

GenderFlex

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A Polygenderous Publication

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The Intersexed— Who are they? What do they want?

Billie Jean Blabs

Dear Siblings,

Hay! Wake Up!! It's time to Quash the rumors, Quell the riots and Quiet the nagging nabobs of negativism!!! Hi-ho, hi-ho the mighty **GenderFlex** is here to insure peace & freedom and protect the American Way!

How 'bout those elections, huh? The majority of minorities and women avoid the polls like a plague and America is swept under the rug of pale penis people pissed off by the affirmative action loving liberal-livered scum. But it's a new day today, and change is in everyone's pocket thanks to Taco Bell dropping taco prices fourteen cents the morning after! Have ya noticed how more polite everyone fakes it? This is just the beginning, too. We all gonna be marching in lakstep with a song in our hearts and a whistle on our lips.

And all songs are gonna be Christian songs, we'll just rewrite lyrics and titles, see? *Jesus in the Sky with Candy*, *Whole Lotta God*, *Spiritual Girl*, will be some of the new titles. Then ya just re-record everything with appropriate choirs and soloists and one of those elevator music programs. They'll sell like hotcakes after burning all the unauthorized versions. Yo! ya can even have rap music—X-alted & Luvman doing *Prar Poppin Man*: "No shuckin & jivin when I be tithin'/ain't no piker cuz I'm layin a fiver." And think of all the benefits to the economy by redoing all the music, and science books, plus all the movies for video release—everybody's gonna have a job working for God. The economy's gonna grow so fast it'll be a stairway to Heaven for sure.

Yeah, and most of us will need a stairway, maybe even a high-speed elevator to Heaven because of the new Inquisition. Not to mention the jihad with heathens and, quite possibly with the majority of the world.

Ah, what the hell—war is always good for the economy.

Okay, since we've already started, might as well get right into it. We'll be continuing our top story 2nite, **The Dumbing of America**, coming right up after these important messages...

Have ya read any of these articles that starts out like this—"I live in (whatever state ya wanna pick; this is a generic thing) and I've been thinking about (whatever subject ya wanna pick) for quite a while and now I know what people in America think about this." Whadduh joke! It's like everybody knows what everybody else thinks, that's why people argue—because the listener won't go along with the program, and then the should-be listener has the audacity to begin speaking the wrong stuff and so everybody has to shout down everyone else so nobody can hear anything except what they already thought about whatever wherever they live! That's why you should only listen to **GenderFlex GenderFlex GenderFlex GenderFlex GenderFlex GenderFlex**.

Got it? Get it.

Gratuitious\$ Filler

Back issues of **TV Guise** (Issues 4 thru 10) and **GenderFlex** (Issues 11 thru 22) are available by mail for \$2 (two bucks) each, postage paid, first class USA only. Contributions (articles, letters, etc.), and faith donations (cash preferred) will be gladly, joyously, gratefully accepted. Future issues will be mailed on an issue-to-issue basis for \$2 each, paid in advance (please include address and make checks payable to Billie Jean Jones).

Time to tune in to America's talk shows and see what's up—a mother is distressed about her fifteen year old daughter's preference for clothing. Seems mom believes daughter vestments like a hooker and she's trying to get her to change. Here's an example of mom's technique: "I tell her she looks like a slut and her brothers tell her she looks like a whore, but it doesn't do any good." Hmmm, wonder what's going on—you'd think that putting someone down would elevate them to goodness, but no. Due to the permissiveness of our culture and the lack of prayer in school, kids today just won't elevate their self-esteem when parents use the tried-and-true techniques like calling them scum. And as you can see, not even sibling pressure seems to work with these deviants. (Why if I had a sister and she told me I looked like a slut or a whore, I woulda immediately swiped one of mom's long beige skirts and a high-buttoned blouse.)

Continuing our top story 2nite: Cokie Roberts, a heterosexual talking head for ABC television, and Steven V. Roberts, a heterosexual writer for U.S. News & World Report, jointly authored an opinion piece regarding "the major new sex survey". Nearly cackling with glee, they rejoiced in noting that "most Americans" express their sexuality within monogamous marriage; that 94% of married couples were faithful to their partners in the year preceding the survey; that only 2.8% of men and 1.4% of women identified themselves as homosexual or bisexual; and that teenagers have sexual relations infrequently.

Regarding media coverage and inclusion on issues of sexuality, they complain "that the so-called elites of this country are totally out of touch with most people." The so-called elites appear to be "editors and reporters who make judgments about what is news, what is important..." And television, which is "saturated with sex, and sex that is very different from the kind we always suspected and now know most Americans enjoy."

Ah, two of the media elites are overjoyed by a sex survey that confirms what they already knew to be true. Ain't life grand?

The new sex survey Cokie & Steven are so happy about, was conducted by the University of Chicago in face-to-face interviews. A group of private foundations funded a scaled-down version of a proposed government-sponsored, "scientifically based" sex survey that "failed in

Congress thanks to the leadership of North Carolina Republican Jesse Helms.”

Think about this for a moment or two: What if this “new survey” had been conducted by the University of California in San Francisco? Like, face-to-face in the Castro district?

Or funded by Queer Nation?

Blasphemy!

Whoops, let's Leave It To Stever and that kooky Cokie to finish up their salient points: It would seem that “infamous” sex surveys like Kinsey, people jumping into bed on televised soap operas, and writers and editors who deal with sexuality outside monogamous marriage, along with ex-Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders “advocating distribution of condoms in schools” are making most Americans mad. So mad that “Families who don't necessarily buy into the whole economic and anti-government agenda of the religious conservatives find solace in their denunciation of mass culture.”

Mass culture. Which I think means the aforementioned television (from which 90% of Americans get their culture), and to a lesser extent, visual and print media like **GenderFlex**. Whoa!! What if **GenderFlex** gets denounced as mass culture?

Here's a good idea: In case you find yourself having to deal with a public display of carrying or reading a **GenderFlex**, send for our list of **Top Ten** sure-fire snappy replies —

10. “I subscribe to it.”

9. “I'm a transgendered person doing public outreach; have you heard the good news?”

8. “I'm a lawyer defending a client on free speech rights.”

7. “I think it's some kind of liberal joke.”

6. “Oh this? It's about one of those wacky, post new-age religions.”

5. “I have to do a paper on the transgender menace.”

4. “My psychiatrist gave it to me.”

1. “I found it laying over there, is it yours?”

Ya know, I can't type as fast as I think so I don't remember the other two— besides, what about editing for space and conciseness? That's important, ain't it? Sure is. See, one of the things that happens when your mind is focused on exploring the vast expanses of inner space, when you are pushing the limits of sentience, unraveling the subtle interplay of crackling synapses and operating your complex constructs through shifting points of observer relative perspectives, ya just gotta remember the economy of language (KISS— Keep It Simple Stupid) because of intermittent attention-deficit disorder

and the need to sell advertising in 80% of yer media space in order to reinforce intermittent attention deficit disorder in order to build on yer economic base and elevate income producing media space to 90% by the year 2000. And the added bonus of only placing eight of ten items, which hardly anybody would miss anyway, is the 20% savings of media space in just one item! And the savings, instead of being wasted on non-income producing editorial space can be converted to revenue producing media space— just think if this policy was uniformly implemented!! Add the 20% to the 90% and you can see that the year 2000 targeted goal projection will be vastly exceeded— which will allow the generation of large executive bonuses as well as sharply increased stock dividends. (Wild applause.)

As you can see, something as simple as omitting two lines can evolve into a concept that can rapidly escalate into a financial empire. Go for it. (Standing ovation.) Thank You.

(For a complete transcript of the preceding paragraphs as well as the top ten list Billie Jean referred to, send only \$4.95 plus \$19.95 for shipping & handling to The Institute of Complex Understandings, 15 Quantum Circle, Mayberry, USA.)

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GenderFlex, bringing a futuristic fusion to nowness from the recent past...

Hey, guess what? See, I was working my ass off layin around on the couch when I thought of this but it took a coupla weeks before I got around, I mean, finished cooking it up. It's a real swell idea so hold on to yer vestites again kids!

Whee!! (I forgot to give credit for the extra extraneous use of exclamation points in the last ish (#22 only \$2!), and in this one, which by all rights should go to a buncha people (certainly more than I know), but for the unanimous vote by the Bored uv Dic (should I? (no, it's been done) okay) tators, the winner is Linda Phillips of *Gender Euphoria*!!!!!! Of course, in accordance with Corporate Policy, its moral values (soon to be a new law near you soon!) all prizes, cash values and discounts will accrue to **GenderFlex** for matching grants from you the reader... STOP! Wobble over to yer checkbook right now and insure yer voice and choice will be carried far beyond the maddening crowd— here's something way cool: Write yerself a note to change yer will, trust, whatever, naming **GenderFlex** as benefici— whoa! I'm gettin way ahead of myself, hold on. Oh! By-the-way, Miss Taki caught on to a cool scam: bought up a buncha real fur fashion on a hunch that focused Republicans would swing the vote and environmentalism would be out, ergo— fur will be in! Whatta wacky whacko Miss Taki is. Devious. Probably CIA Director in our brave new worl— dang it, I'm getting ahead again— it's way hard knowing the future when yer writing the past because ya get weirded out in the present. But hark! All I gotta do is close this one remaining parenthetical and drop into the next paragraph!



Cindy Martin & Telzey Adams



Marge Simsin & Barbie Dahl

DVG Schedule Changes

Yee-haw! Due to a wild west invasion of screaming, stomping Country & Western TransWestites (TWs), The Diablo Valley Girls have changed their socials at JR's from the first Tuesday and third Monday of the month to the first Monday and third Wednesday of the month.

Billie Jean Blabs and blabs— (Continued from page 3)

Okay, so here it is—not just the next paragraph but the proof's in the pudding, the fruits of my labor, the grapes of wrath, or whatever—Since I'm gonna be the first transgendered President of these somewhat United States of America (**GF** #21, \$2), I thought I'd getta platform together, ya know? Like my own Contract On America. Sort of. I mean, on one of the other hands, whichever that one is, ya got a promise ya can't keep and on another, an escape clause. Sorta like a double indemnity or however ya get off 'cause you were nuts for a moment but now yer legally innocent and they can't try you again, so even if ya did it—nyah-na na-nana.

(Gosh, I just woke up from another nap and I was reading the preceding, like dropping in from the past (last paragraph), and looking forward to the future (the next paragraph). However, when I got to here (the present), right here where I had thought there was more already written (right where I wrote this), I came face to face

with—bafflement. Instead of reviewing the future, fleshing out the bones, filling in the gaps, I find I'm having to make everything up! By the time I get to the future it will all be in the past—this time stuff can be way hard. Imagine how a star must feel, all burned out and collapsed and people think yer burning star bright, star light, won't you be my neighbor. And worse upon worst, just as you reach for that star so ya can put it on the Chrissymess tree, the gin grinch has already stolen it! It's a black hole!! Eye of the newt, that honks me off! So now ya can probably understand my surprisement when I not only realized my way cool second State of the Union speech hadn't been writ, but the new Transgendering in School law I shepherded through Congress and signed hadn't happened yet! Like I said, this time stuff sure can be hard. Moan and groan, better just get back to the campaign)...

My campaign will be built on a wave of emotion for equality, justice and peace. My platform's central plank will be Transgender Rights for all. Everyone will hold hands and dance in a circle. Men will be free to be dykes

and girls will free their inner lumberjacks. No more dissing. No more kids yelling, "HEY TOOTS, YER TITS ARE TOO HIGH!" No more, "HEY SHORTY, YER SOCK IS SAGGING!" Oh no, nunna that crap. I won't stand for it! If you think for a minute that Billie Jean wouldn't enforce the death penalty? Mark my words! I'll show you who's tough on crime!!

My plan to end crime is to make all crimes subject to the death penalty. That'll be the fastest way to breed out all criminals. So my crime bill will make all violent crimes to be vigorously prosecuted with the guilty perpetrators being flung off the great Mandala. Or given a temporary job as crash-test dummy.

Every wealthy person, or executive in charge, who rips off poorer people shall be cast in the slums, no job, real bad marks on their permanent record, and just beginning their new education.

We gotta have civility and equal justice, see?

Values will be another underpinning of Campaign 2000. Values built on a solid foundation of cash reserves. Ya can't have too much money for the most important political movement of the new millennium, ya know. One of California's gubernatorial candidates ran outta dough four day before the election! Can ya believe it? And another thing, while my couch is paid for, the rent on the personal storage unit that contains it, is due every month, and there's a lack of constant campaign contributions to insure voice & choice in the dawning of the age of Aquarius, which is a nagging anxiety, and that's a hell of a scrungy way to treat a future president. Can ya imagine how bad that would look all chronicled up in my future presidential library? Why I'd be the laughing stock of the media!

Waitaminnit— I am the media!

And a floor cleaner too.

That's another thing, we don't got enough drones around here. Me and Miss Taki gotta do everything. Even all the duties in The Church of No Redemption Required. Just because yer born in original Purity, doesn't mean guano if ya don't do yer part. And ya oughta line up soon— listen to these examples from my soon to be published Complete Redemption Plan...

We gonna have Redemption-side economics— kinda works like this: when you need money you withdraw what you need and if you took too much, then ya make a deposit.

My plan to eliminate interest on the insidious national debt, in accordance with Jesus' Christian example, will be to legislate usury out of existence as a violation of God's Laws.

My plan to end the pathetic national debt will be in accordance with the Law of Islam in which all debts are forgiven every seven years. And get this— by the time I'm inaugurated it'll already have been more than seven years!

We gonna have choice and we gonna have no-choice. Nobody will have choice about pregnancies. It'll all be DNA matches. We gotta breed disease and dis-ease outta people. So no choice on new citizens. Plus we gotta breed the dumb people out.

We gonna have choice about parenting. That means if ya match to have a baby, ya wouldn't necessarily raise it. In fact, every body that wants to parent will have to rotate the brats.

My plan for education is that everyone studies everything and are evaluated for self-direction. Transgender Day at school would be opposite sex one day a week, rotating between the seven primary sexes, along with a variation on androgyny once every two weeks.

We'll replace the elementary three "R's" with the three "M's"— Molecules, Matter & Malice, the major study groups after the kindergarten Reading, 'Righting & 'Rithmetic; beside, that's enough time for baby talk. Then we'll just go through the different languages and alphabets. So ya getcher Ph.D. in eighth grade and start yer first career in high school. Or ya frit away yer whole life. Which ain't gonna be too long or propagated unless we need yer immunities.

My plan for the Arts is to put all arty-farty stuff under the NEA then abolish the NEA and continue funding military bands. The budget for military bands has always been higher than the entire endowment for the NEA! The people have spoken! Since military bands are the culture of choice, and television is the preferred medium of choice, we gonna have a moment of Culture in the Schools (CS) where everyone watches soldiers and bands march through the streets where you live! That way, everything will be Safe and Secure (SS). In fact we gonna keep the military marching 'round the clock in everybody's neighborhood for as long as it takes. And think of the message the rest of the world is gonna get: America's military is at the ready!

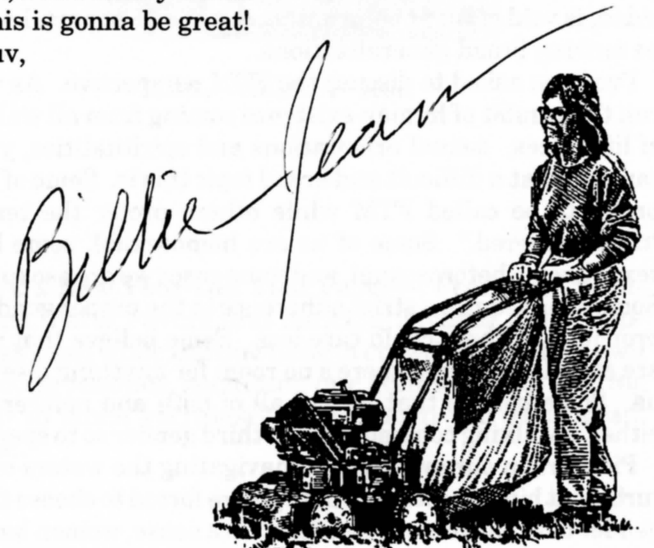
We always knew we were this smart, we just needed me! Now that I'm awake and on the ball, things are really moving! Heck, I think I'll write the new Bible, Koran, Torah, Upanishads, Way of Virtue, Sayings of Billie Jean— whatever— and so that way, if anything needs to be clarified, ya can just ask me!

Transgender Rights is the movement of the moment, fueled by the runaway train of *Billie Jean Blabs!*

Oh, I can hardly wait...

This is gonna be great!

Luv,



(Please publish the following with Each & Every reprint of any portion of our Transgender Law Conference Proceedings.)

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"ICTLEP is your transgender law conference and annually sponsors "TRANSGEN: YOUR JOBS, YOUR INSURANCE AND HEALTH, YOUR RIGHTS AND YOUR DOCUMENTS" with usual attendance of 70% non-attorney transgendered. ICTLEP exposes legal discrimination against transgenders and develops progressive change strategies for transgender rights through annual conferences, publications, referrals, regional workshops, data collection and testimony. For information send SSAE to 5707 Firenza, Houston 77035, or leave fax or phone number (returned collect) on 713 / 723-8368. ICTLEP asks for your small monthly VISA / MC pledge: 80% is tax-deductible."

PERSPECTIVE FROM A TRANSGENDERED MAN

By Michael Hernandez

[Speech from the Transgender Pioneer Award Dinner at TRANSGEND'94, Houston, August, 1994 © ICTLEP & Michael Hernandez, used with permission.]

I'd like to thank Phyllis Frye for the honor of addressing you this evening. And now for the standard lawyer type disclosures. I don't like being spoken *at*, so I'm going to try to avoid doing that this evening. My goal is to discuss a variety of topics about openness and diversity. I can only speak from my own perspective. Although I am representing the FTM community on this occasion, the opinions that I express are my own and reflect on no one but myself. In a typical conversation, it's easy to explain either broad generalities or narrow statements. A speech, being one-sided, is void of that opportunity. For the most part, I will be making broad generalizations.

I've been asked to discuss the FTM perspective. As we run the gambit of human existence coming from all walks of life, races, sexual orientations and spiritualities, you can see what a difficult and broad topic this is. Some of us prefer to be called FTM while others prefer the term "transgendered." Some of us are homosexual, some bisexual, some heterosexual, and some cases we are asexual. Some of us require a strict adherence to the proper gender pronouns. Others could care less. Some believe that we are strictly male and there's no room for anything else in us. Some believe that we are all of both and neither of either, a walking contradiction, a third gender so to speak.

Pioneers in our own fashion navigating the waters of a turbulent bipolar society where you're forced to choose the gender box that you will reside in. In a sense, women have

an advantage over men. There's broader latitude when it comes to the expression of emotion. Women are able to express emotion without stigma. They touch each other from time to time. They're able to hug when they meet and preserve their semblance of sexual identity. There are no hushed whispers of "lesbos." No one will look twice at elderly matrons dancing at a wedding together. The feeling of "Oh, how cute" implodes immediately when the same situation involves two men.

There's also a greater latitude in the choice of clothing. For the most part, no one will think twice about a woman buying a man's shirt, man's pants or sports jacket. But a man in the lingerie department is outrageous, whether or not he is there to shop for his girlfriend, his wife or his mistress. Ask any MTF about her first experience purchasing clothing or accessories during her initial transition. Demuted comments, stares, and murmurs of disapproval, rudely loud enough to hear but not brazen enough to be clearly assertive. Whereas for the majority of us FTM's, the experience was, "What can I do for you young man? Will you be using your credit card or your mothers'?"

What we tend to forget is that for every freedom, there is a cost. To a greater degree, there are disadvantages for women. Such as lower wages, discrimination, clothing and accessories are more expensive and less durable, and there's also the added fear of your own personal safety while walking down the street.

I practiced law as woman for four years. During those four years, I was required to wear pantyhose, heels, a business suit or skirt and a blouse to work everyday just in case I had to go to court in an emergency. That emergency never arose. I noticed that I was replacing three to four pairs of pumps every six months. It was more expensive to launder my blouses. And digressing from the point, has anybody ever been able to figure out why it costs more to launder women's blouses than men's shirts? They use the same soap, the same washing machine, the same press. For the most part, women don't ask for starch. It's the same material, often smaller dimensions. Seems to me that women's blouses should cost less to launder than men's shirts.

Generally, my lady suits lasted only a couple of years before they started falling apart. Pantyhose purchases had a life into themselves. Inevitably, I ruined a pair every three days, that is, if I was lucky. As a man, my suits are more expensive, but have lasted far longer. My shirts cost less to launder. My soles have not yet needed to be resoled, and I've been wearing them to about four and a half years. In short, I'm spending less money for more durable goods. I don't buy the argument that women are more fashion conscious and that their clothes are made with that in mind. I've known men who are far greater clothes horses and can care less that fashion changes. They just go out and buy the current threads.

However, the price paid by men for the relative freedoms is a rigid code of behavior. Real men don't cry, don't eat quiche and certainly don't discuss anything which could be

perceived as a sign of weakness by their so-called brothers. Male bonding consists of slapping each other on the back and making off-color jokes to hide the fact that they even touched. God help you if that hello hug is not accompanied by a couple of hearty slaps. By this little ritual, they're able to avoid any specter of homosexuality. What is absolutely bizarre about all of this is that a sexually aroused male can, within reason, be convinced to try just about anything that smacks of homoeroticism. Women are more circumspect when it comes to crossing this line, yet they are freer with their affections.

I believe that little by little, the stereotypical role model of what is appropriate behavior is changing. With the advent of the men's movement, there is some progress being made in this regard. More opportunities are becoming available for men to discuss what ails them without being pounded into the sand for being a sissy or weak. The struggle for women is still being fought slowly and painstakingly. There is no forward motion to terminate the wage or other disparities which exist.

As transgendered individuals we have the opportunity of having experienced both sides of the fence. Whether FTMs choose to acknowledge it or not, we did walk on this earth being perceived as women in some way, shape, or form. And as such, we have experienced discrimination, whether obvious or overt. We can and should help change this world in this society by not falling into the macho-man, back-slapping, tobacco-spitting, beer-guzzling syndrome. We can and should speak out when women are being demeaned or marginalized. We can and should refuse to outspit, outpiss or outscrow our biological male counterparts. We have the ability to disagree with the opinions of other men without being less manly or of being discovered.

We must keep in mind that our way is not always right for someone else, and that for every opinion that we have there is someone with a contrary one, each one based on a different set of experiences with its own validity. Instead of getting angry invalidating the opinions or beliefs of others and inflaming passions on both sides, we need to

(Continued on page 10)

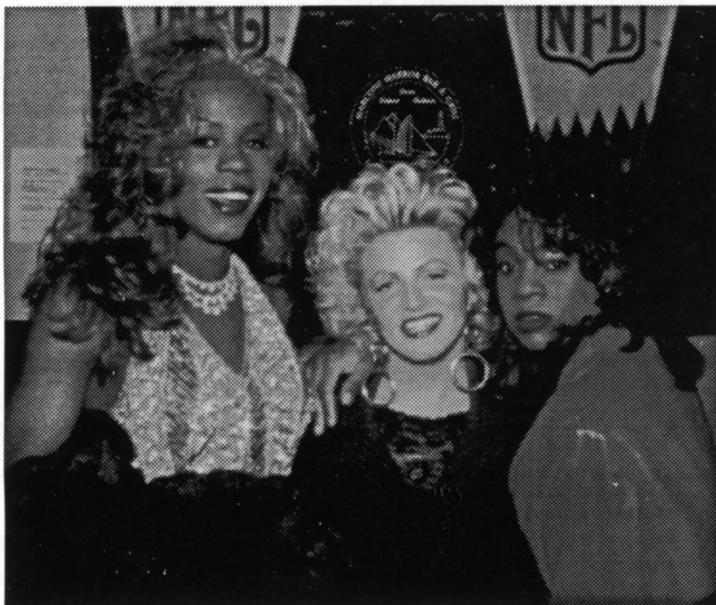
Bree & Sandra



Lulu, Waitron- not!

ETVC's New Year-Old Year Party— Feedbag, Champagne, Party Favors and dancing flavored Kimo's upstairs bash while the downstairs crowd raised their own raucous realities, including one gent who was offering "\$20 to smell yer toast?" Hey, burn yer own bread, dude.

Chelsea's 3rd annual 21st Birthday Party— A stellar group of performers and friends put on the ritz and blitzed the Marconi Harbor in December. Empress XXI, Racine and Grand Duchess, XX, Shondra added their Imperial show touch. The Harbor was jammed and jumping with a diverse jumble of curved and straight folk intent on having fun, not funk, no bunk, no junk.



Racine, Chelsea & Shondra



Chelsea struts her stuff

A Short Saga of SGA

Once upon a time in a land not too far away, and not too long ago, a reinvigorated vestite social club was happily ensconced in a safe harbor. The Marconi Harbor Bar & Grill to be exact. The reason for this had come about due to a business decision by the Sierra Inn, a hotel, to jettison "alternative lifestyles." Or said another way, the bar and restaurant operator, Joseph, was not renewed.

Joseph sailed out upon the seas of commerce and found safe harbor as alluded to above. Civilization flowered and much good cheer was enjoyed (see Holiday Party photos on the next page).

One day, the owner of the harbor got up on the wrong side of bed and abruptly trashed the frolicsome fusion of socializing citizens.

The entire fleet was sunk, pandemonium reigned.

Fortunately a few valiant vestites in tattered frocks set course for a new house in town, thereby finding a vestige of security on the second floor next to the dartboards and as far away from the croaking karaoke machine as possible.

And although the Townhouse stops serving dinner at 7pm—thereby encouraging the vestites to partake meals at other locations—the rest of the facilities are open until 2am.



Wittnie & Ava, SGA Sparkplugs



Carmen & Amanda, 28 Years



Roberta, Septuagenarian Teen



Stella & Lisa, Hipslamming



Bernadette & Shelby



Perspective— (continued from page 7)

take a deep breath and hear each other out. And in a worse case scenario agree to disagree. We must each walk the path of our own choice, whether it be straight or narrow, curvey, or uphill at a ninety-degree angle. We can laugh, cry, talk about our fears with at least one person, whether it be a friend, lover, member of our community, and for those of us who are less fortunate, with a therapist, or in the modern age, by plugging into cyberspace.

In a sense, we are gender outlaws forging a new frontier. The absence of clearly defined transgender role models permits us to define who we are, whom we sleep with and whom we love. We get to decide what behaviors are acceptable for us so long as we spew the appropriate catch phrases to the medical providers who have the power to stop us in our tracks. By the same token, the lack of role models results in a lack of a frame of reference within which to work. We have more options than we did in the forties and fifties. We should avail ourselves of these freedoms and benefits.

How you ask? By coming out. I can see the sweat beating on many faces when I use that phrase.

What does coming out mean? The first closet that I subsisted in was as a lesbian. I had doubts about my sexuality, and called a high school friend who came out during our senior year. I asked her if she thought I was a dyke. She laughed, and basically told me that only by sleeping with women would I be able to answer that question for myself. Well, at that time that advice was the most aggravating and frustrating thing I had ever heard. I let her realize that she was teaching me one of the most important lessons that I could ever learn. It was what I thought and felt that was important. To live my life by anyone else's standard would doom any happiness that I could ever hope to achieve.

In short order, I followed her advice. I proceeded to jump out of the closet, boldly asserted to the world who I was in my best Ethyl Merman voice and slammed the door shut so hard and fast that it shattered in splinters behind me. What can I say? "Youth is wasted on the young."

I was working at a prestigious law firm in Beverly Hills at the time. And wouldn't you know it, not only did they fail to offer me a job after I passed the bar exam, they tried to fire me thirty days before it. The fact that I was working sixty hours a week on a salary with no overtime pay and no comp time and going to school at night conveniently slipped their minds. Fortunately, I convinced them to let me stay until my results came in. It was at this time that I realized that the splinters from the shattered closet door were lodged in the back of my head. Needless to say, I had them painstakingly removed. I knew in my heart that I was being discriminated against, but I could never prove it. That experience taught me caution if nothing else.

So why am I here encouraging you to come out? It's because you can make the difference for all of us. No one is suggesting that you wear a sign declaring that you are transgendered. You don't even have to leap out of the closet or come out for very long. You don't have to turn on

the light if you don't want to, just start by opening the door. If and when you feel comfortable, stick your head out and look around. If you need to go back, go on in, close the door. Fine. Do that. You have the right to do whatever makes you feel comfortable. At least you got a little fresh air.

For the most part, people tend to view coming out as an extreme process. The image of a deer frozen and thereby trapped in the lights of an oncoming car comes to mind. If you want it to be this way, it can, but it doesn't have to. By starting on the road to transition you can, of an essence, come out to yourself. This is the first step. If you've started taking hormones, you've come out to your medical providers. If you've been to the Department of Motor Vehicles, you come out to them, too. The point I'm trying to make is that everyday we live and breathe, we come out to some degree.

A gay writer said, "When you finally come out, there's a pain that stops. And you know that it will never hurt again no matter how bad you loose or how bad you die." But coming out is not the end-all and be-all to happiness. No one is suggesting that you will be teleported to a Disneyesque setting where birds chirp all the live-long day and the bad guys never win. Quite the contrary. There is vulnerability and associated risks. But what are the options if you stay in the closet? Closets are musty. They reek with fear — the fear of discovery and of humiliation — a fear for our own personal safety in the world.

Whether or not we choose to see it, closets communicate to others that we are ashamed of who we are or who we once were.

So you see, closets portray an illusion of safety. But in actuality they're not safe at all. There's no lock on the door. People who want to hurt us either physically or emotionally can smell that fear and sense that shame. By being out the impression that we have no fear is conveyed whether it be true or not. I can illustrate this perfectly. I would surmise that at least the majority of you think, or at some point in time since I started the speech concluded, that I have no fear of public speaking. This impression is totally false. See, you too can fool the world to a certain degree.

In this day and age with the Religious Right closing around us, we cannot wait for the world to change so that we are accepted. We must take some form of affirmative action to change it. I have permission from the author of the following passage to read this to you. It's written by S. Gardner. "I was waiting patiently for thirty-nine years, then I got tired of waiting. Ten years ago, I would never have dreamed of sharing my thoughts on this subject with even my closest family members, let alone strangers. I would never have dreamed of being so bold as to openly buy my own skirts and blouses in stores. Now I know we can't wait for society. I have to take some small action myself. We all do. We all have to do what we can to help ourselves and to help others to have the courage to change society's perception of men and women."

When I began to question my own situation with respect to my gender and my role, the thing that really haunted me

was not my own pain, which was nevertheless real, but instead my complicity with the infliction of pain on others. If I didn't start to make some minor moves to help move the rock off our chest, how could I look in the mirror? Then I read Queer in America and realized how far ahead the nontransgendered gay movement is and how much happier life is for gays now than it was in the fifties when I was born. I realized how much life has changed for gays, and I saw how it could change for us if we only began the small steps now that will lead to major change in a few years.

I vowed never to answer any questions about my transgendered status with a lie. Ever. I wouldn't rub anyone's nose in it, but my gender I won't lie about that now either. It was a very liberating experience, and the joy continues. Everyday I get a little bolder about letting others know who I am and why, and this makes me feel so relieved. Closets kill and closets make other closets. I realize now that I'm not the only one in the closet. My closet also helps imprison others in their closets. And every crack that I hack from my own closet doors lets light into a million other closets. I could not have said this better.

We cannot sit back and rely on talk shows to portray us in a favorable or appropriate light. While it's well and good that we're garnering greater visibility through the media, the media cannot be trusted. Their goal is different than ours. We're not concerned about how many papers get sold or what the ratings are. What does concern us is that we don't have the same basic and alienable rights and freedoms that others enjoy. We are not free from discrimination in housing, in employment, or any other facets of our lives. This is slowly changing. We want to be treated with the same level of decency and respect as anyone else, not like a bunch of sideshow freaks.

If we sit back and wait for it to happen, our persecution will continue and more than likely increase. There's a famous quote by Martin A. Meuller. "In Germany, they came first for the Communists, and I did not speak up because I was not a Communist. Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak up because I was not a Jew. Then they came from the trade unionists, and I did not speak up because I was not a trade unionists. Then, they came for the Catholics, and I did not speak up because I was a Protestant. When they came for me, there was no one left to speak up." What that sentiment illustrates to me is that not only do we have a duty to get involved, but that we cannot rely on others to speak up for us, to speak out for us or to protect us.

We cannot rely solely on the gay, lesbian and/or bisexual communities to do our work for us. Some of them are busy ostracizing their very own because of a purported negative image. This includes drag queens, cross dressers, transgendered individuals, and anyone not in line with the Izod shirt, Banana Republic Chino pants and penny loafer, white bread image. While a faction of the gay community is willing to embrace us with open arms, a very vocal faction of that community would like us to bury our heads

in the sand. We are told to wait by the sidelines while they garnish support and gain acceptance. Then, and only then, should we step in. I don't trust this anymore than someone who starts their sentence with the word "honestly" and then expects me to believe the remainder of whatever it is that they're trying to tell me.

It has taken the gay and lesbian community twenty-five years to even get close to legal protection. If we agree to wait by the sidelines, it's going to take much longer than twenty-five years for us to get anywhere even close to where they are today.

By your coming out, whether globally or on an individual basis, we touch people's lives. By being honest and open about ourselves, we educate others that we are no different from them, irrespective of our unique qualities. It is easier to disparage and destroy that which is not close to you. In other words, distance and dehumanization make us much easier to obliterate and therefore constitute a greater threat to our existence.

I used to believe that political activism meant going out on a limb. That politics involved long meetings, lots of arguments and nothing being accomplished of promises made and broken only to be resolved with a lot of last minute scrambling by the same few people to get the conference or newsletter for event together in time for the deadline. That politics involved a lot of pain and sacrifice. I deluded myself into believing that since I no longer did any of these things, I was not political. Fortunately, someone with a very large needle burst that bubble. Talking to people is political in nature. Telling someone your story and aspects of your journey in transition is political. Every time that we stand up in front of somebody and say, "Hey, this is what life is about for me," we are being political. This work, in addition, to all the other work, must be done. We must find our own niches and ways to help and be supportive of our fight for civil rights.

You can even get involved without coming out. You don't have to be transgendered to write your congress person. You can write an article anonymously and present it for publication to "Tapestry," "Crysalis," "FTM" or a number of other publications that are out there. You can even write anonymous "Letters to the Editor." If these things prove to be too disconcerting for you, you can stuff mailing envelopes, donate money or donate your time to one of our organizations. Or if this minimal level of interaction makes you uncomfortable, you can post your thoughts, opinions or advice to others on the Internet, and in that fashion make it easier for someone else to transition, crossdress, come out, or to start thinking about us in a different light.

There presently exists a rift between the MTF and FTM communities. This is not due to transgressions or bad blood. The rift is gradually becoming smaller but exists nonetheless. I believe that this stems from the bipolar nature of the society in which we live. The world forces you to choose what box you'll live in, male or female. Only these two spaces are available on motor vehicle forms,

credit applications, insurance forms, medical history and the like. There is no box marked other, both, or either. Even in our own community, even in our own community, gender ambiguity is a no-no. It's no wonder we're persecuted. We make people uncomfortable. This is another reason why talking to other people is imperative. In essence, transition involves a rejection of prior self. Both overtly and subliminally. Those boxes help make this so.

This rift is further compounded by the ever familiar pre-op body image discomfort. I've known FTMs who have said, "Why would anybody want to be female, the pantyhose, the makeup the dreaded heels, the pressure to be feminine." This isn't fun. There are also MTFs who have expressed that testosterone is poison and all men are worms.

While I have no desire whatsoever to be feminine, I cannot deny that the look of a feminine woman is, well, more than just appealing. Without invoking my Fifth Amendment rights, I freely and voluntarily admit that a shapely pair of legs, particularly in black stockings can render me speechless on the spot. Fortunately, there are a lot of table cloths in this place, and that has enabled me to speak tonight. My desire to be masculine does not preclude my appreciation of femininity.

Also, I've noticed that trend among FTMs to leave the community after they've completed transition. I myself, although still in transition, haven't been around it at all this past year. This is not a swipe. If it weren't for the few FTMs who've stuck around and heard the same questions and dilemma, a million and one times, I would not be here before you tonight. MTFs, on the other hand, tend to stick around longer, continuing to get and give support. I have haven't quite figured out why this is.

Part of it may be that MTFs have more information to absorb than we do. Let's face it, learning how to knot a tie is much less difficult than how to apply makeup properly or trying to walk in heels. I tried to walk in heels before, I can tell you it's an art form that I haven't mastered. The fact that there are fewer FTMs around to interact with each other also means that there are less of us around to interact with MTFs.

I have no clear solution as to how to narrow this rift. But conferences such as this one, and with IFGE, provide a place and opportunity for us to interact and work toward a common goal. I'm not sure whether I covered FTM perspective.

I understand that it is usual to tell the audience about yourself at the beginning so they will know who you are and what you're about. I didn't do this. I wanted you to listen to my words without an impression of my background except for the basics, of course. I wanted you to listen with open ears and open minds. I'm an attorney. I practice law in San Francisco. I was born in Cuba. And you can imagine the dismay that my parents had when I boldly announced to them that in addition to being their daughter, some day I hoped to be their son. This was after a year on hormones and many excuses as to that cold I had.

When I finally met my parents with a full beard and a crew cut and a partner with earrings and tattoos and hair longer than mine, who was very clearly male, you can imagine their shock. My mother's jaw dropped to the ground, and I don't think she recovered the ability to speak for twenty minutes. But during that period of time, the mention of my female name continued throughout the evening. While my mother is trying to be better about my name, she still flubs up every once in a while and uses the wrong gender pronoun. I haven't bothered correcting her. I merely informed her that if this ever happened in public, I would do the, "Sorry, my mother's a little crazy. We need to take her back to the home so she can get her meds" routine. She's gotten much better about it since then.

In closing, I'd like to say life's too bloody short. If it feels good, and it's right in your heart, DO IT. Don't live for work: work that you may live.

I'd like to thank my partner, Sky Renfro, who convinced me that my abject fear of speaking to a group of total strangers, in the first public speech that I've ever delivered, would make me a better person. Thanks a lot Buddy, I owe you. I'd like to thank Pat Colifia who edited this speech, convinced me that it would be fine and that people would laugh in all the appropriate situations. Last, but not least, I'd like to thank my parents who continue to hold those closet doors open for me and have supported me while facing their own fears.

[Did you notice he didn't mention **GenderFlex**!? First, I'm gonna write Phyllis a real snotty letter. Even though she learned her lesson, she's gotta keep ITCLEP in line, we got this whole presidential thing to accomplish and I need a thorough Attorney General; Second, next time I go to an FTM meeting, it'll be in black, backseam stockings and spikey pumps just in case Michael shows up with Sky. That a way jealous Sky can whack a drooling Michael upside the head.]

First Ever FTM Conference!

Slated for August 18-20 in San Francisco, the first National all-FTM Conference, "A Vision of Community" is in the planning and arrangement stage. As announced in issue #29 of the FTM International Newsletter, the location and lodging specifics have not been finalized. The Conference will be presided over by FTMs and will be directed exclusively toward FTM issues and concerns, including FTM interaction with the larger TG/TS/TV population. The Conference will provide three days of workshops, networking and socializing, and will be open to all interested parties, including partners and MTFs.

ETVC will be hosting a fundraiser for this Conference at their April 27 social.

FTM is now online with E-mail: FTMNews@aol.com.



The intersexed— who are they? What do they want?

Science recognizes seventy-two sex chromosome combinations and five other levels of the process of sex differentiation (gonadal, hormonal, internal reproductive structures, external genitals, brain differentiation). Generally, people are classified as male or female or ambiguous (true hermaphrodites and pseudo hermaphrodites). However, many ambiguously sexed people are mis-classified until later in life, often at puberty (issue #10 explores much of this in detail).

Ambiguously sexed people are intersexed.

Trans-people on hormone therapy are intersexed; post-operative trans-people are intersexed. A person may have a degree of intersexness at different times in their life from organic influences.

In an attempt to illuminate the perspectives of intersexed people, I queried a few trans-people as well as the Intersex Society of North America. None responded.

At issue seems to be identity; trans-people do not identify as ambiguously sexed. In a bi-polar culture, there is no middle ground except for a few people like Kate Bornstein and Leslie Feinberg who carve their own space. Self-identified transsexual people identify as either male or female; men or women (or womyn).

There was an interesting letter in the *S.F. Bay Times* (August 25, 1994) from a person born intersexed who identified as a feminist member of the womyn's community. This person was highly critical of "...this newly expanded, all-inclusive 'transgendered' category" and resented being lumped into said category. This person does not openly identify as a TS "...increasingly because of the new tendency to lump all metagender situations together to include men who play at drag." Railing against the "...insulting-to-womyn draggy/tv posturing", the writer also omitted any mention of FTMs.

It would seem that most trans-people have a heavy investment into their own preferred identity, and that such identity is unambiguous, so much so that the obvious is skipped over. And trans-people are those who "cross-over," not those who immerse themselves in combined sex attributes.

Depending on one's preferred gender/sex that can be one or the other but not neither-either.

Brief Notes...

S.F. Transgender Ordinance

The City of San Francisco added "Gender Identity" to the list of protected classes under its Human Rights ordinances. Passed by the Board of Supervisors in December, 1994 and signed by the Mayor, the ordinance went in to effect in January, 1995. Mayor Frank Jordan issued a proclamation designating January 30, 1995 as Transgender Rights Day.

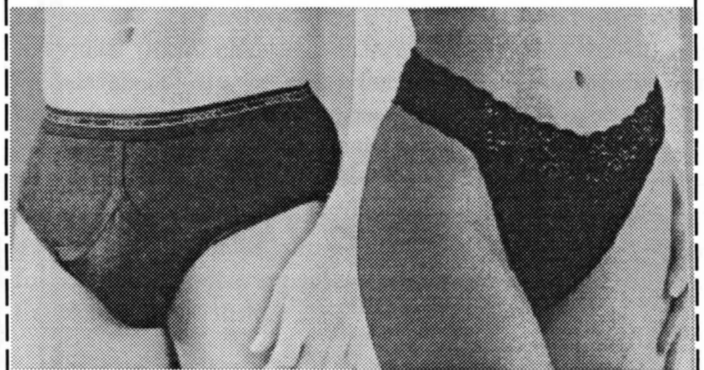
Congratulations to Shelly Salieri, Kiki Whitlock, James Green (all TG), Larry Brinkin (HRC staffer), and Terence Hallihan (Supervisor).

Congratulations to Bobbi Dunne and James Green on becoming 1995 co-chairs of the SF Transgender Task Force.

S.F. Parade

The SF Lesbigan Parade Committee has voted to officially title the June 1995 parade the "Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Pride Celebration Parade".

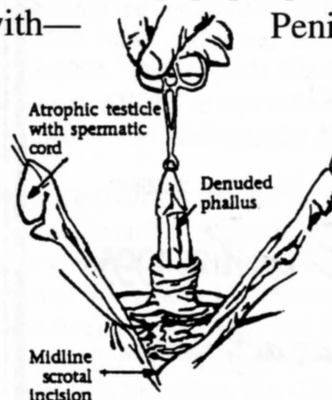
The ULTIMATE Tuck!!



From this—


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No more wrestling with Uncle Bulgy, no more embarrassing pop ups! Fashion fits better with— Penile Inversion Surgery!



And when those Neanderthals yell: "Gophuk yerself!"
You can scream back: "I already am!"

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 what it means
 to be a woman...

March 31 - April 2, 1995
 Essex, Massachusetts
 (See Calendar for address)



Gee!!
 I Used to
 Want to
 Dress Like
 a Woman!

But
 I didn't
 Think
 It was
 Possible!

And Then I Joined AEGIS!

The good folks there gave me the help I needed!

To join and receive *Chrysalis*, our magazine, *AEGIS News*, our newsletter, & other good stuff, send \$36 to AEGIS, P.O. Box 33724, Decatur, GA 30033-0724 — Or Call our Help Line (404) 939-0244 / FAX (404) 939-1770

Gender-Related 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 have fun. Primarily part of the gay community, membership is open to anyone with an interest. Annual events include Emperor & Empress Coronation, Grand Ducal Ball, and a variety of other events and fund raisers. 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— \$2 per month (April is free).

DVG (Diablo Valley Girls)— POB 272885, Concord, CA 94527-2885. Phone (510) 937-8432. DVG is a non-sexual social club in the Concord/Walnut Creek area. Monthly socials held at Just Rewards, 2520 Camino Diablo, Walnut Creek, CA on the first Monday and third Wednesday of each month, 8pm. No door charge. Monthly newsletter included with annual dues— \$10.

ETVC (Educational TV Channel)— POB 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486. Phone (Hotline) (510) 549-2665. ETVC is a non-sexual organization trying to serve the educational, social and recreational needs of "gender-challenged" people, their spouses, significant others, family members, friends and helping professionals. Theme socials the last Thursday of each month at Eichelburger's, 2742 17th St. (at Florida), SF, \$3 members, \$5 non-members (certain event/themes higher priced). Many other activities/events. Newsletter every other month included with annual dues—\$20.

FTM (Female to Male) Group— 5337 College Ave. #142, Oakland, CA 94618; voicemail (510) 287-2646. FTM is the largest support group for female cross-dressers and FTM transsexuals. Meetings held monthly alternating informational (open to non-FTMs) and support (for FTMs only). Currently selling paperback copies of Lou Sullivan's *Information For The Female-To-Male Crossdresser & Transsexual*, \$10; *FTM Resource Guide* \$5; great newsletter published quarterly— donations appreciated.

I.F.G.E. (International Foundation for Gender Education) POB 367, Wayland MA 01778. (617) 899-2212. Perhaps the largest organization concerned with the CD/TV/TG/TS

"Community." Publishers of *TV/TS Tapestry Journal*, and more.

N.S.G.A. (North State Gender Association) POB 8250, Red Bluff, CA 96080. Phone (916) 527-9303. NSGA is a non-profit, non-sexual social support group that began in the fall of 1993 with the goals of providing peer support, socials, seminars and referrals to professionals.

RGA (Rainbow Gender Association) POB 700730, San Jose, CA 95170. RGA is a non-sexual social club open to anyone interested in gender issues. Poker Socials, Rap Group, BBS (208) 248-4162 (300-2400 baud), Warmline (408) 984-4044, 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 for \$10 per year.

S.G.A. (Sacramento Gender Association) POB 215456, Sac, CA 95821-1456. Phone: (916) 482-7742. SGA is a non-sexual social club open to anyone interested in gender issues. Social meetings are now being held on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month at the Townhouse, 1517 21st St., Sac, CA, 7:30pm, no meeting charge. Annual dues include newsletter—\$20.

Society for the Second Self (Tri-Ess)— POB 194, Tulare, CA 93275. Tri-Ess is primarily for heterosexual males who cross-dress, and their families. A variety of social and educational services are designed to foster self-acceptance and expression. Individual (local) chapters are located throughout the US and Canada (about \$20 a year each). Publishes the *Femme Mirror* four times a year which is included in annual (National) dues of \$35. Write for application & information.

Transgender Nation— 584 Castro St. #288, San Francisco, CA 94114; (415) 863-6717. Transgender Nation survives the demise of Queer Nation, and will continue working specifically for transgender rights regardless of sexual orientation/attraction. Contact person: Christine Taylor, (415) 586-6409.

[Listing revised March 1995]

Other Organizations & Services

RGA Rap Group meets the second Friday of each month at the New Community of Faith Church in San Jose, from 8 to 10pm. Contact Martina at (408) 984-5619.

ETVC's Significant Others Support Group meets the second Thursday of each month, from 8 to 10pm. SOS meetings are open to people involved with a CD/TV/TG/TS person, but who are not one themselves. Write ETVC, or call Ginny at (415) 664-1499.

Pacific Center for Human Growth, 2712 Telegraph Ave, Berkeley, CA 94705 provides weekly peer-support meetings for Bisexual, Gay/Lesbian, TV/TS persons. Info: (510) 841-6224

The Sweetheart Connection newsletter [formerly W.A.C.S.— Women Associated with Cross-dressers Communication Network]; POB 7241, Tallahassee, FL 32314

Partners newsletter for couples: POB 17, Bulverde TX 78163.

AEGIS (American Educational Gender Information Service) provides referrals and offers support to people with gender issues,

as well as publishing several informational booklets and *Chrysalis Quarterly*, an excellent gender-related journal. For a \$36 membership fee you can receive two issues of *CQ* plus four issues of AEGIS News and more. Mail to: POB 33724, Decatur, GA 30033-0724. Phone: (404) 939-0244 (helpline), (404) 939-2128 (business). AEGIS is also affiliated with Renaissance Education Association, and facilitates the National Transgender Library & Archive.

The Outreach Institute of Gender Studies (126 Western Avenue, Suite 246, Augusta, ME 04106. (207) 621-0858) sponsors a service for helping professionals (GAIN), dozens of Seminars and Workshops, Info Packets and Periodical Publications (some free), Fantasia Fair; and jointly with Theseus Counseling Services, HOPEFUL, a program for couples (Theseus: 233 Harvard St., Ste. 302, Brookline, MA 02146. (617) 277-4360.

For common emergencies, dial 911.

Special Thanx

to **Jesse Reklaw** for the cover art; to **ITCLEP & Michael Hernandez** for the Perspectives article.

Special Thanx to **Bernadette** for her \$20!! to **Krystal Powers** for her \$10!; to **Cindy Martin** for her \$3; to **Telzey Adams** for her \$5; to **Leslie Regier** for her \$10!; to **Cheryl Shephard** for her \$5; to **Danielle Frye** for her \$5; to **Evette RoqueLaurie** for her \$5; to **Janet Nichols** for her \$5; to **Bob Davis** for the \$10!; to **Karen Boynton** for her \$20!!; to **Arthur M. Rein** for his \$2; to **Jericho Knight** for his \$4; to **Helena Saarinen** (Finland) for her \$50!!!, to **Carol Anne Braddock** for her \$1; to **Bree Wood** for her \$10!; to **Susie** (in San Jose) for her \$5.

Congratulations!

Miss ETVC 1995 Tammy Kingsley
Mr. ETVC 1995 Dillon King.

TransSisters

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Kansas City, Missouri 64110

Sample (current) issue \$6; Back issues \$8; One year subscription \$24. Make checks payable to Davina.

Upcoming (Mostly) Local Events

March 25— SGA Social, 8pm Townhouse, 1517 21st St., Sac.
March 30— ETVC presents "Leather & Lace Nite" 8pm, Eichelberger's, 2742 17th Street, SF; \$3, guests \$5.
Mar 31-April 2— "Full Circle of Women" (see page 14). Essex, MA, info c/o Janis Walworth, POB 52, Ashby, MA 01431, (508) 386-7737. \$250 includes meals & lodging.
April 3— DVG meets at Just Rewards, 2520 Camino Diablo, Walnut Creek, 8pm. Open to all, no charge.
April 4— CGNIE Court Imperial meeting, 7:30pm at Faces (20th & K Sts., Sac.). Open to all, \$2 dues.
April 6— Pacific Center's Walnut Creek Gender Rap, 1250 Pine St, Suite #301, 7pm. (510) 939-7711 for info .
April 7— RGA social, New Community of Faith Church, 6350 Rainbow Dr., San Jose. 8pm, donations accepted.
April 7 Pacific Center's TV/TS Mixed Rap, 8-9:50pm, 2712 Telegraph, Berkeley, donations requested.
April 8— SGA Social, 8pm Townhouse, 1517 21st St., Sac.
April 8— FTM Informational (open) Meeting, 2-5pm in SF. Voicemail: (510) 287-2646 for details and info.
April 12— ETVC presents a Dance Social upstairs at Kimo's, 1351 Polk St., SF, 8pm, free.
April 13— ETVC's SOS meets TBA, call (415) 664-1499.
April 14— RGA South Bay Rap Group, (408) 984-5619.
April 19— DVG meets at Just Rewards, 2520 Camino Diablo, Walnut Creek, 8pm. Open to all, no charge.
April 20— ETVC Couples, 8pm, Foster City, (415) 664-1499.
April 20-23— "California Dreamin'" Burbank, CA. Details: POB 1088, Yorba Linda, CA 92686.
April 21— Pacific Center's TV/TS Mixed Rap, 8-9:50pm, 2712 Telegraph, Berkeley, donations requested.
April 21— RGA social, New Community of Faith Church, 6350 Rainbow Dr., San Jose. 8pm, donations accepted.
April 21— ETVC's Bowling Night, SF (415) 731-7032.
April 22— SGA Social, 8pm Townhouse, 1517 21st St., Sac.
April 23— ETVC presents a Transsexual Seminar with Alice Webb, E. D. of the HBIQDA. Potluck & Social to follow (bring food)— upstairs at Kimo's, 1351 Polk St., SF, 2pm, free/donate.
April 27— ETVC presents "FTM Fundraiser," Eichelberger's,

2742 17th Street, SF, 8pm. Members \$3, guests \$5. For the First FTM Conference. Auction & Raffle. Bring \$\$.
April 29— CGNIE's Imperial Court of Shades, Blades & Soul presents Coronation '95, Turn Verein Hall, Sac. \$20, 7pm
May 1— DVG meets at Just Rewards, 2520 Camino Diablo, Walnut Creek, 8pm. Open to all, no charge.
May 2— CGNIE Court Imperial Meeting, 7:30pm at Faces (20th & K Sts., Sac.). Open to all, no charge
May 4— Pacific Center's Walnut Creek Gender Rap, 1250 Pine St, Suite #301, 7pm. (510) 939-7711 for info .
May 5— RGA social, New Community of Faith Church, 6350 Rainbow Dr., San Jose. 8pm, donations accepted.
May 5 Pacific Center's TV/TS Mixed Rap, 8-9:50pm, 2712 Telegraph, Berkeley, donations requested.
May 10— ETVC presents a Dance Social upstairs at Kimo's, 1351 Polk St., SF, 8pm, free.
May 11— ETVC's SOS meets TBA, call (415) 664-1499.
May 12— RGA South Bay Rap Group, (408) 984-5619.
May 13— SGA Social, 8pm Townhouse, 1517 21st St., Sac.
May 14 FTM Support (FTMs **only**) Meeting, 2-5pm in SF. Voicemail: (510) 287-2646 for details and info.
May 17— DVG meets at Just Rewards, 2520 Camino Diablo, Walnut Creek, 8pm. Open to all, no charge.
May 11— ETVC Couples, 8pm, Foster City, (415) 664-1499.
May 17-21— "Espirit 95" Port Angeles, WA. Details: POB 873, Kirkland, WA 98083-0873. Room rates \$60-80.
May 19— Pacific Center's TV/TS Mixed Rap, 8-9:50pm, 2712 Telegraph, Berkeley, donations requested.
May 19— RGA social, New Community of Faith Church, 6350 Rainbow Dr., San Jose. 8pm, donations accepted.
May 19— ETVC's Bowling Night, SF (415) 731-7032.
May 20— SGA Social, 8pm Townhouse, 1517 21st St., Sac.
May 25— ETVC presents their monthly social, Eichelberger's, 2742 17th Street, SF, 8pm. Members \$3, guests \$5.
May 26— Zanne-Go's annual Birthday.
Every Friday Night— Cafè Lambda, 1931 L Street, Sac. Smoke-free, alcohol-free— no door charge.
Every Sunday Night— Bisexual support Group at Pac. Center, 7 to 8:50 pm, donations accepted.

(The events may be attended in drag [dressed as a girl], drab [dressed as a boy] or blend [be laconic enough not to define].)