



Cotillion 1993 - A Sparkling Tropical Night

Cheryl Sheppard

On the evening of January 23, the ETVC Cotillion transported us to the tropics for the coronation of Shawna Rose as Miss ETVC 1993. Shawna was radiant as she was crowned, presented her sceptre and posed for photographs with first runner-up Lauren Hotchkiss and second runner-up Robyn Roberts.

"All of the contestants looked absolutely beautiful," said IFGE Board of Director nominee Cynthia Phillips. "It must have been very difficult for the judges to choose just one."

Later, as Shawna received friends and well-wishers in the lobby of the California Club, Lauren reflected that "This is not just a Miss America gender pageant, but a wonderful display of what this club is all about at a deeper level."

The Joanna Caron Memorial Award (for the person who has given the most energy, time and effort to the current cotillion) was presented by MC Tommi Rose (what would we do without you, Tommi?) to a beaming and grateful Geri Handa.

Other contestant winners were Evette, who took Miss Congeniality for the second year running; Lauren, who won Talent with an original composition for piano; and Robin Barrett for Activewear.

We were privileged to have in attendance members of the San Francisco and Alameda Courts, the Sacramento Gender Association, the Diablo Valley Girls, the Rainbow Gender Association, Senator Milton Marks (for the second year in a row), as well as

members of the IFGE Board of Directors, Empress I Jose AND the godmother of all genderists, Virginia Prince, who took the opportunity to bow with the debutantes.

Therapist Dr. Lin Fraser, appropriately crossdressed in a handsome tux, lauded the coming out ceremony as "a celebration generated from your inner self and applauded by your peers." The debts were escorted by Nicky Kennedy and Francis Vavra, both in white tropical suits.

Special thanks to star guest performers Eva Davis and Amber Glass, and to our judges, Emperor Douglass Stromberg, Professor Bill Jones, and Betsy Bell Ringer.

This Cotillion was not without its share of behind-the-scenes drama. When out of town business forced director Stephanie M. to step down from her duties; Miss ETVC 1992 Billie Jean Jones stepped in and brought

the show together.

To the surprise and delight of the cast and crew, Stephanie was able to return to assist Billie Jean the night of the show. Those who were backstage will remember that as the names of the finalists were about to be called, Stephanie and Billie Jean gathered the contestants to hold hands in a circle. It was a silent and reverent moment, each person both hoping for herself, yet wishing well to those who were called. Tension rose as the circle got smaller, then broke as the last name was called and those remaining hugged each other.

Shawna Rose, Miss ETVC 1993



Miss ETVC 1993 with first runner-up Lauren Hotchkiss (r), and second runner-up Robyn Roberts (l).

Who Is That Man?

From S.O. to T.V.

Francis Vavra

To new members, or those who saw me for the first time at the 9th Annual Cotillion as one of the two men in white suits, the "macho" cowboy in Robyn's talent act, and a model in Transformations II, I am a "mystery man." You may have seen me at occasional ETVC events, accompanying my partner, Roxanna R., or as a roving "single guy" appreciating the fine appearance of the femmes in attendance. I chauffeured the ETVC car two years ago in the Gay Pride Parade and had a great time. This past parade, I

wandered about in my white suit with Roxanna, and was interviewed and photographed for the Newsletter (Sept./Oct. '92). Last year also found me making my performance debut at Lily's (thanks to Ginny's gentle insistence) at the benefit for Empress Tina Tanner. The MC wondered what the big deal was when "some guy" got up to lip synch in a suit and fedora hat to a Dean Martin song, and ETVC members popped photos and threw dollars (maybe she hadn't seen a "drag prince" before). Or you may have seen me on one of the talk shows I appeared on ("People Are Talking" and "Donahue" a year ago, "Geraldo" in October).

I am in a distinct minority in ETVC (female-to-male cross-dresser), and since receiving positive feedback, curiosity and

See page 4: "Who Is That Man..."

by Jane Kamper Bentley

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

OFFICERS

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Outreach	Lauren Hotchkiss & Telzey Adams
Social	Cheryl Sheppard & Pam Souza

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Membership (as of 1/31/93)	409
1992 Membership	395
New members this year	73

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance on 12/1/92	\$3059.40
December Income	\$2049.72
December Expenses	\$2078.28
Balance on 12/31/92	\$3030.84
January Income	\$5927.60
January Expenses	\$5447.27
Balance on 1/31/93	\$3511.17

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 day of each of these 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	Jane Kamper Bentley
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Photographer	David Swanson
Layout & Printing	Your Place Graphics

AD RATES

	per issue	per year
Business Card	\$20	\$100
4" X 5"	\$50	\$250
8" X 5"	\$125	\$625
8" X 10"	\$275	\$1300

PERSONAL ADS

ETVC will accept personal ads from ETVC members at the rate of \$3 for up to 40 words. 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 June, August, October, December, February and April.

HOTLINE 510-549-2665

This and That

The ETVC Cotillion is the product of many volunteers whose only reward is acknowledgment. It's especially regrettable, therefore, that Sandy and Jano, our super-efficient judge coordinators, did not get listed in the Cotillion program because of an oversight by yours truly. Sorry.

Others unacknowledged were Tyrrell Stanley and Anna Maria Ferrari, who signed on as our spotlight operators after the program had gone to print. Ginny's friend, Miguel, a gifted stage designer, came in almost at the last minute to transform the California Club stage into a South Seas strand. Bless you, Miguel. At the very last minute, a member I know only as Denise took a crash course in stage lighting and turned in a professional effort...

Perhaps my most egregious oversight was not to credit the picture of a palm tree at sunset that graced the January/February front page. To Jean, Producer/Vice President Rusty Levis's significant other, my humble apologies and grateful thanks...

My stint as assistant director was my first as a backstage operative in a *Really Big Show*. If stage fright is like the flu, backstage fright is pneumonia. Wonder Woman Cotillion director Billie Jean Jones worked *both* venues - splendidly. What *would* she have done, given more than two weeks preparation? It's more than the mind of person can conceive...

From the "Really BIG Apple," our foreign correspondent, Jessica Stang, sends some "items of interest": A thick stack of clippings to indicate the variety of gender bending in Gotham. Have you ever heard of "Drag Kings?" Apparently, female crossdressing has leaped from the closet to center stage in New York. For \$50 (if you're female) you can attend a Drag King Workshop, where Diane Torr, an F2M crossdresser (that's New Yorkese for FTM, or female-to-male), teaches students how men "use space...pick up an object...assume the importance that they feel is their birth-right." Participants must bring their own clothing, hair gel and fake penis. "The work shop will culminate in a visit to a public space, where we will test our new identities." What I find most intriguing - and poignant - is that a seminar on how to act and dress like a man has a woman instructor and bans men.

I hate to type. That's why I'm encouraging all contributors with computers to modem or mail a 3.5" disk. I use Microsoft Word 5.0 for Macintosh. If you want to modem your text, call me most any weeknight after 8:30 at (415) [REDACTED] Ask for "JIM." Or mail your disk to Editor, ETVC, POB 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486. If possible, include your phone number.

Ginny would like to thank everyone for their wonderful kindness in sending flowers and cards and calling to let her know that you care. She is now recuperating at Saint Mary's Rehabilitation Center, and one of these days real soon we hope we'll see her back with us. The phone number for St. Mary's is (415) 668-1000. Ask for Virginia Knuth (pronounced, Ka-Nooth), Room 453.

Coming up: Esprit '93 at Port Angeles, Washington, from May 12 to May 16. For details write Esprit 93, PO Box 873, Kirkland, Wa., 98083-0873...

February 5, Miss ETVC 1992 Billie Jean Jones and Royal High Executioner Tyrrell Stanley guested on San Francisco's KDBK (98.9 FM). I heard only the last ten minutes, but it was all quality time. The station has invited them back "sometime in March." TV's on radio. I like the concept.

FTM, the Oakland-based gender club for Female-to-Male crossdressers and transsexuals, has expanded its newsletter, proving that you cannot get too much of a good thing. Among the goodies: Francis Vavra recounts his *positive* experience on the Geraldo Show and Titian details the emotional shocks and nuances he and his mother endured when he revealed his transsexualism to her ("As I came out to my mother, I couldn't believe this was happening to me, I ask myself why my life couldn't be more charmed. I'm sure my mother asked herself the same question. What have I ever done to deserve this? I conclude: we deserve it because we live.").

We have a lot to learn from each other. To enroll for some postgraduate study, send your check for \$10, or more, to FTM Newsletter, 5337 College Ave., #142, Oakland, CA 94618.

The January/February "Editor's Notes," asking for volunteers to help women-in-transition who need employment, got several responses...from those needing help (see "Letters to the Editor"). Nothing from those who might give it. Anybody out there?

Letters to the Editor

Editor,

We're slowly getting the J2CP information into circulation. We've published "Letter From a Mother" and "Letter From a Brother," and should have John Money and Ronald Gaskin's "Counseling the Transsexual" and "Religious Aspects of Transsexualism" in circulation within the next few months. We're in need of the old Erickson booklets, "Medical Aspects of Transsexualism" and "Information for Law Enforcement Officers." If you know of anyone who has them, we would love a photocopy so we could consider republishing them. It's a bear to have the rights to something and not even have a reading copy!

Warmly,
Dallas Denny, Executive Director
AEGIS
P.O. Box 33724
Decatur, GA 30033
(404) 939-0244

Editor,

Thank you for your column about getting employment while making gender transitions. I'm not sure if you know, but I have crossed over full-time for a six month period, November 1, 1992.

I have had a terrible time finding any work. I have had a couple of serious interviews, but I really need six months of full-time work as a woman to make my gender decision.

D.W.

President's Message

The reason ETVC began its own anti-defamation/public relations program in December was quite simple: No one else was doing the job. I had hoped to convince the International Foundation for Gender Education at their executive board meeting last month that they would be much better suited to the task, but IFGE was not ready to commit to the concept at that time.

I will continue to press IFGE to do this job, but for now we must lead the way. I want to let you know that this effort has not been costly so far because Roxanne de Lyon, who runs the program, has been very careful about spending, but expenses are likely.

You can help defray costs by simply having your picture taken at the next social. It's \$3 and it goes to the cause. Besides, it's a Polaroid so you can take your picture home with you. And remember: let us know when you see, hear or read anything negative, or positive, about our community. Call the Hotline at (510) 549-2665 and tip us off!

Hard on the heels of the Cotillion's success our new Miss ETVC 1993, Shawna Rose, is planning a major fundraiser for this September. It should be an exceptional night of glamour and fun. If you are interested in helping out with the show, which will include an auction, please contact me or Shawna. Volunteering is very satisfying and is going to be a lot of fun in this case.

I wish I could report to you that ETVC has acquired its nonprofit status, but we are running into some problems with paperwork. I will keep you posted on this very important issue as I get more information.

Very shortly, possibly as soon as the next newsletter, you will be receiving a survey form that is intended to determine what kind of skills and resources our membership really has. Everything will be totally confidential of course and no one is under any obligation to volunteer information or their time. However, it is also obvious that we have a lot of resources going untapped. In the last year alone ETVC has needed lawyers, accountants, carpenters, writers, electricians, audio-visual equipment operators, party supplies, florists, jewelers, computer experts, printers, graphic artists, photographers, fundraisers, and on and on. Perhaps you know someone who can get great discounts on things like printing or food or products. There are a lot of ways you can help your club besides direct volunteer action. Take a minute to fill out your survey. You'll feel good about it.

ETVC Singles

ETVC Singles is not dead (its creator just feels like it after a grueling Cotillion season). Long live ETVC Singles. Meetings will be held at the Chez Mollet on Wednesday ETVC Hangout Nights on a drop-in basis. Look for a table with a sign that says ETVC Singles.

See you at the Chez.

Special Events



Judy Van Maasdam Saturday, March 13

Judy Van Maasdam, M.A., is the Coordinator of Gender Dysphoria Program, Inc., a non-profit foundation in Palo Alto, providing services to individuals in need of sex reassignment. Ms. Van Maasdam has held this position 15 years. She will give an overview of the Gender Dysphoria Program and address the male-to-female and female-to-male surgery available within the Program. Lily's, 4 Valencia (at Market) 2 PM. \$3.

Cotillion Beauty Secrets - Wigs and Magic Makeover Show Thursday, March 25

Do you spend hours in front of a mirror and still look like a washer woman? Well, frumpy, want to change that look? Then come find out how Louise Carroll, maker of Cotillion winners, does her transformation magic. Louise is the owner of Continental Wig Salon of San Rafael, and has been working with the gender community since 1978. She has successfully sponsored many winners and finalists in the Miss ETVC Cotillion, and will give a live makeover demonstration with 1st runner-up Lauren. She will also show her stunning line of high-style wig fashions. Great Door Prizes with lots to see and learn. Chez Mollet. Members \$5. Guests \$8.

Presenting...Louise! Saturday, April 17

Need more hints on how the younger women are presenting themselves? Louise will answer those questions not answered at the March social. She will also review the essentials, makeup, and other materials that she has available in her shop. Lily's, 4 Valencia (at Market), 2 PM. \$3.

Disco Prom Night Thursday, April 29

Remember your Prom Night, and the way you felt, and the way you looked? Or was that not quite the fashion statement you wanted to make? Now is your chance to do it again...*your* way. Get that dress or tux for the special look you always wanted, and dance the night away to sounds provided by our own DJ, the swingin' Diva of Disco - Tyrrell. Contest for the best Prom Queens in three categories: Most Elegant, Most Geeky and Most Bizarre. Door prizes, contest prizes, music and dancing. Bring a date, a spouse, a friend, or even your mom (moms can be friends!). Members \$3. Guests \$5.

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(between 3rd. & 4th. Sts.)

Who Is That Man? ...Cont. from page 1.

interest about myself, decided to write this article. Like many of you, I switch back and forth, working and living as one gender (female), then changing into another persona, and becoming the other (male). I have experienced "blowout," wanting to remain as him forever, attended FTM meetings, gone into therapy, decided I was somewhere between crossdresser and transsexual, purging (my mustaches, but never my ties!), wondering if I was crazy, while knowing I was sane and happy when I simply allowed him to be.

I joined ETVC four years ago as the SO of Roxanna R., attending SO meetings and a few couples dinners. I had always been fascinated with drag and gender bending while living in L.A., and when Roxanna began dressing up, I supported her and had an enthusiastic shopping companion (whose male self used to wait impatiently outside while I shopped). But something was missing; I didn't quite understand how she felt, and couldn't share her personal thrill of transition.

Then one magical Halloween three years ago, I accompanied Roxanna to the ETVC party as her male escort. I knew exactly what I wanted to wear and how I wished to look. It was a feeling I always had inside; more than wearing men's clothes, which I found exciting, I wanted to *be* a man, if just for the evening. I already had a tie collection, two fedora hats and a number of men's jackets I had secretly bought in thrift shops over the past years. I was a closet crossdresser myself, and after that party, there was no turning back for me! That first attempt didn't live up to my inner vision (sound familiar?). I was a European gentleman, suave and into details of wardrobe. Since it was Halloween, I added a mustache, Hungarian accent, and played out my fantasy of being a gypsy man just arrived in American (I am party gypsy, which may explain my penchant for an old-fashioned but colorful look). I greeted the ladies by kissing their hands and being the shy, courteous man I suddenly found myself to be. I have never been a shy woman. I looked like a teenage boy, nervous but determined to have fun and get out there. Several people at the party laughed at (not with) me, and I understood the pain and vulnerability that can go with crossdressing. I knew (then and now) that passing was not an important issue for me; I mainly wished to create a particular look, ambiance and feeling which was meaningful for me, look my best and play with variations in the future.

Since that party, I have grown and matured, and relaxed more into the man I feel I am. You may see more of me this coming year, as I want to be part of more activities and theatrical ways in which to express the gender dance. I hope that others like myself will participate; I can't kiss all those lovely hands by myself!

LIFE OUT OF CONTROL?

Or are some areas just not working?

Explore issues of

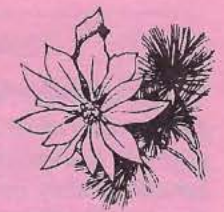
- sexuality
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TV/TS/TG GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

A Calendar of Events for March & April



MARCH

2	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 849-4112
3	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
4	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
6	ETVC	Executive Committee	Starts at 8 PM	Palo Alto	(415) 750-1850
10	ETVC	Social Committee	Meets at 7:30 PM	Chez Mollet	(415) 731-7032
10	ETVC	Outreach Committee	Meets at 8 PM	Chez Mollet	(510) 849-4112
11	ETVC	Significant Others	Meets 7:30-10 PM	Marina	(415) 664-1499
12	ETVC	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
12	South Bay	Gender Discussion Group	Meets 8-10 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-5619
13	ETVC	Education Committee	Meets at 12 PM	Lily's	(408) 984-5619
13	ETVC	Judy Van Maasdam	Starts at 2 PM	Lily's	(408) 984-5619
15	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 849-4112
17	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
18	ETVC	Couples Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Leandro	(415) 664-1499
19	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
24	ETVC	Decoration Party	Meets 7:30 PM	Chez Mollet	(415) 731-7032
25	ETVC	MAKEOVER SHOW	Starts at 8 PM	Chez Mollet	(415) 731-7032
26	Pac Ctr	Open Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
26	RGA	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	Sunnyvale	(408) 732-7406
27	SGA	Dinner/Social	Starts at 8 PM	Sacramento	(916) 482-7SGA
31	ETVC	Social Committee	Meets 7:30 PM	Chez Mollet	(415) 731-7032

APRIL

2	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
3	ETVC	Executive Committee	Starts at 8 PM	TBA	(415) 750-1850
6	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 849-4112
7	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
8	ETVC	Significant Others	Meets 7:30-10 PM	TBA	(415) 664-1499
9	ETVC	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499
9	South Bay	Gender Discussion Group	Meets 8-10 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-5619
14	ETVC	Outreach Committee	Starts at 8 PM	Chez Mollet	(510) 849-4112
16	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408) 984-4044
17	ETVC	Education Committee	Meets at 12 PM	Lily's	(408) 984-5619
17	ETVC	Louise Carroll	Starts at 2 PM	Lily's	(408) 984-5619
19	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510) 849-4112
21	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224
22	ETVC	Couples Social	Starts at 8 PM	Antioch	(415) 664-1499
23	RGA	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	Sunnyvale	(408) 732-7406
24	SGA	Dinner/Social	Starts at 8 PM	Sacramento	(916) 482-7SGA
28	ETVC	Decoration Party	Meets 7:30 PM	Chez Mollet	(415) 731-7032
29	ETVC	PROM NIGHT	Starts at 8 PM	Chez Mollet	(415) 731-7032
30	Pac Ctr	Open Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510) 841-6224

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. 2712 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley. Call: (510) 841-6224.

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

Sacramento Gender Association (SGA) Blue Rose Chapter meets 8 PM the 4th Saturday of each month at Town & Country Inn restaurant 2061 Auburn Blvd, Sacramento; Write: Blue Rose Chapter, PO Box 215456, Sacramento, CA 95821-1456. Call: (916) 482-7SGA

Diablo Valley Girls (DVG) Meets 1st Tuesday and 3rd Monday of every month 8:00 PM at Just Rewards Nightclub, 2520 Camino Diablo in Walnut Creek. Write: DVG, PO Box 272885, Concord, CA 94527-2885. Call: (510) 849-4112.

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

ETVC Membership Application

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

How did you learn about ETVC? _____

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

Full year membership June 1 - May 31 is \$20.00

Please remit by check or money order to:

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

Ask Dr. Lin

Dr. Lin Fraser

(In December, Dr. Lin Fraser packed the house when she was guest speaker at our Education Meeting (see Cori Farrell's report on page 13). Audience response was rapt during, and enthusiastic after, her talk. Plainly, once every other year is not nearly enough to hear from her. Therefore, we are pleased and proud to have her join fellow therapist Luanna Rodgers as a regular contributor to the newsletter. You are invited to submit your questions, whether theoretical or personal, to "Ask Dr. Lin, c/o ETVC, POB 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486." - Ed.)

Q: Your general reputation is well known, but most of us don't know your background, how you got started as a gender therapist.

Dr. Lin: Prior to doing my masters in counseling at San Francisco State, I had an undergraduate degree in psychology and religion, and also had experience as a Pan Am flight attendant. So I came to graduate school with a feminist perspective, as well as having had a hyper-feminine projection put on me that was not accurate, simply because I was wearing a flight attendant's uniform. I knew how it was to feel differently than I was perceived based on gender.

My very first client as a first week graduate student in counseling was a transsexual. What she was saying to me affected me in such a way that I got it - I understood it from personal experience - with the exception that I had never had any desire to change my body - except maybe to lose a little weight.

That's what keyed me. But, also, two factors that made it very synchronistic: One is that when you're a beginning counselor you have a tremendous amount of enthusiasm for the field. If the first person I had met was an overeater, maybe I would have gravitated to that. Secondly, there weren't any other counselors in the Bay Area who knew about gender. So after my first client and I connected, she referred all her friends to me. I didn't get any of my training about gender academically. I learned it all from the community.

Q: I understand you're a Jungian. Could you explain that briefly?

Dr. Lin: No. But let me try. Jungian theory is non-pathological. It doesn't call people sick - it explains. I don't find that pathologizing people is healing. Explaining, telling stories dealing with metaphor, dealing with the unconscious, all foster individuation. What individuation means is that the individual has contact with all parts of his or her psyche in such a way that he or she can live out their potential in his or her own unique way. In Jungian therapy we seek to create a space in which healing can occur. Jungian theory believes that the psyche strives toward wholeness unless something is impeding it; all kinds of things can impede it. One of my jobs as a clinician is to help

you get rid of the impediments that are in the way of your individuation.

Q: Do you find that there is a typical sort of impediment for transgendered persons?

Dr. Lin: The major one is a culture that splits everything into two. So, being a part of the culture, a transgendered person, having a psyche with very strong masculine/feminine components, tends to need to concretize them into two, rather than allowing their integration - if that's what's wanted. Some people want to keep them separate and just allow two sides to work with each other instead of battle. It's the battle of the masculine and feminine that is the big problem among transgendered people in Western Culture, which sees things as binary and contradictory. So that's an impediment.

I work a lot with dreams, because a lot of the psyche is made up of the personal and collective unconscious, not just the ego. I want to help the ego to get in touch with what's going on both personally and collectively.

I'm also helping to activate archetypal patterns that are not potentiated - or realized - among transgendered males. One is the lover/warrior - that's Mars. The other is Hermes, the trickster - that's spontaneity. They're in there, but they're not activated. Once they're activated, usually a person is more spontaneous and assertive. On the female side, Aphrodite - that's sensation, pure sensation - is extremely activated in transgendered males, along with Apollo, in the male side, which has to do with linear thinking, logic, the ability to see things from a distance: Objectivity. Appreciation of beauty. The Apollonian Ideal. That's typical of crossdressers. But for transsexuals the path to gender dysphoria is not always the transvestic mode. We can delve into that, though, at another time.

Dr. Lin Fraser is a practicing psycho-therapist in San Francisco, specializing in gender issues; she has been a friend of the gender community for 20 years.



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Is Crossdressing Wrong?

Lauren Rene Hotchkiss

(Portions of this article appeared previously in TV Guide Genderflex)

During our journey along the path of self-acceptance, most of us have experienced a good deal of guilt around the issue of crossdressing. Beyond the usual fears we all had in growing up, wondering if it meant we were gay or wanted a sex change, we have also had to confront our feelings regarding the issue of whether it was morally "right."

The Bible actually says very little on the subject, other than a brief reference in Deuteronomy 22:5, which states: "No woman shall wear an article of man's clothing nor shall a man put on a woman's dress; for those that do these things are abominable to the Lord your God." It is a quotation that has been mistranslated and taken out of context from the original Aramaic Text, which in more literal translation, and with understood context, reads: "No man shall put on a dress to enter the women's tent (*fear of rape*), nor shall a woman wear an article of man's clothing for the purposes of entering the holy temple (*from which women were prohibited by ancient Judaic law*). Its change from a conditional to an absolute is reflective of both the political and moral climate of the times and of the translating body.

Somewhere along the line, the whole subject of crossdressing was blown out of proportion and transformed into societal taboo. The issue, though, is not one of what clothing we chose to wear - I mean, c'mon; God couldn't care less - but of how we feel about ourselves and the manner in which we treat one another. It is as right for us to express ourselves in the gender-expanded manner we do, as is others' choice to live a non gender-challenged lifestyle.

It seems rather interesting, sociologically, that most of us feel we need to "dress" in order to give ourselves permission to display what we have separated and compartmentalized as feminine qualities. Spiritually, as well as biologically, we all have both the feminine and the masculine within us, gender having little to do with the sex of the bodies we inhabit. This being so, the concepts of male and female are not the opposites that we have been taught, but are, rather, complements: Two parts of a whole.

The societal separation of male and female is very much an act

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of humanity rather than of God. The Almighty never decreed, as far as I'm aware, that behaviors be segregated into male OR female. The fact that we accord certain rights and respect to one sex, while denying it the expression of emotion and more gentle behavior that we allow only in the other, is of little intrinsic value.

Perhaps we should question the whole male/female relationship construct. Obviously it is not working when our society, its literature and media, are full of instances of the "opposite" sexes unable to relate to one another.

It has often been said that we of the gender community are not like other women and men, but such is often the way of change. It takes the few to lead so that the many will follow. Whether this involves, as it does for many of us, wearing the clothes of the opposite sex, or just learning to see from others' perspectives, it is all a part of our forward progress and growth. In time, possibly, the whole concept of masculine and feminine will no longer be necessary. Perhaps, as we evolve as a species, we will get closer and closer to the unity of ourselves and of all, and as such, a schism will no longer exist between the male and female essences of our being.

Hopefully, the day will come when biological sex is no longer the arbiter of permissible dress and behavior, and it will no longer matter what we choose to wear, nor how we wish to behave, as long as we do no harm to others.

Whether we believe in God, the power of the universe, or the Great Goombah is of little importance. It is faith that is important - faith in ourselves and in the path that we follow. Isn't it time that we accepted ourselves and each other for whatever personal spiritual truth we are called upon to follow?



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Is There a Man in Your Life?

Luanna Rodgers

If you glanced at the headline and answered with a resounding, "No, I'm happily married and 100% heterosexual," you are probably among the majority of male crossdressers. You are attracted to women and love being one yourself - part-time. You may also have forgotten that *you* are the man in your life.

It is certainly enjoyable to go en femme and feel pampered and sensuous, but if you, like most crossdressers, are spending only a small part of your time crossdressed as a female, that means the majority of your time is spent as "him - Mr. Someone." Does it have to be spent as "Mr. Drab," the guy who works hard, but doesn't have any fun? Why leave all the fun to "her?"

What is the quality of the *majority* of your life? As a man, are you: Able to feel sexy and admired, indulge in play and fantasy, feel special? Do you pamper "him" (that's you!) like you pamper "her" (that's also you!)?

You undoubtedly enjoy your femme self-expression and buy special clothes, browse catalogs, and have your private or social times for indulging yourself. Could you do this also as a man? What about some nurturing and pampering for him? He does comprise 90% of your time, doesn't he deserve something? What would he like? A facial? A manicure? Yes, men can do these things! What about a warm bubble bath or a massage? And for clothing, an especially nice suit of fine fabric or fashionable jeans. How about a cashmere sweater or a silk robe? Men can wear soft, sensuous things *as men*. "Mr. Drab" doesn't have to be drab at all.

Many crossdressers report feeling freer, more desirable, and lively en femme. What would it take for you to feel that good all the time? You don't have to hate being a man in order to love being a woman. Find qualities about yourself as a man that you like and appreciate. It's not all "snails and puppy dog's tails," like the old rhyme. Our concept of men has evolved. Men can be "sugar and spice," too, in the form of well-groomed and coifed, sensuous, gentle, with a love of beauty and luxury. Human beings are a blend. One sex doesn't get all the goodies, so don't deprive yourself of feeling alive every day!

Luanna L. Rodgers, M.A. MFCC is a Bay Area psychotherapist specializing in work with the gender community.

Genitals and Gender

Thalia Gravel

"To those who might be inclined to diagnose the transsexual's focus on genitals as obsessive or fetishistic...the response is that they are, in fact, simply conforming to their culture's criteria for gender assignment."

"Transsexuals can make use of the mind/body dualism when arguing for the primacy of their *gender identity* over their original anatomical *sex*, while at the same time insisting on the need to acquire the right *kind of body*." (italics mine)

These two quotes from an article by Judith Shapiro crystallize for me one of the fundamental problems transpersons face when dealing with their self-definition and explaining who they are to the world. When we buy into the idea that transforming genitals creates the manhood or womanhood we seek, we get in bed, so to speak, with those who would deny us our identities precisely because we have genitals that evidently should be telling us who we are *and who we aren't*. Obviously, being product of our society and times, we have difficulty getting beyond all the assumptions that we share with the straight world, even when they are retarding our growth as human beings. I am in no way attempting to deny anyone their desire for reassignment or say that they cannot be happy and more productive post-operatively. What I am concerned about is the notion that we can be drawn into supporting a line of reasoning that has caused us so much grief in the past.

Do we want to have a world of obligatory genital checks for all? The "show me you are a man or woman" syndrome. Can we really say that people with non-functional or non-standard genitals, for whatever reason, aren't fully people? In some cultures, infertile women are given a lesser status because they aren't considered to be totally women, for instance. So, I believe that we may have to be a little more explicit about our desires and expectations and realize that what we want may be partly conformity, partly alleviation of internal conflicts through external means, and, finally, that we define who we are for ourselves.

"It is enormously problematic trying to live as a woman with male sex organs...social pressure is so intense it is hardly a choice. You can never say anything that would hold true for all transsexuals, but I think you can say that for a good half of us, it is the societal pressure that convinces us of the need to change our bodies." Betty, in an interview in *Beauty Secrets*, by Wendy Chapkis.

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A letter from Miss ETVC - Shawna Rose



Dear ETVC Members and Judges,

I am proud and honored to have been chosen as your new Miss ETVC 1993. Furthermore, I would like to thank everyone for their work at making the 1993 Cotillion such a success.

In an effort to guarantee the future success of ETVC, I will do as much outreach as possible, such as public speaking, appearing on television and participating in fundraising events. I will do these things in an effort to ensure that the public is aware of ETVC and that we receive the recognition we deserve.

One of my first goals as Miss ETVC will be to organize an AIDS benefit. By doing so, I hope not only to raise money to fight this horrible disease, but also to show the public that we at ETVC are concerned for our community.

Thanks to everyone,
Shawna Rose
Miss ETVC 1993



The 1993 Miss ETVC Cotillion Contestants, (l-r) Kristen, Robyn R., Shawna, Alexis, Pamela, Robin B., Dianne, Evette, and Lauren



Cotillion Judges (l-r) Betsey Bell Ringer, Emperor Douglass Stromberg, and Professor Bill Jones



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OTHER VOICES...

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Significant Other Support Group

The Significant Other Support Group invites all Significant Others to attend our meetings. Group members define Significant Others as wives, lovers, friends, children and others close to TV/TS persons who are themselves not TV/TS. We encourage you to ask the SO in your own life to attend, particularly if she or he needs support from peers in dealing with feelings about the TV/TS in her or his life. All meetings are kept STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL to help insure that a safe, supportive environment is created in which all attendees feel secure enough to freely share and talk about their feelings. We are frequently assisted by a helping professional with a specialty in our area of concern.

Our next meetings will be on Thursday, March 11, and Thursday, April 8. You are all welcome with open arms. For more information call Ginny at (415) [REDACTED]

Beyond Coping Beverly B.

I find it intriguing to hear how some family members just simply "tolerate" the CD behaviors in their loved one. It's also interesting to hear (secondhand) how one wife was lumping this activity in the same category as the husband's prior gambling or drug-use behaviors.

How many of us are involved in complex co-dependent relationships that have confused each other's needs, limits, and identity issues? Whose problem is it (my favorite question whenever something starts getting to me)? The emotional charge and intensity that CD activities have created in my life certainly remind me very much of my many compulsive, addictive behaviors. So I have started getting out all of my twelve step recovery information to look for answers and to apply those principles to these issues.

Certainly not everyone who drinks alcohol is an alcoholic. Even those who do compulsively drink to their detriment deserve compassion and sympathy for their disease of obsession - not shame, rejection, scorn, or anger (Yea, Al-Anon!).

Any God-given instinct and need can run rampant in those of us who are in denial and trying to hide from our fears and pains. The obsessive thrill of crossdressing can help fuel a fantasy of denial and provide a powerfully reinforcing sense of emotional "charge" that the addictive personality can use to numb out painful feelings. But that does NOT equate crossdressing with drug-abuse, alcoholism, or gambling!! There are twelve step programs for love and sex addicts, co-dependents, and compulsive overeaters. That does not imply that love, intimate support relationships, sex, or food are destructive forces. Because they are powerful motivators and mood-altering factors, it's possible to lose balance with reality and to obsess on an addictive-like need for these things. I happen to be addicted to compulsive eating. It can be very destructive for me. My recovery leads me towards a balanced, sane, abstinent relationship with food—NOT into denial of this problem issue with some rigid control like a compulsive anorexic.

I see crossdressing as a powerful natural urge that has many of the dangers inherent in all these seductive behaviors (eating, sex, depen-

dency, power, drinking, doping, gambling, etc.). Don't believe that this is an obsession of the crossdresser only! It is seductive to the mate as well as the TV. It changes the power equation of the relationship; it puts the mate into a more secure "moral high-ground." It can be an external method of achieving liberation or sexual release. So the allure is bi-directional, whether it is a positive exchange or a demeaning one. In the positive reinforcement, the TV seduces and addicts us to an artificial emotional "fix." In the negative exchange model, there exists the same dynamics that keep women with abusive or addicted mates. They seek to rescue their mate, or perhaps it helps them feel secure in their apparent moral superiority and "normalcy." So the mate can be as dependent upon cross-dressing as the TV, either supporting OR rejecting the CD behavior, in an addictive, or toxic relationship.

So the issue, as I see it, is not to give up a delightful natural God-given desire to express some interesting aspect of ourselves, but to avoid the seduction of yet another obsession. I am looking for a balanced, real, accepting relationship with my husband and with our CD activities. I want to avoid isolation - and shame ("You're only as sick as your secrets"). I want to avoid the compulsive need to alter reality to fit a fantasy and perpetuate denial. Hey! After all, reality is an incredible adventure that I'm only just beginning to be brave enough to go on. I don't want to neglect the other important values in my life. I need to be safe. I need to be respectful of myself and others. I need to take good care of my body. I don't want to feel that my needs are subordinated to Kaye's needs. I don't want to get so caught up in this that I feel my personal limits are violated or unimportant. So those seem to be the core issues of how I try to understand this new part of my life.

Kaye told me (s)he felt really "lucky" to have a supportive mate. I reminded h(im/er) that luck has very little to do with it - we've been working really hard on a lot of really difficult, painful, frightening, personal problems for the past two years. During most of that time, there were few enough rewards or benefits to be enjoyed. I think it's about time we are able to feel the pleasures of a supportive, intimate relationship! I also suspect that this is a major reason for the timing of Kaye's appearance in our lives at

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this time. She's grabbed hold of my mate (who was occasionally known to be rigidly controlling, bigoted, arrogant, homophobic, close-minded, and short-tempered), and drop-kicked him into an accelerated recovery pathway. I've never seen anyone so interested in figuring out their "issues!" As Kaye says, "It's kinda' hard to be intolerant of others when I'm wearing a dress." And it is also kinda' hard for me to continue to replay my victim role and live in the fear of intimacy or trust or surrender with someone who obviously looks as vulnerable as Kaye does. She's even trying to teach me to dance - something I've never been able to relax and enjoy.

Significant Help

Julie Freeman

I have been a member of ETVC since 1988, and for as long as I can remember, Ginny Knuth has been the mainstay of the organization. ETVC members become officers; they work intensely for awhile and then newer ones take over. The work is hard and more often than not, few members have the time or energy to devote to ETVC. But Ginny, without fail, is always there! If a job needs to be done, and no one can be found, Ginny will do it!

If she is not manning the membership table at the Chez, she is organizing a fund-raiser, or hosting a couples social, or leading a significant others group. Hours she spends helping to mail out the ETVC newsletter, and hours she has spent answering the hotline. She is found at the Cotillion meetings, and she attends the Ex-Comm meetings.

What is so interesting is that Ginny is not a T! That is, she is not a TV, a TS, or a TG. She is Nancy Ann's significant other. And Nancy Ann is not just an average ETVC member. She is the ETVC treasurer, a job rife with responsibility. So again Ginny can be found helping with the duties associated with the treasurer, including preparing the treasurer's report and budgets for the various ETVC committees, establishing membership lists, collecting the mail from the ETVC PO Box and distributing it to the officers, etc. I could go on

and on.

It would take a book to list everything Ginny has done for ETVC and the gender community. I wonder how many in ETVC are really aware.

Now that Ginny is recuperating from surgery, SHE will not have the time and energy to spend on ETVC. So it appears that perhaps more of the TV's, TS's, and TG's will have to get involved. And, you know, that is the way it should be!

Winter Poem

by S.K.

It was in the wintertime, in the snow.
 We had a motel room in the pines,
 a shabby room, with no view but the parking lot,
 but for us, an extravagance.
 It was just after New Years
 and before the war, but we knew that war was
 coming,
 and we were scared.
 We turned the heater on and made our room
 warm.
 We were lovers, did I tell you that?
 It is an important part of the story.
 We do together what we cannot do without.
 He is a better storyteller than me.
 He tells a story as if it were a song.
 He weaves the colors of the rainbow with his
 hands,
 and he moves as a man dancing. I love him.
 I love to watch him while he talks.
 Our room in the winter mountain had a private
 bath.
 Not so rare in this part of the world, but a nice
 feature.
 So I went into the bathroom, and took off my
 jacket and my jeans,
 and dressed myself in black.
 I find myself at home in black. It does not
 distract,
 like the colors.
 I dressed myself in black
 and my image in the mirror surprised me, as
 always,
 a magazine display of garter belt and curves.
 And thus I showed myself to him.
 I love to kiss him. He is the most beautiful man I
 know.

I gave him other things that I had brought.
 He dressed himself in pink,
 and thus he showed himself to me in lace
 stockings.
 He finds himself at home in pink. It does not
 imprison him,
 like the grey suits.
 We were like sisters then, but alas, we had no
 lipstick.
 It would have been a fine thing, to have lipstick,
 to paint our mouths red in the wintertime.
 We remarked on this, but we sighed, and did
 without.
 He told me a story then, lying down,
 face to face,
 up close.
 A story that makes me weep even now,
 of how he was discovered in the refuge of the
 closet,
 forty years ago, give or take,
 and ridiculed while tears ran down his face.
 He told it calmly,
 but we held each other like brothers in wartime.
 We walked in the snow.
 Our toes were cold.
 We bought a green dress in a second hand store,
 with sequins on the top, and a long chiffon skirt.
 He looked like a king in that dress, with his
 dancers grace
 and the grey of his beard.
 We bought red underwear in Reno,
 and put our quarters in the slot machines.
 We did not expect to live until the summer.
 We had visions of soldiers marching in the streets,
 visions from old movies,
 not on a par with modern means of destruction.
 In wartime visions,
 I see him hiding in his second story room,
 with his nail polish,
 making himself beautiful while sirens wail in the
 night,
 and the smash of breaking glass outside, nearby.
 He is more beautiful than you or I,
 in his high heeled shoes, with a wine glass in his
 hand.
 I give him what I can.
 I love to feel his warm skin pressed against my
 thighs.
 I love it when he shuts his eyes and moans with
 passion.
 I admire his freedom.
 It is a hard thing, to be a man in pink,
 to move with a dancers grace among the soldiers
 and the liberals.

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Gender and Identity

Dr. Lin Fraser Addresses ETVC

Cori Farrell

ETVC's Education Committee hosted a discussion by Dr. Lin Fraser, a private psychotherapist, on December 12, 1992. Dr. Fraser's primary focus is helping people with general life issues, but this day her discussion was limited to males with two gender identities, a specialization she attributes to the fact that her first patient was a transsexual.

Her counseling style emphasizes unity with the patient, creating an environment in which a person can work on his or her own individuality until a unified self can emerge from the male and female selves.

She described four parts to sex: Biologic, Inner Conviction, Social Role and Orientation/Attraction. These are present in everyone, but we all know that the four parts are not always all male or all female. Lin's work concentrates on people for whom these identities are not stable. She stated that her patients generally have had a poor relationship as children with their primary caregiver, and have developed a "second self," or multiple selves, as protection from abuse or neglect.

Lin detailed three groups of transgendered males, comparing them with regard to gender identity, gender orientation and gender role. The first group displays a female gender identity, are attracted to men, and have a female gender role; the second has a female gender identity, male gender role and an asexual gender orientation, although they may have experimented with gay lifestyles, and, when dressed as a woman, may flirt with straight men. This group tends to appear drab as males, but is more extroverted as females. The third group shows two sets of feelings, male and female, commonly identifying themselves as transvestites who do not want sexual reassignment surgery. They may go on to sex reassignment if the female identity begins to dominate. Lin said that transvestites can be attracted to themselves when crossdressed, to women when dressed as males and to either men or women when dressed as females.

She described three potential results of therapy for men with two gender identities: transsexualism; transvestism, with two stable gender identities; or androgyny with integrated female/male identities, with the possibility of no longer crossdressing.

The presentation was a serious, detailed and cerebral discussion of the phenomenon of multiple gender identity in males. It addressed the heart of what our community is about; and I found Lin's expertise and understanding to be very inspiring.

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Publicly Speaking

Cori Farrell

The attendees were certainly more interesting than those at Comm. 114 back at "Old Purdue," but Roxanne de Lyon's January Education Committee presentation, *Publicly Speaking*, brought back some memories of my old college communication course.

Roxanne, an experienced public speaker and graduate of the Dale Carnegie Course, conducted a workshop on tips and techniques she has learned about speaking to groups of people. Although the discussion focused on the presentation of gender issues to groups such as college students, the information provided was based upon established practices of public speaking in general.

The event was opened by Roxanne giving each attendee the opportunity to introduce herself to the group and then discussing the attributes of each individual's speaking technique. This led to some tips regarding how one should introduce oneself to an audience, establishing credibility, and giving the audience a reason to listen rather than telling one's entire life story.

Roxanne suggested the speaker have things to show the audience, and as an attention-getter, she stripped off her blouse and long skirt to reveal a rather clingy dress underneath. She also used this to make the point that the speaker should not be afraid to look silly. Another point stressed was that the speaker needs to be prepared to work with the audience, and speaking should be done to individuals within the audience. Eye contact was cited as very important.

The concept most stressed by Roxanne was that the speaker should present the image of a "healer," interested in helping the audience to accomplish or learn something. She said one should avoid telling people what they should do or think, allowing value judgments to come from the audience. Another pitfall she cautioned to avoid was the presentation of the "politically correct" image of crossdressing. Instead, she suggested that the speaker present her own "truth."

These ideas have great value in any form of outreach, and both the audience and Roxanne had tremendous fun discussing them.

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Outreach Miscellany

Telzey Adams

This column has missed several issues, but the work of the Outreach Committee goes on. Some of our activities, most of which could use your help:

The SPEAKERS BUREAU is carried by Thalia and her volunteers, appearing at colleges, clubs, TV and radio. New people are always needed, especially those with unusual interests. We train you. If you have any interest, see Thalia or me at end of the month socials or Wednesday Hang Out Nights at the Chez, or write us c/o ETVC, POB 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486, or leave a message at the Hotline, (510) 549-2665.

The HOTLINE has been on-line for over one year, with volunteers answering live, Tuesday through Friday, 7 PM to 10 PM. We will start a new training session soon. The Hotline is your opportunity to be the first contact for a wide variety of people for a few nights each month. You don't have to leave home to do it. Good conversationalists with pleasant phone voices and a willing ear, please contact me by any of the methods related above.

The TELEPHONE TREE is still used occasionally to get out late breaking news to members about interesting shows on TV or in the theater, date changes and so forth. Send us your telephone number with area code and what name to ask for. Needed are responsible people willing to be the top of a branch, getting a call and passing it on to six more people. Tell me you love telephone work.

The TV CABLE SHOW PROJECT moves slowly forward. At least three other clubs around the country have already gone on the air (so to speak). We have been slowed by lack of money, and the difficulty of reaching a significant part of the Bay Area. If you want to help, or have ideas about the ultimate content of the show, please see Evette through any of the methods related above, or come to an Outreach Committee meeting.

Our next meetings will be at the Chez Mollet, Wednesday, March 10, and Wednesday, April 14, at 8 PM. Come for dinner or a drink. Bring some ideas and an open mind. New, large projects aren't needed and we don't pass out work to those who don't beg for it. But, still, Lauren and I would like to interest more people in these projects so that they will be carried forward.

Back issues of the ETVC Newsletter are still available, originals or reprints, to 1985. A buck apiece. Write to the club address or see me.

Found at the Cotillion and January Social: An earring and two bracelets.



IFGE Board of Directors Meets in S.F.

by Roxanne de Lyon

To provide community access, the Board of the International Foundation for Gender Education had its quarterly meeting in conjunction with our very own Cotillion. Roxanne and Nancy Ann were proud to blow away the rest of the Board with the level of support shown by our membership at the Friday night dinner and Sunday afternoon victory brunch. We had plenty of opportunities to hear and be heard. President Cindy Martin made a formal presentation at the Board meeting, where she laid out our wish list, and gave a strong nudge to ETVC's anti-defamation project.

Thanks for the visit, IFGE!

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Cindy at Large

I'm learning a lot about power lately, and how it might work between men and women. It ain't pretty.

Because I have been in bars much more than normal for ETVC promotional activities, I've found myself approached by men fairly often. I'm not going to try and pretend that I pass so wonderfully well that they took me for a woman. These guys absolutely knew that I was a transvestite because all the encounters happened in gay bars.

Let me digress a moment: Occasionally while in my male role I've been approached by gay men who have mistaken me for someone who might be interested. Typically, a very simple "no" is plenty and they're gone.

Now I'm not going to start bashing men here and claim that every person who approached me (we're only talking about a handful anyway) while I was en femme was obnoxious and disrespectful. On the contrary, most who made overtures were quite pleasant and solicitous when I made it clear I wasn't interested in more than a chat.

But there was that minority who were not so nice. These guys started out quite reasonably, but just wouldn't take no for an answer. For them it was clear that the power relationship wasn't one of equals, but rather one of superior (them) and subordinate (me). Since I was not an equal, my protests weren't to be taken very seriously.

There was something else too: Fear. In my male-male encounters, the fact that I am not a big person has never mattered. I never worried about physical repercussions from my rejections. Yet when I was dressed, I found myself genuinely concerned that if I pushed the guy away too hard he might get angry and attack me.

I didn't like that sensation at all. Who would? Looking back, I cannot tell you whether the baddies would treat a real

woman the way they treated me, or whether I got the full load because I'm a crossdresser. But I can say that my wife and female friends have told me that the way these guys acted is very similar to what women get every day. No wonder they write so many books about what jerks guys are.

Thanks to all who came to the Cotillion, I hope you had a wonderful time. Extra special thanks to Alameda-Contra Costa Empress Raven Madd and the East Bay Imperial and Ducal Courts for turning out and showing their support. We won't forget that. The same goes out to SF Empress Velveeta (the Grate) Mozzarella and those from the Imperial Court who had a major gay community commitment on the same night, but put in an appearance (and bought tickets) to our show. Thanks babes!

IFGE was also in evidence on Cotillion Weekend. The Executive Board of the International Foundation for Gender Education was in town for one of their quarterly meetings. These ladies were well represented at all the Cotillion activities and it was a pleasure to have them there. I must say that I was especially thrilled to meet the legendary Virginia Prince, who established the world's first transvestite club in the early 1960s. It was also a real treat to meet Linda and Cynthia Phillips, of the Boulton and Park Society, San Antonio, TX. Extremely active both in their own town and nationally, this lovely couple have been married 35 years (!). Unfortunately, they had the ultimate SF experience: their car was towed their first day in town. Boo.

Poignant article by an 11 year old girl in a recent edition of the Canadian Crossdresser magazine. While expressing support for her Dad, this young child also described how worried she was that her friends would find out, and how hard it was to keep a secret like the one she now has. More thought provoking than a million adult written words.

And finally, this question: why do people open their mouths when they put on mascara???

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What Can We Do Next?

Roxanne de Lyon

Gosh, I love writing my own headlines. A couple of people said it was OK...so, why not? Everyone wants to know, when the slide show will be out in video? Probably already. There are about 350 images in the show. If a picture is worth a thousand words then seeing the show represents reading 350,000 words in eight minutes. Approximately like reading the phone book while waiting for a phone booth? Naw, c'mon. There is a great need and demand for visual aids in the gender education field and the participants in this project had a great time, so why not make some more educational presentations?

Our club is blessed with a number of successful couples who have no doubt had to alter their expectations of a traditional marriage to accommodate gender variations. Why not enhance our couples meeting with a group of couples willing to make a video of themselves sharing their secrets of success?

There are also couples who are *struggling* with their gender encumbered relationship. Why not have them present honestly and forthrightly the issues that trouble them and the solutions they are exploring. How many of you wish you could have seen such videos in the beginning?

Finally I'd like to see something for the single gender person seeking recognition, companionship and friendship.

We are moving away from being a group of people merely needing to find each other to a coalescent group with an opportunity to communicate a different lifestyle. This is a chance to work together forming stronger community bonds and more solid relationships. If you're interested in working in these or other community projects, write to me c/o ETVC or talk to me at any of our numerous events. Share your ideas; dare to wreak creativity.



P.R. Program Targets Anti-Defamation

by Roxanne de Lyon, Director of Public Relations

We now have a public relations director, so I was told. Let this be a lesson to you: be light on your feet - I wasn't - I got hit. Actually I am proud to be honored with the responsibilities of this position. There is a mission, a need, and hope, and lots of people wanting to do...something. It's time we took this show on the road. Time to take control of the creation and maintenance of our own image. We may not have a department yet, but we have a public relations interface module. We can talk and write to the real world.

Hmmm! Now what do we say? Who should hear? Who said something negative about our lifestyle? We can tell 'em there's a lot of people who didn't like that. Who said something that furthered our cause? Let's praise and encourage them, let them

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know a lot of people watch, listen and like.

Though some may think otherwise, I can't be everywhere at once (even with two personalities). I need eyes and ears (and minds and makeup). When the Director of Public Relations speaks, or writes a letter on department stationery, it means 400 people have spoken; it has clout. So, to implement this program, we need information about who is writing and producing what in the media. We need to know when it happened, the medium (newspaper, radio, TV, movie, book, etc.) and the message (a brief synopsis is sufficient). This is a safe and easy opportunity for you to participate in the next level of the gender revolution. So, transmit your information and ideas to Roxanne de Lyon c/o ETVC P.O. Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486 or leave a message on the ETVC Hot Line: (510) 549-2665.

Question: What were your Cotillion highlights?

Place: Chez Mollet January Social

Dianne Summers, Sacramento: Actually, there are two. As a contestant, one of my highs was in the talent portion, when I really did get into the song and into the audience and into the music. It was coming out of me and it was in my pores and I felt *great*. The other moment was being able to keep my nails for a week after the Cotillion, and only breaking one of them in a *whole* week. I think my Cotillion participation was a once in a lifetime experience, where you meet people, you work hard, you work together, you get to know each other on a very intimate and personal basis, and then you put out your best. Whatever the reaction is, it's a plus. And if you haven't done it you don't know what the feeling is.



Dianne Sheppard, Alameda: The highlights for me are usually the entertainment. I think they do a wonderful job. I thought the entertainment this time was really great. The level of the contestants gets better every year. I wouldn't have wanted to be a judge. The final decision must have been very difficult. I think the stage crew and the lighting crew were very together. This is nice to see, because it hasn't always been that way. I've been backstage, and I know how it is. My compliments to the people backstage who make the thing work. I thought the evening was a success. I felt proud of ETVC.



Tyrrell Stanley, Fremont: I must say, there were quite a number of beautiful evening gowns, but the one in my eyes that took the cake - on the stage or off - had to be Lauren's chocolate evening dress. It was really cool. Anna Maria Ferrari and I worked the spotlights, and the sound of the hall made it hard to hear on the headsets. Some the mishaps that took place came because you were trying to listen to the headset and not watching what you were doing, so the spotlight drifted off one or two people. All in all it was quite interesting and quite fun. As a result of our work at the Cotillion, we've been asked to do another show with the Imperial Court of San Jose. We will be appearing on lights March 6 at the San Jose coronation



Lulu Blau, Mission District of San Francisco: This was my first Cotillion. Just being there was great. I was quite pleased that Shawna won. It was a fun thing. I'm very quiet, and it was something that was easy to fit into and float around and get to know a few people, talk to people. What I didn't expect at all was to find a parking place about 50 feet from the door after searching around for half and hour and missing the buffet. I think what surprised me the most is that it was a real mixed community. There was what appeared to be a very straight part of the crowd, with ETVC people and their wives, and the gay community, as well, all co-existing happily. It was exciting to see that.



Woman Surrounds Me

by Michael

*Woman surrounds me
Haunts me
controls my thoughts and dreams
Woman's things
Faces, legs, breasts
Shapely clothing enslaves my attention
Living unconsciously
 controlled and driven by my suppressed needs
The femme defines my masculine
 which wanders facelessly and aimlessly
 through misty swamps and forests
 finding no place to rest.*

*The evening gown sharply defines the imperative
the manacles grow heavier as I draw
 closer to my sugar coated betrayal
Like Adam, I discover that the biting
 of the apple reveals the shame
the shame of being a male but failing to be a man.*

*It is with absolutely no hope that I step into the fog
This undefined identity for which I have no teacher
for which I have both feared and longed
Driven by the desperate knowledge of the
 impossibility of being a
 male in a woman's world*

*Knowing that to stay would require total transformation
and the death of an unlived soul*

*And so I stand perched on the edge of decision
I could give in to the comfort of silk and a soft voice
But I grow nauseous at the thought
I plunge into the forest
 fear hot on my heels*

*with the mocking laughter of those who would not dare,
of my brothers,
ringing in ears.*

