

GenderFlex

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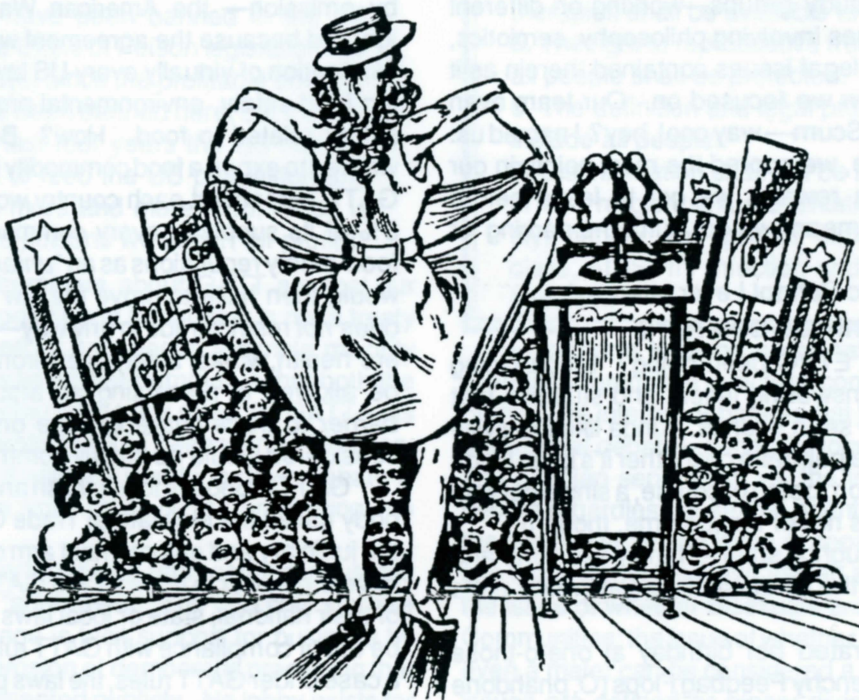
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READ MY LIPS



NO MORE BUSH!

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Billie Jean Blabs

Dear Darlings,

Hey, guess what? Miss ETVC has gone back to school! Oh yes indeedee I have indeed. Spent a whole day learning about all kindsa stuff related to the laws of the State of California (California is more than a state of mind, ya know—I know that may be hard to comprehend if ya believe alla that shit on teevee—which is, I suppose, direct evidence that the whole world [look another oxymoron [why did the oxymoron throw the yak butter out the window? [clue #1: it's a Zen joke [didja notice how I've managed to get inside these parenthetical asides, again? [sometimes I wonder why I do it but then I forget what I wuz thinkin about and I get trapped] and to get out of em can be a problem, ya know], clue #2: it's not a Zen joke] the best answer is the best answer], "whole" world—get it?] is being Californicated).

Anyway—hadda whole class (never mind) participating in an educational jam session—it was awesome. We had four teams—kinda like study groups—working on different aspects of the same issues involving philosophy, semiotics, public speaking and the legal issues contained therein as it related to the body of law we focused on. Our team even hadda name: Scum, Not Scum—way cool, hey? I named us. And, we won! Yeah, see, we scored the most points in our presentations, and as a reward, we got to leave before anybody else did! That meant we got outta the parking lot first.

It was the best Traffic School I ever attended.

So, lemme see here

What else has Miss ETVC been doing? Kinda hiding out... Oh! she's been answering letters and stuff like that there, but no see and be seen scenes. Kinda like Dullsville on the one hand and in the palmette of another it's been kinda like regrouping... if a person, being of course, a single person, can regroup their self (it's never stopped me, though).

Hadda a few trips oughta state—family reunions and visits; lotta family stuff... the kinda stuff ya can't really putta value on, ya know?

Dooder and I celebrated her birthday at one-o-those Shay-shay La Foo-foo Frenchy Feedbag Flops (O, phahdone me, garcone—do yew have any grey poop-on?). Fabulous feedbag, darlings—a bit petite, but each serving was a work of food-art. Way. 'Course, we didn't spend a lotta time staring at our plates in wide-eyed wonder, but you can bet we bug-eyed at the big bucks bill (leastways I certainly did—sob).

Been reading a fair amount—lotta different books and magazines that ya can't find in supermarkets and conservative book stores, except for a coupla newspaper op-ed sections. Found an interesting article on summa the legal issues I been spouting off about in this rag, namely Savage Capitalism vs. Democracy. Check this out: A few years ago, during a period of time I was involved with a civil lawsuit against a business person who flatly refused to pay me for services rendered, I came to a fuller realization that business law (civil law) was geared to the rich (those that could afford

to pay an attorney for a coupla years); an individual hardly stood a chance to attain justice no matter how good a case they had—I even find out how difficult it is to retain counsel for a tort case involving less than a hundred thousand dollars. So I bitched about how pretty soon alla our laws are gonna be business laws as global parity in the marketplace becomes fact. The danger in allowing business law to become predominate in an economic system of Savage Capitalism is that the buyers are the majority and the sellers are the minority; it benefits the sellers to have an underlying philosophy of *let the buyer beware*. The sellers are basically also the super rich, and comprise less than two percent of the world's population. Here's how global business law will exercise its mandate to replace social political systems such as Democracy—

In an article by Kathryn Collmer, a food and agricultural analyst for the Kansas Rural Center, the negotiations for the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) between 108 countries are being finalized in Geneva Switzerland. According to Kathryn, this is front-page news all over Europe, and is being relatively ignored by the US media (censorship by omission—the American Way). And it shouldn't be ignored because the agreement would open the door to the elimination of virtually every US law and regulation concerning food safety, environmental protection and occupational safety related to food. How? Because any country that wanted to export a food commodity into the US (and under the GATT agreement each country would be required to import 5% of its supply of every commodity) could challenge US food-safety regulations as an "unfair barrier to trade." The US would then have to prove the law or regulation in question does not restrict trade in any way—factors such as consumers' health, worker safety or environmental impacts would not be allowed in presenting an argument against the unfair barrier to trade challenge; the only factors that would be considered would be strictly commercial ones.

GATT proposes to establish a non-elected international body called the Multilateral Trade Organization (MTO) to be the judiciary and enforcement arm of GATT. The MTO would have the power to force all 108 GATT countries to repeal any of their national, state or local laws that the MTO declares to be out of compliance with GATT rules. If the US were to lose a case under GATT rules, the laws preventing the importation of a banned commodity would have to be repealed within 60 days. A few lowlights on the horizon include:

- We would be forced to import fruits and vegetables with pesticide residues much higher than US acceptable levels, including pesticides that are banned in the US (like DDT).

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- We would be forced to import meat and dairy products with high levels of hormone residues and disease contamination.
- Restrictions on the sale of milk containing genetically engineered bovine growth hormone (BGH) would be eliminated.
- Restrictions on pesticides and hormones in domestic farm products would be loosened so that the US farmer could *compete more effectively* against cheaper imports.
- Rules that require irradiated food to be labeled as such would be abolished.
- The Food and Nutrition Labeling Act of 1990 would be repealed.
- The Delaney Clause of the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, which prohibits food additives that cause cancer, would be repealed.
- Proposed "Circle of Poison" legislation, which would prohibit US chemical companies from exporting pesticides that have been banned in the US would be killed. (The Circle of Poison legislation has become a hot potato(e) since the profitable environmental poisons have been banned here, but the real killer is that for the last four years the US has not grown enough food to feed the US population and has been importing more and more food, which is being grown with the poisons we export for profit.)

Perhaps the biggest bummers about GATT are that our pinhead president supports it and because it is not a treaty (but rather an agreement), it only needs a simple majority vote in Congress. An even further bummer is that both the House and Senate are under "fast track rules" for GATT—as soon as the pinhead submits his GATT-enabling legislation, Congress must vote on it within 60 working days; debate is limited to 20 hours; the vote must be all or nothing (no amendments allowed).

Since there are powerful lobbies representing industries who will profit from this "agreement," one can only surmise the lack of media coverage is tacit support for business by business, and a further erosion of democratic process in that the issue is not being presented publicly. No lobby exists for ordinary people to have a voice—so pul-eeze sit down and write your bought and paid for representatives to vote against GATT.

Consumer and environmental advocates are pressing for passage of House Resolution 246 (Waxman-Gephardt), and Senate Resolution 109 (Riegle); both, if passed, would require Congress to reject any trade agreement that jeopardizes US health, safety, labor or environmental standards.

Stand up and be counted, waste a page, envelope and stamp to the House and Senate—please, please, please.

Ya gotta fight to keep yer rights, ya know.

Speaking of rights, Bev Duffy wants to support lefts, too.

On an even less practical note (HONK!)

If you are one-o-the few people who are concerned with civil rights and actually desire to do something about them,

check this out—

The 1993 March on Washington, which is being organized by Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual people (and advocates) for Equal Rights and Liberation, contains a fifty-two point platform that includes the transgendered. There is a fair amount of criticism regarding the "all things to all people" approach, but it looks like the human rights concept will remain an integral part of the platform and the philosophy of "sexual minority rights." For those of you who are not aware but would like to know, here are the seven basic headings of the platform:

1. Equal civil rights shall not be denied on the basis of sexual orientation/identification, identity, gender, and gender expression.
2. Discrimination against and oppression of People of Color shall not be tolerated.
3. Discrimination in our educational systems shall not be tolerated.
4. Universal health care, medical and alternative therapies shall be available to all people.
5. The right to reproductive freedom and choices for all people shall be protected.
6. The definition and legal protection of family shall include all people.
7. Discrimination shall not be tolerated on the basis of race, religion, sexual orientation/identification, identity, gender and gender expression, ability, age, class, AIDS/HIV infection and perceived AIDS/HIV infection.

The platform is being coordinated through the National Steering Committee which is composed of seventeen regions. The internal debate—what the cynics may refer to as the *eternal* debate—generally focuses on the issue of Gay and Lesbian separatism vs. the inclusion of all oppressed people regardless of sexual orientation/identification. Over the last few years the issue of separatism has been brought into focus within the Gay/Lesbian and Feminist movements; the issue of whether Bisexuals are part of the Gay/Lesbian Communities; the issue of whether a heterosexual female (or even a male) can be considered a feminist. Once again the issues are defined as binary divisions: you are one or the other—there is no middle ground.

Or is there?

Who struggles to find the complications, paradoxes and incongruities to be inclusive? Only those who are willing to embrace diversity for what it is: unalterable difference; an opportunity to "see" more of the big picture.

In an anthology titled, *Bi Any Other Name* seventy-five authors contribute poems, essays, stories and comments on bisexuality as a flexible philosophy and lifestyle. The book includes some excellent quotes from a variety of additional authors including Sigmund Freud: "I do not in the least underestimate bisexuality... I expect it to provide all further enlightenment." Alfred Kinsey: "There are not two discrete populations, heterosexual and homosexual... Only the human mind invents categories and tries to force facts into

(Continued on next page)

Billie Jean Elabs—(Continued from page 3)

separated pigeon holes..." And Dr. Jay Paul on how research errors "blur" bisexuality: "There is far more variability and fluidity in many people's sexual patterns than theoretical notions tend to allow, suggesting that researchers have imparted an artificial consistency to an inchoate sexual universe." And Adrienne Rich: "Truthfulness anywhere means a heightened complexity. But it is a movement into evolution... This is why the effort to speak honestly is so important... Does a life 'in the closet'—lying, perhaps of necessity, about ourselves, to bosses, landlords, clients, colleagues, family, because the law and public opinion are founded on a lie—does this, can it, spread into private life, so that lying (discretion) becomes an easy way to avoid conflict or complication? Can it become a strategy so ingrained that it is used even with close friends and lovers?"

Oh yes indeedee, the American Way revealed, or to paraphrase Marjorie Garber in *Vested Interests*— *which actor is real in a constructed reality?*

And this becomes the crux of the separatists argument: You are either one of us, or one of them—no middle ground. I hear similar statements from the MTF CD/TG/TS/TV types, and yet, the issues described above could well fit the pleading for gender understanding (by substituting gender for sexuality). Personally, I find the separatism to be just another ism that manifests itself when there is a binary division. What real difference is there between racism and monosexism?

In a recent Kinsey Institute study, 46 percent of *self-labeled lesbians* (not bi or 'straight' women) reported having sex with males since 1980. These women identify with the Lesbian Community and do not consider themselves bisexual (although many experience feelings of being traitors). Additionally, it has only been recently that more than a few lesbians are coming out of their (private) sexual closets and admitting they like to strap-on a dildo and fuck (and be fucked, or "flipped"). They do not consider a dildo to be a penis. And, in regard to gender roles, lesbian journals are addressing the gamut of attraction/orientation based on gender in ways that go beyond the "Gender Community" attempts (check out *On Our Backs*, *Quim*, *Bad Attitude* and *Girl Jock* for a contemporary dose of sex-positive, lesbian feminist magazine dialogue, and, if you can find it, *Lesbian Contradictions*, an excellent newsletter by and for women).

While Gay male literature doesn't have a corresponding plethora of gender-related dialogue, many of the "Men's Movement" magazines and journals do address gender roles relating to emotional and spiritual barriers, and many are concerned with a feminist view (a coming together of perspectives). I find it curious that males seem to hold a deeper belief in separateness, perhaps linked to the fear of being read as "non-men" (ya know, like in "sissy"). Which is maybe why there is no representation of-and-by cross-dresser types in "The Men's Movement" (and a division in many of these journal/publications between hetero and homo orientation).

Which probably explains why there is a separation between sexuality and gender in what passes for the national press of the so called "gender community."

Fear. Ignorance.

And a certain greediness for— POWER.

The power that comes from group entitlements. Rather than integrate, a difficult task at best, there is still an on-going movement to identify and demand group entitlements for still-in-definition groups and splinter factions from identified groups. Rather than defining ourselves as individuals, we define ourselves as members of a group— then we define our group's needs, lobby for legislation, create industry based on separatism and resist integration with the rest of American and World culture.

To be honest, the only emergence of Unity Through Diversity that I can detect is coming from the so-called Bisexual Movement, a group that is ill-defined, probably comprises the MAJORITY of all people; is the theoretical enemy of binarism, embraces complexity, contradiction and paradox— and lands itself directly into the shadowland of "other."



I hope people will put out the effort to gain a better understanding of bisexual philosophy and participate with the March on Washington '93.

Gul-dang, this is sure turning out to be Soapbox City, ain't it? At least I ain't ranting and raving in one of those "My Monthly Rag" columns... hmmm— uh-oh.

Speaking mindlessly...

Might as well dip into the ol' "Where does the money go?" chasm: In 1991/92 (nine issues) **TV Gulse** cost \$1,503.44 and faith donations and purchased issues brought in \$266.75 for a net loss of \$1,236.69. Continuing the financial trend, the subsequent, last three issues have generated a financial loss of \$423.55; and it is assumed this issue will consume an additional \$170.00 of capital. However, the publisher (guess who?) does not recognize a loss in this regard due to the intangible gain of interpersonal and social growth. Additionally, the publisher considers the policy of not accepting advertising and giving away the current issue to be a "put your money where your mouth is" lesson, as well as an outreach vehicle to demonstrate a limited aspect of diversity. However, the task has become a limitation to my own needs for growth as both a person and a writer, so this issue constitutes the last *regular* issue (this is not to imply this rag has ever been regular).

Awright, let's see now...

Where was I? Oh yeah. Have ya noticed the increasing amount of devious rhetoric the no-choicers are raising about "family values" the need to "clean house" in Congress (a minor pool of diversity), and the like? Have ya noticed the increase in activity by virulent no-choicers like Operation Rescue? It's all part of making people miserable so they'll give in to the constant bombardment of the lunatic fringe. Who constitutes the lunatic fringe? Well, for example, Pat Buchanan, Dan (the potatohead) Quayle, fools who believe

them, and the majority of rich people do. And what is incredible is that they (the lunatic fringe), at best, only comprise 14% of the US population. However, they can afford to pay the cost of influencing the majority of people (by making us miserable). Here's the reason why: They manipulate people's fears and misdirect their legitimate concerns *in every way possible* simply in order to get their way by diverting attention. Accordingly, we are supposed to know that what is wrong with the federal government is a deficit accumulated by welfare spending. Whereas, the real issue is the hoarding of wealth. Look, for every millionaire there are 100,000 people who do not have \$10,000. It's like the lottery: They tell ya that ya only gotta pick *six* numbers (the right ones) outta 49 or 50, but what ya really gotta do is pick 43 or 44 *wrong* ones. (By the way, spending by Americans on legal gambling is nearly equal to *military spending* by the feds we're talking 300 billion per year—oh-oh, I said the 'm' word; ya know that an upside down "m" is a "w" [as in war]?...)

"Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies in the final sense a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children. This is not a way of life at all in any true sense. Under the cloud of war, it is humanity hanging upside down on a cross of iron." — Dwight D. Eisenhower, April 16, 1953.)

It serves only the interests of the less than 5% of us who are wealthy (2% of us are super wealthy) to have a 95% unwealthy class (yes I said class). How many of the 95% who understood the huge inequity of having 95% of the total wealth in the possession and control of the 2% of us who are super wealthy, would vote to maintain their economic slavery? And it takes the willing participation of the overwhelming majority to maintain this system. That and the chance (probably about the same as winning a state lottery) you can "work hard" and "succeed." Yeah, by stabbing people in the back and trampling on the rest, you can be a "suck-cess." If Donald Trump is worth 2 billion dollars then 250 million Americans cannot have \$8 each, or 1,999 other Americans cannot be millionaires. If he defaults on loans made by banks, pension funds, and Savings & Loans (for example), thousands of Americans will lose their savings and pensions. "The Donald" is only one of several hundred billionaires. Would you like to continue living in diseased hopelessness with a several thousand other people in the overcrowded stable behind the mansion-of-plenty where "The Donald" lives with his-consort-of-the-moment? Or would you kill to be "The Donald?" Or, would you like to swing on a star (I don't mean by the neck)?

There is a gross inequality in the laws of this land that pertain to criminal activity. If an eighteen year old black male gets caught selling Crack to another person, that black male will serve a long, perhaps even life, sentence. He may even become some one's unwilling "wife" in prison— it will not be a pretty picture. If Charles Keating, who is one of many thousand rich people who benefited from the Reagan

Administration's "deregulation" of the S&L Industry (by allowing a greater percentage of "risk" investments), is ever convicted and sentenced, through a seemingly never-ending series of legal maneuvers that only people like him can afford, he will serve a short sentence in a country club atmosphere, especially constructed by people-like-him-in-case-they-ever-get-caught, and then serve probation while he enjoys the fruits of his criminal labors—the money he ripped off from millions of people who have lost their savings and won't be able to rebuild their capital because they have to pay more taxes to pay for the remaining deficit owed by the feds. CK won't have to worry about becoming some one's wife, either.

If you steal a loaf of bread worth \$2 you stand a greater chance of going to jail than the real estate developer who used the loan money he was supposed to pay you with but instead bought another piece of property, in the process bankrupting your employer (*didja know the vacancy rate of commercial property "overbuilt" on speculation [and using S&L, Pension, Insurance and Bank "pooled" funds] exceeds the homeless rate? —the vacant building space not being used now, is more than the space the homeless don't have*). In fact, the technique of using funds from a construction loan for purposes other than paying the vendors making the improvements, has become one of the most common ways to gain wealth: First, it's "free" money—I don't pay you what you're owed, I use it to buy raw materials to increase my future wealth and I'm using your invested money without paying any interest on it; in other words, I now have twice the capital and instead of having to pay my current debts I'm able to invest in my future. Second, since you are dependent on me for your money, I will ultimately be able to outlast you, force you to settle for 60 cents on the dollar and pay you two years later when the 60 cents is only worth 50 cents due to inflation. And you will not have any cost-effective legal recourse (it cost me \$9,000 to litigate a \$63,000 claim of which I settled for \$55,000 two years later with the payments spread over another two years— net result: lose \$17,000 to settle, lose about 20% to accumulated devaluation (four years' inflation). There is no law against doing business this way that has a cost consideration (in fact it is just the opposite, if ya do it this way you gain capital and wealth). There is no requirement under the law that forces a business entity to pay for services rendered by another entity even when they have a contract. The law only provides that you can use the contract as potential evidence in litigation. Only rich people and lawyers gain in this process (in my case I interviewed 13 lawyers and 11 declined to "take" the case because there wasn't enough money innit and the first to "take" it hosed me and I lost six months suing them to get my retainer back).

And, isn't it interesting to observe that the most virulent no-choicers and the wealthiest capitalists claim that GOD IS ONE THEIR SIDE? That they embrace "born again" christian rhetoric to maintain their "superior" smugness? (Is it better to never have been born than born again?) Let's attempt to quote a little Jesus Christ here: "It would be easier to pass a camel through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the gates of Paradise (heaven)." Jesus, an enigma who

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Billie Jean Blabs and blabs—(Continued from page 5)

preached against the money changers, the usury practitioners, and who delivered the only two laws people needed to obey: "Love God. Love your neighbor."

What blasphemy to put the name "God" on US money with the promise that it is based on "The Good Faith And Credit" of the US Treasury. Credit=Usury. This country is the largest debtor nation in the world. Top financial markets exist only because of interest charges (and currency exchanges); one of the biggest single deficit item is accrued interest; and, finance charges (specifically interest) constitutes three-and-one-half times the cost of a house purchased on the installment plan (interest exceeds the value of the purchase).

Is it a coincidence that the recent National Debt increase—specifically the public debt—is nearly equivalent to the recent increase in wealth of the wealthy? A few crackpot bleeding hearts have also actually made the audacious claim that the reduction of taxes on the wealthy has increased the deficit not only due to tax revenue loss but also due to the wealthy investing their tax savings in Treasury notes and collecting interest on the money that used to be taxes. Probably just a buncha wimpy whiners. Like the eco-terrorists that claim the unaffordable public cost of cleaning up environmental pollution caused by private industries equals the amount of wealth created by industries that is now being hoarded by the "owners" of said industries.

Yeah, I know I'm ranting on—it comes so, so... naturally. Even so, I do have a suggestion that I (sometimes) hope (dimly) could enter (what passes for) the American dialog: make the minimum wage \$10 per hour and the maximum wage \$50 per hour; an annual wage of \$20,000 the minimum, \$100,000 the maximum; the balance over 100K goes to taxes that may be spent honoring the achiever who gained the excess; make a million dollars the maximum any one person could keep in a lifetime, the excess to public works projects in the name of the hero who accumulated the excess. Of course, these are contemporary economic values, future adjustments to keep the ratio consistent so that there will not be such a wide discrepancy between the haves and the have nots would be mandatory. To the statement that this is not American, that it smacks of socialism (like social security, federally funded water, highway, sewer, school improvements, unemployment benefits, Medicaid, the postal system, etc.) or communism: Fuck off and die, there are too many people anyway; and I am an American who believes in democracy with a social conscience.

So there. (Golly, that was kinda rowdy, wasn't it?)

Oh, damnitall anyway...

I wanted to include some bile for the no-choicers, led by our National Father Figure, George (the pinhead) Bush, who are proclaiming an American Victory over communism: Hey! shit-for-brains—wake up, China, with nearly half the world's population, remains intact, and as nearly as impenetrable as it has been for a long, long time.

One more time...

Pipsqueak Pete, governor of Califoney signed AB2601, a Gay & Lesbian anti-discrimination bill into law las Sept. 25. While not providing a criminal law basis (as AB101 would

have), it does provide a civil law basis to address job & housing discrimination, presumably in most cases (the law has exceptions). No huzzas for the Squeaker, but another tip-o-the-wig to the Assembly and Senate.

HEY!

Where goes public education? Glad you axed. I'm gonna give ya a clue or two. Since the concept of an ever-expanding economy is central to Savage Capitalism on this finite-and-rapidly-being-depleted spaceship Earth, SC's have to increasingly seek new markets, and where best to look than the next generation?

Seek, and ye shall spoil...

Have ya heard of Channel One? It's an educational channel currently beamed into 10,000 schools, reaching over a third of American teenagers. Whittle Communications (owned by Christopher Whittle) owns Channel One and contracts with schools to beam twelve minute's worth of daily programming via satellite that must be watched by 90% of the students, 90% of the time; a program must be watched in its entirety; a teacher does not have the right to turn it off. The schools are *loaned* a satellite dish and a teevee set for each classroom. Whittle Communications then sells four 30 second ads at \$157,000 each—double the cost for a 30 second ad on national prime-time news shows—ad revenue exceeds \$100 million a year. So, why would advertisers pay double? The teen "market" is an \$80 billion pie, and the kids are required by law to be in school, so if they attend a "Channel One" school, they gotta watch four commercials a day, five daze a week. But that's not all Whittle is whittling away at—no way. His agenda includes "cornering the market" on "education".

Whittle's Edison Project (of which Time-Warner owns 38% of and has an option for 30% more), is an ambitious program to build high-tech schools in order to produce "products" (students) to meet "market demands" (for employees). For an approximate \$5,500 tuition, parents can send their kids to a for-profit school. The Edison Project, announced just *five weeks* after the Bush administration put forth "America 2000," the education plan that includes advocacy of the voucher system for schools—and may signal the end of public education—dovetails nicely into that phenomena of political "coincidence" one can hear of from time to time. Another coincidence is that Bush's education secretary, Lazaar Alexander, was an investor in Whittle Communications—in 1988 Alexander purchased four shares of WC for \$10,000 and then, *five months later* sold them back to Whittle for \$330,000 (yes, a \$320,000 profit in five months, a transaction that attracted *brief* attention during the Senate confirmation hearing on Alexander). Whittle has also managed to hire (one million for three years) a former operative for both Reagan and Bush, one Chester Finn Jr. who is generally acknowledged to be the author of "America 2000." While President Pinhead argues "choice" in schools is a fundamental right, the whole concept of vouchers is to divert tax dollars from public education into private education, thereby opening up a new "market" for business to profit from. Whittle has also hired John Chubb, a vocal proponent of

vouchers who has described public schools as "captives" of democracy (!). Further, Chubb has written that public schools "must take whoever walks in the door." As a result, "they do not have the luxury of being able to select" the students who may be "best suited" to their goals." A private school has the right to keep out students who may need "more slowly paced instruction." Hey, discrimination by any other name still stinks the same.

These fat-cats are betting on delivering a "sell the sizzle not the steak" advertising blitz to entice parents to send their children to career-specific schools that are wrapped in the most tantalizing packaging. They are counting on parents competing against each other to get their kid into THAT school. No community decisions here, no push for systematic excellence and equality for all—no way. And, check out Time-Warner: a gigantic business conglomerate that will have immense power to shape the world view of the next generation through schools, movies, books, magazines, music, cable teevee. Yow!

And what of public schools? They will house the poor, the handicapped, the slow learners; the future stockpile of McWorkers. After all, ya don't wanna have THEM in the same school your child is in—they might have to actually SEE them. (*Portions excerpted from an article by Jonathan Kozol intended for publication in The Nation.*)

What didja eat at school 2day?

If your child attends public high-school in Boulder Colorado, they hadda McLunch. That's because McDonalds has taken over the school lunch program. Proponents say the idea was to keep kids from driving down to the fast-food strip, or eat nothing while hanging out off-campus. This way they can stay on-campus and have a hot meal.

Seems that prior to McBusiness the schools hadda lunch "health reform plan" for the last eleven years that included 50% whole wheat flour in all bread products, fresh fruits and veggies every day, and low levels of refined sugar. So McCardboard took over, exhumed a deep-fryer that hadn't been used for twenty years and went to work. Turns out that McCrap doesn't qualify for the National School Lunch Program because their "product" falls below federal nutritional standards, so about 15% of the students "have not been well taken care of," according to the school district's manager of food service (meaning they ain't got the dough for feedbag). McDog-ends suggests that those students, as well as teen parents and the disabled, be targeted and—put to work in the McCafeteria (Ya wanna eat? THEN WORK).

Pizza Hut just got a federal exemption (July) from required meat inspections (\$) of federally funded school lunches (somehow claiming meat-topped pies are not meat) which makes them competitive in the race for the school lunch market (\$4.8 billion). Joining them are alla the other fast-food, non-nutritional, mass-polluters that



are chomping at the bit to gain a share of the 24.7 lunches and 4.9 million breakfasts served to the "guaranteed clientele" (school children). (*Portions excerpted from an article by Ira Emery Rodd previously published in The Nation.*)

Waitaminute...

Is McLunch and McSchool a reaction to the huge number of elementary school children who are taking over their classroom curriculum and teaching re-using, recycling, re-newing natural resources; eating healthy; protecting the environment? No, that would just be paranoid thinking, wouldn't it? They'll have a place in McMerica, won't they?

A Desperate Political Plea...

VOTE. Either vote for or vote against, but vote. Vote against Bush and the Repugnant Party's Platform (it's not that the Dummycrat Platform is more better, just that the Repugnant one could hardly be more worse). Voice opposition to GATT, to the voucher system, to the continued destruction of our Planet (our mother and father). Recycle everything you can, encourage diversity, let your molecules dance in the cosmic flow, learn to say yes I can make a difference.

Is it getting colder in here?

The term "greenhouse effect" was coined by a magazine journalist in the '70s to illustrate the disruption in the Earth's climate from possible heat retention due to various gases, principally carbon dioxide. It is well established that CO₂ acts as a "filter" to different wavelengths of light, and that CO₂ emissions have increased geometrically since the onset of the Industrial Age. Some scientists have proposed the "global warming theory," under which the Earth's temperature would rise, making some areas uninhabitable, and possibly melting polar ice and raising the level of our oceans which would cause land loss.

Recent findings indicate that increasing CO₂ concentrations will affect solar concentrations more dramatically at the polar and equatorial regions which will cause a shift in global weather: the equatorial areas will become hotter, the polar areas colder, and the distribution of water will be significantly altered. Rainfall patterns will become atypical, with more and more water ultimately being deposited at the poles due to evaporation of water in hotter areas and condensing at the colder areas. The resulting process would be observed as an increase in desert areas and an increase in the polar ice caps. The increased weight at the poles would cause tectonic plate disturbances observable as an increase in earthquakes and volcanic activity.

Trees are a natural "user" of CO₂, and their process of photosynthesis not only uses CO₂, the byproduct, oxygen, is more than a little valuable to people and other animals. Forests also absorb up to 95% of the sun's radiant energy (ice reflects 85%). However, less than 15% of our forests remain, and they are weak, susceptible to disease and insects. Secondly, the soil has been depleted to the point that trees cannot flourish in spite of the increase in CO₂. In fact, the depletion of nutrients in the soil, and the destruction by pesticides, herbicides and chemical fertilizers, as well as plowing and burning of fields, has caused soil-eating bacteria

(Continued on next page)

Billie Jean Blabs and blabs and blabs — (Continued from page 7)

and earthworm depletion which prevents healthy soil to grow much of anything. The nutritional content of the food produced in soil treated this way has been on the decline since at least 1948. According to the USDA, iron content in spinach, snap beans, lettuce and tomatoes has declined 90%; it would take 75 bowls of today's spinach to equal the nutritional content of 1 bowl of 1948 spinach.

Our planet, it could be said, is wearing out. Both by natural depletion and our ignorant contribution to pollution and destruction of resources. But: Warmer or Cooler?

Some 100,800 years ago, the Earth entered an Ice Age, and it ended about 10,800 years ago (there have been 25 Ice Ages in the last 2.5 million years). Typically, an Ice Age process is called **glaciation**, and the period of non-Ice Age is called **interglacial**. On average, an Ice Age lasts 90,000 years and the interglacial period lasts 10,000— **this constitutes the Earth's climatic cycle**.

In the last period of glaciation, about one-third of the surface of our globe was covered by moving ice sheets and glaciers which ground rocks into a fine powder as well as destroying all but one-tenth of living organisms.

In a 1978 report to the US Congress, The National Academy of Science stated: "In geological perspective, the case for cooling is strong... If this interglacial age lasts no longer than a dozen earlier ones in the past million years, as recorded by deep-sea sediments, we may reasonably suppose that the world is about due to begin a slide into the next Ice Age." (Estimated to take 20 to 100 years.)

Hey kids, let's just take a look at what an Ice Age theory predicts that is actually happening in addition to increased earthquake and volcanic activity: world desertification has increased 40% since 1950; hurricanes (double) and tornadoes (ten times) have increased; drought and flooding in temperate areas that had never, or rarely, experienced such weather has become common since the early '70s; In 1972 a trend of colder winters began in the Northern hemisphere, the former Soviet Union (which had to began importing massive amounts of wheat due to catastrophic crop losses) and Greenland (both Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets are measured to be growing); conversely, severe drought (and starvation) hit the Sahara Desert Region in 1972, and in the late '70s, snow fell on the Sahara for the first time in recorded history, and in 1977 snow fell in Miami, Florida for the first time; the US had to revise its 1960-65 hardiness zones, and the entire Northern Hemisphere lost 27 days of its growing season as of 1988; in 1987 all-time lows were recorded all across the Northern Hemisphere and Northern Europe; also in 1987, record floods in Bangladesh rendered 24 million people homeless or without food.

John Hamaker, an engineer and agriculturist is the first to propose a complete theory of Ice Ages and their natural cycle. Essentially his theory is an interdisciplinary synthesis of specific scientific fields, including climatology, geology, forestry, natural and chemical agriculture, as well as a new field— agrogeology. In a book titled *The Survival of Civilization*, Hamaker cites the contributing forces that drive glacial cycles, and urges society to heed the natural warning signs.

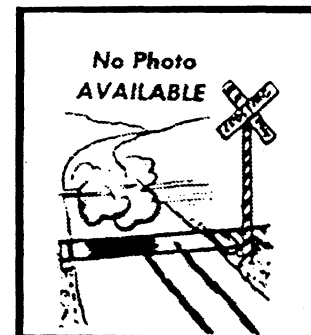
According to Hamaker, the health of all living things relies on the fertility of the soil, and the fertility of the soil is determined by the availability of minerals and trace elements "locked in" to the soil. Microorganisms, enriched by a nourishing soil, supply plants with the necessary nutrients for growth, abundance and health. Throughout the food web all animals require plants for sustenance; hence the soil microorganisms supply the base of the entire bio-system. Hamaker's essays (compiled in *Survival*) detail the process by which microorganisms process soil nutrients, and he cites countless examples and tests which support this hypothesis.

Over the last ten-thousand years, he believes, the available nutrients have been used up. On Hamaker's ten acre plot outside of Lansing, Michigan, he observed that the once eight-to-ten feet of mineral deposits have been reduced to two-and-a-half inches— all that remains is a dense clay, with no more fertile soil available. According to the Hamaker thesis, the interglacial epoch degenerates into that of the glacial by depleting its available minerals.

"Everything is connected to everything else. We can have good social behavior in this country only if we have good health. We can have good health only if the soil microorganisms have good health. They supply the protoplasm compounds for every living organism above the ground. The basis of their health is the availability of the elements of the inanimate rock crust of the Earth which is the basic food supply of microorganisms and hence all of us." (Hamaker, 1982)

Remarkably, he describes a means by which people can reverse the natural process: by acting in place of the awesome and destructive forces that may already be in motion. Since rocks supply the minerals necessary for all biological processes, and minerals are the catalysts that make enzyme functions possible, it is Hamaker's belief that, acting quickly and efficiently, the peoples of the world can remineralize the earth before natural forces assume the task. Glacial gravel can be collected and ground into powder, then distributed to impoverished soils (about \$3 per acre). Left to its own devices, climate may shift into an irreversible 90,000-year phase of glaciation; however, remineralizing depleted soils and reforestation can spare humanity this climatic purge. New, healthy trees will absorb the CO₂ as they repopulate, thus returning the imbalanced climate to more temperate conditions. It is conceivable that people can avoid this seemingly inevitable cycle and prolong the present interglacial.

"Make no mistake. We must revolutionize what we do and the way we do it. And we will do it NOW ...lead the whole world in what must be the greatest human effort ever undertaken. If we don't remineralize the soil, nature will and her first act will be to eliminate almost all life on Earth." (Hamaker, 1982)



Hamaker has been experimenting with remineralization

on his ten-acre farm in Michigan since the cold wave of the seventies. In 1977 a remineralized plot produced 65 bushels of corn per acre while the other farmers averaged 25 bushels per acre. The following year, as the minerals he originally added continued to enrich the soil, Hamaker's crop yielded 75 bushels per acre with 2, 3 and 4 ears per stalk. A spectrographic analysis conducted by the Detroit Testing Laboratory in Oak Park indicated that Hamaker's corn was substantially more nutritious as well. The mineralized corn had 57% more phosphorous, 90% more potassium, 47% more calcium and 60% more magnesium than other corn grown with chemical fertilizers. Hamaker's remineralized crops, free of chemical fertilizers, were produced with minimal irrigation and absolutely no herbicides or pesticides.

Various other remineralized crops have shared this astounding success. Twelve-foot clover, two-pound beets, three-pound potatoes, eighteen-inch carrots, twenty-foot pole beans (with foot-long bean pods) have all been reported. In many cases there is no insect damage to these crops, and they are highly resistant to severe climates. Countless reports from independent farmers and gardeners alike have attested to the success of remineralization. Most remark on the incredible flavor as well. Indeed, Berkeley's critically appraised restaurant Chez Panisse buys most of its produce from a mineralized farm in Sonoma known for its delicious fruits and vegetables of exceptional quality. Remineralization is a real and powerful solution to the looming food crisis. Hamaker suggests that remineralizing the crops of the world could increase food production by at least a *factor of four*.

Forests can be rejuvenated as well, by adding minerals to their depleted and acidic soils. Liming lakes and forests to counteract the effects of acid rain have already been in effect; but pulverized glacial gravel, consisting of a broader spectrum of minerals and longer-lasting than lime, would be much more effective. Additionally, the earthworms and bacteria would be enriched, aiding the entire ecosystem from the foundation. Indeed, forest remineralization implemented in Austria and New Zealand has proven effective for arresting deterioration and restoring vigor to trees. Controlled studies have indicated a 400-500% increase in growth rate, particularly from severely damaged soils. Recent experiments in grazing Australian sheep on remineralized pastures also produces fine quality wool and healthy livestock.

At the top of the world, above the crunch of industrial congestion, live perhaps the world's healthiest people: the Himalayan Hunzas. This population of some 30,000 was introduced to the rest of the world in the 1940's by Sir Albert Howard and J.I. Rodale, two prestigious agriculturists of the time. The Hunzas, most living beyond one-hundred years (and some 140 years), are entirely free of cancer. Their population requires only one hospital with ten beds that are seldom occupied. The Hunzas, as Hamaker points out, wisely irrigate their crops with the milky-colored, mineral-rich meltwater of a nearby glacier. Similar accounts of such seemingly miraculous health and longevity have been observed from other communities that thrive on naturally mineralized soils and streams, including the Vilcabambas in Ecua-

dor and Georgians in the Caucasus Mountains.

But remineralization must begin now, worldwide to all the forests, rainforests, farms and gardens. If the CO₂ level continues to climb it will become impossible to reverse the shift into glaciation. (*Excerpts taken and edited from a soon-to-be-published booklet by Jesse James Recklaw— all excerpted material used in this Billie Jean Blabs column was used without seeking permission.*)

Golly-gee-whiz, kids, that's about all the time I have for this stuff (yawn), guess I'll go and fire up my CO₂ producing beast and blast on down to McDumbfucks and score me a 2,500 gallons-of-water-to-the-pound hamburger so I can continue being malnourished and susceptible to disease (but "normal"— did ya know that about 80% of Americans suffer some degree of malnutrition; two-thirds of our children can't pass a physical; half the people about to be admitted to a mental institution suffer from a physical, dietary problem that influences their conduct; that some studies indicate diet may be a direct cause of criminal behavior [ya think AIDS might be a result of our overall lowered health?]; that rainforests, the "lungs of the world" are being destroyed, right now, at the rate of one football field per second; that three-quarters of said rainforests were destroyed to supply hamburgers to American fast-food customers; that said cattle, before they were killed, exhausted tons and tons of nitrates, phosphates, CO₂, and methane gas, and drank up almost half our usable water; that it takes 560 gallons of water to grow one head of iceberg lettuce and that said lettuce has virtually no nutritional value except the remaining water content, and that water is tinged with herbicides, pesticides and selenium; that cars exhaust their own weight in CO₂ per year; that every vegetarian spares one acre of forest every year? I didn't think you did, so— never mind).

Well, shiver me timbers, no wonder it felt so cold in here— I forgot to turn down the air conditioner!

Gee-whiz, ya learn something every day, ya know?

Luv,

PS: Howz it been going with you?

Gratuitious Filler

Back issues of **TV Guide** (April, May & June '91) are still available by mail for one-fifty (\$1.50) each, postage paid; the July, August, September, October, November, Dec/Jan & Feb/Mar (91/92) issues are available for two bucks (\$2.00) postage paid (first class USA only). The April/May/June & July/August issues of **GenderFlex** are available for \$2. Contributions (articles, letters, etc.), and faith donations (cash preferred) will be gladly, joyously, gratefully accepted. Future issues can be mailed on a issue-to-issue basis for \$2.00 each, paid in advance (please include your address and make checks payable to Billie Jean Jones).



With Abby Saypen & Ellen Summers in Houston.
(PHOTO CREDIT: Roxanne de Lyon)

I met Abby at Fantasia Fair last year, and Ellen at the "T" Party this year. Ellen is on IFGE's Board in addition to being very active with her group, NWGA (North West Gender Alliance), POB 4928, Portland, OR 97208. NWGA is actively involved in the political campaign to defeat Measure 9, a ballot initiative by the OCA (Oregon Citizen's Alliance). Measure 9 would mandate intolerance and bigotry in Oregon's government and schools.

If passed, Measure 9 would require state and local government do nothing "to promote, encourage or facilitate homosexuality." Housing and job discrimination would be not only allowed, it may be required. Oregon schools would be required to teach, as fact, that homosexuality is "abnormal, wrong, unnatural and perverse." NWGA is asking for help, not just because gay bars would be denied a business license and cross-dressers wouldn't have many public venues to meet in—no way; this is a case of out & out discrimination being perpetuated by the lunatic fringe.

You should be willing to contribute funds (to the address above, make checks payable to the "No on 9 Campaign") to help counter such an abominable, fascist, bigoted attempt to deny civil and human rights. If not, you'll be counting yourself among the losers on Judgement Day.

Praise the Lord-Mother and pass the ammunition.

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Among the presentors who will be attending Fantasia Fair 1992:

Katina Rodis - Therapist.

Richard Docter - Author of "TV/TS".

Anne Bolin - Author of "In Search of Eve".

Marjorie Garber - Author of "Vested Interests".

Niela Miller - Founder "People Systems Potential".

Marilyn Volker - Sexologist and Certified Therapist.

Jennifer Stevens - Author of "From Masculine to Feminine"



A few participants at last years' Fantasia Fair Awards Banquet

Third Sex, Or Same Hex?

Yo! I find it very curious to consider the sporadic claims that certain gender explorers make regarding "healing the world"; "saving the world" and like that.

First of all, the implication, and therefore my inference, is that the world is indeed fucked up. Secondly, that it can, or needs to be saved. Third, and this I find less curious, that some one decides they can save it.

It is a very presumptuous claim that "the third sex" can save the world. It is even rather presumptuous that there is "a third sex," or that "a third sex" can be defined.

What evidences this presumptuous claim? That Native American Indian tribes had a tradition of berdache? (A French word by the way). That many of the berdache were shamans, healers, and accepted because of certain special qualities, is documented in various historical fragments. That berdache could be either male or female babies that adopted cross-gender roles as they matured appears to have been a cultural phenomenon in many Native American tribes. What I consider more phenomenal than cross-gendering is the approach that saw the children as ungendered—raw, "uncooked." Notably within the Zuni, as children "cooked," tribal culture allowed them to develop their unique potential. By observing the developing qualities, tribal elders "wove" these qualities into the fabric of the tribal culture through "rites of passage." Each individual in a tribe was expected to contribute to the communal needs of the tribe. Non-contributors were often banished, discarded.

In many other cultures there were "third sex" phenomenon, and they (that is the developed, contributing individuals) often found a place as "an in-between," or shaman/healer whose powers went beyond that of a "single sex."

At different times in Euro-Anglo cultures, the "third sex" has been defined variously as females-who-act-like-men, and at other times as males-who-act-like-women. It appears as though the definition depended on who-took-the-right-to-define.

And that is what seems to be "out there" today. People are taking the right to define themselves—as "saviors-of-the-world."

So I ask: Yo! third sexers, "What is your contribution?" "What can you do?" "What is your plan?" "What can you show me?" (Other than your gender presentation(s).)

In *Living The Spirit: A Gay American Indian Anthology*, two dozen writers offer poems, stories and historical accounts of cross-gendered and Gay Native Americans. The Gay American Indians (of San Francisco), hold copyrights on the book as well as an extensive data base of berdache roles. They have documented one hundred thirty-three tribes as having cross-gendered/homosexual traditions.

While Euro-Anglo accounts of berdache were minimally documented during the time of colonizing North America, the subsequent wave of destruction of Native cultures white-washed most historical accounts of the complexity and richness of tribal life. GAI gathered the information on the 133 tribes from 350 sources as part of its ongoing History Project.

Perhaps the most significant aspect of Native American Culture was the relationship of the cultures to the planet, to the environment. Certainly the colonial mindset of exploiting natural resources to the will of (the white) man was not conducive to understanding the spiritual reverence Indians had for the Earth, and was probably the most significant reason so many white men justified the utter destruction of the cultures and the environment. Additionally, the basic historians of the European invasion, those armies of "priests," simply did not record the heathen practices they set out to destroy in their mission to gather Souls for God and Gold for the King.

The berdache role was neither limited to only males or females, nor to shaman. Gender roles were defined by the work done to sustain the tribal life, and in the expression of sexuality. A berdache role was commonly manifested in the work undertaken: Females became hunters, warriors; males gathered and prepared food, tanned and sewed hides.

Sexually, many cross-gendered individuals were allowed to marry, although it often lowered the stature of the "husband" due to a childless union; in many tribes the male berdache became second or third "wife"; and in some tribes male berdache were taken on hunting and warring parties (where females were prohibited). Females in some tribes were allowed to marry other females, and in Mojave cultures, if a *hwame* (female berdache) seduced a pregnant woman "he" was entitled to claim paternity. (At social gatherings, *hwames* sat with the men and discussed their sexual practices and their wife's genitals.)

Adopting mixed gender attributes could be a valuable tribal asset, and in some tribes it was considered desirable to experience a "balance" or "middle path" during one's lifetime. Many berdache were holy ones, healers; considered lucky or valuable to the tribe because of their unique cross-gender or mixed gender natures coupled with their visionary power and their abilities in magic and medicine.

That the Native American berdache did not "save the world" is fairly obvious at this juncture of time, which leads me back to the opening Yo!—where does the presumptuous claim come from? And really kids, just how do the self-proclaimed "saviors" propose to go about healing the world?

In trying to keep myself on the sardonic, upbeat side of cynicism, I am trying to balance the ignorance of those who need to heal themselves and speak of healing the world, with the wisdom of those who know the difference. While any individual in the process of healing their selfness can, at the same time, be healing part of the world, it seems rather hierarchical to place one's self in the position of being *the* world's Healer. And, it seems terribly sicko to demand recognition from the plebeian mono-gendered majority as their spiritual leader (although aspiring leaders seldom seem to consider themselves as sickos—(Adolph Hitler, Andrea Dworkin, Richard Nixon, ad nauseam).

So, while the third sex may be constituted of ten thousand variations, and can't really be defined in a sound bite, the same ol' hex of self-serving lip service seems to be alive and well in American Genderland.

(Continued on next page)

It is interesting that few of the *GenderJournals* make any mention of the Hijra of India. Here one can find a rich and extensive history of "third-sex" participation in a Hindu culture that pre-dates all European and christian cultures. In fact, Hinduism is the last remaining spiritual philosophy/religion still engaged in Goddess worship. While there are hundreds of books dealing with Hinduism, one has to search for books dealing with Goddess worship, history and customs— due, I suppose, from our Western legacy of devaluing the feminine, as well as non-christian cultures (world-wide there are three times as many Hindus as there are people in the US). Dozens of cults dedicated to Goddess practices exist even today, and the Hijra are included not only within Hinduism but also within India's overall culture. (Mentioning here three books: *Hindu Goddesses*, by David Kinsley; *Kali The Feminine Force*, by Ajit Mookereee; and *Neither Man Nor Woman* (about Hijra), by Nanda— all suitable for the novice.)

Goddess worship is strikingly different than wearing hose and heels, and this points to the failure of the pseudo-transgendered "saviors" in that they haven't the slightest idea what power exists below the surface of the images they try to manipulate— which after all is the basis of Euro-Western christian culture: forcing one's will on the unwilling; destroying the Earth in the name of progress.

Sakti (say Shockt-ee) worship reveres the interconnectedness of everything and that everything has an underlying feminine quality; all action and movement is generated from the feminine power to bring forth life from the stasis of masculine force, which is defined as "passive" (in the sense that a male God is unable to "act" in the world without sakti). In our Western consideration then, Goddess worship is the celebration of all forms of life as a process of birth and death; the Earth and the qualities we call nature are held in the highest esteem.

It's interesting to also consider that it is the feminine (in the form of Durga and Kali [say Call-ee] principally) that destroys the "enemies of the people," who can overpower the Gods. Initially Durga was "created" by the Gods to battle monster-demons the Gods were powerless to overcome. In one of Durga's earliest battles to vanquish demons, she became angry, dark and suddenly Kali sprang forth from her forehead, viciously destroyed the demon army, decapitated the demon generals, and got drunk on the blood of those she had vanquished. Kali temples are typically built in or near graveyards. Depictions of Kali include a lolling tongue, blood-soaked chin, a necklace of fifty decapitated heads. She is often shown dancing in a battlefield, or on Siva's (say Sheev-a) chest with a battlefield in the background. Kali is dark, often thin, always armed; Siva is always supine, content, often with his lingam (penis) entering Kali's yoni (vulva). This symbolizes the death-birth-death cycle that endlessly and continually is in motion.

In India one can find several Yoni temples and shrines. They are always characterized by a form of a triangle (analogous to the pubic hair triangle) in front of a passageway (vaginal cavity), beyond which may lie a chamber or hollowed out cavity (uterus). Some temples have entranceways con-

structed in this manner— below the triangle one enters a narrow passageway that opens into the "great Hall." Many initiation rites include being "born again" by entering a yoni-like temporary structure (often formed in the Earth), staying for a period of time and then extricating one's body.

There are a number of similarities in Native American (including South American) cultures of the celebration of life-death cycle, the passage of the Earth, the rites of initiation into what we call adulthood. Many other cultures around the world celebrated and revered the Earth (Wicca being somewhat recognizable), and most pre-historical cultures celebrated Goddess worship, the fecundity of the planet, and the death-life-death-life cycle. Hinduism is the last remaining culture to have maintained this spiritual connectedness. (This is not to say that all Hindus do so; Hinduism, without a dogma remains an incredibly diverse spiritual philosophy which accepts nearly every form of "religion" and philosophy as well as containing some of the [to the Western mind] most bizarre forms of cult worship— there is no typical Hindu, and India itself still maintains a social caste system that can be incredibly repressive, especially to females. However, there is a rich pantheon of Gods and Goddesses which the colonizers failed to obliterate, and Goddess worship, all five to six thousand years of it, still exists today).

One also has to keep in mind that, essentially, Siva and Sakti are the same God-Goddess, Goddess-God energy. As everything is interwoven, interconnected, as energy is matter and matter is energy, the distinctions we make are subjective manifestations that comes from a self that is unrealized (a self that believes it is unique, separate and definable from all other selves and manifestations). In Mahabalipuram, India, there is a statue of Siva Ardhanarisvara, an aspect that is half Siva and half Parvati (an aspect of Sakti). The left side is female, the right is male. This type of representation has been called "Lord-Mother" in other cultures as well. The fusion of Lord and Mother in the spirit leads to a state comprehending but transcending both.

From the *Tao De Ching* (say Dow Deh Jhing, roughly translated as: The Way of Virtue, written approx. 400-500 BC) one can find many similar references (and there can be a case made that Lao Tsu, the author, had already been exposed to the Upanishads, the second literary recording of Hinduism). In Chapter 52:

"The beginning of the universe
Is the mother of all things.

Knowing the mother, one also knows the sons.
Knowing the sons, yet remaining in touch with
the mother,

Brings freedom from the fear of death."

Chapter 28:

"Know the strength of man,
But keep a woman's care!"

Chapter 10:

"Opening and closing the gates of heaven,
Can you play the role of a woman?"

And therein seems to be the crux of cross-dressing/gendering as it manifests itself in "Genderland": *role playing*.

What, I ask, does wearing clothes and make up have to do with feminine/masculine energy? What manifestation of the "true" self is it that requires an assumed name, an assumed identity and the option to "disappear" when desired?

I listened to a CD speaker at a workshop on "leadership" last year explain that the feminine way of doing things was like a "web," interconnected and cooperative, whereas the masculine way was through a dominating hierarchy. The point was told to the group over and over. I doubt that the speaker had any realization of how hierarchical the definition was presented, or why there was such little involvement from the "audience."

And I constantly wonder why Genderlanders, especially those who have the snotty attitude that femininity is superior to masculinity (and female is better than male— just a different hierarchical spin), do not take an active role in social, political and spiritual issues (other than cross-dressing, make up, hormones, electrology, surgery, etc.— and, "ain't this great?") that affect all of us.

Active participation in identifying problems, proposing and performing solutions (healing) for the culture-at-large, is what is lacking today (especially in Genderland): active participation in the life-death cycle of the diverse forms of life; active participation and awareness of the planetary cycles, solar and galactic cycles; an active reverence of people as people rather than "things" (those dickheads, those cunts, those niggers, japs, jews, jerks, commies, honkys, liberals, conservatives, punks, assholes, etc.).

(Insert a little more attitude in conclusion)—

Ya know, someday when I cruise down the freeway, polluting all the airwaves, and I see one-o-those "Adopt-A-Highway" signs with "Transvestites & Transsexuals" on it, and perhaps see a group of "ladies" and "men" cleaning up litter, then I might reconsider the following paragraph:

In summation: those passive Genderlanders who proclaim to be connected in some manner to The Power do not even constitute toe-jam on the left little toe of the most minor Goddess statue. "Nay" I say, "ye are nothing more than the same ol' shit stuck on the tail of The Bull." Which, as those of us who have actual experience growing up on a farm, know as a— "dingeball."

GAL Folds?

GAL (Gender Alternatives League, POB 3392, Napa, CA 94558 Phone: (707) [REDACTED]), a small group that attempted national representation of "Genderists," a term used to generally describe everyone with a gender issue, may have folded. Maybe not. Certainly GAL appears to either be comatose or a corpse. After over a year of little activity, other than being disagreeable with nearly every individual and group in the country, and publishing one issue of their four-times-a-year newsletter, a person (like me for example), on their own, could almost assume the GAL was dead. Add to that the occasional rumor that the remaining souls can not escape the inertia of the unstable nuclear core, a person could conclude that meltdown has occurred or soon will.

(Continued top of next column)

Regardless, GAL has been removed from the Gender-Related Organization listing on page 15. Persons desiring additional, and perhaps more accurate information, should contact whatever remains of GAL using the above listed contact information.

May the rubble rest in Peace.

Jane Kamper Bentley Defamed!

ETVC's own Secretary and Newsletter editrix was significantly slighted by the editrix of this very venomous rag in issue #12. Loyal readers may recall that issue #12 was, in fact, the issue preceding this one. Anyway, in said same issue, hereinafter referred to as the prosecution's exhibit one, Ms. Bentley's name was incorrectly speld (whoops) spelled as Jane Kemper Bentley! Talk about inaccuracy in GenderJournalism!

The editrix of exhibit one, Ms. Jones, hereinafter referred to as Ms. Jones, put forth the lame defense that the ETVC newsletter was the source of the incorrect spelang, er, spelling. In a pathetic performance on the witless stand, Ms. Jones waved a copy of ETVC's newsletter and claimed it had three spellings of Jane's name. Jones was drug (!) away sobbing to began serving a life sentence with no possibility of conviction.

A Coupla-three Questions

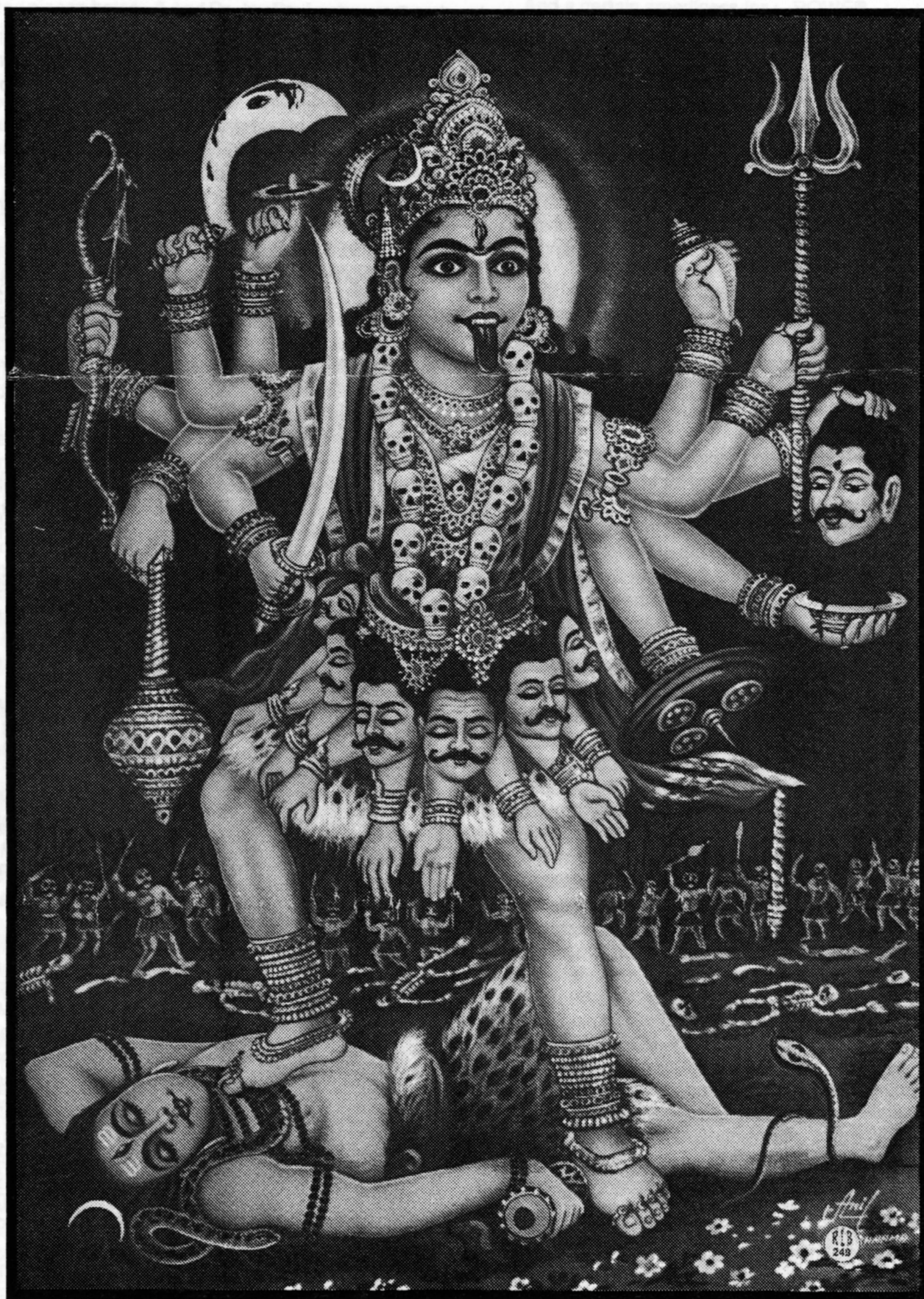
Occasionally, while reading various GenderJournals or listening to certain people, one can hear that: "Drag Queens are a parody of women." The consideration seems to be that gay males who do "drag" are not "cross-dressers"; are not part of the "T" continuum (a bullshit term anyway). Additionally, the consideration perpetuates stereotypical "objectification" of gay cross-dressers, and is basically used to exclude "drag queens" as not "measuring up" to arbitrary standards of non-openly-gay cross-dressers.

I ask the following questions:

If a drag queen performs an impression or impersonation of Whitney Houston at a fund raising event, is that a parody? How about if "she" does Phyllis Diller? Perhaps more importantly, is Phyllis Diller a parody of women? Is Madonna a parody? Carol Burnett? Is Martina Navratilova a parody of women? k.d. Lang? Is Lily Tomlin in boy-drag a parody of men? Or women? Are prostitutes a parody of women? Are female truck drivers who smoke cigars a parody of women?

Is it possible that a "male-woman" (paradox, not parody) who argues their definitive interpretation of "femininity" or what a "woman" is—especially in regard to cross-dresser/genderers—is not qualified to make the definition? Is a Sunday-go-to-meeting attired male-woman a parody of female-women?

Finally, is it possible that every person who demands a "One True Way" of gender presentation is committing a parody of the individuality each of us is born with? Or is it an abomination?



A manifestation of Kali dancing on the recumbent form of Siva. From a poster influenced by the Kalighat painting style.

Gender-Related Organizations

C.G.N.I.E., Inc. (Court of the Great Northwest Imperial Empire, Inc.) POB 160636, Sac, CA 95816. CGNIE was organized to raise funds for charities and continues to do so. Primarily part of the gay community, membership is open to anyone with an interest. Annual events include elections of Emperor & Empress, Grand Duke & Duchess with related campaign events culminating in Coronation and Grand Ducal Balls; 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, April is free).

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

ETVC (Educational TV Channel)—POB 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486. Phone (Hotline) (510) 549-2665. ETVC is a non-sexual organization 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.

FTM (Female to Male) Group—5337 College Ave. #142, Oakland, CA 94618. FTM publishes a quarterly newsletter for female cross-dressers and FTM transsexuals. Support, social and informational meetings held monthly (information and social meetings open to non-FTMs; support is for FTMs only). Currently selling paperback copies off Lou Sullivan's *Information For The*

Female-To-Male Crossdresser And Transsexual, \$10.

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

I.M.A.G.E. (I'm Making A Gender Expression) [REDACTED], Sutter, CA 95982 Phone: (916) [REDACTED] between 6pm-11pm. IMAGE is a closed social club; 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, Computer Bulletin Board: (208) [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: (916) [REDACTED]. SGA is a non-sexual social club open to anyone interested in gender issues. Social 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). SGA Executive Committee meeting (club business and planning) held the third Saturday, same location, 7:30pm, open to members and guests—free. Call SGA for current schedule of their significant others support group. Annual dues—\$20.

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

Support Organizations & Services

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

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

Pacific Center for Human Growth, [REDACTED], Berkeley, CA 94705 provides weekly peer-support meetings for Bisexual, Gay/Lesbian, TV/TS persons. Info: (510) [REDACTED].

W.A.C.S Newsletter [Women Associated with Cross-dressers Communication Network]: POB 17, Bulverde, TX 78163.

AEGIS (American Educational Gender Information Service) provides referrals and offers support to people with gender issues, as well as publishing several informational booklets and Chrysalis

Quarterly, an excellent gender-related magazine. For \$30 you can receive four issues of CQ plus 3 booklets. Mail to: POB 33724, Decatur, GA 30033-0724. Phone: (404) [REDACTED]. AEGIS is affiliated with Renaissance Education Association, Inc.

The Human Outreach and Achievement Institute is addressed at: 405 Western Avenue, Suite 345, South Portland, ME 04106. (207) [REDACTED]. HOAI sponsors a service for helping professionals (GAIN); a Speakers Bureau; dozens of Seminars and Workshops; Information Packets and Periodical Publications; Fantasia Fair; and jointly with Theseus Counseling Services, HOPEFUL, 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.

For common emergencies, dial 911.

Special Thanks

to Vanessa of ETVC for donating \$2; to Pamela of ETVC for the \$3 contribution "to the almost free press"; to Donna & Janet of DVG for the \$5iver each; to Francis R. from Florida for the \$3 order.

Special Thanks to all the people who came up to me at ETVC's socials in July & Aug and complimented this newsletter; same to James Green, Maria [REDACTED], Alison [REDACTED] (plus \$2), Selena Anne Shephard (\$5 order), Frances R. of Washington (\$20 order), Betsy of Nevada (and the Sierra Silver Belles— sorry hon, I'm refunding part of your \$25 because I may not publish ten more issues) for sending letters of support. And, Special Thanks to Cindy Martin for paying the \$7 mentioned in the last issue.

Special thanks to Roxanne for her photography.

A Special Thank You to Alison Laing of Pennsylvania for working, working & working on the Congress of Representative's By Laws (and it was a warm treat to see you at ETVC's July social).

Finally, Special Thanks to Holly Boswell and Rena Swifhawk for their efforts and work in expanding awareness of Goddess and Native American spiritual values.

Sad News

Doug Shafer, past Chairman of the Board of CGNIE, Inc., and long involved in the Imperial Court System, passed away in September due to AIDS-related illness. Doug will be sadly missed by many, many people, including his life-partner Frank (Francine Fishpaw) Cummings. Rest In Peace, friend.

Upcoming (Mostly) Local Events

Oct 3-4 2nd annual Southern Comfort, Atlanta, GA.

Oct 6- CGNIE Court Imperial Meeting, 7:30pm at Faces (20th & K Sts., Sac.). Open to all, no charge

Oct 6- DVG meets at Just Rewards, 2520 Camino Diablo, Walnut Creek, 8pm. Open to all, no charge.

Oct 7- Pacific Center's TV/TS Mixed Rap, 8-9pm, 2712 Telegraph, Berkeley, donations requested.

Oct 8- ETVC's SOS Group meets at 7:30pm in Pleasant Hill. Call (415) [REDACTED].

Oct 9- Gender Discussion Group, New Community of Faith Church, 6350 Rainbow Dr., San Jose. 8pm, donations accepted.

Oct 11- SLA (Sac. Leather Assoc.) presents "leather Arts & Crafts" 1-5pm at JTC, 2062 Auburn Blvd., Sac (beer bust to follow— \$5). And, at 9pm a "Fantasy Show" same location— \$5 (doors open @ 8pm).

Oct 11- FTM Informational Meeting, 2-5pm; contact James @ (510) [REDACTED] (location TBA).

Oct 16- RGA social, New Community of Faith Church, 6350 Rainbow Dr., San Jose. 8pm, donations accepted.

Oct 16-25 18th annual Fantasia Fair, Provincetown, MA. 10 days of programs and socializing; special weekend rates.

Oct 17- SGA Executive Committee Meeting, 7:30m at JTC. Open to all, no charge.

Oct 17- CGNIE presents "Closet Ball" for men who would be Queen and womyn who would be King. JTC, 8pm, \$8.

Oct 19- DVG meets at Just Rewards, 2520 Camino Diablo, Walnut Creek, 8pm. Open to all, no charge.

Oct 21- Pacific Center's TV/TS Mixed Rap, 8-9pm, 2712 Telegraph, Berkeley, donations requested.

Oct 22- ETVC Couples Social, 8pm, San Leandro, (415) [REDACTED].

Oct 24- SGA monthly social at JTC, 8pm (7pm if you want dinner). \$2 members, \$4 guests.

Oct 29- ETVC's "Halloween Dance," costume prizes and meet lotsa new ghouls 8pm, Chez Mollet Restaurant, 527 Bryant Street, SF. Members \$5, guests \$8

Oct 30- Pacific Center's TV/TS Mixed Rap, 8-9pm, 2712 Telegraph, Berkeley, donations requested.

Oct 31- Faces presents a Halloween Party & Costume Contest— 4 catagories, \$600 in cash prizes. 2000 K Street, Sac.

Nov 3- CGNIE Court Imperial Meeting, 7:30pm at Faces (20th & K Sts., Sac.). Open to all, no charge

Nov 3- DVG meets at Just Rewards, 2520 Camino Diablo, Walnut Creek, 8pm. Open to all, no charge.

Nov 4- Pacific Center's TV/TS Mixed Rap, 8-9pm, 2712 Telegraph, Berkeley, donations requested.

Nov 6- RGA social, New Community of Faith Church, 6350 Rainbow Dr., San Jose. 8pm, donations accepted.

Nov 8- FTM Social, 2-5pm; contact Sky @ (415) [REDACTED].

Nov 11-15 "Holiday Enfemme '92" in Atlanta, GA. Annual Tri-Ess event. Contact Linda Peacock, POB 7241, Tallahassee, FL 32314-7241.

Nov 12- ETVC's SOS meets 8pm, (415) [REDACTED].

Nov 14- ETVC's Education Committee presents Lucy Ann Jones on Voice. 2pm at Lily's, corner of Market & Valencia, SF, \$3 door charge.

Nov 16- DVG meets at Just Rewards, 2520 Camino Diablo, Walnut Creek, 8pm. Open to all, no charge.

Nov 18- Pacific Center's TV/TS Mixed Rap, 8-9pm, 2712 Telegraph, Berkeley, donations requested.

Nov 19-22- 3rd annual Fall Harvest Weekend, MAGGIE, POB 9433, St. Louis, MO 63117.

Nov 19- ETVC Couples Social (tentative), 8pm, TBA (415) [REDACTED].

Nov 20- RGA social, New Community of Faith Church, 6350 Rainbow Dr., San Jose. 8pm, donations accepted.

Nov 21- SGA Executive Committee Meeting, 7:30pm at JTC. Open to all, no charge.

Nov 26- Will ETVC present a social on Thanxgrabbing? Call their Hotline (510) 549-2665 to find out.

Nov 28- SGA monthly social at JTC, 8pm (7pm if you want dinner). \$2 members, \$4 guests.

Every Friday Night- Café Lambda, 1931 L Street, Sac. Smoke-free, alcohol-free— no door charge.

Every Sunday Night- Bisexual support Group at Pac. Center, 7 to 8:50 pm, donations accepted.

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