

The Halloween Ball

by Barbara Bowden

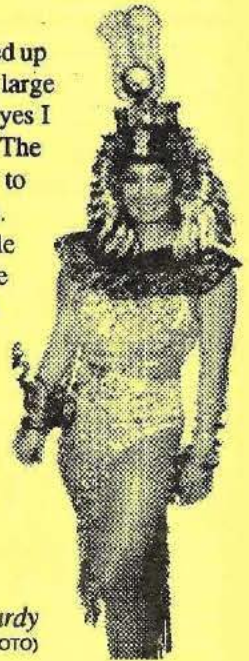
The 1994 Halloween Ball was held at the Dunfey Hotel in San Mateo on Friday October 28. Some 150 people arrived at various times during the evening. The variety of costumes included dancing cats and dogs, pirates, Southern Belles, peasants, ghouls, goblins, an anorexic skeleton, a star ship trooper, various leather-clad doms and dames, and elegant women from all eras. The whole evening was a very festive occasion and with the use of the indoor ballroom and the outside patio area for smokers, talkers and just listeners, all tastes were accommodated.

There was a costume contest, hosted by the ever lovely Jackie, and the winner was Angelique Hardy's stunning Egyptian Princess outfit. There was a very satisfying attendance of S.O.s and spouses, who also took part in the fun and added their own special charm to the evening.

The band was the Rockaholics, headed up by the vivacious Jasmine. They played a large selection of music from the swing era, (yes I DO remember it well!) to modern day. The selection was varied, and allowed us to dance or "sit-this-one-out", as we chose.

We were entertained by several people coming to our door just to watch, so we still have some entertainment value in us! The party broke up well after midnight, when the author had retired to her bed and some sweet memories of the entire evening. Congratulations are due to Joann, Jackie, Ginny, Rosa, the Rockaholics, and everyone else for putting on a great show.

First Place Winner Angelique Hardy
(SWIFTSILVER PHOTO)



Gender Skybox

by Pam Souza

Happy New Year gender fans, or for those of you who lean politically to the right, Happy

Newt Year. The next two years promise to be one Grand Old Party; and guess which part of the country will be their Piñata? (You may want to wear extra fanny pads under your collective skirts.) Now more than ever, it's important to get out there and have fun with a renewed sense of defiance. And wouldn't you know my beloved Skybox landladies have come up with just the event for us to put our high-heeled and wing-tipped feet down in the name of diversity.

Cotillion XI shares the last weekend in January with another entertainment institution, Super Bowl XXIX. With so many X's in the picture how can anyone with good chromosome sense not be influenced by the femme side? Still, masculinity gets equal time as armored hunks collide in pursuit of the ultimate prize. And that's just at the bar in the Russian Center; wait 'til you see the football game! For those of you who are not entirely out of the closet/locker yet, remember to wipe Saturday night's mascara completely from your lashes before your buddies arrive to watch the game on Sunday afternoon. Nobody wants to experience unnecessary roughness.

If the Sequin Bowl/Super Bowl tandem seems too much for one weekend, by all means choose the former. You can see

Sunday's game highlights on the news. Besides, the Super Bowl is usually a one sided affair, is often decided by half-time, and rarely has any surprises. The Cotillion on the other hand, has many sides to it, is never decided at intermission, and is full of surprises. If that's not enough, a detailed list of arguments follows:

Top Ten Reasons Why the Cotillion is Better Than the Super Bowl

10. Combined contestants use less hair spray than Jimmy Johnson.
9. Neither Buffalo Bills nor Denver Broncos in Cotillion.
8. Cotillion awards never given to anyone named Emmitt.
7. No congratulatory phone call from President Clinton, thus saving ETVC a large collect call charge.
6. Food and drinks better than those at Pontiac Silverdome.
5. No interruptions for updates on the Bud Bowl.
4. Shoulder pads more proportioned to outfits.
3. Cotillion winner never decided by field goal.
2. Tommi Rose speaks with more syllables than John Madden.
1. Up With People never performs at the Cotillion.

I look forward to seeing you at the Russian Center on January 28th. With enough luck, I may be seeing you from beneath a shiny new piece of head wear that isn't a football helmet. Keep your finger crossed for the contestant of your choice and have fun.

THE CHANCE

THE CHANNEL

EDITORS NOTES

ETVC Inc., a non-profit corporation, is a non-sexual, membership based organization serving the educational, social, and recreational needs of gender-challenged people, their spouses, significant others, family members, friends, and professionals in the helping services. For details about ETVC programs, membership, article submission guidelines and classified ads, please write to: ETVC Secretary, PO Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486. Minutes of all ETVC committee meetings are available to members on request.

OFFICERS

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Vice-President	Lisa Maxwell
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Treasurer	Jano Bogg
Education	Ayme Kantz & Evette RoqueLaurie
Outreach	Lauren Hotchkiss & Francis Vavra
Social	Jackie Conner & JoAnn Handa

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Membership (as of 11/30/94)	372
Membership (as of 11/30/93)	375
Total Membership this year	454

TREASURER'S REPORT

10/1/94 Balance	\$ 5,038.93
October Income	\$ 5,398.02
October Expenses	\$ 2,746.02
10/31/94 Balance	\$ 7,691.29
November income	\$ 1,217.51
November expenses	\$ 2,308.44
11/30/94 Balance (unreconciled)	\$ 6,600.36

Donations to ETVC are TAX DEDUCTIBLE on both Federal and California income tax returns.
Donations are gladly accepted.

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

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Photographer	Telzey Adams
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Printing	Your Place Graphics

A D R A T E S

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

Personal ads from ETVC members: \$3 for up to 40 words. We will *not* accept ads with a sexual objective. Ad deadlines are the 25th of May, July, September, November, January and March. Send ad copy and check or money order to: ETVC, PO Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486

HOTLINE 510-549-2665
VOICE MAIL 415-334-3439

Jamie Faye Fenton



Ominous political changes at her place of employment have forced Barbara Bowden to step down from her office as ETVC Secretary and guess who was roped into taking over for her! Fortunately things are going well for her at present, and Barbara will continue writing for the Channel, particularly about TS matters.

As Secretary (and publisher of the Channel) my goals are to spread information and encourage participation. As a computer nerd, spreading information is easy. Building our community will be my challenge. I find working with ETVC to be a wonderful way of developing my feminine side and recommend it to everyone.

As Kevin Horwitz has been unable to resume his duties as Channel Editor, Gelsey Wong (the editor of the RGA Rainbow newsletter), and I are handling this duty for this issue. Thanks Gelsey!

Congratulations to Evette RoqueLaurie, now serving as Education Committee co-chair, confirmed by the membership at the November social. I was confirmed as Secretary at the Halloween social, and JoAnn Handa will continue to co-chair the social committee. The Term Limits amendment to the By-Laws did not pass.

The executive committee is considering changing the meeting date of our monthly socials from Thursday to another night, most likely Wednesday or Friday. We want to know what you think, so please write!

Presidents Message

J. K. Bentley



To those who have entered the logo contest, thanks very much. And thanks for your patience. By extending our deadline we did get more entries; we hope to have a winner announced by the March/April issue.

In November, as the rest of the country turned right, San Francisco turned left. Locally, that probably augurs solid support for transgender civil rights, but it doesn't bode well for extending those rights statewide, much less nationally. Overt cross-dressers and transsexuals probably won't be honored guests at, say, Newt Gingrich's prayer breakfasts. Emphasize *overt*. You know

how it goes. You develop an ambition to do the stuff a regular guy would do, such as raising Newts, and when you do it successfully, gosh it feels good. You tell yourself, "This is all I really need, not that stupid cross dressing." You're not *really* a cross dresser. You're not *really* a transsexual. Fie on foolish frocks! Shout it from the hilltop: You're a MAN! by god, a MAN!

It would be silliness, of course, even to hint that only closet cases supported and voted for Newts and Doles. There *was* authentic anxiety in the land to bring the country back on track, to redefine the lines of probity and propriety, to return us to what are sometimes called the Judeo-Christian values of the founding fathers. But even the most rock solid defender of testoscocracy sometimes grows weary, sometimes must yield to a twilight whisper from within. Dare we hope that somewhere among the staunchest ranks of the manliest men, dedicated to the virtues of a republic of manly men, committed four square to eradicating the

Letters to the Channel

Dear Sisters,

I would like to commend you for making video tapes available of your annual Cotillion. It makes it possible for those of us unable to attend, to be able to experience this wonderful event. May I offer one suggestion for your consideration? Would you consider including some of the wives and partners of your members in a future Cotillion? I'm sure that there are women who support their husband's crossdressing and it would be great if they could be publicly recognized by the Cotillion.

I'm sure you could think of many excellent ways to do this. I also have some ideas you might consider. For example, you could have a couples parade similar to the wonderful debutante portion, where husbands and wives/partners would be introduced and walk across the stage.

Another idea would be to stage a "wedding" with both bride and groom in wedding gowns. Or several couples being married simultaneously. These are just suggestions and I'm sure you can think of better ways of recognizing the wonderful supportive wives and partners. But the point is that don't you think it would be great to give supportive wives/partners recognition?

Thank you very much for your time and thank you for the Cotillion: A crossdresser's dream come true.

Your sister in New Jersey

Dear People at ETVC

I just wanted to write a quick note and thank you for your hospitality at the Halloween party last Friday. I was really impressed with your group. I would not be lying if I said that you folks are probably the nicest bunch as a whole that I have met in the CD community. I had a really good

time, I met some interesting people, and I really enjoyed myself. I really didn't expect to have this good of a time being I didn't know anyone, but by the end of the night I felt like I was a member. It was also nice meeting some people my own age, too. I always feel like the baby at every function I go to.

I would like to become a member of your group. I should be doing a lot more traveling to the SF area in the coming months, like making any excuse I can to be sent down there, and I would like some people to hang out with, plus I like your folks. So if you could please send me an application, and membership into, I'll get it right back.

Again thanks to everyone for making me feel so welcome. Hopefully I'll be seeing Y'all soon.

Sincerely,
Cassie Owens
Seattle, Washington

mush-brained, the collective, the irresolute, a Saul emerges, rushing down the fast lane to Damascus.

Earlier this year, ETVC was officially recognized by the state and Feds as a non-profit corporation. It's time we started to use our new status to fuller advantage, both as individuals and as a club. Did you know, for instance, that if you itemize your taxes you could donate equipment to ETVC and receive a deduction? Some things we could use: Serviceable modems, Xerox and fax machines; microphones and amplifiers; video equipment; how about a printing press and office space!

Do you have experience writing grants? Or ideas for other ways you can save taxes and help ETVC? Call me! (415) [redacted] ext. 5263, or (415) [redacted] (ask for Jim).

Almost There: TG Rights in SF

After months of preparations, hearings and delays, draft law to protect transgender civil rights was presented by Supervisor Terence Hallinan to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors on November 21. The new legislation proposes sweeping protections for transgendered people to live, work and play in the City of San Francisco without fear of intimidation on the job, loss of one's job, or loss of housing.

It will protect the civil rights of a group who are discriminated against by everyone," Hallinan was quoted as saying in the San Francisco Independent. The proposed law is inspired by a San Francisco Human Rights Commission report issued in October, 1994, which documented widespread discrimination against transgender people.

Other cities already have similar laws on the books in Minneapolis, Seattle and Santa Cruz, "but this is the first one with teeth in it," said supervisor's aide Shelley Salieri, herself a transsexual woman.

A public hearing was scheduled for December 6 (the day

after The Channel goes to the printer), with a first reading at the full board on December 12, and a vote expected by December 19. Mayor Jordan, who has said he will sign the legislation, would be expected to do so by December 29. Thirty days after signing, transgender protections would become law.

Salieri cautioned that there is no guarantee that the schedule would be followed precisely. If there is a delay of more than about one week, the legislation would have to go on hold until the new board (with incoming supervisors Tom Ammanno and Mabel Teng replacing Anne Marie Conroy and Bill Maher) convenes. "It should have an even better chance of passage with the new board," said Salieri, "but the sooner we get it on the books the better."

For an update on progress of the legislation, call (415)-334-3439.

It's Official! The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Freedom Day Parade

November 20, one year after losing by one vote, a proposal to add Transgender to the name of the Lesbian, Gay Freedom Day Parade was passed by the Freedom Day parade committee with only one vote against.

Among those attending were newly elected vice-president of the parade committee, Crystal Irwin, and Bobbi Dunne. Ms. Irwin, in addition to her duties as an officer of the parade, is a member of Transgender Nation and the Transgender Task Force. Ms. Dunne, a battler for transsexual employment rights, attended the meeting just days after sexual reassignment surgery.

If anyone ever doubted, it should now be plain that transsexualism is definitely *not* for sissies. The entire transgender community owes these women, and those who supported them, a big debt of thanks.

Special Events

ETVC Mid-Month Dance Socials

Wednesdays, January 11th and February 8th.

It's time to shake it up, break it up, and cut loose! Get into a new groove every second Wednesday of the month this year! The sounds are fine (Richard at Kimo's is one of the best!), so take some time and make it a date! Come in January and receive a complimentary rose. In February, everyone will receive a Valentine and candy! Upstairs at Kimo's * 1351 Polk @ Pine, SF * 8 pm * No Cover, but donations are welcome.

Education Seminar: A Presentation from Joyce's Perfect Fit

Wednesday, January 25

Just in time for the Cotillion—now's your chance to pick up that perfect foundation for that fabulous new dress you're going to wear Saturday night! Everything you always wanted to know about brassieres, fittings, prostheses, and of course, the new Wonder Bra! Join us for a fun and informative evening! Kimo's * 1351 Polk @ Pine, SF * 8 pm * \$3.

The "I Don't Have A Thing To Wear" Social

Thursday, January 26th

We know that there will be a few of us frantically wracking our peroxide-poisoned minds on what to wear to the Cotillion! Well, now is the time, girl! Tonight's the night! Let's help each other out...bring those gowns and accessories for a mix and match—loan it or sell it! What a wonderland! Special 50/50 Raffle and Door Prizes! Eichelberger's * 2742 17th St @ Florida, SF * 8 pm * \$3 Members, \$5 Guests.

The Eleventh Annual ETVC Cotillion

Saturday, January 28

We have a wonderfully magical 1995 ETVC Cotillion planned for you. Come to the Russian Center, 2450 Sutter St., San Francisco. Parking is available across the street for \$3.00. The main entry door opens at 7:00 p.m., a buffet dinner will be served. Drink tickets for the full bar can be purchased in the bar area. The show starts at 8:30 p.m. sharp, so arrive early and plan on staying past the Cotillion Show itself for dancing 'til 2:00 a.m. If you are new to the area or the gender community, make sure you register as a Debutante with the ticket takers.

Advance tickets are \$20, on sale at the following locations: In San Francisco, at Eichelbergers, Marlens, Kimos, and Foxy Lady; in the North Bay, at Continental Wig Salon in San Rafael; in the South Bay, at Hamburger Mary's in San Jose, at RGA socials; and in the East Bay: at Just Rewards in Walnut Creek or the The Turf Club in Hayward. Tickets are also available by mail from ETVC or from club officers. Groups can reserve a table by calling Ginny at (415) [REDACTED]

Education Seminar: Photography Tips and Techniques

Wednesday, February 15

How many CD's does it take to screw in a light bulb? Just one. But you need four others to take pictures! Girls—be honest. You love to be photographed in your finery, don't you? Well, let's get together and learn to do it right! Jamie Faye Fenton will be bringing digital equipment for instant video proofs and will

show us all the ins and out of correct lighting, backgrounds, poses and equipment techniques. Bring your cameras and film! Kimo's * 1351 Polk @ Pine, SF * \$3.



TS Seminar and Social: "Let's Talk About Sex and AIDS"

Sunday February 19

ETVC is proud to announce that they will co-host an important and vital seminar with Ms. Doris Robinson from the Brother's Network, Ms. Sherri Webb from the Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center, and Ms. Kiki Whidock from the Asian AIDS Project. In an effort to bring our diverse communities together, we want to have a frank discussion about sex and AIDS, and how the transsexual population has and is being affected. If you're a self-identified transsexual, you need to be at this seminar. You need this information because it may mean your survival—it may mean your life! A Potluck Social will follow. Please bring an item to share according to last names as follows: A-G: salads; H-M: main course; N-S: desserts; T-Z: paper goods. Kimo's * 1351 Polk @ Pine, SF * 2 pm * FREE!! Donations gratefully accepted.

Valentine's Sweetheart Sweater Contest

Thursday, February 23rd

Before Spring makes bold and while Winter is still cold, tonight is the time to show off your sweaters! That's right, all you girls and boys—pull out those wonderful warm and wooly sweaters, stretch them over your sweet little bodies, and let's see them out there! \$20 Cash Prize for the Best Sweater! Valentine's 50/50 Raffle and Door Prizes! Entertainment! Eichelberger's * 2742 17th St @ Florida, SF * 8 pm * \$3 Members, \$5 Guests.

SF Imperial Court Gala and Coronation

Saturday, January 21st and
Saturday, February 25th

A contingent from ETVC will be attending the SF Imperial Court Gala on January 21st at the Russian Center and the SF Imperial Court Coronation on February 25th at the Fashion Center. For more details about all the exciting events during Coronation Week, or to make reservations at ETVC's table, call Ginny at (415) [REDACTED]. Ticket prices are \$10-\$15 for the Gala and \$25-\$30 for the Coronation. Please call by February 1st for Coronation ticket reservations.

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TV/TS/TG GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

A Calendar of Events for January & February



JANUARY					
3	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 937-8432
6	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
6	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
7	ETVC	Executive Committee	Starts at 8 PM	TBA	(415) 750-1850
8	ETVC	Education Committee	Meets at 1 PM	San Francisco	(415) 648-0973
8	FTM	Informational Meeting	Meets 2 PM	San Francisco	(510) 287-2646
8	ETVC	Newsletter Committee	Starts at 1 PM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
11	ETVC	Dance Social	Starts at 8 PM	Kimo's-Upstairs	(415) 359-9180
12	ETVC	Significant Others	Meets 7:30-10 PM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
12	ETVC	Outreach Committee	Meets at 7:30 PM	Berkeley	(510) 534-8407
13	ETVC	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
13	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
13	South Bay	Gender Discussion Group	Meets 8-10 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-5619
14	SGA	Dinner /Social	Starts at 7:30 PM	Sacramento	(916) 482-7742
16	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 937-8432
19	ETVC	Couples Social	Starts at 8 PM	Richmond	(415) 664-1499
20	ETVC	Bowling Night	Call for details	San Francisco	(415) 731-7032
20	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
20	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
21	Imperial	Court Gala	Doors open at 6 PM	Russian Center	(415) 664-1499
22	ETVC	TS Committee	Meets at 2 PM	Kimo's-Upstairs	(415) 648-0973
24	ETVC	Social Committee	Meets at 8 PM	Eichelberger's	(415) 359-9180
25	ETVC	Joyce's Perfect Fit	Starts at 8 PM	Kimo's-Upstairs	(415) 648-0973
26	ETVC	Social — Clothes Swap	Starts at 8 PM	Eichelberger's	(415) 359-9180
27	RGA	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	Sunnyvale	(408) 732-7406
28	SGA	Dinner /Social	Starts at 7:30 PM	Sacramento	(916) 482-7742
28	ETVC	Cotillion	Starts at 7:00 PM	Russian Center	(415) 493-8099
FEBRUARY					
3	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
3	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
4	ETVC	Executive Committee	Starts at 8 PM	Oakland	(415) 750-1850
5	ETVC	Education Committee	Meets at 1 PM	San Francisco	(415) 648-0973
7	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 937-8432
8	ETVC	Dance Social	Starts at 8 PM	Kimo's-Upstairs	(415) 359-9180
9	ETVC	Outreach Committee	Meets at 7:30 PM	Berkeley	(510) 534-8407
9	ETVC	Significant Others	Meets 7:30-10 PM	TBA	(415) 664-1499
10	ETVC	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
10	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
10	South Bay	Gender Discussion Group	Meets 8-10 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-5619
11	SGA	Dinner /Social	Starts at 7:30 PM	Sacramento	(916) 482-7742
12	FTM	Informational Meeting	Meets 2 PM	San Francisco	(510) 287-2646
15	ETVC	Photography Tips	Starts at 8 PM	Kimo's-Upstairs	(415) 648-0973
16	ETVC	Couples Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
17	ETVC	Bowling Night	Call for details	San Francisco	(415) 731-7032
17	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
17	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
19	ETVC	TS Seminar - Sex & AIDS	Starts at 2 PM	Kimo's-Upstairs	(415) 648-0973
20	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 937-8432
21	ETVC	Social Committee	Meets at 8 PM	Eichelberger's	(415) 359-9180
23	ETVC	Social -Sweater Contest	Starts at 8 PM	San Mateo	(415) 359-9180
24	RGA	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	Sunnyvale	(408) 732-7406
25	SGA	Dinner /Social	Starts at 7:30 PM	Sacramento	(916) 482-7742
25	Imperial	Court Coronation	Doors open at 6 PM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
26	ETVC	TS Committee	Meets at 2 PM	Kimo's-Upstairs	(415) 648-0973

OTHER GROUPS

Pacific Center for Human Growth, a counseling oriented growth center, sponsors all-inclusive gender support groups on every Friday except the last one of the month at 8:00 PM. 2712 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley. Call: (510) 841-6224.

Rainbow Gender Association (RGA) meets 1st and 3rd Friday of the month 8:00 PM at the New Community of Faith Church, 6350 Rainbow Drive, San Jose. Write: RGA, PO Box 700730, San Jose, CA 95170. Call: (408) 984-4044

Sacramento Gender Association (SGA) Blue Rose Chapter meets 8 PM the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month at the Marconi Harbor Inn Bar & Grill, 3514 Marconi Avenue, just East of Watt Ave. Write: PO Box 215456, Sacramento, CA 95821-1456. Call: (916) 482-7SGA

Diablo Valley Girls (DVG) Meets 1st Tuesday and 3rd Monday of every month 8:00 PM at Just Rewards Nightclub, 2520 Camino Diablo in Walnut Creek. Write: DVG, PO Box 272885, Concord, CA 94527-2885. Call: (510) 937-8432.

The Tenderloin Self-Help Centre (a project of the Central City Community Hospitality House funded by the Community Mental Health Services) meets every Wednesday, 4-6 PM, at 191 Golden Gate, San Francisco. Call: (415) 554-0518.

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

Please Print

ETVC Membership Application

Mailing Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Preferred Name: _____ Family Member's Name: _____

Birth Date: Month _____ Day _____ New Member: _____ Renewal: _____

How did you learn about ETVC? _____

Full year membership June 1 - May 31 is \$20.00 (Family - \$30.00).

Part year membership from January 1 - May 31 is \$10.00 (Family - \$15.00) (New members only).

Please remit by check or money order to:

ETVC, P.O. Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486

The Value of Community

by Cori Farrell

We often describe ourselves, this diverse group of companions we are, as a "community" — the Gender Community. I have used this term many times, but had not given pause to think of what it really means until recently, when I moved away from my friends and loved ones and began developing a new circle of compadres.

What struck me was not how difficult it is to make friends in the Gender Community, but how easy, how remarkably easy. Allow me to cite a comparison:

I have a friend named Andrew. Recently his employer transferred him to a new city and he confided to me that he could not believe how lonely he had become and how difficult it was to get to know other people. He seemed to have no means of becoming acquainted with others because it was hard for him to find people to talk to, people with similar interests. He sounded lost in a cold, impersonal world.

After my recent move from the Bay Area to Colorado, I realized what was missing in Andrew's life. He had no "community" to socialize within. I'm not saying that Andrew was lonely because he wasn't transgendered, but more that he was lonely because he wasn't something. Then I began to appreciate the value of the community of which every one of you form an integral part. Any one of us can go to any large city in this country (or even the world) and find people who truly care about us almost immediately. All we need to do is go and meet them. How many people in society-at-large have such a privilege? Something to think about the next time you see those smiling faces at an ETVC social, DVG social, Kimo's or wherever.



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Outreach Miscellany

by Telzey Adams

Volunteers? Even with our new voice mail and computer bulletin board, the club hot line (510-549-2665), still promises a live answer Tuesdays through Fridays, 7-10 PM. For a few nights each month you could be the first contact for a new sister. And you don't have to leave home. If you like to talk, and listen, see me at any event or call 510- [REDACTED]

Also needed is a new, permanent club photographer. If you have equipment and some expertise, and come to most events, we'll pay for the film and processing. You get a good reason to meet everyone as you grab their picture, and you might make a few dollars selling reprints. If you see me wandering about with a camera and want copies of your photo, please stop and ask. Last month's photos should be on display at the end-of-the-month social after 9 PM. Previous months are available in albums.

More photo work? Deborah Hammond, a professional photographer in San Francisco, is looking for "transgendered individuals, drag kings and queens, and transsexuals" interested in participating in a quality black and white portrait project. Extreme glamour, or a good attempt, in dramatic 40's style head shots. No pay, but she will give you a print. Call for an appointment, 415-822-2190. Several club members have already been astonished by her fine work.

Received in September was the long awaited Boulton & Park Transgendered Research Questionnaire results. Three years, 934 responses from every state and several foreign countries. They were mainly distributed at events and through transgender support groups. (ETVC gave out a lot of them.) Because of the limited involvement of professionals, B&P feels the participants were able to be more honest without feeling, even unconsciously, that they should answer what they think the professional wants to hear. Some surprises, as all answers are displayed in three groups, from TV's, TS's, and TG's. Many striking differences. Since the survey is copyrighted and not to be reprinted, I can't go into more detail and am really not qualified to draw conclusions. Ask to see it if you are interested. If you filled out a survey form and gave B&P your address, they should have sent you the results. If not, write: Boulton & Park Society, PO Box 17, Bulverde, TX 78163.

News from other groups around the country. We now exchange newsletters with two groups in North Carolina, and three in Georgia. Is there some political significance here? Like the way San Francisco and Berkeley go further left as the country surges to the right. Excellent newsletters too. Also received "Illusions" (For men who enjoy being women) from Calgary. I hope these Canadians can keep up the quality. Ask to see it, you might want to subscribe.

Finally, you might still have time to catch "Lypsinka" at Josie's Cabaret, Sixteenth and Market, thru January 1st. Incredible.

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A Look at the RGA

by Jamie Faye Fenton

Many of our first forays into the outside world cross-dressed have taken place at the Friday night meetings of the Rainbow Gender Association.

Most RGA activities are held at the New Community of Faith Church, on Rainbow Drive in San Jose. As we have the place to ourselves, it is easy to change from drab to drag (and back if necessary).

The RGA has existed in some form or another for many years. It began as an organization called the Golden Gate Girls/Guys. In 1979, a group of 6 people led by Georgia L. Sanders started the Gateway Gender Alliance (GGA). GGA started meeting in a bar in Hayward, then moved to the First Unitarian Church in San Jose. Georgia and the late Lou Sullivan put in many hours publishing the GGA correspondence directory, answering mail, and holding meetings. The GGA grew to 14 chapters.

In May 1986, Georgia was tired. Since no one was willing to reimburse her for the cost of the state non-profit forms she elected to close down the GGA and asked that the chapters rename. In June of 1986, a steering committee formed the Rainbow Gender Association. A month later, we moved to our present home at the New Community of Faith Church.

In later years, we added a Gender Discussion Group meeting and a Poker Social to our monthly calendar. The Gender Discussion Group, or rap group as we call it, meets on the second Friday of each month. We average about 12 persons each meeting. The rap group is an excellent place for newcomers to have their questions answered. The poker social is a smaller gathering held at Bill's home in Sunnyvale. The stakes are low and the rules are wild!

The Rainbow, our RGA newsletter, is published 6 times a year. In 1991 Michelle Stevens started the RGA Computer BBS, which to date has handled over 20,000 calls from all over the country.

A typical RGA social meeting consists of twenty or more cross-dressers socializing over snacks and soda. Many meetings include demonstrations, presentations, or fashion shows. We also have

several pot-luck dinners each year, as well as an occasional photo night.

After the socials, we frequently descend upon a local restaurant or bar seeking additional amusement. RGA members can be found at the Daybreak in Mountain View and at Hamburger Mary's in San Jose. On months with a fifth Friday, we hold a "Girls and Guys Nite Out", and go directly as a group to a gender-supportive restaurant.

For more information call the RGA WarmLine at (408)-984-4044, or write us at RGA, PO Box 700730, San Jose, CA 95170. Membership is \$10/year. The church address is 6350 Rainbow Drive, San Jose, now accessible from the new highway 85.

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Our Parents and Our Children

by Rachel Snodgrass

Twelve people gathered in November at Kimo's to discuss the topic "T-People and Parents." Most people were some stripe of MTF, with two notable exceptions: a mother of an attending t-person, and a representative from LYRIC (Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center, a support organization for queer-les/gay/bi/trans & questioning-people under 23). While the evening included the relating of many diverse life experiences, the discussion fell into two broad categories: relationships with parents and relationships with children.

On relationships with parents, of those attending most had at least one parent who knew about their children's transgender status. Mothers had generally been more accepting than fathers; however, one person whose father was gay said that the father had been more accepting than the mother. The LYRIC representative cautioned people who wanted to "come out" to their parents to first ask themselves two questions: What do you want to get out of telling your parents? What do you really expect to happen when you tell them? The degree to which the answers line up should help you decide whether to come out or not. If your only desire is to inform your parents, that will certainly happen.

On the topic of children of t-people, most attendees were out. The group discussed the if's and when's of telling children. With a cross-dressing parent, a child's early awareness may build a stronger relationship, but may also expose the parent to unexpected disclosure or the child to criticism by peers. One person noted that transgender status alone is not grounds for loss of custody in California.

The plethora of talk shows devoted to gender have succeeded in informing many non-t people about gender variation. This information seems to assist in the process of acceptance, for both parents and children. Outreach is an important component in the process of making us known to the society at large and to the people in our families.

About LYRIC:

LYRIC provides social activities, peer support and one-on-one "listening" (not counseling) for people under 23 years of age. "Listeners" are also under 23, and have received 40 hours of training. One of LYRIC's outreach methods is to place its fluorescent hotline cards where youth will see them.

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To Tell or Not to Tell?

...to paraphrase Shakespeare, is the question. With few exceptions, every crossdresser who has kids has asked that question. The problem is that there is never an answer.

My name is Ted Clement. I am a graduate student in psychology at the Saybrook Institute in San Francisco, and also a crossdresser. My dissertation will investigate the issues surrounding disclosure of crossdressing to the children. What I hope to show is how the disclosure affects the child's development of personality.

I am asking members of ETVC to help me. If you are a parent of a child who knows you crossdress, or the significant other, a child or good friend please contact me by calling (818) [redacted] collect, or write: Ted Clement, Saybrook Institute, 450 Pacific Av, San Francisco 94133.

(Editor's note: The Channel encourages its readers to support bona fide information requests for academic research that will benefit the gender community.)

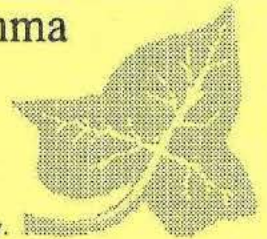
The Uninvited Dilemma

A Question of Gender

by

Kim Elizabeth Stuart

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The New Woman

Roberta "Bobbi" Dunne

I grew up next to Stanford University. As a child, I used to watch the bulls graze in the field by the red brick barn adjacent to what is now Stanford Hospital. It was a rural setting, with a tree-lined country road and gardens of all types, from tulip to cactus. The Barn is still there, although it now houses restaurants and businesses. The prize bulls and the gardens are gone, replaced on the one side by a shopping center and on the other by one of the leading hospitals in the world.



I spent many a summer day exploring the Stanford Campus. A typical day might find me examining bits of mosaic from the chapel, debris from the great earthquake some 50 years before, resting in the gravel creek bed which winds its way along the edge of the property. Sometimes, when stricken with the reflective mood only children truly experience, I would sit among the marble statues of Stanford's Mausoleum and gaze into the eyes of angels and lions. Over time, caught in the mobility of life, I went on to other adventures, returning years later as a construction worker, to contribute to one of the many expansions of Stanford Hospital.

On November 14, 1994, after diligently performing various pre-

surgery exercises, including fasting the day before while drinking a gallon of the human equivalent of "Drano", I returned to Stanford and its hospital. By noon, I was in surgery and remained there until 7 P.M., at which time my SRS was complete. By the next day I was able to sit up, although briefly, and by the time I left the facility the following Saturday, I was able to walk unassisted. I am happy to announce that my recovery is progressing smoothly and that it won't be long before I'm out there mixing it up with the guys on the construction sites again.

I have been asked by many people to reflect on my life to this point of resolution, and perhaps to share some useful insights. Given the verities of life, that is a risky proposition for even the wisest among us. Until the last few years, my own life has been a reclusive one, as much a journey of self discovery and acceptance as it has been a coming to terms with the responsibilities inherent in my medical condition. If in the sharing of my experiences with others I can continue to be useful, then I am grateful. However, as for insights beyond that experience...

— Well, have a Happy Holiday Season — I'll see you next year.



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OTHER VOICES

Other Voices is a newsletter within the ETVC newsletter by and for Significant Others. Send letters and articles to: Other Voices, c/o ETVC, PO Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486.

Even Genetic Girls Get the Blues

by E. Fenton

Pity the poor partner. Not in every case, mind you; some women deal very well with their loved one's cross-dressing. But all too often, this unusual pastime puts a strain on even the most solid of relationships. Unfortunately, many women are so uncomfortable, embarrassed, or simply confused about their partner's activities that they don't know how or where to seek help. Ideally, a woman should be able to discuss her problems with others who share them and can offer, if not insights, then at least a measure of sympathy and solidarity. That's where significant-other support groups come in.

When I attended an S.O. meeting, I found that it helped immensely to speak to other women who were experiencing some of the same difficulties, fears, and frustrations I was. Although few solutions were offered, it felt good to engage in the age-old sport of complaining about men, albeit with a different twist (e.g., *I hate it when he uses my makeup*). If nothing else, it was comforting to find out I wasn't the only one experiencing certain problems.

I asked veteran support-group activist Ginny Knuth to list the topics that came up most frequently in support groups for S.O.'s of cross-dressers. These issues are listed below, along with some of my own solutions for handling them. I realize that every couple is different: a coping strategy that works for me might be completely inappropriate for someone else; an issue that I see as a serious problem might be trivial to other women; and, conversely, a topic that I gloss over—or even omit—might be a burning issue for other couples. I don't claim to be the Dear Abby of the transgendered community; I'm just trying to do whatever I can to help the S.O. cope with the puzzling persona of her other half's other self.

If you're the cross-dresser half of a couple, perhaps the following list will help you gain an insight or two into some of the issues your partner is dealing with (A word to the wise: many women, for one reason or another, are very stoic about their emotional suffering; she may be in more pain than you realize). If you're the partner of a cross-dresser, maybe you'll relate to some of these questions and complaints. If any of these ring a bell, perhaps this article can stimulate some discussion between partners.

1. I don't understand why he does this. Am I not "feminine" enough for him?

This question nagged at me when I first found out about my husband's cross-dressing proclivities. I've been a tomboy from the get-go; my idea of dressing up is to wear my polished cowboy boots rather than my manure-encrusted ones. I thought perhaps I'd failed in the femininity department and my husband had felt compelled to make up for it in his own bizarre way. Fortunately, my therapist set me straight. She told me that no one fully understands why men cross-dress, but that it is not in any way their partner's fault—cross-dressing men are not trying to compensate for a lack of femininity in their household. Female partners of cross-dressers run the gamut from ultra-feminine, Laura-Ashley-clad women to cigar-chompin', blue-jeans-wearing tough gals. There is no correlation between a woman's perceived position on the femininity scale and her partner's desire to dress as a woman.

2. His cross-dressing activities take up time that used to be spent with me. I'm lonely.

I was feeling decidedly left out as my husband went to countless meetings, conventions, and various social events that I didn't care to attend. I have to hand it to him, though. He came up with an ingenious solution: he bought me a horse. I've wanted to own a horse ever since I was a kid, and finally I had a hobby/obsession that I could immerse myself in as much as he was immersing himself in his new lifestyle. Obviously, I can't prescribe horses for every neglected spouse or spouse equivalent. But perhaps you can act on some long-submerged dream that you've wanted to pursue, be it a hobby, a career, or a project. Don't just sit around and feel lonesome when he goes out with the girls: pursue your own interests and you'll feel a lot better.

Of course, parallel obsessions isn't a very good recipe for a happy relationship. Couples need to do things together, too, or what's the point of being a couple? After mulling it over for some time, we came up with a project we both enjoy: building a garden railroad in our backyard (he lays the track, I do the landscaping). Perhaps you can come up with a fun project you can work on together. If not, make sure you schedule time for activities as a couple, even if it's something as simple as going out to dinner and a movie. It helps.

If you're feeling lonely and neglected, tell him. My husband, especially in the first few months of his cross-dressing spree, was having such a good time that he didn't even realize how miserable and alone I felt. After a few gentle (and not-so-gentle) reminders that I liked to do things with him, he made a point of spending more time with me.

3. I miss the presence of men. I'm sick of hearing him giggle on the phone with his "girlfriends."

I don't know about you, fellow genetic girls, but part of the reason I got married was to have a man around the house. As much as I malign men when I'm with my girlfriends, I like many aspects of the masculine sex. I find that men provide a nice counterpoint to the feminine world; yin and yang and all that. Once my husband "came out," however, he became very involved in the transgendered community; he made new friends and

"I don't know about you, fellow genetic girls, but part of the reason I got married was to have a man around the house."

helped out with numerous projects. Not only did I have to watch him prancing around the house in lovely frocks, I had to listen to his hour-long phone chats—business and social—with his gal pals. (Whether he's dressed up or not, he undergoes a metamorphosis when he talks on the phone to his transgendered friends. His voice goes a few notes higher, he giggles coyly, and tends to talk about girlish topics such as What to Wear. It drives me nuts.)

Here are some of the ways I deal with cross-dressing overload:

- I see that he closes the door to his office when he's on the phone, and I move to another part of the house, if necessary, to avoid listening to his half of the phone conversations.
- I speak up when I'm absolutely not in the mood for any thought, word, or deed that smacks of cross-dressing. Sometimes I need a break—especially in my own house—and my husband is considerate enough to put away his clothes, makeup, newsletters, and other T.V. trappings when I need some time off.
- He lets me know in advance if he plans to invite his transgendered friends over to the house, so I can plan other activities if I'm not transgender-friendly that day.
- He recently got a post-office box, which should cut down on the number of Lane Bryant catalogs and other home-delivered reminders of his habits.

4. *I'm scared. I don't know where this is heading, and he's not able to tell me. Is he bisexual? Gay? Transsexual? Something else?*

This is a tough issue for many couples, especially in the early "blow-out" stage, soon after the man admits he's a cross-dresser. Often, he himself has no idea where his cross-dressing will lead. Many men suppress or deny their cross-dressing urges for years, so when they do finally allow themselves to partake of this activity, they're inundated with new feelings and emotions. From observing my husband during his early cross-dressing days, I know that he was just as confused as I was about the whole phenomenon. Here's how we dealt with it.

- We read books and articles on the subject. These calmed many of my fears, pointing out that the majority of cross-dressers are heterosexual men who for some reason derive pleasure from wearing women's clothing. Your mate is not likely to undergo a radical change of sexual orientation.

- We saw a therapist who specializes in cross-dressers and people with gender-identity issues. (If you see a therapist, it's important to find one who has experience with this phenomenon, such as those who advertise in this newsletter.) We saw her as a couple and individually, and she skillfully steered us into talking about issues we had both found uncomfortable discussing at home.

- I attended a significant-others meeting. As mentioned earlier, it can be very helpful to talk to women who are going through the same turmoil you are.

- I went to a cross-dressers' support group. If you feel you

can handle it, attend a meeting or support group for cross-dressers. I've been attending the monthly "rap sessions" of the Rainbow Gender Association for two years, and I've found that meeting my husband's friends and hearing them discuss their lives has proved quite valuable in helping me understand cross-dressing. It takes a lot

of nerve—especially at first—to go to one of these meetings, but I found most of the people there to be kind and gentle souls who are simply struggling to find out who they are.

5. *I'm embarrassed. What will the neighbors think?*

I still haven't resolved this issue, so I'm in no position to offer advice. Perhaps another S.O. could write to this newsletter and give me some advice. I'd really prefer that the neighbors didn't know about my husband's alter ego—but I suppose they do if they've got eyes in their heads. I know I shouldn't be embarrassed, but that doesn't mean I'm not.

Meanwhile, I've asked my husband to try and exercise a little subtlety, such as not wearing lipstick and earrings when he drives out of the garage.

6. *What if my family finds out?*

The strain of having one's parents visit for a week is bad enough without having to worry about mom finding a size 15 high heel under the couch. So far, when my folks have come to visit, the place has been sanitized for their protection. I'm sure they'll find out one of these days, but right now I'm not ready to tell them. My parents are fairly conservative, so I'm not sure they'd be up to the challenge of a son-in-law in a skirt. Besides, why do they need to know?

It's up to my husband whether he wants to tell his parents about himself. I've lobbied against it, because I fear it might simply hurt and puzzle them, rather than doing anything positive for family relations. Maybe I'm wrong. You're the best judge of your particular family situation.

7. *I worry when he goes out. Who is he with? What is he doing? I fear for his safety.*

Safety, if you ask me, is a legitimate concern. I'm not sure that most men realize how vigilant women must be when they're out by

...Continued, page 12

Significant Other Support Group

The Significant Other Support Group invites all Significant Others to attend our meetings. Group members define Significant Others as wives, lovers, friends, children and others close to TV/TS persons who are themselves not TV/TS. We encourage you to ask the SO in your own life to attend, particularly if she or he needs support from peers in dealing with feelings about the TV/TS in her or his life. All meetings are kept STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL to help insure that a safe, supportive environment is created in which all attendees feel secure enough to freely share and talk about their feelings. We are frequently assisted by a helping professional with a specialty in our area of concern. Our next meetings will be Thursday, January 8 and Thursday, February 9. You are welcome with open arms. For more information call Ginny at (415) [REDACTED]

...Continued from page 11

themselves or with a group of female friends. Attacks on women—or facsimiles thereof—do happen, and many S.O.'s worry about their partner's well-being when he goes out. We also worry about gay-bashing, since your average drunken-yahoo-with-a-baseball-bat type no doubt thinks any man in drag is a queer, and therefore fair game.

I've talked to my husband about this, and he has assured me that he never walks anywhere in the city alone at night. He carries a whistle and has a phone in his car in case of emergencies. I still worry, but I'm convinced he is aware that there are many unsavory characters out there.

Since he knows I worry when he's out late, we've made an arrangement whereby he tells me what time he expects to be home, and calls me if he's running late. This won't work for everyone (some people don't appreciate calls from drag bars at 2 a.m.), but if you're worried about him you should discuss the matter with him and see what you can come up with to allay some of your fears.

8. *Our sex life has suffered. Sorry, but I'm not a lesbian.*

Well, I don't want to go into the gory details here, but I understand this is a common complaint. Although this topic is sometimes brought up in support groups, many women are reluctant to talk about it.

Talk to your partner about your feelings, and let him know if any aspect of his behavior or appearance makes you uncomfortable. Many men are so thrilled with their newfound "other self" that they forget to take their partner's feelings into account. To compound the problem, some cross-dressers are convinced that their female persona invests them with added sensitivity and insight into the female mind. Perhaps they consider themselves more sensitive lovers when endowed with feminine attributes. Maybe some are, but if I'd wanted a lesbian lover, I would have hooked up with a lesbian (at least she wouldn't have chest-hair stubble!)

In addition to talking to your partner, I'd suggest seeing a therapist if you think it might help (as mentioned earlier, be sure to see someone who specializes in gender issues).

In summary, my advice to any suffering S.O.'s out there would be to talk to somebody about your problems, whether it's a therapist, a relative or close friend, or women in a support group. Most importantly, talk to your partner if any of these issues—or others—are bothering you. He can't help you if he doesn't know you're hurting.



A New Year always puts me in an "introspective" mode. It is a time to consider three specific questions for the ensuing year.

1. *Do I have a happy life?*
2. *Are my goals still realistic?*
3. *Is my relationship as good as it could be?*

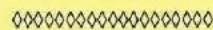
If my life is not happy, what changes should occur to make it so? If my goals are no longer realistic, what adjustments can be made? If my relationship could use a boost, where are the weaknesses and how can they be turned into strengths?

Too often we go from year to year without reflecting on the tools we need to use to improve our state of being. Tools such as intellect, feelings, self confidence and just plain hard work. My goal has always been to reach the end of the rainbow. By fine tuning my tools as my life goes along, I hope to reach my ultimate goal at the end of my rainbow ... a quiet peace within myself.

You are all encouraged to reach for your ultimate goal, and may 1995 show you the best roads to travel to find it.



If you have ever had any interest in meeting wives and partners of cross dressers from around the country, one of the best gender events for couples is the Texas T-Party, which will be held in San Antonio, Texas from February 21-25. This event includes seminars and parties for significant others, and has become very successful. Details are listed in an ad elsewhere in this Newsletter



Once again a reminder that we need you to volunteer to hold an SOS or Couples Group meeting in your home. We are especially looking for locations in the South Bay and the North Bay. Can you give one night in six months to help the people who are new to our lifestyle? Surely you can remember your feelings at that time, and your need to talk to someone who would understand. Give me a call if you can help (415) [redacted] or if you would like to write an article for "Other Voices." All views are welcome. Please call!

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10 Reasons to be a Transsexual

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- 3 You always have a topic of conversation.
- 4 You enjoy major abdominal surgery.
- 5 Huge hormonally-induced mood swings are great recreation.
- 6 Career advancement is just stressful anyway.
- 7 Dealing with bureaucracy is a relaxing hobby.
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- 9 You have too many friends.
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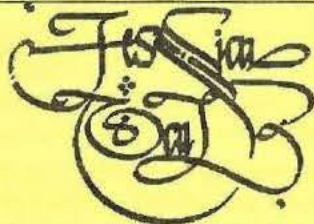
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Night Man

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It Was a Very Good Year

Soon the 11th Annual ETVC Cotillion will take place, and my reign as the first (and hopefully not last) Mr. ETVC will end. Someone told me that if a title holder accomplishes 25% of their projected goals for the year, they have done well. With that in mind, I feel quite good. I wanted to serve as a personal "bridge" between the straight cross dressing and gay drag communities, and between MTFs and FTMs, increasing understanding of transgender issues wherever I could. Through stage appearances, interviews and speaking engagements, hopefully I have done so to some degree. I wish I had done more, but there is only so much time in life, with job, relationships and gender growth. There are no specific duties for Miss/Mr. ETVC beyond attending Bay Area coronations and all ETVC socials (plus riding in the Gay Pride parade). I took it upon myself to be as visible and accessible as possible, even when it meant blowing my cover, as I have begun to pass as male. I additionally took the office of Outreach co-chair with my co-regent, Lauren René Hotchkiss, Miss ETVC, in order to better reach the media. It was with a deep sense of community that we both spoke at the historic San Francisco Human Rights Commission hearing in May, which brought diverse elements of the transgendered experience together. That hearing, perhaps more than any other single event, told me why I was doing outreach, and why I will always be out there for and with my courageous friends.

Since taking hormones this past year and being seen as male, a new world has opened up and I have seen firsthand how the two genders (and ambiguous combinations in between) are treated differently, with unspoken codes and languages. I have been fortunate to have as friends men who openly express feelings and are not limited by stereotypical male behavior. And men (as women) and women, too, who have played with me in Genderland, and helped me gain confidence and knowledge of where I wanted to go. At the same time, I have wrestled within myself, feeling the pull from both sides, including my supportive FTM brothers.

My awakening into the land of male perception has taught me much, especially about how much hormones rule one's personal feelings and reactions. For example, I took a slightly larger dose of testosterone last month, which upset my balance with disastrous results. My personality noticeably changed, I became an overnight "jerk," offending several friends with unthinking remarks. Suddenly I was no longer the kind of person (or man) I wanted to be. I subsequently lowered the dosage and since have been more in tune, able to feel, back to my more compassionate self. The social lessons were invaluable, and it was a scary look into what "testosterone poisoning" may actually be. I am comfortable remaining somewhere betwixt and between, male and female, in dresses or suits, still seriously playing with gender.

My successful and exciting reign this year would not have been possible without all of you who believed in me, supported me in my growth and role playing, and helped me through some difficult and exceptional times. That includes ETVC, DVG, FTM and the

hardworking members of the Bay Area Court System. Thanks to my hairdresser, Dennis, of Studio International, whose great haircuts helped push me over the top of passability (he and partner Michael will offer a private consultation room as of January for wig and hair needs). To everyone at the Tom Waddell Transgender Clinic, for giving expert medical care and for really caring about us all. To the handsome men who cruised me at various coronations, not knowing who I was (*Crying Game* in reverse — "Oh, no, *he's* a woman! Sob, sob"). Especially thanks to Roxanna, who stuck with me and even went public with her feelings and observations in several psychology classes with me, relating her experiences of watching her wife going through male puberty and young manhood.

The year saw Lauren and I attending the major Bay Area coronations, Alameda County ISE Investiture, where we were named Ambassadors of ETVC to the Court, and my favorite show, the wonderfully entertaining Mr./Miss Gay Pageant orchestrated by the very talented Jacques Michaels and Jealousy as they stepped down. I personally attended as many fund-raisers and smaller shows about town as I could, including plays and sneak previews of gender theme movies. I look forward to seeing you all at the "Alice in Genderland" Cotillion. Yes, it has been a very good year!

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Miss ETVC Chronicles

The Golden Months

by Lauren Rene Hotchkiss

As the holiday season wends its way towards the New Year and Genderland's attention turns away from the last months of her fading monarchs, and toward the dawn of the reign of Miss and Mr. ETVC XI, whoever they may be, I find that, with a lessening of Royal appearances, I have time once again to resume my research into the history of the Genderfolk.

On many strange pathways have my journeys taken me. From the archival vaults that lie far beneath the headquarters of I.F.G.E., in which I discovered Panty O'Bras's famous epic, "The Ballad of the Genderfolk," to Virginia Prince's attic, where I found accounts written during the time of the Norman Invasion and the campaigns of Robert the Bruce.

Once, Genderfolk could be found everywhere that the ancient Gaelic peoples dwelled, from the length and breadth... er breadth of the British Isles, to Ireland, and across the channel in Brittany.

According to religious engravings found in the ruins of their ancient temples, the gentle Genderfolk would often Kneel in prayer (often called Genderflecting) facing toward San Francisco.

Being transgendered had its difficulties, of course, even then; particularly in the area of courtship and matrimony. A stranger in Genderland knew never whether the comely lass he espied was indeed a lass; nor the unwary maiden, whether she be courted by a strong and manly lad or a strong and manly woman. Oh, how strange to the unwary outsider seemed the vicissitudes of life in Genderland. Because of this confusion on the part of outsiders, the Genderfolk often intermarried, a practice that led directly to their eventual extinction.

Yet still are they remembered by the many artifacts they left behind: The chainmail miniskirts and iron breastforms they would often wear into battle and the high heels made from the hide of the Great Deer.

Gentle gender people of this latter age, will you not join me in observing a moment of silence in honor of these first gender pioneers, the proud and noble Genderfolk...

And now let us return from the ancient past to speak instead of the near future, and allow me now to lay aside my chronicler's pen and prepare to don my tiara one last time as I make ready to return once more to the Russian Center, this year to play the part of... but nay I shall not tell you overmuch. Come see for yourselves the revels and divers Royale at Cotillion XI.

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The Queen Bee's Hive

by Jamie Fenton

In a basement in San Francisco, the Queen Bee waits by the phone, eager to answer questions about the gender community and pass along messages for ETVC members. Who is this tireless ETVC volunteer? Queen Bee is the code name for our organization's 386-40 personal computer, which is equipped to handle both voice mail and the computer BBS.

Recent changes make this system even more useful to ETVC members and the gender community at large. This January, the phone rates charged by Pacific Bell for calls within its service area will be reduced by approximately 40%. This will make using Queen Bee, as well as our Outreach Hot line, much less expensive.

The voice mail system came with a pre-defined control program that is very hard to change. However the transgendered hackers from hell keep thinking of ways of outsmarting its designers. The latest changes make it easier for callers to submit general announcements and personal ads.

To submit a general announcement or personal ad, press "0" at the main menu and follow the spoken instructions. Your message will be automatically made available for others to hear in a few hours. Ads or announcements with a sexual objective should not be submitted and will be ignored.

The computer BBS continues to attract callers, messages, and data files. To help its users better understand it, we have prepared a BBS Users Guide. This can be downloaded from the system (filename: BBSGUIDE.TXT), or we can mail it out to you. To have this done, send a message to Jamie Fenton at the PO Box or through the BBS, or leave a message on voice mail in box 5264.

Our sister system, the RGA BBS, recently changed telephone numbers. The new number is (408)-732-1323.

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My First Facial

by Charlene Hunter

So, it was off to The Total You, located at 1410 18th Street in San Francisco, to experience what it is like to have a complete facial. Upon entering the salon, I was greeted by Laurie, who escorted me to the room where the work would be done.

I changed my blouse to a smock that was fitted with an elastic top with gathered material that looked like a short, full skirt. After removing my shoes, Laurie gave me a cozy pair of socks that kept my feet toasty.

While laying down with a warm cover over me, she began with a cleansing cream for a scrub and then a light cream was applied to my face and neck area. She massaged the area, and did it ever feel sooo good. Next she worked on my face to remove any ugly blackheads, followed by hot towels. This whole process is so tremendously relaxing. The final application was a moisture lotion. Let me tell you, it is so terrific to be fussed over. Besides being made prettier, the attention is wonderful.

To think this all came about because I had entered, then won, the Night of Androgyny contest at the ETVC social. The next time you hear "Any volunteers?," say yes and join in. Have fun with being transgendered! I did.



*Charlene Hunter, winner,
"Night of Androgyny" contest,
August Social*

Lypsinka

As I Lay Lip-Synching
by Cheryl Sheppard

John Epperson as Lypsinka is back in town. This renowned performer of lip synching blends gags, comedy, drama and songs into a fast paced, almost frantic, show. While Lypsinka is well known, the winner of many awards and a veteran professional model, you will not be prepared for the total immersion into illusion. She uses very few props and minimal costume changes throughout the 90 minute performance, she doesn't need any more. What grabs you and holds your attention is her precise projection of multiple female characters presented in a dizzying machine-gun delivery.

In her opening music and dialog/synch she wears a elegant champagne halter top cocktail dress and belts out Ethyl Merman's "That's Entertainment" with a dozen or so voice/character changes in-between. You think you are watching someone sing, dance and act to their own recorded voice(s?). The way she moves her hands, arms, body and facial expressions produces a completely convincing role. You are left with envy and awe. Her femme-act is so refined that in one of her skits she acts in an unladylike, almost masculine way, and the result is very funny.

Playing at Josie's Cabaret and Juice Joint, 16th street at Market, in San Francisco from November 22 to January 1. If she is still around by the time you read this, don't miss this show!