity of choices including gender. How do you present this? Do you share with the culture? Do you present yourself as sophisticated, funky, erotic, wall-flower, etc? Gender Shift implies there are choices. This creates gender conflict in the culture. Gender conflict arises from the disparity between gender mores of the dominant culture and individual gender perception. One form of gender conflict is Gender Dysphoria, but conflict is much broader than that.

Gender Role: Is an aspect of how we express ourselves. It is more than a question of dress; it includes both verbal and non-verbal cuing. An important question is: How do you relate to other people and yourself in different gender roles?

Gender Presentation: Is how you present yourself to the culture. We deal with two main types: A) Erotic; B) Normative. Make your presentation appropriate to the conditions of location and event. If this involves sexual orientation, remember you have choice in orientation as well as gender. Try to develop individual relationships with others and don't deny your choices.

Each step on your path will involve choices— moments of decision. Be aware of those choices and be flexible in any situation.

In conclusion: We can choose our Gender Roles at different times of our lives. We have the option to Gender Shift if appropriate, and in one's enlightened self-interest, to express this Gender Role. During the process of shifting Gender Roles, we develop a style of presentation that is reflective of our Gender Perception. Once the closet of one's Gender Perception is opened and expressed through Gender Role and Gender Presentation, one will achieve Gender Euphoria.

Find your path.

The Human Outreach and Achievement Institute is addressed at: 405 Western Avenue, Suite 345, South Portland, ME 04106. (207) 775 0858. HOAI sponsors the following services: GAIN (Gender Awareness and Involvement Network), a service for helping professionals to access and share information relative to counseling and therapy; a Speakers Bureau; dozens of Seminars and Workshops; Information Packets and Periodical Publications; Fantasia Fair; and jointly with Theseus Counseling Services, HOPEFUL (Helping Our Partners Experience the Fullness of United Love), a program for couples who have learned to live with cross-dressing but who want more out of their relationship. Write for free brochures.

A book catalog is available from Outreach Book Service, Ltd., 126 Western Ave., Suite 222, Augusta, ME 04330.

Theseus Counseling Services is addressed at: 233 Harvard Street, Suite 302, Brookline, MA 02146. (617) 277-4360.

Conversation with Roberta S.

TVG: "Today is June 7, where would you like to start?"

RS: "If you want to know if I was one of the type of people that put on my sister's clothes, or my mother's clothes, forget it. I didn't. I was raised in a family of four boys and a father, period."

TVG: "You mean your mother wasn't in the home as you grew up?"

RS: "My mother and dad split up when I was six years old. The first time I met my sister was when she was sixteen, and the next time I saw her, she was fifty-two."

TVG: "When your mom and dad split up, all the boys stayed with dad and mom took the girls?"

RS: "No, she was pregnant when she left. She died when I was thirteen, and when I met my sister she was living with her adoptive parents—she was adopted as a baby."

TVG: "So, even if you had wanted to cross-dress as a child, there were no women's clothes available?"

RS: "No women's clothes at all."

TVG: "Did you have any desire to cross-dress when you were a young boy?"

RS: "Well, I don't know if I had a desire to cross-dress, but I sure had a desire to be a woman. I dreamt about that. I dreamt about how nice it would be to be a female. It never happened, I guess."

TVG: "Then you identified as, part of you or all of you, wanting to be a female at a very early age."

RS: "Yeah, very early. Dreamt about that millions of times."

TVG: "How old were you when you first dressed in the opposite sexes clothes?"

RS: "All the way?"

TVG: "Just any."

RS: "The first time I ever put on a, well, I stole one of my sister-in-law's pair of panties, and I put those on when I was twenty-one or two. It was more or less because they were sexy than anything else. I think it all started out that way—they made me feel good."

TVG: "So, you were about twenty-one, and you'd already been dating?"

RS: "I was married."

TVG: "You didn't swipe your wife's underwear? Did your sister-in-law have better underwear?"

RS: "Ha-ha. Not better, but they were easier to get-a-hold-of. My wife would've known if something was gone; my sister-in-law didn't give a damn."

TVG: "Do you know if any of your other family members or brothers have ever cross-dressed?"

RS: "No, I don't think so."

TVG: "It's not something you've ever talked to them about?"

RS: "Well, my younger brother, I think we talked we talked about some stuff—he had some odd feelings when he was older."

TVG: "How old were you then?"

RS: "Oh, I was up in my sixties—I was already retired."

TVG: "What year were you born in?"

RS: "1915. My younger brother was born in 1917."

TVG: "And he's the only brother you had talks with about

cross-dressing?"

RS: "The only one, yeah. My wife talked to my brother when he was up in the Salem, Oregon area, and I talked to him—I sent him a picture one time—we were talking about the picture and he wanted to know 'Why are you doing it?'"

TVG: "It was a picture of you cross-dressed?"

RS: "Yeah, a picture of me cross-dressed. I sent my sister a picture, told her I was cross-dressing."

TVG: "This was after you retired; you were in your sixties at that point?"

RS: "Yep. And she said, 'Well when are going to come up?' and, 'If you do, leave your female clothes at home.' And I said, 'Well, I guess I'm not gonna come, then.'"

TVG: "How old were you the first time you actually got completely dressed?"

RS: "Oh, it was after I got married the second time. She was gone one time—down to Monterey—and being that she was exactly the same size as me, shoes and everything else—the whole damn works—I tried on one of her dresses, and wandered around in her shoes—she only bought shoes with heels about like this (about an inch), though—I wandered around the house a little while in the morning, I couldn't do it too long cause the kids across the street got home from school and I'd be in trouble."

TVG: "About how old were you then?"

RS: "Way past forty. I never really did anything until after I retired, and I retired after sixty-five. My wife and I split up in 1980 and I went to Southern California and worked the rest of that year and part of the next. I had shoes, quite a few different pairs of shoes. In fact, I used to wear them around the house all the time."

TVG: "When you were alone?"

RS: "Yeah; I hadn't really bought any external clothes."

TVG: "Did you have lingerie?"

RS: "Lingerie, yes. A corset, stockings, and stuff like that."

TVG: "You told me once that the first time you ever went out in public was 1985, or 86."

RS: "Well, the first time I went out was a Halloween thing, but that really doesn't count because people go out lots of different ways on Halloween."

TVG: "Halloween is the one day of the year you can get away with it."

RS: "Yeah. The first time I went out was, 85? or 86? I don't remember. I drove down from the mountains and went to that mall out on Stockton Street [Blvd.], I had a yellow suit on, yellow shoes and yellow purse. Went over there, felt like my gut was gonna turn over, you know. That's the way I felt, but I sat in the car and says to myself, 'Hell, they can't do no more than kill me.' That's what I used to say at home when I'd get home late and wonder, 'what's dad gonna do when I walk in the house? Well, he can't do no more than kill me,' and in I'd go. I figured it was the same way there, and so I got out of the car and walked into the place."

TVG: "And what was the place?"

RS: "The first place I went into was JC Penney. I went in there and I went over to the women's clothing area and started looking at dresses. I picked out a couple, and went

(Continued on next page)

and tried them on—they didn't even say anything to me. I found out I liked one of them—I'd taken a lot of cash cause I didn't want to write checks, now I don't give a damn—so I took the one over and hung it back up, and took the other one over and bought it, paid for it. Then I walked down the mall, stopped and saw some shoes in Leeds, and thought, 'I need some of those.' So I went into Leeds—this is one of the pairs I bought, right here..."

TVG: "Nice moccasins."

RS: "Well, up there where I lived there were no sidewalks and I needed a nice pair of shoes. So I bought those, and another pair—a guy waited on me, too."

TVG: "So you bought two pair of flats."

RS: "Yeah, because up there, you needed 'em. And I remember driving home, it felt like the car was floating above the ground—there couldn't have been a bigger high any way else—I was giggling to myself all the way 'cause I'd done it."

TVG: "So you were seventy or seventy-one before you went out in public. How did you meet other cross-dressers?"

RS: "After I moved to the Jackson area, up in the mountains—that is, after the kids moved back down into San Mateo—I had gotten ahold of a magazine, that had an ad in it for a place called Fantasies and Lace. They have a magazine—it costs you forty dollars a year to join, you get a magazine about every month—that's full of cross-dressers that want other cross-dressers to write to 'em."

TVG: "Personal ads."

RS: "Yeah, with pictures. So anyway, I wrote to some of 'em, and one of the gals wrote me back and gave me the addresses of three places in the Bay Area, ETVG, RGA and SGA. So I wrote all of 'em and the first answer I got was from San Jose (RGA). So I said, 'Well, why not? What the hell.' So I packed a suitcase and headed down to San Jose the day of the meeting and got a motel room. I decided to go out in the daytime—I had the address of the place but no directions—and find the place, I didn't want to get myself lost at night. So I went and located the place, went and had dinner, came back to the motel, showered, shaved, put on make up and everything, got dressed and went over there (New Community Of Faith Church). I was sittin' out there in my car, scared to go in. Finally, I got guts enough to do it—actually I didn't get guts enough, somebody came along and rapped on the car window. She said, 'Come on in.' So I got out of the car and went on in with her. To this day I still don't know who it was—I was too scared to know what I was doing. Anyway, they were having a wig thing there, and in about five minutes I felt like I'd been around there for ages. And that was it; I says, 'from now on I'm not gonna sit at home when I could be out doing things like this.'"

TVG: "So you went to an RGA meeting, decided you weren't going to be scared anymore and could go out as a girl anytime you wanted?"

RS: "Well, it took me a while. I met Susie—she was a transsexual—she helped me a lot. I went down there and stayed at her place—I didn't have to rent a motel room every time, and that helped. Then I helped her get the coffee and everything ready, and I stayed to help clean everything up."

TVG: "Have you ever considered trying hormones?"

RS: "I took some for two years."

TVG: "And what did that do for you?"

RS: "Well, it built me up to about an A cup; I didn't have to wear padding. But then my doctor moved out and I haven't found a new one."

TVG: "When did you start shopping for clothes up in the mountains?"

RS: "The first time I walked into The Clothesmine up there in Buckhorn, Evonne almost had a fit."

TVG: "You were her first TV customer? Had she ever seen a transvestite before?"

RS: "No, she hadn't."

TVG: "You took her cherry, huh?"

RS: "Yeah, well I'd told her that one day I was gonna come in dressed."

TVG: "You mean you had already shopped there in man-drag?"

RS: "Oh yeah, half the clothes I got came from there. This blouse came from there, and I have a gold lamè skirt that matches it."

TVG: "So, in your early life you wanted to be a woman, and you've basically always been sexually attracted to women?"

RS: "Yeah."

TVG: "I'm curious as to your opinion on genetic males who think they are women and have sex with women—do you think they're lesbians then?"

RS: "I guess they would have to be if they feel like a female. Some of 'em dress this way because it turns them on when they're making love to a gal."

TVG: "You once told me, as an answer to my question of how was sex for a seventy year-old, that: 'Now it takes me all night long to do what I used to do all night long.' I like that answer a lot. Do you have anything to add?"

RS: "No."

TVG: "Fair enough. Any closing words?"

RS: "Don't wait until you get to be my age—if you wanna do it—just do it."

Safety Notes

Battery powered stun guns are available from several area gun stores. These hand-held devices easily fit in pockets and purses, and can be an extremely effective deterrent to attempted assaults. Stun guns do not 'shoot' electricity as Tasers do, you must make contact with the assailant's body. While legal to carry, and use if you are grabbed or assaulted, you are legally required to report any effective use to the police immediately.

The 65,000 volt Guardian model, available at Old Sacramento Armory, Inc. 2215 J Street, may be the most cost-effective at \$34.95 plus tax.

Gratuitious Filler

Back issues of **TV Guide** (April & May) are available by mail. Send one dollar plus one (29¢) first class stamp. Also, for those may want **TV Guide** to continue, faith donations (cash preferred) will be gladly accepted.

Gender Organizations

C.G.N.I.E., Inc. (Court of the Great Northwest Imperial Empire, Inc.) POB 160636, Sac, CA 95816. CGNIE was organized to raise funds for charities and continues to do so. Primarily part of the gay community, membership is open to anyone with an interest. CGNIE maintains an active relationship with many other Court Systems in the western United States. Annual events include elections of Emperor & Empress, Grand Duke & Duchess with related campaign events culminating in Coronation Ball and Grand Ducal Ball; also a Closet Ball; and Valentine Ball; and other Balls as selected by the Court. A variety of other events and fund raisers are scheduled by the reigning Court. Court Imperial (general meetings) held on first Tuesday of the month at Faces, 2000 K Street, Sac, CA, 7:30pm. No door charge. Annual dues— \$24 (or \$2 per month).

ETVC (Educational TV Channel— sometimes called the Educational TransVestite Club) POB 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486. Phone (Hotline) (415) 763-3959. ETVC is a non-sexual organization with the purpose of serving the educational, social, and recreational needs of gender-challenged people, their spouses, significant others, family members, friends and professionals in the helping services. ETVC is the largest organization of this type in Northern California and provides a wide variety of support including: rap groups, a significant other support group, print & video libraries, outreach, education and lots of social activities, plus more. Theme socials fourth Thursday each month, Chez Mollet restaurant, 527 Bryant St., SF, \$3. members, \$5 non-members (certain event/themes may be higher priced). Newsletter every other month included with annual dues—\$20.

G.A.L. (Gender Alternatives League) POB 3392, Napa, CA 94558 Phone: (707) 257-1973. GAL is a group in formation, with an eye on national representation of "Genderists." Seemingly predisposed to political and social activism, GAL is also concerned with educational outreach. Fees & Dues unknown.

I.M.A.G.E. (I'm Making A Gender Expression) 2094 California St., Sutter, CA 95982 Phone: (916) 755-1073 between 6pm-11pm. IMAGE is basically a closed social club still in formation (started Jan. 1). The stated purpose is to: assist members in appearance; perform educational outreach; organize social and recreational activities for the enjoyment of members and friends. New members must be sponsored by an existing member and accepted by membership vote. Three classes of membership: Individual, Couples & Honorary. Annual dues not established.

J.A.G. POB 1895, Sacramento, CA 95866. JAG is a FTM (female to male) closed group. Write for details.

RGA (Rainbow Gender Association) POB 700730, San Jose, CA 95170. RGA is another non-sexual social club open to anyone interested in gender issues. Poker Socials, Rap Group (with ETVC), Computer Bulletin Board, plus more. General meetings twice a month (1st & 3rd Fridays at 8pm) at the New Community of Faith Church, 6350 Rainbow Drive, San Jose. No dues or door charge; contributions accepted. Newsletter every other month, \$5 per year.

S.G.A. (Sacramento Gender Association) POB 215456, Sac, CA 95821-1456. Phone: (916) 441-8379. SGA is basically another non-sexual social club open to anyone interested in gender issues. General meetings are held on the fourth Saturday of the month at Joseph's Town & Country, 2062 Auburn Blvd., Sac, CA, 7pm if you want dinner, meeting follows, \$2 door fee (\$4 non-members). General meetings usually include a presentation, such as make up, clothing, etc. SGA Executive Committee meeting held the following Friday, same location, 7pm, open to members and guests. SGA is currently trying to organize a significant others support group, and a drop-in rap session. Annual dues— \$20.

I.F.G.E. (International Foundation for Gender Education) POB 367, Wayland MA 01778. Perhaps the largest organization concerned with the CD/TV/TS Community. Publishers of TV/TS Tapestry Journal. Write for details.

Upcoming Local Events

June 22— SGA General Meeting, 8pm at Joseph's Town & Country (7pm for dinner). \$2 members, \$4 non-members.

June 27— ETVC presents a "Really Big Shew" 8pm, Chez Mollet Restaurant, 527 Street, SF. \$5 members, \$8 non.

June 28— SGA Executive Committee Meeting, 7pm at JTC. Open to all, no charge.

June 30— San Francisco's Gay Freedom Day Parade. Open to all— no charge.

July 2— CGNIE Court Imperial Meeting, at Faces (Video Room). Open to all, no charge.

July 12— Queen of Queens preliminaries, Mustang Club, 413 North 7th St., Modesto, 9pm show. \$2 door charge.

July 13— Queen of Queens finale, American Legion Hall, 1001 South Santa Cruz (Ave?), Modesto, 9pm show, doors open 7:30, \$10.

July 27— SGA General Meeting, 8pm at Joseph's Town & Country (7pm for dinner). \$2 members, \$4 non-members.

July 27— The Sacramento Do-Cats perform, 9pm at JTC's upstairs showroom. No charge, tips & donations accepted.

August 2— SGA Executive Committee Meeting, 7pm at JTC. Open to all, no charge.

August 6— CGNIE Court Imperial Meeting, at Faces. Open to all, no charge.

Every Monday Night— Movies at Faces (video room), free. 6/24— "Jacob's Ladder," 7/1— "Kindergarten Cop;" new films each week. Refreshments available. No door charge.

Every Friday Night— Cafè Lambda is open to all, but remember there are no prudish restrictions on flirting. Refreshments available. No door charge.

(The events listed here may be attended in drag or drab.)