

TV GUISE

Vol. 1, Issue 7

A General Journal with a Gender Agenda

October, 1991

CD PLAYERS RATED #1!



Cross-dressers Chesea, Miss Gay Sacramento, and Joshua (page 7), Mr. Gay Sacramento.

Dateline Sacramento: October 6, 1991, 6:45 pm. Finished the second coat of purple nail polish, put on a coat of quick-dry and locked the apartment. Hit the sidewalk at a brisk pace, silver boot chain jangling, jingling earrings brushing shoulders, heavy chains circling neck, black, trash-bag vinyl jacket with silver snaps and zippers reflecting the last of the evening light. The black cat-suit was tighter than skin— tits squished over the top. Found the car, started it and cruised over to pick up Miss Robby and Cher.

6:51pm. They were still ratting BIG HAIR: Cher's was MONDO BIG, high and wide, trailing half-way down her nearly naked back. Her dress was short, black with chrome buckles down the cut-away sleeves and back. Miss Robby, resplendent in a magenta mini with black dingle ball trim

at the neckline, sprayed on the last of her *DragNet*, picked out some leopard spotted pumps and grabbed a tape in case she changed her queenly mind about performing. Cher said: "We look like we're going to work."

7:02pm. We left. "I'll sit in the middle," Miss Robby decided and slid in, having no need to hike up her skirt. "Look, my puss is showing," she announced while settling on the seat belt buckle and showing off her red panties.

"Oh god, now she thinks she's real," Cher dished, swinging in her fish-net clad leg and closing the door.

"Are you flat?" Miss Robby asked as she slid her hand down my crotch. "She is!" she exclaimed while turning to get a light from Cher.

Rolled down the alley, eased into the street
(Continued on page 4)

Billie Jean Blabs

Dear Darlings,

Lord love a duck. Here it is, time to get another issue together and I'm dragging (in every sense of the word, although a lot of it is fun. You know, I didn't even have space in the last issue to blab about all the cute outfits I got to wear, like at the Ducal Ball—a tight little faux ribbon-silk dress with a drape gather at the hem, low cut with all my skin pushed up, rhinestone necklace, bracelet and earrings, black, velvety pumps with rhinestones [too bad I ran the black stockings with rhinestone backseams], french twist hair with tendrils all over the place—too cool. And, at the Cowboy/Cowgirl Barn Dance—an embroidered white dress with fringe, another push-up skin fake-out, white shoes with fringe, and an amazing hair sculpture of spiral curls, complete with fall; I mean, we're talking BIG HAIR [with a white bow]. And, are you ready for this? [I barely was] Toilet Ball [how come I always wanna say Toilet Bowl?]: the debut of my alter-cousin, Dazee Jane—BIG red curly hair, tiger-striped beret, rhinestone wing-tip glasses, tacky blue eye shadow, Big Red Lips, a short, tight, almost animal-print dress, black hose with tigers from knees to ankles, the tackiest orange necklace in all of California, a wide, tacky, leopard print belt, silver and gold sling-back pumps, yellow rubber gloves [the kind you clean toilets with], topped off with one of the most god-awful orange and black spotted leopard-print coats in North America—I think I outdid both Laverne DeFazio and Peggy Bundy! [Notice how I've gotten carried away inside this double parenthetical tangent? Whoa! I better get on with the rest of the blab.] There, out of one of em. And now, the other one).

I'm back! (It's great to be the right kind of TV, you know?)

Anyway, a lotta cool things are coming up and I hope you getta chance to come on out and play. Basically, if you want to and don't, you may die before you ever do. So treat yourself to life—it's all in the doing, living, being.

Speaking of being: I'm gonna be at Fantasia Fair the last two weeks in October, and I hope to have a photo spread and full report next issue. Hey! maybe I'll run into some mondo-bizarro people and really juice up the issue. Oh, yeah. And Dodder has invited me to Halloween in the Castro (San Francisco, not Cuba [Hey! maybe I can use Dazee Jane's outfit again!—see, she just got an apartment there), won't that be swell? (Damn, I can't seem to get away from these parenthetical asides [or the double parenthetical quips [how 'bout a triple?], ya know?—maybe this cat suit is too tight.)

Whew, that was it.

Oh! Coupla-three things: *One*, somebody told me that some people have said (double hearsay, see?) they wonder why I publish a lotta stuff about gay people—well, to be honest, it's because gay people are more up-front about who and what they are. Also, there are more fun events put on by the Gay and Lesbian community, and much of the proceeds go to charity. Besides, I've had nearly a dozen so-called hetero TV's decline interviews. In fact, I asked the person who told me this to write a letter and I would respond—but they didn't. Get the picture? *Second*, someone else said they

wish I wouldn't use such Big Words; that simple words should be used so ordinary people could understand what's being said. Well, excuuuuse me! Sorry, I don't believe in the philosophy of catering to the lowest common denominator. Buy a good dictionary and learn to use it—that's what I, a non-high school graduate do. *Third*, someone else told me they thought my writing tended toward anger (HEY SHITHEAD, FUCK OFF AND DIE!) but I don't believe that; do you? (Well, I am sardonic—look it up.) *Fourth*, two people have mentioned that the language I sometimes use isn't "ladylike." Please understand that I consider censorship to be an *obscene profanity*, and people who attempt to dictate what others say OFFEND *me* GREATLY. So get a life and leave this pagan bitch to wallow in freedom of expression. *Fifth*, a few people have asked for a subscription to TV Guide, or to be put on the "mailing list"—well, except for exchanging newsletters with a few groups around the country, there is no mailing list, and subscriptions don't exist because I may decide to chuck the whole thing, especially if I have to do all the work (like writing, interviewing, typing, photographing, printing and distributing). So there. (I guess I'm getting cranky.)

Nap time.

I'm back!

Hey, guess what? It's a coupla daze later and I already scrapped what I wrote between then and now (Look it's a literary shortcut). Now for the what: Last night I went down to the demonstration and got my fair share of abuse—no, this ain't no rip-off of the Rolling Stones; it's a snivel about being hassled for no reason—check it out:

So there I was, fifteen minutes early, standing in front of the California State Capitol Building, showing my support for the protest against bigotry by Government (California Governor Pete Wilson, a short, little runt of a pinheaded politician vetoed AB101, a statewide anti-discrimination bill duly passed by both the Assembly and Senate and supported by 61% of the residents of Calif. for bullshit reasons that are so profanely ludicrous that they can't be published in a family-orientated newsletter such as this one).

The golden glow of the setting sun illuminated the Capitol Dome as I gazed upon it—lost in a moment of reflection, remembering Civil Rights Vigils; Vietnam Protests; the Peace & Freedom Party; the ERA; Pro-Choice—different times, same tune... Suddenly, I snapped out of my reverie—I was surrounded by six California State Policemen. I was shocked. I felt numb, trapped. Anxiety flooded my molecules, hot flashes raged across my epidermis, rivulets of sweat began trickling down my face, arms, legs. "What do you want?" I

(Continued on next page)

The entire contents of **TV Guide** are ©1991 by Billie Jean Jones, except as noted. All Rights Reserved. This is a work of fiction and any resemblance to actual persons, activities, or locations is entirely coincidental.

Letters, submissions of articles, features, or stories may addressed to [REDACTED], Sacramento, CA 95821; however, no liability is assumed.

asked, rather bewildered.

"We wanna ask you about that," one of 'em pointed to my stun gun (I had it clipped to my belt).

"It's a stun gun," I exclaimed.

"We know what it is," a voice behind me snarled.

"You got a permit for it?" another one demanded.

"I don't need a permit," I explained; "it's legal to carry one."

"You got some ID?" a voice snapped.

"Yeah," I mumbled being very slow and careful to remove my wallet and hand over my official State of California three-part driver's license while listening to one of 'em tell another one of 'em that it was legal to carry a stun-gun. A pinched-face pig—er—cop in front of me told me to remove my chrome sunglasses. Then, another one wanted more ID. Somebody else asked why I was carrying the stun-gun. The one in front wanted to know if I was on drugs (shit, who needs drugs when thugs give ya a bum rush?). I told 'em I was in shock at being surrounded by a squad of State Police, with a dozen TV cameras in my face, and that I was packing the stun-gun for when I left, in case some pervert-weirdo-bigot decided to hassle me.

They ran a warrant check on me, told me I couldn't possess the stun-gun on State property, and two of 'em escorted me to my car, watched me lock the stun-gun inside and then tried to escape.

"Hey," I said, "the least you could do is walk me back now that you made me a target."

So we walked back to the demonstration, only they went and hid someplace while I stood in front and listened to the voices raised in protest at having just been denied dignity and Human Rights.

So there you have it: A front-line report on the status of Civil Rights in California, the world's seventh largest economy, the most populous State in the nation; and, on the hallowed grounds of its Capitol: A place where an ordinary (but complicated) citizen has no right to bear arms, legal or not.

Another coupla things: Shopping—several people have asked me where one shops for clothing; how one finds the correct sizes, etc. I have intentionally left this kind of information out of TV Guise because some people make such a big deal about it. Get a clue (there have been several 'clues' scattered through past issues): go anyplace—just walk in the front door and start shopping. When a salesperson asks, "can I help you?" Just say: "Yes!" Ask for sizing help and try on several different sizes—size variations occur with different manufacturers, styles, seasons and years. It can be a lotta fun just blabbing with the salespeople, trying different things on and, not even buying anything. And, I've never been asked to leave a store (although I have been asked to use the mens' fitting room [Macy's, Cheap Thrills] when I've been in man-drag; when presenting myself as female I've always used the womens').

For the advanced beginner who doesn't always dress like a slut, the best time to shop malls while cross-dressed (given that most CD/TV's have to use a lot of make up) is week days from 11am to 3pm (when the office workers are also shop-

ping—on weekends, most women wear casual clothes and tennis shoes). So, if you can advance into sweat pants, a T-shirt, tennis shoes and hardly any make up, you can go anyplace women do.

If you can't pull that off, try developing personal relationships with shop owners and employees. Start off by telling them the clothing is for you. If my experience holds true for you, I believe you will find more acceptance than you might think and, you will get put on the preferred shoppers list! They'll call you for sales, and when new stuff comes in.

In addition to the department stores and specialty shops, there are six decent consignment stores around Sacramento that I shop at. Find 'em, they're cheaper. I also check out a coupla-three used clothing stores and eight or nine thrift stores (the thrift store clerks usually get upset if you try on clothes in the middle of the store). It's easy, it's fun, and, believe it or not, it's empowering (meaning that when you take your right to do it, people [other shoppers mainly]) get out of your way).

Why?

My guess is because people are so afraid of being found out for what they are, that when they see someone who isn't afraid, they are intimidated. Too intimidated to even make snide remarks. Too intimidated to even look you in the eye (especially if you look right at them). The other evening I was rolling a shopping cart through Safeway in a black blouse, men's slacks, red socks, black flats, red fingernails, three days beard, hair tied in a ponytail (man style), four or five rings and a black onyx necklace charm. As I proceeding up and down the aisles, people stepped aside and said things like, "excuse me," and, "I'm sorry." I never get such a wide berth in straight man-drag. And the clerks were exceedingly courteous. This kind of thing happens more and more—the more I act as if there's nothing out of the ordinary, the more other people accept the apparent incongruity of gender-blending, cross-dressing, and transgendered behavior.

Remember: Nobody will stop you (except you, of course).

Linda Phillips, married thirty-three years to a CD supportive wife, kept cross-dressing a public secret until appearing on a "Sally" show. Here's an excerpt from her letter:

"Since the show my life has changed completely, I am no longer in the closet—I never really was but I lived two lives basically. Now that everyone 'knows,' it is a wonderful feeling. I found out that society doesn't have a problem with us, WE have a problem with us. All my 'straight' friends are not bothered by my cross-dressing, all my friends in the 'Community' say, 'Well Linda, you think they don't, but one of these days someone is going to ____.' I leave it to you to fill in the blank, anything from kill me to beat me up to never having anything to do with me again. Ah yes, good old cross-gender paranoia, where would we be without it? A lot better off I can tell you!"

Whoa! Gotta go—I'm gonna be late for my hair appointment!

Luv,

Billie Jean

Dateline Sacramento (Continued from front page)

and blasted off to Joseph's Town and Country, site of the evenings event: the Mr. and Miss Gay Sacramento Pageant. "There's too much smoke, it's burning my eyes," Cher complained while exhaling a plume of grey-blue smoke.

"Put your cigarette out," Miss Robby commanded while flicking her ashes.

"You."

"You."

"Bitch."

"Witch."

7:06pm. Cher stubbed out her cigarette, I raced up the freeway on-ramp, and Miss Robby victoriously flicked ashes while a billowing cloud of smoke slipstreamed out the windows. "All better, now?" she asked Cher.

"I'm bored!" Cher answered.

"Kiss, kiss?" Robby asked smacking her lips.

"You lezzie."

"I like it."

They lick tongues. "How 'bout you?" Miss Robby turns and sticks out her wet tongue. "She did it!" she exclaims to Cher.

"She's a lez, too," Cher pronounces.

7:11pm. We arrive at JTC, strut in, turn in our tickets and start blabbing and juking everyone—the easy ones twice.

"I need a drink!" Cher suddenly announces and heads for the bar.

"I don't have much money," Miss Robby said grabbing Cher's arm, "you better save yours til later, so we won't be broke — that would make me bitchy."

Welcome to Drag-World. A place where Kings and Queens mingle, dreams and screams tingle, and most everyone dishes (gossips) and spreads tea (talks shit).

7:45pm. The two contestants for Mr. Gay and the four contestants for Miss Gay are introduced and paraded around stage in T-shirts and jeans. They disappear. The Judges are introduced. The rules are explained. Entertainers entertain. The contestants show off "day wear." More entertainers. The room is hot and smoky; two womyn near our table are melting, oblivious to anything but their own passion. Cher and Miss Robby play tongue tag. The contestants display "talent." They are "interviewed." Intermission.

9:07pm. See and be seen. Drink and be drunk.

9:30pm. More entertainers. Evening wear. Cher entertains and returns. "Did I look okay?" she asks.

"Yeah. You flashed your underwear a coupla times, though."

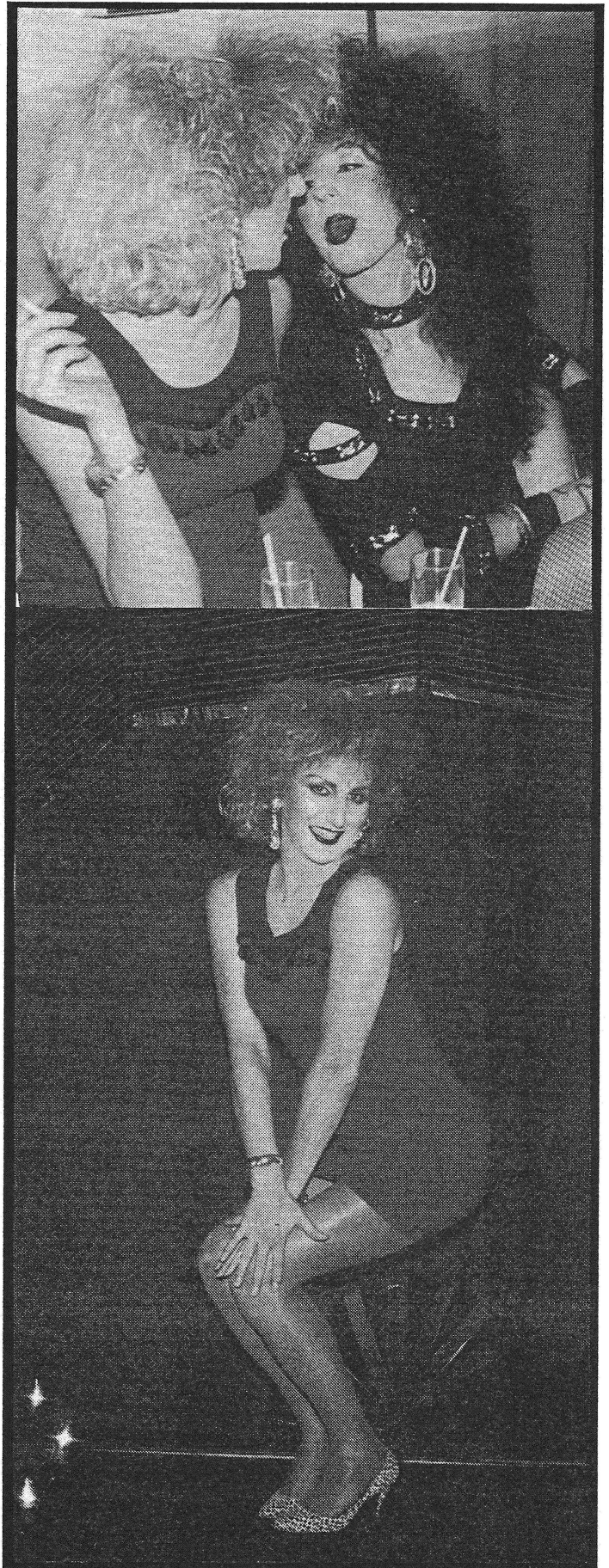
"Way cool."

10:20pm. Winners announced: Chelsea and Joshua. They each have boisterous contingents thundering approval. Joshua, a lesbian in man-drag, is nonchalantly cool; Chelsea, a gay male in drag-drag, pulls off a perfect Miss America cry-baby face.

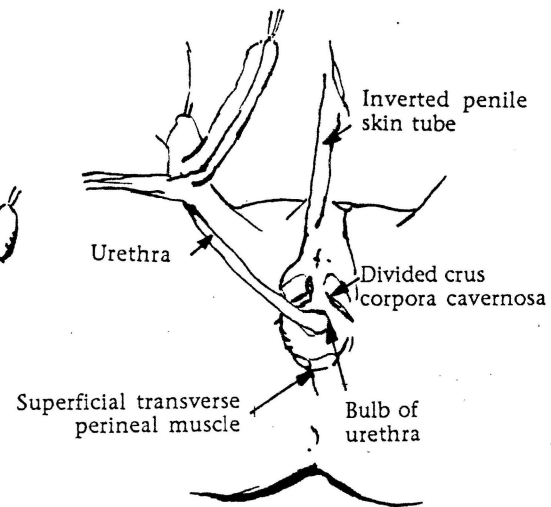
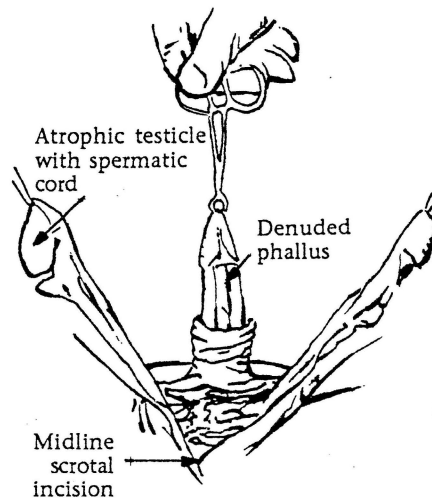
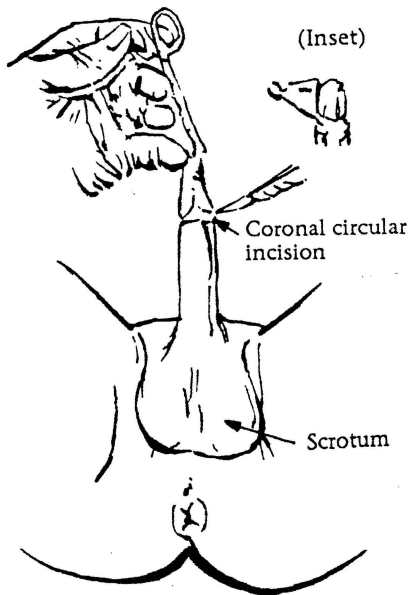
10:30pm. Party time blur.

1:30am. Five bars later I arrive at the apartment, peel off the cat suit, three layers of tight underwear, unfurl and peeeeeeee. Ahhhh.

Exit Drag-World.



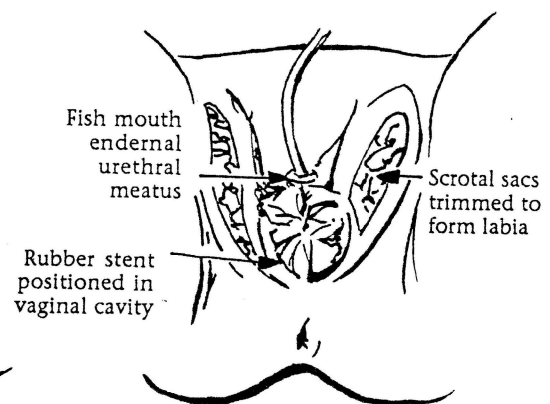
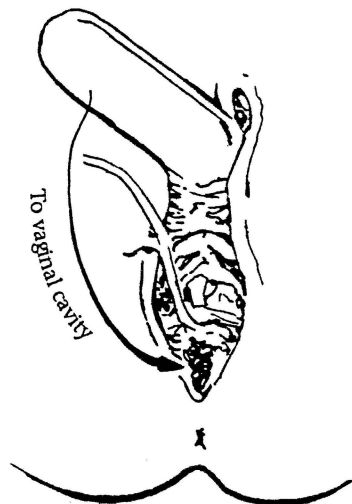
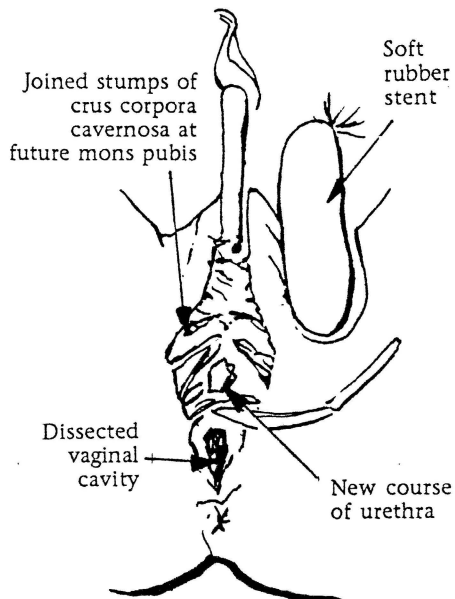
An Illustrated Look At Penile Inversion Surgery



1. A circular incision around the coronal sulcus is made and a proximally based skin tube circle is dissected. (Inset: The mucosa of the glans will provide extra length in a circumcised patient.)

2. The testicles and cords are freed to the external inguinal ring through the bisected scrotal sac.

3. The urethra and the amputation of the corpora cavernosa is shown.



4. The urethra is re-routed behind and below the superficial transverse perineal muscles. Note also the dissected vaginal cavity and the soft rubber stent (iodoform gauze placed in a rubber glove finger).

5. The everted (penile) skin tube containing the stent is inserted into the vaginal cavity.

6. The labia are reconstructed from the scrotal sac; the stent is now in position.

Preliminary Survey Results

Approximately 200 survey forms were distributed in late July and August. Twenty-four responses have been received; one of them was from a non cross-dresser, gay male. For the purposes of the survey, the answers to that one have been excluded. However, because that person took the time and paid for postage, their response is included in the Total Response Percentage, which is 12%.

Analysis of responses indicates those who actually take the time to respond do so immediately, and those who intend to respond but put their response off until later, generally never respond.

A preliminary conclusion is that people who may have a gender-related concern are represented by 11.5% of said people, and that 87.5% fail to represent themselves. This is a little better than the percentage of people who vote, compared to the number of people who could vote. Still, *apathy rules*.

Of the twenty-three responses 91% belonged to a gender-related social club; 57% of those belonged to additional gender-related clubs. 83% believe their club should be improved; 4% were satisfied with their club; 13% were unable to provide a response. 74% were willing to improve their club; 9% checked no; 17% were unable to respond. Of the people belonging to clubs, 82% attend frequently; 9% infrequently; 9% do not attend. Of the people not belonging to clubs, 50% attend anyway and believe the club should be improved.

52% of the responses considered themselves active; 30% passive; 9% both; 9% were unable to respond.

100% of the responses were from people classified as biological males at birth.

The average age of respondents was forty-three.

57% of respondents perceive themselves as Cross-Dressers; 17% as Androgynes; 4% as Transgenderists; 17% as Transsexuals.

53% perceived themselves as Heterosexuals; 26% as Bisexuals; 17% as Homosexuals; 4% were unable to respond.

70% perceived themselves as Normal; 21% as Abnormal; 9% were unable to respond. 49% believe other people perceive them to be Normal; 38% believe others perceive them as Abnormal; 4% believe others perceive them as both; 9% were unable to respond.

Three respondents live full-time cross-dressed; two of those live alone; all three consider their frequency of cross-dressing to be enough.

Of the remaining twenty: 25% dress once a day; 5% three times a week; 25% twice a week; 25% once a week; 10% twice a month; 10% once a month. 40% of these live alone. 65% of these are dissatisfied with the frequency: three of the five daily dressers are dissatisfied; The single three times a week and all five once a week dressers are dissatisfied; two of the five twice a week dressers are dissatisfied; the monthly dressers are evenly divided.

Of the same twenty: eight go out in public at least once a week (1.5 ave.); six at least once a month (1.75 ave.); three

go out three to four time a year; three never go out in public. 65% are dissatisfied with their public frequency; 30% are satisfied; 5% were unable to respond.

(While the same total percentage of people dissatisfied with frequency occurred, six (30%) were satisfied with one but not the other: four were satisfied dressing privately but dissatisfied with public frequency; two were privately dissatisfied but publicly satisfied.)

65% of respondents made comments: more social activities and scheduling information (33%); more togetherness, more diversity, free expression without being judged (27%); more outreach (20%); better organization and group officers who know how to manage members willing to contribute (14%).

57% of respondents were able to prioritize their choices: more outreach (31%); more social activities (31%); more information on events, where to shop, dress, eat (23%); more help in achieving self acceptance (15%).

28% of the total respondents made comments that suggested they were unhappy with the "clique-like" qualities of their social club. This was the subject most mentioned as a write-in comment.

78% of respondents have Significant Others, of these 89% of the SO's know about their partners cross-dressing; 68% are supportive; 13% are somewhat supportive; 19% are not supportive at all.

(Thank You to all who participated.)



Conversation with Joshua

TVG: "When did you get the idea to enter the (Mr. Gay Sacramento) pageant?"

J: I saw an application and rules— actually I'd thought about it before because all these men dress up as women, and I thought why can't I get in there, have fun and open doors for other women? So one night we had a drag show here (Our Place), and I came dressed as a man. People I didn't know thought I was a man, so I thought, 'hmm, this could work.' And, it intrigued me, I've always liked Halloween dress-ups because people don't know who you are."

TVG: "You like to be the person behind the mask?"

J: "Behind the mask, yes."

TVG: "You know them but they don't know who you are."

J: "That's right. And for the pageant I thought it would be great to be the first one to do it in a long time— I don't know when the last time a woman did it. I thought I could really make a statement, plus I could do things for charity, help a lot of people, and enjoy myself."

TVG: "So, that was the first time you actually presented yourself as a male in public, except for here—and you've already told me that you hadn't cross-dressed before—had you ever had a curiosity to do a male role or did you do it just to disguise yourself?"

J: "I've thought of it before. It's like an actor given a part, you have to portray that part with what you have, or you add different features to project yourself. Projecting a male has always intrigued me because I've always wondered what people see—like you see a macho man that's gorgeous, and yet he's so soft behind that. I thought maybe I could project a hardness, a rough look, and the softness of a woman behind it— maybe people could see that just because you have a hard outer layer, you can still have feelings, a heart, softness. That fools a lot of people because with gender roles, if you look like a wimp, you're supposed to be a wimp."

TVG: "You're even expected to be a wimp?"

J: "Right. A lot of people saw me up there and thought I was a man, I had a rough look to me and I fooled them: I'm a woman, I'm very soft, very feminine; and that says something about society."

TVG: "Did men at the pageant try to put the make on you, or ask for a date?"

J: "In the back room, when I was getting dressed, men were trying to get in there to find out: 'Who is this Joshua?' And my wife was out in the audience—you know, at that loud table— anyway, she mingled with other tables and a lot of people were telling her: 'No way is that a woman.' It really goes to show you that people look at the outside instead of the inside."

TVG: "What did you use for your beard?"

J: "Theatrical make up."

TVG: "Spirit gum and hair?"

J: "No. Everybody has a little bit of peach fuzz on their face, so I got this make up, it's like a coil sponge, dipped it in a little bit of water and dabbed it on all the little hairs."

TVG: "So you dyed it then?"

J: "Yes. Once it dries, it sets. You can rub it and stuff, and

it stays on. I was sweating like crazy and it still stayed on. There were all these queens [backstage] having to change everything, and touch everything up, and all I had to do was change clothes a couple of times, I'd look in the mirror and say: 'I'm okay.' They were pissed, like: 'Oh, it's so easy for you, honey.'"

TVG: "Ha-ha— It takes me nearly three hours from shower to nail polish to do a female presentation, and about ten minutes to get out of my apartment as a male."

TVG: "Yeah? For me, since I've been around all these men changing into a woman, they're tucking this and adding that, and it takes a lot of time— and I thought, all I have to do, beside the beard, is add a sock. Well, that took me a long time. I mean, I had to have it aimed just right, and I had no clue. So I started asking people, 'excuse me, I need your opinion on this: Where do you put the sock? to the left? to the right? up in the middle?' And they're going: 'Just shove it to the left, honey, and let it drag.' So I did, I stuck it to the left and dealt with it. It took me a couple of days of practicing to walk with it there."

TVG: "I noticed the way you walked, head down, shoulders forward— is that what you practiced?"

J: "When I walked out on stage, all the flashes going off kind of threw me off. I mean, you have a black stage, and when I would look up at the people, there were all the stage lights, then the flashes would go off and I'd have to look down, make sure of my next step."

TVG: "So you ended up getting that walk because of the flashes?"

J: "That and, oh, an uncomfortableness of being out there— gave me a little bit of a strut, I guess."

TVG: "You've been around drag queens, seen them change— as a woman, what's your perspective on men who cross-dress as drag queens and perform?"

J: "Well, in the first place, I have a blast with the queens. I've done DJ work for them on Wednesdays nights when they perform here. So I've gotten to know a lot of them, and I've helped zip them up, or whatever. Just like at the pageant, I helped some of them prepare—they're very nice people, very open minded. I've noticed how some people tend to be on one side of gender, extremely— to me, to be a whole person, you have to understand every aspect of it. Everybody tends to put people in stereotypical situations: you're a dyke if you wear a T-shirt and jeans; you're a femme if you wear a dress. But a femme does get out of her make up, her dress, her pumps, and does put on jeans. I tend to see people who cross-dress understand that because when they go to work as a man—or as I go to work as a woman—they understand the other side of it. It's like an understanding of people, you're able to look beyond the outer shell. Partly because you have to carry yourself differently."

TVG: "And the clothes teach you how to walk."

J: "Yes. Like before the pageant, people said to me: 'You're not acting like a man, you're too feminine.' I said, 'that's okay, I don't have my stuff on; when I do, I project a different image. Just like acting, once you get the script, you go accordingly;

(Continued on next page)

Joshua— (Continued from page 7)

you become that person. When I put the clothes on, I change, I become Joshua. I see the same thing with Chelsea—Chelsea is beautiful as a man—I had never seen her out of her dress, but before the pageant we spent an hour talking and waiting for our interviews, and I told her, 'You're absolutely beautiful, as a man and as a woman.' What else can you ask for in life but to be beautiful both inside and out, no matter what you are?"

TVG: "Generally, what do women think of women who cross-dress as males?"

J: "Hmm, I got mixed reactions. Not from my friends but from some associates around here."

TVG: "Some of the women?"

J: "Yes. The people who are close to me, and know me, they supported me. There were other people who said: 'Why do you want to be a man?' I told them I didn't say I wanted to be a man; I wanted to project an image. Being Joshua does not mean I'm a *man*. You have a beard, a hat, you look manly, therefore you're a man. I told one person, 'I'd like you to look beyond that.'"

TVG: "Some people were quick to jump to conclusions?"

J: Yes. I think I've opened a lot of eyes, as far as this bar is concerned. And, hopefully, also for people at the pageant. I mean, I didn't do this just for myself, I didn't do it to be a man—if they (drag queens) can do it, why can't we? Look at all the fun we're missing out on: It's theatre, it's entertaining—it's like a magician performing an illusion. When people saw how serious I was to do it, they supported me."

TVG: "You had the second loudest cheering contingent."

J: "You know, when I was performing, I was scared. I had never performed before and when those people stood up, I actually felt a flutter, but it was a good flutter. It felt good and I can hardly wait to do it again. It's like opening new doors, not only for me, but for other women. Women who have thought about it, but say, 'I don't know, my girlfriend might get mad, my mom...' And I say, 'get over it, go out and have a good time.' I have no desire to be a man, but I do have a desire to do it on occasion. I'm still a woman, honey. No matter what anybody says, I'm still a woman."

TVG: "Exactly. Gender seems to be something we get slammed into as babies, and by the time we're aware of it, it seems like we're locked in. There's probably nothing more important about the way we're taught to live and be in the world than gender classifications. And like you said, when people are rigid, at one extreme or the other, they don't seem to be very tolerant."

J: "There is a happy medium. Somebody who can be this, be that, and still be their self can be a complete person because they understand both sides. They're not going: 'Oh no, not this; not that.' To me, that's what life is, no matter if it's cross-dressing, or working to buy a car or a house, or whatever—it's understanding the whole concept. You have to look at things as a whole, and not say, 'Oh, this is the only way to go'"

TVG: "Now that you have done Joshua a couple of times, do you find you see things differently than you had before?"

J: "Oh, yeah."

TVG: "Like what for example?"

J: "I feel like more of a person."

TVG: "Like you're a bigger person?"

J: "Yes. More of a person, and I see things in a different way, more open—in a strange way, like I grew up. A typical thing for women, and lesbians, is that men have an outlook of getting all the women they can. When I was portraying a man, I didn't feel that way; I felt the way I moved and my emotions were like a man, but not a stud. After I won, people came up to me and said: 'You're such a stud.' It was kind of freaky because I didn't feel that, and I think they missed the softness inside, they looked at the outer shell too much."

TVG: "What kind of different reactions did you get from men?"

J: "Well, having men react to me that weren't straight. I mean, usually when I meet a gay male it's like a friendship, 'oh girlfriend,' and all this kind of talk. But this was different—an attraction on their part, and a dishing out on my part. And, hey, who doesn't like to have a reaction like that? I mean as long as you don't have to get defensive—it felt good. It was like an obstacle had been in front of me, and I was given an opportunity to see and feel what it was like to be a man—other than being in bed—in society. I feel more fulfilled as a person."

TVG: "What does your wife think of Joshua?"

J: "There's a little story behind Joshua, where I got the name and everything. I believe in past lives. I believe everything is for a reason. I believe I'm with her for a reason. And, I believe in a past life I was Joshua. I've always kidded her and said, 'oh, that's just my Joshua side.' If I get too domineering, a little out of line, she always says: 'That's just Joshua, I'll ignore it, honey.' So we've always had that and she had no qualms about it at all. She just said: 'Are you prepared to be in front of all those people?' I said, 'I'll only know once I get up there.' She's been very supportive."

TVG: "Do you know of any other women who cross-dress?"

J: "No."

TVG: "I have a little more tape left but we've been talking longer than you had for a break—is that bad?"

J: "They understand, as long as you mention Our Place."

TVG: "You mean this interview is contingent on mentioning what a fabulous place Our Place is, and how so many people from here were at the pageant?"

J: "Of course, PR, you know."

TVG: "Had your girlfriend, or is it proper to call her your wife?"

J: "Fiancé, we're going to be married in June."

TVG: "Congratulations."

J: "Thank you."

TVG: "...Had your fiancé any exposure to cross-dressing previously?"

J: "No."

TVG: "We spoke a little on some women having negative reactions; what were some of the other reactions from women around here?"

J: "The first time I did it—I didn't have the theatrical make

(Continued on page 10)

Gender Organizations

C.G.N.I.E., Inc. (Court of the Great Northwest Imperial Empire, Inc.) POB 160636, Sac, CA 95816. CGNIE was organized to raise funds for charities and continues to do so. Primarily part of the gay community, membership is open to anyone with an interest. CGNIE maintains an active relationship with many other Court Systems in the western United States. Annual events include elections of Emperor & Empress, Grand Duke & Duchess with related campaign events culminating in Coronation Ball and Grand Ducal Ball; and other Balls as selected by the Court. A variety of other events and fund raisers are scheduled by the reigning Court. Court Imperial (general meetings) held on first Tuesday of the month at Faces, 2000 K Street, Sac, CA, 7:30pm. No door charge. Annual dues—\$22 (or \$2 per month).

DVG (Diablo Valley Girls)—POB 272885, Concord, CA 94527-2885. DVG is a non-sexual social club currently forming in the Cocord/Walnut Creek area. Monthly socials held at Just Rewards, 2520 Camino Diablo, Walnut Creek, CA on the third Monday of each month, 8pm. Write for details.

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

G.A.L. (Gender Alternatives League) POB 3392, Napa, CA 94558 Phone: [REDACTED] GAL is a group attempting national representation of "Genderists." Predisposed to political activism, GAL is will also be publishing "The Genderist" four times a year—\$20.

Gender Dysphoria Support Group POB 1895, Sacramento, CA 95866. GDSG is a FTM (female to male) closed group. Write for details (formerly care of J.A.G.).

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

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 (with ETVC), Computer Bulletin Board: [REDACTED] (300-2400 baud), 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: [REDACTED] SGA is a non-sexual social club open to anyone interested in gender issues. General meetings are held on the fourth Saturday of the month at Joseph's Town & Country, 2062 Auburn Blvd., Sac, CA, 7pm if you want dinner, meeting follows, 8pm. \$2 door fee (\$4 non-members). General meetings usually include a presentation, such as make up, clothing, etc. SGA Executive Committee meeting held the third Friday, same location, 7:30pm, open to members and guests—free. SGA is currently trying to organize a significant others support group, and a drop-in rap session. Annual dues—\$20.

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

Support Organizations & Services

ETVC/RGA Rap Group meets on the second Monday of each month at the New Community of Faith Church in San Jose, from 8 to 10pm. Contact Kim at [REDACTED] or Martina at [REDACTED]

A peer support group is forming for Transgenderists who have recently crossed over, or are seriously contemplating doing so. Contact: Boxholder 229, 3311 Mission St, SF, CA 94110.

ETVC's Significant Others Support Group meets the second Thursday of each month, from 8 to 9pm. 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 [REDACTED]

SGA's SOS group had its first get together July 27. Persons interested in participating should call or write SGA.

The Human Outreach and Achievement Institute is addressed at: 405 Western Avenue, Suite 345, South Portland, ME 04106. (207) 775 0858. HOAI sponsors the following services: GAIN (Gender Awareness and Involvement Network), a service for helping professionals to access and share information relative to counseling and therapy; a Speakers Bureau; dozens of Seminars and Workshops; Information Packets and Periodical Publications; Fantasia Fair; and jointly with Theseus Counseling Services, HOPEFUL (Helping Our Partners Experience the Fullness of United Love), a program for couples who have learned to live with cross-dressing but who want more out of their relationship. Write for free brochures. Theseus Counseling Services is addressed at: 233 Harvard Street, Suite 302, Brookline, MA 02146. (617) 277-4360.

Joshua— (Continued from page 8)

up, I used burnt cork—they said: 'God, you can really do this—Go For It.'"

TVG: "You mean the pageant, or the whole thing?"

J: "Once they saw I could do it, they were supportive of whatever I wanted to do."

TVG: "Do you use make up other than for Joshua?"

J: "A little, but nothing like that. God, you have to dab, you can't brush—it takes a long time."

TVG: "How would you describe yourself as a lesbian—you mentioned dykes and femmes; where do you see yourself within the spectrum of terms that get thrown about?"

J: "Hmm! What day of the week? I like to throw people off. They're like: 'God, Monday she looked like a dyke, and now she's got a pantsuit on.' Keep 'em thinking. I wear different clothes; I don't wear dresses or pumps, god forbid—I couldn't walk in pumps..."

TVG: "It doesn't take that long to learn."

J: "Did you ever see Walter Matthau in that movie where he's walking in heels?"

TVG: "All tilted and crazy?"

J: "That's me. Anyway, I consider myself a happy medium."

(Joshua works at Our Place, as does Bette, Ms. Gay Cowgirl of Sacramento. Besides having two title holders on staff, Our Place provides an environment of family fun with a diverse mix of activities and people. Check it out if you want to see more places that encourage diversity succeed.)

Special Thanks

Special thanks to Geraldyn H. of Sacramento for her generous faith donation of TEN DOLLARS! (and she's not even a cross-dresser).

And a special thanks to Carolyn, Doreen and Evelyn for joining me at JTC for the show following "Erotic Flair 91" September 28, and to their two "straight" friends (a couple) who joined us during the show. Doreen won a hand-crafted bracelet (\$65 worth), and we all partied at Faces afterward. Mondo-cool stuff, kids.

And Evelyn, thanks again for the five bucks!

Gee-whiz, I thought I could think of something cool to put in this space, but—NO. Instead, all I can think of is getting packed for Fantasia Fair and getting my nails done. Sheesh! What a hassle—two wardrobes, a dozen decisions, and a hundred details. Oh well, at least I filled up the space.

Gratuitious Filler

Back issues of **TV Guide** (April, May & June) are still available by mail for one dollar (\$1) plus one (29¢) first class stamp each. The July, August & September issues are available for one-fifty (\$1.50) plus one stamp (29¢, even though it costs 52¢ to mail). Also, for those may want **TV Guide** to continue, contributions (articles, letters, etc.), and faith donations (cash preferred) will be gladly, joyously, gratefully accepted.

Upcoming (Mostly) Local Events

Oct 18— RGA social, New Community of Faith Church, 6350 Rainbow Dr., San Jose. 8pm, donations accepted.

Oct 18— "Spellbound" a Halloween Ball presented by Chelsea and Lisa at JTC, 7:30pm, benefits Hope House, \$3.

Oct 19— SGA Executive Committee Meeting, 7:30pm at JTC. Open to all, no charge.

Oct 19— Leatherfest III at JTC; 8pm, benefits Lambda Community Center, \$3.

Oct 20— "Help II" presented by Michael & Raven at the Town House, 1517 21st, Sac. Benefits Fairy Godfathers. \$3.

Oct 21— DVG meets at Just Rewards, 2520 Camino Diablo, Walnut Creek, 8pm. Open to all, no charge.

Oct 26— SGA General Meeting, 8pm at Joseph's Town & Country (7pm for dinner). \$2 members, \$4 non-members.

Oct 26— CGNIE presents "Closet Ball" (for Men who would be Queen & Womyn who would be King—Contest, \$100 prize). Can't have done public drag before. JTC 8pm, \$8.

Oct 27— Victory Party for Mr. & Miss Gay Sacramento at Our Place, 2560 Boxwood, Sac. Tacos & stuff at 3pm. Show at 8pm, \$3. donation.

Oct 31 ETVC presents "Halloween" a night for queens and monsters to show off in the famous ETVC Costume Contest. 8pm, Chez Mollet Restaurant, 527 Bryant Street, SF. \$5 members, \$12 non.

Nov. 1— RGA social, New Community of Faith Church, 6350 Rainbow Dr., San Jose. 8pm, donations accepted.

Nov. 2— Gay-La Spectacular presented by The Lambda Players at JTC. Dinner at 6pm, show at 7pm, band plays later. \$15. for dinner, show & band; \$10. for show & band.

Nov. 5— CGNIE Court Imperial Meeting, 7:30pm at Faces. Open to all, no charge.

Nov. 15— RGA social, New Community of Faith Church, 6350 Rainbow Dr., San Jose. 8pm, donations accepted.

Nov. 15— SGA Executive Committee Meeting, 7:30pm at JTC. Open to all, no charge.

Nov. 18— DVG meets at Just Rewards, 2520 Camino Diablo, Walnut Creek, 8pm. Open to all, no charge.

Nov. 23— SGA General Meeting, 8pm at Joseph's Town & Country (7pm for dinner). \$2 members, \$4 non-members.

Nov. 28— ETVC presents their monthly theme social. 8pm, Chez Mollet Restaurant, 527 Bryant Street, SF. \$5 members, \$8 non (maybe higher).

Every Other Wednesday— (10-16, 10-30, 11-13, 11-27) Female & Male Impersonators at Our Place, 9pm. Open to all, no charge, participants encouraged.

Every Friday Night— Café Lambda, smoke-free, alcohol-free—no door charge.

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