



Roxanne speaks to the International Forum on New Science.

A PRESENTATION TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

by Roxanne de Lyon

At the end of September I had the privilege of speaking to the International Forum on New Science at Fort Collins, CO. I received a request for abstracts on topics such as healing, dowsing, tarot, astrology, fundamental paradigms, etc. I wrote a conservative paper titled "Can You Afford Your Beliefs." To make the presentation more exciting, I offered to be crossdressed to allow the audience the actual experience of their gender beliefs when confronted with mixed gender cues. Only after I arrived in Colorado did I find out that they were delighted to have such a presentation. I had a couple of extra days so I decided to practice my presentation. I was excited to go out in a new town but, to my chagrin, I found I had forgotten the most important element of my foundation makeup, the one I had so carefully selected in sunlight, that matches my skin color. I had to use a light tan, a reddish rouge and a brown powder to save the day. Determination won and I became passable enough to go to the local shopping mall to buy some workable cover. Then I treated myself to excursions in Rocky Mountain National Park and the Denver Art Museum.

I began the conference in male mode, and set up beforehand with my emcee to be introduced as a humorist and impersonator. (He turned out to be an Abe Lincoln impersonator!) I rushed to my motel, at lunch break, and made the transformation in just over an hour; it had to last 'til midnight. I was glad for the two days of practice. Fortunately the dressing mirror came off the wall as the sink mirror/light was unusable and the front window light left me too exposed. I had to sit in the bathtub with the mirror balanced on my knees, using the daylight from the small window in back, to get my cover on correctly.

The introduction was superb and the presentation went well. The audience alternated between dropped jaws and hysterical laughter. I received lots of positive feedback, and was told I had made my point. Pleasantly, many women complimented me; not surprisingly, few men said anything at all. I changed into more formal dress for the banquet and wiled the night away with some new friends, in the lounge. They want me back next year when I plan to do a full blown gender presentation.

In another successful public outing, our own Ginny and Nancy Ann found themselves stranded on the San Mateo bridge as their car died out from under them. A wisp of male energy motivated Nancy Ann to heroically hoof it, in heels, to a phone. She was picked up by a kind gentleman and escorted back by the Highway Patrol. Ask Ginny or Nancy Ann for details of this exciting and hair raising adventure.

There is a lot of power in honestly being ourselves, and more room for it than we might otherwise expect.

Note— The date of our November Social has been moved to accommodate the Thanksgiving holiday. The new date **November 20**, is the third **WEDNESDAY** of November.



Roxanne experiences the power of a microphone.

EIGHTH ANNUAL MISS ETVC COTILLION JANUARY 11, 1992

Has it been almost a year since the last Cotillion? As unbelievable as it may sound, the answer is yes. Plans are already in the works for Cotillion '92, which is quickly shaping up to be the best Cotillion ever.

Never been to a Cotillion? You'll find this years event to be a fun and growing experience unlike any other in the ETVC calendar.

Contestant applications will be available at the October social, and will also be available by mail. Applications are due on the day of the auditions which will be held November 24, time and location to be announced.

Call Stephanie at (510) [redacted] for further information or to be sent an application by mail.

Those of you interested in helping out, being a contestant, or attending, please call Rusty at (510) [redacted]

ETVC is a non-sexual, membership based 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.

For details about ETVC programs, membership, newsletter subscriptions, and classified ads, please write to: ETVC Secretary, PO Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486.

O F F I C E R S

President	Martina
Vice President	Rusty
Secretary	Carol
Treasurer	Nancy Ann
Education	Evette & Paulette
Outreach	Lauren & Telzey
Social	Zia

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Membership (as of 9/30/91)	288
1990 Membership	263
New members this year	37

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance on 8/1/91	\$5,276.47
August income	1,635.00
August expenses	1,603.99

Balance on 8/31/91	5,307.48
September income	2,063.00
September expenses	2,043.09

Balance on 9/30/91	5,327.39
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The ETVC Newsletter is published the last week of February, April, June, August, October and December. Materials for publication should be sent to ETVC by the first weekend of each of those months. Newsletter contents reflect the opinions of the contributors and the editor, and are not necessarily those of ETVC.

Other organizations may reprint or reproduce portions of the newsletter for their members, provided ETVC is acknowledged.

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Editor	Roxanne de Lyon
Copy Editors	Donna & Julie
Design, Layout & Printing	Print Wise
Photographer	David Swanson
Production	Carol Clark

A D R A T E S

	per issue	per year
Business Card	\$20	\$100
4" x 5"	\$50	\$250

PERSONAL ADS

ETVC will accept personal ads from ETVC members at the rate of \$1 per 3 lines. We will not accept ads with a purely sexual objective.

Send ad copy and a check for the appropriate amount to: ETVC, PO Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486.

Ad deadlines are the first day of the month of publication (June, August, October, December, February and April).

HOTLINE 510-549-2665

The newsletter continues to be a popular item. Several of us who are active in its production met to discuss its objectives and responsibilities, aiming to serve the widest base with the greatest efficiency. As a result, I am implementing several changes.

The newsletter serves the membership as a current tip sheet so I want to include many ads. Yet with little competition, there appears to be no necessity for large ads. Therefore we are reducing the maximum ad size to a quarter page, (4" x 5"). Larger sizes (8" x 5" and 8" x 10") will no longer be offered.

I would like to encourage everyone to contribute to *your* newsletter, as writers, editors, folders and lickens. When writing, please keep your presentation brief and make your points clearly, since I want to maintain our regular columnists and accommodate as many letters and guest columns as possible. Also, please include your name as you wish it to appear in the byline.

When discussion of an issue arises, as it has this month, I would like the ability to present each correspondent's work in its entirety but I can only do this when they are economical of word and to the point. I am including the letter from the Gender Alternatives League as fairly representative of a collection of ideas. In keeping with editorial policy I am not printing anything which is defamatory to an individual; issues only, please.

I want your work to represent you in the best light. If it is awkwardly written, I will ask for a rewrite. If your guest column must go into a certain issue, allow enough time and include your phone number, to aid the editing process; don't crowd the first of the month deadline. Sometimes your points will integrate better into a future issue. Be prepared to wait for publication. Brief letters to the editor will receive minimal review for content and style but may be edited for length if necessary.

Note on your submission the level of freedom I have to edit. Priority will be given to the most flexible authors.

The emotional response to my article "...WHEELS OF DESTINY..." illustrates an interesting point. I had intended to write a soft, gentle non-confrontive article expressing some lingering ideas. But I broke one of my most important rules, I wrote the article at the printer's and did not let it set for a few days, to be reread and peer reviewed. Thus I omitted my primary idea that if we don't take responsibility for our image, the public will create it for us. (Image was the target of the metaphorical bullet.) I was particularly concerned with the way some of us are willing to appear in public, and with the stereotypical response that might be elicited. Under the premise of judge not lest ye be judged, I tried to avoid actually accusing anyone. The point is, communication is a tough art to master, and I believe GAL and I actually have almost the same opinions, having read their letters. I look forward to attending their next meeting to confirm this.

A LETTER TO ETVC

Dear ETVC,

I have been wanting to write to all of you at ETVC for some time to express my appreciation and thanks for your group. I joined ETVC nearly four years ago as the significant other of Roxanna. Then, as her escort at the annual Halloween party three years ago, I came out as Francis, and left my own crossdressing closet. The acceptance and fun I had in bringing out my male side has continued to grow, including the recent opportunity this summer to be your chauffeur in the Gay Pride Parade. The parade was my first public daytime experience being fully crossdressed (with mustache). What anxieties I had soon vanished in the lovely company of Teri, Miss ETVC, and all the enthusiastic ladies who walked along with the car. Thank you all, I kiss your hands (again). It was a very special day!

The confidence I gained from being in the parade helped when I appeared the following week as part of a panel on female crossdressers on "People Are Talking". Roxanna and two ETVC members were in the audience showing their support, and it was much appreciated. Both Roxanna and I had public "coming outs" on that show, and we have since been recognized at night clubs around town, with positive curiosity and interest. Although you may not see me very often at ETVC events (I am more involved in the FTM group since Lou Sullivan's passing, and Roxanna and I lead busy lives), I want you to know you are in my heart and thoughts. My hat is off to your members who work so hard behind the scenes to keep the group going, and to your continuing courage and spirit to be who and how you wish to be in this world.

Sincerely, Francis (a.k.a. Rima) - Berkeley, CA

GENDERISTS RUN OVER BY WHEELS

In the last issue I wrote "THE WHEELS OF DESTINY TURN" which elicited several response letters. Cynthia Howard, Carolyn Williams, Charla Fern Clark, Toni Carson, Martina Bloom and Lauren Hotchkiss, as members of the Executive Board of the Gender Alternatives League (GAL) had the following comments. Ed.

THE WHEELS OF DESTINY—A REBUTTAL

by The Executive Board, Gender Alternatives League

Though we respect the views you expressed in your recent article "The Wheels Of Destiny," we question your contention that through our continuance along the path of passivity that we have up to now tread, we can ever hope to achieve our goal of acceptance and tolerance. It seems more likely that this continued course of action will result in little or no progress whatsoever for our community.

We agree, we do have a responsibility to the members of the gender community, whom we are representing when we present ourselves and conduct our activities in public. We have though, a broader responsibility to humanity as a whole, a responsibility to take action to achieve the aim of loss of fear, rather than sit back, cowering in the closet because of imagined fear of loss.

It is our feeling that slowly infiltrating society "discreetly" will accomplish nothing. We will merely allow to continue the same climate of bigotry and intolerance that has always plagued our community.

Have we gained any tolerance for our community up to this point? It is true that some of us have done so on an individual

basis, but not for the community as a whole. The vast majority of our community is still deep in the closet. Until we are able to reach them and to educate the society from which they retreat into self-bondage, we have done nothing.

Why should we continue to move through life unnoticed. Does this not indicate to the world that we are ashamed of ourselves; that we do not believe that we deserve equality and acceptance? If we continue with this course of non-action, how can we ever hope to gain tolerance and respect.

Historically, all minority groups have had to take action to gain their rightful place and achieve their rightful status in society. And so it must be with us. Perhaps if we examine how this has been done by other minorities in recent years, particularly the gay, black, and women's movements, we can adapt their methods for use with our own community.

We don't feel that we need to fear any door closing irreversibly. There is only one direction to go, and that is forward. It is just a matter of choosing the right time. Why not now? We need not fear to confront. Confrontation does not necessarily mean using tactics of antagonism and aggression, which generally engender a response of withdrawal or counter-attack, but merely in educating society through programs of public awareness and political action. As ignorance is removed so, too, will fear be eradicated.

If you have comments on this article or would like more information on the Gender Alternatives League, please contact us at the address below:

The Gender Alternatives League

P.O. Box 3392, Napa, CA 94558 707-257-1973

OBITUARY



News of the passing of our beloved friend Dorothy Finch, at her home in Vancouver on August 14, was received with great sadness. Auntie Dorothy, who entertained us countless times with the adventures of "Mrs. Shufflewick," was a treasured sister and leader in the gender community. She will be sorely missed and will always occupy a special place in our hearts.

TV Time

I've had a number of requests for the lyrics to the song I did at last year's Cotillion to be published in the newsletter, and so, suiting the action to the words, here they are.

TV Time ©1990 Lauren Hotchkiss

INTRO

VERSE 1- So the wife's getting to be a drag
And all she does is nag, nag, nag
She just doesn't understand
You get tired of being a man
It's time to leave behind that world
And go down to the place where you can be a girl

CHORUS- It's TV time
It's TV time

VERSE 2- Now you're drivin' in your car
Headin' for the TV bar
And you're feelin' pretty fine
Til a cop pulls up behind
You think you're busted, you don't know what to do
But he just says, "don't worry sis
I'm a TV too"

(CHORUS)

(SOLO)

VERSE 3- It's getting late, you're driving home
You pull in the driveway all alone
And you hope the wife's in bed
'cause if she catches you you're dead
You slip in quietly, and turn off the light
Back into the world of drab
Until next Friday night.

(CHORUS)

(CHORUS)

TAG- It's TV time

SPECIAL EVENTS

Show Us Your Taste!

November 2

On Saturday, November 2 from 2 to 4 p.m., at Lily's (Valencia and Market Streets) in San Francisco, Deborah Neal, a Fashion Image Consultant, will show us how to look good, tastefully. Deborah was a Personal Shopper Wardrobe Consultant for five years, with five years experience in design and fashion. She's had color training and has been a Mary Kay consultant for three years. She specializes in helping the TV/TS/TG to look good, tastefully. She will show us how to tone down our makeup, style our hair, add accessories to match, and look goood — tastefully. Donation \$3.

Hair Today-Gone Tomorrow!

November 12

Well, maybe not that fast, but if you're tired of plucking your beard, come to our seminar on Tuesday, November 12 from 7 to 9 p.m., at Pearl's, 207 N. Amphlett Blvd in San Mateo, where Debra Horne, a Licensed electrologist, will show you how it's done. Donation \$3.

Gender Faire at the Chez

November 20

You will all learn more about that mystery called Gender than Geraldo, Sally, Oprah and Phil combined. There will be live entertainment, including our own star of stage, screen and TV, Lauren - 'Hermaphrodite, Queen of Albany.' There will be videos from the vast ETVC library, including the 1991 Crossdresser's Cotillion. Free 'Reach Out and Help Someone' buttons. Wednesday November 20, at 8 p.m. at the Chez Mollet, 527 Bryant St., San Francisco. Members and guests \$3.

Want It Permanent?

November 23

Come out on Saturday, November 23, from 2 to 4 p.m., at Lily's in San Francisco, and see Danielle and Melissa, electrologists, do just that. They not only remove unwanted hair, but style and shape eyebrow, eyeliner, and lipliner, and remove small tatoos. There will be a drawing for the demonstration model. Donation \$3.

Ask Isadora!

December 3

On Tuesday, December 3, from 7 to 9 p.m., at Pearl's, Isadora Alman will take us behind the scenes of her popular column, and read selections from her newly released book *Ask Isadora*. Questions will be answered, time permitting. Donation \$3.

And Now....a Word From The Court

December 7

On Saturday, December 7, from 2 to 4 p.m., at Lily's, we will have royalty in our midst. Timmi Ryan, Empress XI of the Alameda Court will speak to us of many things, including the Court. Don't miss this Imperial opportunity! Donation \$3.

Romantasy

December 11

Ann invites you to join her in her store, Romantasy, for a celebration. There will be hors d'ouvres and more, plus a chance to try on a different style of corset. Wednesday, December 11, from 7 to 9 p.m.

An Afternoon With Bill Jones

December 14

On Saturday, December 14, at 10 a.m., at California Theatrical Supply (132 - 9th Street, San Francisco), Bill Jones, a makeup artist at SF State, will hold a hands-on workshop. Anyone interested in creating that special look should sign up for this one. Call Martina at (408) [REDACTED] Donation \$3.

An Evening at the Chez.

December 26

Come in from the cold for some warmth and your favorite cup of cheer. Live entertainment and there may even be a visit by the Ice Princess. Wear your special holiday outfit. Thursday, December 26, at 8 p.m., at the Chez Mollet 527 Bryant St., San Francisco. Members \$3, guests \$5.

A Note From Paulette

Anyone going to any meeting at Pearl's, remember we will be making regular pickups from the San Mateo 3rd Street train station at 6 pm, 6:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. — If you enjoy helping "behind the scenes," come help us plan the future of the Education seminars and activities at our committee meetings, November 2 and December 7, 12:30 p.m. (at Lily's).

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TV/TS/ITG GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

A Calendar of Events for November & December



NOVEMBER

1	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
2	ETVC	Education Committee	Meets at 12:30	Lily's	(408) 984-5619
2	ETVC	Show Us Your Taste	2 - 4 PM	Lily's	(408) 984-5619
3	ETVC	Cotillion Committee	3 - 6 PM	Chez Mollet	(408) 984-5619
4	ETVC	Outreach Committee	Starts at 8 PM	Berkeley	(510) 849-4112
5	Foxy Lady Social	7:30 - 10:30 PM	San Francisco	(415) 285-4980
5	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 849-4112
6	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
8	ETVC	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
9	ETVC	Executive Committee	Starts at 8 PM	Albany	(408) 984-5619
9	ETVC/RGA	Daybreak	Starts at 8 PM	Mountain View	(408) 984-5619
11	RGA	Rap Group	Meets 8-10 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-5619
12	ETVC	Hair Today...Gone Tomorrow	7 - 9 PM	Pearl's	(408) 984-5619
14	ETVC	Significant Others Support	Meets 8-10 PM	Walnut Creek	(415) 664-1499
15	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
18	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 849-4112
20	ETVC	Gender Faire	Starts at 8 PM	Chez Mollet	(510) 849-4112
20	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
22	RGA	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	Sunnyvale	(408) 248-2043
23	ETVC	Want It Permanent?	2 - 4 PM	Lily's	(408) 984-5619
23	SGA	Dinner/Social	Starts at 7 PM	Sacramento	(916) 441-8379
29	Pac Ctr	Open Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224

DECEMBER

1	ETVC	Cotillion Committee	3 - 6 PM	Chez Mollet	(408) 984-5619
2	ETVC	Outreach Committee	Starts at 8 PM	San Leandro	(510) 849-4112
3	ETVC	Ask Isadora	7 - 9 PM	Pearl's	(408) 984-5619
3	Foxy Lady Social	7:30 - 10:30 PM	San Francisco	(415) 285-4980
3	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 849-4112
4	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	Education Committee	Meets at 12:30	Lily's	(408) 984-5619
7	ETVC	A Word from the Court	2 - 4 PM	Lily's	(408) 984-5619
7	ETVC	Executive Committee	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-5619
9	RGA	Rap Group	Meets 8-10 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-5619
12	ETVC	Significant Others Support	Meets 8-10 PM	TBA	(415) 664-1499
13	ETVC	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
14	ETVC	An Afternoon with Bill Jones	10 AM	Cal. Theat. Supply	(408) 984-5619
14	ETVC/RGA	Daybreak	Starts at 8 PM	Mountain View	(408) 984-5619
16	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 849-4112
18	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
20	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
26	ETVC	An Evening at the Chez	Starts at 8 PM	Chez Mollet	(415) 641-9002
27	RGA	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	Sunnyvale	(408) 248-2043
27	Pac Ctr	Open Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
28	SGA	Dinner/Social	Starts at 8 PM	Sacramento	(916) 441-8379

OTHER GROUPS

Pacific Center for Human Growth, a counseling-oriented growth center, sponsors all-inclusive gender support groups on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, and last Friday of the month at 8:00 PM. The Center is located at 2712 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley. Call (415) 841-6224 for more information.

Rainbow Gender Association (RGA) meets on the 1st and 3rd Friday of the month at 8:00 PM at the New Community of Faith Church, 6350 Rainbow Drive, San Jose. RGA can be contacted by writing: Rainbow Gender Association, PO Box 700730, San Jose, CA 95170.

Sacramento Gender Association (SGA) Blue Rose Chapter meets at 8PM on the fourth Saturday of each month at the Town & Country Inn's restaurant 2060 Auburn Blvd. Sacramento; call (916) 441-8379 for directions. Write Blue Rose Chapter, PO Box 215456, Sacramento, CA 95821-1456 for more information.

Diablo Valley Girls (DVG) meets on the 1st Tuesday and 3rd Monday of every month at 8:00 PM at Just Rewards nightclub, 2520 Camino Diablo in Walnut Creek. For more information, write: DVG, PO Box 272885, Concord, CA 94527-2885, or call (510) 849-4112.

I have three friends who surprised me recently when they revealed that they were transsexuals. I was stunned, then I was bummed, jealous, angry at them and happy for them. Mostly though, I was worried.

"How could she be a TS?" I thought. "She hasn't thought this through. She wasn't even out in public a year ago, now she wants hormones? She already passes, she doesn't need to do this." You get the idea.

I realize that some of my reaction had very little to do with my friends. Some of it was about my own uncertainties, fears and fantasies about whether I, too, might be transsexual. And some of it was arrogance. I was mentally comparing my own "valid" tests for "true" transsexualism with the reasons my friends gave for wanting to cross over.

But I was also worried. I still am, probably because I know a few people who have really had a very difficult time of it after they began down the path to a sex change.

My friends are not at all like these others though. All are level-headed people who understand that this is not something to take lightly. If any three people can get through this and come out okay, it is they.

I don't think I will ever not be concerned about what they are doing, no matter how well they plan and proceed. I think that is pretty natural, but I am resolved not to try and judge their motivations. They don't need more critics because they are going to have plenty of those outside the community, you can be sure of that.

I am sure you feel the same way about the transsexuals you know. Certainly, if somebody does something blatantly stupid like taking street hormones, I will say something. If I can't do that, if we can't do that, who will? But I am not going to gossip or second-guess them.

VICTORY! Talking about judgement, the four men who attacked *Empress Caresse* of SF and several other people in the Polk Street area on August 13 have had the book thrown at them. The men, all U.S. Navy personnel, each got 6 months in jail and three years probation as the first convictions under provisions of a new federal hate crimes law. They also face court-martials and more jail time. *Caresse* tells me that the punks' lawyer tried to claim that it wasn't a hate crime, but prosecutors pointed out that they beat up the victims, all of whom were gay, and never touched their valuables, including *Caresse's* purse.

SAD NOTE: Tippi, a noted performer and protege of the late Doris Fish, died on August 25, 1991, from an AIDS-related illness. Famed for their *Sluts-A-Go-Go* show, she and Doris, along with Miss X, teamed for years in many memorable shows. She will be missed.

DID YOU KNOW that crossdressers have now been discovered living as women in the super-conservative Moslem nation of Oman? They are called the xanith and are fully accepted by women in this nation, which is situated on the Arabian peninsula. What is amazing about this is that conservative Moslems are well known for their homophobic attitudes yet there is apparently a place for crossdressers, according to a recently published book by a female Swedish anthropologist.

YOU HAVE seen "Paris is Burning" by now I hope. I know a few people didn't like it because they felt it gave a distorted view of crossdressers, but I thought it was the best PR we've ever had. Everyone I know who saw the film and is outside our community said that they understood that this film was about a subgroup of a subgroup. More important, as one lady put it, "You guys never seemed like real people to me, just kind of weird before I saw the movie...Now I know it's right to be who you are, even if you are different."

OH, BILLIE JEAN did this happen? In a recent edition of *TV Guise*, the entertaining newsletter put out by Sacto's Billie Jean Jones, the publisher recounts how two curious lesbians "wanted to know if I dressed to have sex with men." BJ tells them she has had some curiosity but her true attraction is to women. Besides, she said, "I (can't) tell the difference between a sexually attractive or sexually unattractive man." "You're a lesbian!" one of the women declared. I think Billie Jean has hit on something here.

CONGRATULATIONS to Hel 'N Bak (what a name!) and Michael Vaticano who were recently crowned the new Grand Duchess and Grand Duke of San Francisco. Kudos as well to Larissa Campbell Winchell, Honey Hush and C.J. who will be the new monarchs of Alameda County's Imperial Star Empire. In a very unusual result, Larissa and Honey tied for the title of *Empress*. ♡

International Foundation for Gender Education, TV/TS Tapestry Journal

Serving the Crossdressing/Transsexual Community since 1978

I.F.G.E. is a non-profit tax-exempt organization working cooperatively with and in support of organizations serving the CD/TS Community through representation, communications, conventions, referrals, outreach, and public education.

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Anyone who has been around ETVC at all knows who David S. and Diane R. are. David, or his twin sister Denise, is usually to be found behind the lens of a camera shooting photos of members at ETVC functions. The club's official photographer, his/her pics are a staple of the newsletter and a favorite souvenir for those lucky enough to have been caught in David's cross hairs. Many of you know Diane R. as Dave/Denise's significant other and as the producer/director of the last four ETVC Cotillions. Diane was also long active in the Significant Other Support (SOS) Group. Both were featured in Mariette Pathy Allen's book Transformations. These two long-time members recently chatted with the newsletter about some of their experiences.

Q: Diane, how did you find out about Dave's crossdressing?

Diane: About two months after we started going out (in 1983) was when I first learned about it...actually, at that time he wasn't really dressing but he was always talking about how lucky women were to be able to wear silky sexy clothes...I was doing my nails one night and he was talking about this and I said "here, why don't you put on this dress." I thought he looked ridiculous, but I figured it was going to go away, but it didn't. Not long after that I can remember we were talking about it and he mentioned the word transvestite and I shuddered. I said you aren't a transvestite, you just like to wear women's clothes. I was wrong about that.

Q: So David, had you been dressing for a long time before all this?

David: Not really, I had been experimenting by myself in the closet, but only for a few years. Unlike a lot of people I really didn't know that I had this interest until a few years before I met Diane and that was when I was in my early 30's. When I was very young I played dress in my Mom's clothes, but my father eventually put a stop to it...I didn't think about it again for years. I don't know why.

Q: Diane, you said you shuddered when David mentioned the word transvestite. Why?

Diane: I had bad connotations associated with the word, it sounded weird, kinky. What changed my thinking was ETVC...About six months after that first experience it was clear that it wasn't going away and I thought that I better get some help with this. I saw an ad in the Bay Guardian about the group and I called...I got Ginny on the ph one. I can remember how relieved I was to be able to talk to somebody about this.

Q: I don't understand something, you two weren't married and this was obviously troubling you. Why did you go to the trouble of contacting a TV group? Why didn't you just drop David?

David: Good question!

Diane: I didn't do that because I cared about him as a person. I thought he was a very, very special human being and whatever

this was, I was going to try and deal with it. I wanted to keep him.

Q: So you took the plunge and went to a social? How did you feel about it?

David: I was terrified! I didn't dress the first night and I wondered what kind of weirdos I would meet...Instead they turned out to be some of the most wonderful people I've ever met. One of the great things about ETVC, even after being around it for almost eight years, is that I continue to be surprised by the variety of people. There are a lot of great people and there are a few jerks too, just like there are in any large group.

Diane: I was scared, but I've also always been open to new things, too. I'll never forget that the first person I met was a beautiful blonde named Sunny, she was so stunning, I was really kind of taken aback by how good she and so many others looked. It was nothing like I expected. But what really turned me around

was joining SOS. At that time it was very active. We had up to 20 people at one time. I found that the women were just like me and some of them really had it tough. David's crossdressing was pretty easy to take compared with what some of them had to deal with. He didn't push it on me and didn't overdo...But anyway, there was a lot of camaraderie among us. We bitched a little, but one thing we all agreed on: we loved our men.

Q: David, where do you think your crossdressing is headed?

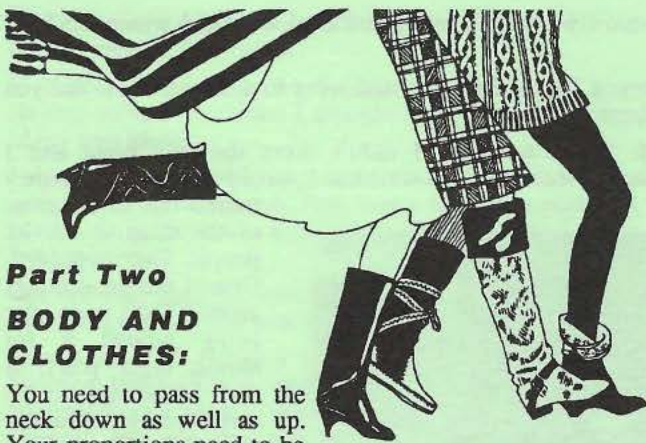
David: This is a very powerful thing to me...and for a long time I didn't know what direction it would take...But I feel like I've come to terms with myself. I know that I'll never be a TS. It is interesting to see that some people almost seemed bored with it and are constantly trying to take it further. To me crossdressing, itself, is still very exciting and fun...I admit that I love the transformation and you couldn't have that if you were (a post-op) TS.

Q: Diane, now that you have been around the community for so long, what is your opinion of what crossdressing is?

Diane: For some people I think it is pure narcissism, but for a lot of others I think that it goes much, much deeper...I can understand a man having feminine feelings because I have them myself, so I respect that. I know one thing: a person who is a transvestite and tries to deny it or is denied a chance to express themselves is in trouble.

David: Crossdressing is different for different people...But I do think that for most it is a very freeing thing and very emotional. You can be totally expressive when you crossdress and you just can't function that way in day to day life. It is very stimulating in a very mystical way...But I am not going to spend my life trying to figure out why I do this. I'm just going to enjoy it. ♡





Part Two

BODY AND CLOTHES:

You need to pass from the neck down as well as up. Your proportions need to be female as much as possible. A lot of women do have broad shoulders, thick waists, and narrow hips. Most of us, unfortunately, have broader shoulders, thicker waists, and narrower hips than these women. If you have any trace of a spare tire or "beer belly" it is time to invest in a corset or waist cincher. Unless you are blessed with very wide hips, then pad them. If you refuse to pad them, then wear clothes that make them look bigger. Broad shoulders can only be camouflaged with clothing. There are a number of good books to be found on dealing with various body types and clothing tricks to hide figure flaws.

Clothes should be appropriate to your size, weight, and age, and should fit. Blouses are not to be worn to show off your muscles. They should drape, not stretch, over your torso. And don't forget that you will have breasts to contend with also. Unless you are young and willowy, you have no business in a tight, black, leather mini-skirt. If you are forty, dress for forty and forget those bygone years of youth and lost opportunity. You are trying to go unnoticed now. Finally, dress for the occasion. Look around you. How many women your age wear evening dresses and high heels in the mall? For that matter, how many wear a dress at all? Most of them will be in pants or a comfortable skirt, and comfortable shoes. You are sure to be noticed if you dress like a peacock while visiting the hen house.

As far as breasts are concerned, they should look natural. That means, unless you have managed to grow your own, that you will need artificial breasts. First, make sure they are large enough for your torso, without effecting the Dolly Parton look. They should be the right shape, meaning that several pairs of socks will probably be too lumpy. They must also have the proper weight to look natural. The weight gives them the proper movement and helps them attain a realistic contour. Foam rubber will not do unless you only need a little padding to add one cup size to your natural assets. Silicone is expensive, but probably the best. You can make do with well-sealed plastic bags filled with water. (Balloons won't do, the shape is wrong.) Whatever your choice, be sure not to cinch up your bra straps too far. Breasts should go slightly below your armpits, not your collar bone.

VOICE:

If you get everything else right and never have to speak, you will be fine. That is a little unrealistic, however, so let us cover a few key issues on voice. Contrary to what you may have heard, a high-pitched voice is not absolutely necessary. If done wrong, raising your pitch too much can damage your vocal cords. If you try a falsetto, you will only sound like Mickey Mouse. What to do? Well there are advocates of a number of methods for developing a passable voice. The following is simple and will get you off to a good start.

First, you should get your voice warmed up. This is easily accomplished by humming. Go up and down in a range that is comfortable. As you warm up you will be able to go a little higher. When you switch to speaking, stay in the higher part of your natural range. If you have to strain at all, you are too high and may hurt yourself. Drop down a little until you are comfortable.

Now, forget what you have heard about having to make your voice breathy. If you listen to women who have passed their teen years, you will find that very few of them have breathy voices. What you will find is that their voices are not loud and booming. Men shout at each other (listen at work - it's true) in comparison to women, who speak with quieter, not breathier, voices. Support your voice from the diaphragm and let your voice resonate in your head, not your chest. These two things will not only eliminate breathiness, but will also make it easier to maintain a higher pitch. It will also eliminate that bass rumble that makes a voice undeniably male. In this one area I will go into detail as I learned this years ago while taking voice lessons (for singing) and don't know of any particular outside reference.

Start by standing. Maintain good posture and stay relaxed. Place one hand on your chest and one on your abdomen. Take a deep breath. Did your chest move or your abdomen? You should feel your abdomen move first if you are breathing from the diaphragm. Your rib cage will follow. Practice this because you will need air to support your voice and your diaphragm provides it. It is also hard work, so you will need to get your breathing muscles into shape. Now place the fingertips of one hand on either side of your nose, and the other on your chest. Start humming, going up and down the scale? You should feel strong vibrations in the sinuses on each side of your nose, and none in your chest (or very little). If your chest is vibrating, work some more on breathing out with your diaphragm rather than your chest muscles. What you feel in your sinuses is resonance. The sound is vibrating in the sinuses, an effect forced by humming. You want to include more than your sinuses in this, however, or your voice will be intolerably nasal. You can easily hear the difference between full resonance and nasal resonance. Tighten your jaw, mash your lips together, and push your tongue up into your mouth, like you were trying to avoid taking foul tasting medicine. Now hum and listen. You should be making a very pinched, whining sound. Now, still humming, slowly relax your lips, jaw, and tongue. Go ahead and let your jaw drop (keeping your lips closed). You should feel the vibration spread to your tongue, lips, and even your teeth. Do you hear the difference? This tone should be full and pleasant, even though you are humming through your nose.

By using your diaphragm to breathe, you will be able to relax your throat and mouth when speaking. You will find that this not only allows you to maintain a higher pitch without hurting your vocal cords, but produces a clear tone which is pleasant to hear.

You can also be more convincing by changing your speech habits. Don't lecture (a tough one for me), but discuss. Make statements as questions rather than demands. For example, when calling the Lane Bryant catalog department, don't say, "I would like to place an order." Instead try, "Could I place an order, please." That precise difference in phrasing was once given to me as an example, and it works, so I pass it to you. Finally, avoid speaking in a monotone. Speak with energy and enthusiasm and your voice will have a tendency to fluctuate in pitch, another common characteristic of the female voice.

CONCLUSION

Even though I have only touched upon some highlights, clearly, there are a lot of things to consider when deciding to venture into the outside world. This should not, however, frighten anyone away from their goal. Simply remember that you will be learning different habits and give yourself adequate time to learn. If you are impatient, then attend meetings of the gender community organizations, because there you will be appreciated and accepted even if you have not yet learned to do everything, or anything, right.

And no matter what, just remember the most important element of all - believe in yourself.

Acknowledgements:

Although most of my discussion here has been based on years of trial and error and research, I have had the assistance of many others since joining ETVC. I would particularly like to acknowledge the contributions of my wife, Jackie, Evelyn Perry, and Donna Baker to this article.

Why do many women fear and/or despise TV's, TG's and TS's? Six years ago, during my first attempt at transsexual transition, I couldn't understand why some women just hated what I was doing. I thought that women, especially outspoken feminists, should welcome me with open arms. After all, I was a former male oppressor who renounced "his" male privilege and joined the sisterhood. Why couldn't these women see I was on their side? Likewise, average ETVC members might also wonder why some women have a problem with their behavior.

In the last few years, I have gotten some insight into women's attitudes toward this subject. By and large, women have the same objections to the perpetual crossgenderism of TS's and TG's, as to the periodic forays into womanhood of TV's. Being a transsexual female who was born and raised male and who lived as a male most of her life, I can't say I know exactly what genetic women think. Yet, through my close associations with born females of many orientations and politics, and through an earnest attempt at projection into their shoes, I have come to a few conclusions as to why we bother some women.

One of the main reasons we draw fire from women, especially feminists, is the often unqualified assertions that we are women, that we feel like women, or that we otherwise know what it means to be a woman. Very few crossgendered folks, except possibly a handful of "primary" transsexuals who were raised as female, have any idea what it is like to be born and grow up as women. Furthermore, many of us have or had male privilege, whether we enjoyed it or not, and that is something no woman can say.

On the other hand, some of the things we *can't* say we know are the pains and difficulties of *monthly* menstruation, pregnancy or childbirth, or a lifelong treatment as a second class citizen. Put yourself in a genetic woman's shoes for a just one minute. Given all of the trials you have experienced over a lifetime of being female, might you not be slightly vexed to see a genetic male climb into a dress, maybe take a few hormones, and declare "himself" a woman without any qualification?

Calm down. I KNOW how much crossgendered people suffer. My pre- and mid-transitional life has been painful, and I don't expect life to be a bowl of cherries after my surgery, either. Many of my friends who are genetic females acknowledge that fact and that is one of the reasons that they can relate to me as a woman at all. They know that I have suffered because of my gender, although differently from them, and that it wasn't something I chose. Similarly, TV's also experience pain when they keep this part of themselves locked away. By communicating their feelings to women, they may also find empathy instead of fear and hostility.

It is important that I qualify my femaleness to women who don't understand my gender dilemma. Rather than making a presumptuous statement about feeling like a woman, I say that I feel the way that I imagine many women do. By doing so, I am speaking from my experience and perceptions, and I keep myself grounded in reality. In this way, I have managed to gain acceptance, even among my more radically-feminist friends. By explaining myself to them, by not trying to take anything away from their experience, I have made it possible for them to feel okay about calling me "she." I wouldn't have such acceptance if I had *insisted* on their using that pronoun.

Another way "transies" incur the wrath of women is by acting as though our stereotypical view of womanhood is the last word on the subject. Feminists in particular get displeased with our image-consciousness, as though it is the clothes, makeup or demeanor that make the woman. Not having been born female, it is natural for us to take refuge in stereotypes of femininity, to find comfort and validation in coming as close to our ideals as possible.

There is nothing wrong with pursuing our image ideals, provided that we never lose sight of the fact that these values are not ones that other women need to live up to. Nothing displeases a woman more than being forced into a "femininity" competition, especially by a genetic male. It is important to communicate to women around you that you are expressing *yourself*, not trying to be a "better" woman.

Also very annoying to women is when, either in ignorance or insecurity, we portray ourselves as caricatures of womanhood. Exaggerated mannerisms, garishly overdone makeup or similar application of the "more is better" rule to femininity is a sure-fire button presser for genetic females. Even some of us transies can't stand it!

The moral of the story is that what you say and how you act can win friends and influence people. TV's, TG's and TS's face a lot of opposition from society, so it is in our best interest to avoid alienating as many people as possible. If we genetically male crossgendered people really identify with women, either periodically or perpetually, then we ought to take care not to offend them. Naturally, there will always be women (and men for that matter) who will never accept us, no matter how we qualify ourselves. Yet we can do a lot to cultivate the support and respect of those whom we so much want to be like. ♡

Significant Other Support Group

The Significant Other Support Group wants to invite all Significant Others to attend our SOS group meetings. Group members define Significant Others as wives, lovers, friends, children and others close to TV/TS persons but are themselves not TV/TS. We encourage you to ask the SO in your own life to come to these meetings, particularly if the SO feels they need support from their peers in dealing with their feelings about the TV/TS in their lives. It is important to emphasize that all meetings are kept STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL. This is to help insure that a safe, supportive environment is created in which all attendees will feel secure enough to really be able to share and talk about their feelings. We are frequently assisted by a helping professional with a specialty in our area of concern.

The SOS group meets the second Thursday of each month from 8 to 10 p.m. Our next meetings are scheduled for November 14 and December 12. You are all welcome with open arms. For more information call Ginny at [REDACTED]

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When I was young I was given a riddle to solve: How could I become anyone but myself?

Five years ago, at age 44, I finally figured it out: I couldn't. Having solved the riddle, I thought I had figured out the puzzle of my true identity.

I was a crossdresser. Lucky me. I could pretend to be a woman without having to be one. Jane was a fantasy, a portrayal, not a person. Still, there was this intriguing notion that I'd like to try full time living.

But no. Not married with four kids, two of whom were still teenagers. Having fun was what it was all about.

Except that after awhile it stopped being so much fun. Switching between Jim and Jane, putting Jane back in the closet six and one half days a week in order to portray myself as Jim, became a struggle. Jim, not Jane, was the act, a trite character from a stale sitcom. Still, I had the love of a good woman and tolerance from our teenage sons. They liked Jim. My non-gender friends and my family knew me only as Jim, and they thought he was a great guy. All in all, life as Jim was better than it ever had been before, if I really stopped to think about it. Why do anything foolish.

On a sunny late summer afternoon I sat in a garden amidst trees, bushes, birds and a stalking cat.

"How are you feeling?" asked my therapist.

"Fine," I replied in my bubbliest Pollyanna mode.

"Then what is troubling you?"

"Troubling me! Are you crazy?" I wanted to say, but instead I was suddenly in tears, shaking my fists: "I feel as though I had a dirty trick played on me. I hate having to live as a man!" My God, what was I saying.

Was this me talking? It was as though a thin channel had opened from somewhere inside and the words burst forth.

"What, then, do you want?" she asked.

"I want to live as a woman." It was the first time I had said such a thing—and felt it—without qualification. To *live* as a woman. What a scary delight.

"Do you want hormones?"

"I don't know. I don't think so." Now the frail channel was almost closed.

"Do you want to become a woman surgically?"

"No!"

So that's what I was, not a crossdresser but a transgenderist, a revelation which left me happy—at least I wasn't a transsexual? I would still function as a man, it was just the woman's role I craved—but also newly troubled. How could I live out my needs without alienating our family and friends? Where would we live? Not where we were now, surrounded by a suburban sea of intolerance. How could I earn an income equal to what I made as a taxicab owner/driver? Maybe by writing or performing. And how could I deal with what my wife kept telling me "If you go ahead with this thing, I will leave you." To be continued...♥

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A Rocky Horror Adventure

A few weeks ago, I and four other citizens of Genderland staged a bloodless coup at the UC Theater in Berkeley. It was "Lingerie Night" at the Rocky Horror Picture Show, which has been shown there every Saturday night at midnight for the last sixteen years.

I had heard tales of the infamous "Lingerie Night" but was not aware of the exact date until I received a phone call from Carolyn asking if I would be able to join her and Courtney, who with Michelle "Legs" Stevens and Cathryn, were leading an invasion of the theater that evening. Well, I didn't have to think about it too long, as this is exactly my type of adventure, so I immediately said "Yes!"

We met at Cathryn's house, and putting the final touches on our clothing (or lack thereof), we were ready to hit the streets.

We created little stir in the streets of Berkeley as we walked the two or three blocks from our car to the theater, but of course I expected little commotion. Berkeley is quite used to the "theater" of Rocky Horror night, and even at other times the atmosphere is so Bohemian that even when I wear both earrings and nail polish, when dressed as a male I don't get much of a reaction.

When we actually got to the theater however, the situation changed. The management and patrons were quite used to people who crossdressed in the style of the characters in the movie, but several people mentioned that we looked a little too good, like perhaps we did this more often than just occasionally for Rocky Horror. Well, well, well, imagine that.

We signed up for the lingerie contest while passing through the lobby and then made our way into the auditorium.

The show began with the preliminaries of the lingerie contest. Courtney, Michelle, and I were all selected by audience response

as semi-finalists and were asked by the emcee to return during intermission for the final judging.

Rocky Horror is a phenomenon in that even though it is a movie, it absolutely depends on audience call and response interaction for the experience to work, and work it does; in a large part due to the fantastic job done by "Indecent Exposure," the live troupe that performs before and during the show, playing the parts of the major characters of the film, and who cavort around the theater, getting the audience involved, and keeping up the excitement. It worked, we were having a blast.

About an hour or so into the film, it was time for the intermission and the audience's selection of the winner and runner up of the lingerie contest. The tension mounted as each contestant underwent the applause meter and soon the results were in. To our delight it was a clean sweep for the Vites. Courtney was selected the winner, and was closely followed by Michelle and your humble reporter who shared the runner up position.

As prizes, we were each given an Indecent Exposure tee shirt, as well as five free passes for future Rocky Horror shows, which we are sure to use in the near future as both the Rocky Horror Anniversary Show and the Halloween Show are coming up soon.

After the show we headed back to Cathryn's, took a few souvenir snapshots, (which unfortunately came out a little too dark for newsletter reproduction, but use your imagination) and broke up for the evening.

As I mentioned, we are planning another Rocky Horror outing in the near future, and hope to get more of the gender community involved. Watch the newsletter for details.

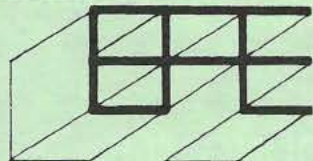
Those of you who live further away, may be interested to know that the film is shown every Saturday at midnight at theaters in other communities as well. Both Fremont and San Francisco, for example, have weekly showings.

RAGPICKERS BALL

It was the search for silk, satin and polyester that brought dozens of cinderellas and their friends to the patio of the Chez for the ball on September 26. The evening was a dazzling success as many outfits found new homes and over \$400 was raised to assist three battered women's shelters. An additional 100 lbs. of clothing which remained unsold was given to Rosalie House. A special touch of the magic wand goes to Sherry, Julie, Geri, JoAnne, Jessica, Ronda, Jano, and Ginny for their hours of work that helped make it possible. Extra kisses and thanks to everyone who generously donated clothing.

Social Directress, Zia

The Executive Committee voted to add some funds and directed Zia to give \$200 checks to Rosalie House, the Asian Women's Shelter and La Casa de las Madres. Ed.



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Melissa nails down a pretty pignoir.

OUTREACH MISCELLANY

New releases from the International Foundation for Gender Education (I.F.G.E.), P.O. Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778. *Coping with Crossdressing*, by JoAnne Roberts, Ph.D. \$11.50 postpaid. This popular author presents tools and strategies for partners in committed relationships, drawing on both her own experience and that of other couples and professionals. *Vested Interests: Crossdressing and Cultural Anxiety*, by Marjorie Gerber, \$37.50 postpaid. Beginning with the bold claim, "There can be no culture without the transvestite", she starts a 500 page exploration of the nature and significance of cross-dressing and the West's recurring fascination with it. 500 pages hardly seem enough. Anyone who reads this, let me know if the thesis is proved. *International Transcript* \$9.00 per issue postpaid. From the same publisher of the discontinued EnFemme comes *ITS*. Interviews, community news, photos; and platform for topical and political outreach. Foxy Lady will probably stock it.

Probably everyone who hit the back room of the Chez for the September social noticed the ravishing figure in the short red dress wearing a bushy mustache. Some might have considered breaking the iron-clad convention against criticism of others to their face, before realizing he was the Chez Mollet waiter, the only one, dressed for the occasion, and the weather. A good reminder to us all, to lighten up a little. He's a very interesting, funny guy, and he's not going to change. If Lenny doesn't mind what the waiters wear, why should we? ♡

Thalia, leader of our speakers bureau, talked with us about the speakers bureau on August 10. Thalia has been doing the work of directing the bureau almost by herself, and would like in the future to delegate more responsibility to people who volunteer to be presentation leaders, so we can do more presentations. The present speakers bureau began in the fall of 1988 when Prof. DeCecco at San Francisco State asked for a panel to speak to his sexuality class. Since then, it has grown simply by word of mouth and by people seeking us out. We have always been asked back wherever we have spoken. But we can't handle very many new groups because we don't have enough people. ETVC has done over sixty presentations to college classes, community groups, radio, and TV, in the form of panels to give a wider range of view point.

Good speakers are honest and try to speak as much as possible only about themselves; the main value is that the audience gets to know a real, living person, and doesn't just hear statistics and opinions. Good speakers are energetic, responsive, and stick to the point. They must listen to the question, understand the fears or agenda behind it, and be non-confrontational. Acceptance of self is important, and comes across to the audience.

We would like to expand the diversity of our panels, especially by getting more minority people, more people who bring partners, and more transsexuals. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Thalia at 510-██████████ Anyone with ideas for groups to talk to, especially for building contacts for speaking to care providers, please call the same number. ♡

MARTINA'S KLOSENT

by Martina

By now we have achieved a complete new executive committee. Did you get your name in the hat? NO! Well, nominations will be entertained soon, now is a good time to volunteer your services on one or more committees. All officers have information that can help you decide where you want to help.

Here is a Farley/Phil Frank cartoon from the September 19 Chronicle that I found to be interesting, partly because Irene reflects my male side behavior as sometimes displayed at work.

What Irene really wants is a little bit of volunteer work to make things go more easily. Not only that but working together can be fun. Let's not say we don't live here because if we don't all pull together, we will not be able to live here. Not one of us can say we are *all man*, let your femininity surface, VOLUNTEER.


I read an article giving a number of views on the subject of getting people to volunteer and how most like to get more than they give. This is why many of those who do give to the community soon face burnout. The only way to avoid this burnout is to have a majority of the membership participating, actively! What do I consider active participation? Serving as an officer of the group qualifies, as does serving on more than one committee. Even being part of the telephone tree, which is a great way to disseminate information that does not get into the newsletter (including event changes), carries partial qualification. *Please* check with any officer, or call any telephone number listed in the newsletter for information on what you can do for your group.

Gender Alternatives League is taking an exception to Roxanne's editorial "THE WHEELS OF DESTINY TURN." To find out Cindy's view, become active in the League's meetings (normally on the afternoon of the third Sunday. Contact Martina at (408) ██████████ for location, or Cindy, for details. One more thing relative to civil rights, we want rights for all people, not a list of those who feel their group requires listing because some crumbs single them out for discrimination or hate crimes. Lists tend to

leave holes that would allow discrimination against anyone, even you, your spouse and whomever, for whatever reason. Enough editorializing. ♡

FARLEY/Phil Frank





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Who Are We?

Jessica and I have tried to make Education activities all that you wanted and more. There have been scheduling problems relating to communication, but on the whole, there have been many successful and interesting speakers.

The Education committee is more than interesting seminars. There are libraries, too. There is an excellent article library, exposing myths about taking hormones and electrolysis, answering questions and offering solutions to the problems of crossdressing.

The book library has books on subjects from crossdressing and hormones to the effects of crossdressing on relationships. A good book to read is *The Transvestite: A Study of Men Who Enjoy Wearing Women's Clothes* by Charles Slavik. Another good selection is *My Husband Wears My Clothes* by Peggy Rudd.

The video library is a collection of programs from a variety of talk shows and makeup tips, to documentaries on lifestyles of crossdressers and transsexuals. Good ones to select are *What Sex Am I* and *The Rene Richards Story*. The audio cassette library is (presently) a collection of speakers who have given talks at Education seminars. *A Chat With Lin Fraser* answers many questions.

The scrapbooks are a collage of clippings concerning crossdressing, transsexuals and drag performers.

The article, audio, and video selections can be bought by mail. The book selections can be checked out on loan. There are also a few video tapes donated for the loan library. The scrapbooks are available at the monthly social. All forms and lists are available at the Social and Education seminars, or can be obtained from the Education Lending Librarian, Margo. If anyone wants forms sent to them, send a request to the Librarian, c/o ETVC P.O. Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486.

If anyone would like to donate to either library, do so to the librarian by mail, or directly at the monthly social. I'm always looking for people to speak to us and open to any suggestions or topics. Feel free to either write to me through the club's P.O. box, or talk to me directly at the monthly social. Also, don't forget to come to our committee meetings, which are held once a month, one and a half hours before a seminar. We can use your input and talent. Anyway, that's Education! ♡

OBITUARY

Lynn Tharrett

Lynn Tharrett, who was introduced to ETVC by Paulette and Margo, died on October 13, 1991 without recovering from a coma, the result of an assault on October third in the Tenderloin. Lynn worked at the Tenderloin Self Help Center, and is survived by her mother, a brother, and a sister.



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Flair With A Fashion

Bill Jones, a drama teacher at San Francisco State, and make-up artist for the San Francisco Opera and Beach Blanket Babylon, came to show us how to do make-up, on September 7. We had 15 in attendance. He has had TV students as well as students who were male at the beginning of the semester and female by the end, so he knows crossdressers well. Bill has done gay contests, and his contestant won the Closet Ball this year. He has seen many TVs at the Galleon and realized that many needed help, so when he heard about our organization, he called and volunteered to teach a seminar.

Turning a man into a woman is much more difficult than just making up a woman because male and female faces are so different. Men's eyes are deeper set, the eyebrow is closer to the eye and is straighter and thicker. The eye has highlight and lowlight which you must follow - high under the eyebrow where it is dark, and light on the eyelid below. Dark makes it recede and light pulls it forward. If there is sagging, you want to hide it with dark makeup. Bill uses Krylon aqua-color water base make-up, which is creamy and has no oil, isn't expensive, and is available at California Theatrical Supply (ask for Marcus who is the most knowledgeable), upstairs, on 9th street, between Mission and Howard. Pinkish beige is best for normal skintones; use concealer for beard and then follow your own skin tone for color. You need to analyze your own face to see what needs changing, then sculpture your face. The ideal face is oval, so if you have a round (which looks fat), pointy, or square head and jaw bone, you can create an oval illusion with the skillful use of make-up. Knowing what to contour and why is the secret, since the idea is to look believable. You need to know your season or what colors look good on you. Spring is lighter than summer, but basically the same colors. Stick to neutral color eye make-up. Use artist brushes, synthetic for eyes, and wash them regularly.

He used Erica as a model and did a beautiful job. As an SO who doesn't use make-up, I was prepared to be bored as I usually am by make-up demonstrations. However, Bill held my interest all the way through. I learned more about shape and structure than with any other make-up person, and I hope you will be able to come to the hands-on demonstration at the California Theatrical Supply with Bill in December. ♡

On September 21, Kathleen Richards presented a talk on DREAM ANALYSIS. She pointed out that only the person having the dream can interpret the images for only they know the ultimate meaning. She noted there are different levels and kinds of dreams. We were asked if our dreams were in color or black and white, containing people, or just things. When asked if anyone had recurring dreams, one person continually found themselves in a car, stuck in the water. Eight people attended this interesting and unusual presentation.

I wonder if anyone dreamt of being crossdressed, I certainly have. Ed.

CA LIC. #M8288

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This is the first issue of the ETVC Newsletter edited entirely by Roxanne. She came aboard as Editor just before our last issue went to press. With this issue, she has had more time to become familiar with the operation of the newsletter and has put more of her own touches into it.

We welcome comments and responses from readers. Roxanne's first "WHEELS OF DESTINY" column in the last issue has produced a reply letter from the Gender Alternatives League (GAL) which appears elsewhere in this newsletter (pg. 3). Everyone is welcome to express their opinion to us. But remember, the job of Editor, as with all offices in ETVC, requires lots of work, and along with any criticism, we would expect help as well.

My recent column asking for volunteers to come forward and help with ETVC activities, has resulted in not a single reply. With our recent membership at over 400, most of us in the greater Bay Area, we would expect that more members would help out. We are in need of people to work the reception table at ETVC socials. The Cotillion in January will also require assistance from many of our members. Please lend a hand!

In my review of the ETVC Bylaws, which are in the process of being revised, I noted that the Secretary is to list in the newsletter, current happenings of the Executive Committee. ETVC is designed so that socials and other activities are for having fun, and that business is conducted at separate Executive Committee meetings. Although these meetings are open to all members, very few visitors attend. Part of the reason may be the tales of how "Ex-Comm" meetings go on in marathon sessions, on Saturday nights, until well after midnight. That is essentially true. So for those of you who may not wish to attend, I will in this column each issue, list significant developments and activities in recent Ex-Comm meetings.

The September Executive Committee was held in San Francisco. It was the first meeting where Rusty was officially seated as Vice President. Since the VP-elect declined to take office on the eve of her election, ETVC entered a cumbersome process to seek her

replacement. We are seeking a change in the Bylaws to allow the X-C to select an alternate officer in the event an elected one resigns. Currently, the Bylaws require a new, written vote. Let me know if you oppose the change to allow the X-C to select replacement officers.

Another issue of the X-C was whether ETVC should sponsor or become officially involved in the activities of sister organizations such as RGA, SGA, and GAL.

The deadlines for submitting articles for upcoming issues of the newsletter, are the *first* day of the month, in December, February, April, and June. If you wish to receive a copy of our guidelines for writing articles, send a SASE to Editor, ETVC, at our P.O. box. We attempt to run articles without revision, but remember that we prefer ones which will run less than one page of the newsletter. Any topic related to crossdressing is what we consider acceptable for publication. We encourage everyone to submit articles for the Newsletter.



ETVC President, Martina welcomes San Francisco mayoral candidate Richard Hongisto.

ETVC offers the following informational listings:

- Video Library \$1.00
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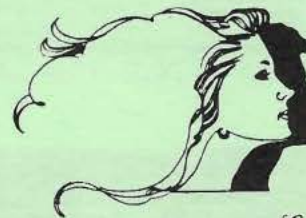
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J2CP also provides the "TerraNet BBS" which offers specialized AIDSnet and GENDERnet access to health and research information, and to gender-related forums. Write for further information. Electronic mail service is available to registered users.

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