E T V C N E W S L E T T E R

VOLUME THIRTEEN, NUMBER 1, JULY— AUGUST, 1994

THE CHANNEL

Human Rights Commission Holds Hearing

J.K. Bentley

On May 12 members of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission held the long-awaited "Investigation into discrimination against the transgendered community." The event was held in the Supervisor's Chambers at San Francisco City Hall, with Supervisor Terrence Hallinan present. Chaired by Commissioner Jeanette Lazam, the hearing took 4 1/2 hours and covered topics such as "Employment, Housing and Services" discrimination, "Policies and Practices of City Departments," "Transgender Communities of Color," "Youth and Family," and "How Agencies and Organizations Serve the Transgender Community."



FTM Stephen Thorn of S.F.P.D. received thunderous applause while giving testimony at HRC hearings . (Swift Silver Photo)

"In my 35 years of government service," said legislative analyst Shelley Salieri, "I have never seen a better run hearing. It was on schedule - which is remarkable for any hearing - points were made intelligently and succinctly, and the transgender community did great credit to itself." Ms. Salieri, who works for Supervisors Alioto and Hallinan, is herself vying for a seat on the Board of Supervisors in November.

At least a score of people from the transgendered community spoke, led by Kiki Whitlock, the first transgendered person to serve on the HRC's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Advisory Committee. ETVC was represented by Jane Kamper Bentley, who urged the commissioners to consider the needs of crossdressers, as well as transsexuals; and by Ginny Knuth, speaking in behalf of significant others, who said "When our loved ones are hurt by discrimination, we hurt, too." ETVC members Jennifer [redacted], Paul Haines and Miss ETVC Lauren Hotchkiss spoke in the public testimony portion. Francis Vavra, of both FTM and ETVC, talked about his experience of prejudice, as did FTM Director James Green, Max Wolf and Shadow. The entire proceedings were video taped by ETVC's new Multi-media committee: Paul Haines, Jennifer [redacted], Sherry and the ubiquitous Tyrell Stanley.

Spokespeople from the public and civil service sector, some of which have not in the past shown friendliness to transgender people, on this evening pledged themselves to greater understanding and sensitivity. Especially gratifying were pledges of fair treatment by the police department representative. To underscore the point, he presented Sergeant Stephan Thorn. Sergeant Thorn, a female-to-male transsexual, received thunderous, prolonged applause as San Francisco's first self-acknowledged transsexual police officer. He said that his coming out was aided by passage last November of Proposition L, which guarantees job protection for all City employees, and encouraged passage of legislation to give the same protections to all citizens.

Commissioners declared that they were favorably impressed by the quality of testimony. Two weeks after the hearing, Ms. Salieri reported that the Board of Supervisors will be considering comprehensive legislation this summer which should be ready for the mayor's signature by mid to late October.

The staff of the HRC who organized this event so successfully were most notably Larry Brinkin, Cynthia Goldstein and intern Edward Kaufman.

In The Channel...

ETVC On-Line... It's Time to get plugged-in! Everything you need to know to take advantage of the oncoming ETVC BBS. ...Page 6

Transgender Fiction Corner... Veronica Smith reviews three novels wherein transgenderism is featured ...Page 10

Embracing Transgender Diversty... Who needs rednecks and bigots when there's plenty of discrimination right here in Transgendered River City! ...Page 11

Eve of Mistresses... Whips are cracked to bring out the ladies at Kimo's. ...Page 11

New Additions to the ETVC Book Lending Library... ...Page 16

ETVC Logo Contest... With "gender" meaning so much more to so many people, it's time to change our logo to reflect ETVC's broader appeal. ...Page 20

THE CHANNEL

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

OFFICERS

President	Jane Kamper Bentley
Vice-President	Lisa Maxwell
Secretary	Barbara [redacted]
Treasurer	Jano Bogg
Education	Ayme Kantz & Kristen St. James
Outreach	Lauren Hotchkiss & Francis Vavra
Social	Jackie Conner & Jennifer [redacted]

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Membership (as of 5/31/94)	456
1993 Membership	443
New members this year	99

TREASURER'S REPORT

4/1/94 Balance	$ 4883.72
April Income	$ 1547.29
April Expenses	$ 2675.37
4/30/94 Balance	$ 3755.64
May Income	$ 3611.30
May Expenses	$ 1052.37
5/31/94 Balance	$ 6314.57

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

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ADRATES

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

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

HOTLINE 510-[redacted]
VOICEMAIL 415-[redacted]

EDITORS NOTES

Kevin Horwitz

In addition to the regular columns, this issue focuses on the recent HRC Hearings at San Francisco City Hall. Although the hearings have already been widely publicized, many ETVC members have chosen to write more on this topic — to articulate their own personal experiences. I guess the hearings are a concrete and collective step towards transgender rights. They involve everybody, and signify the beginning of a powerful, united voice. The HRC articles reflect the various perspectives of our regular contributors, and map a historical trail as well. In the pursuit of balance, a somewhat meaty selection of literary reviews is also presented, along with the regular columnists' narratives. Speaking of regular columnists, several are missing this issue for a variety of reasons and will appear in the next issue as usual.

Other news includes: the recent election of officers (pictured on "The Back Page"); the fact that Sandy Kasten received this year's Member of the Year Award; and, of course, the usual array of exotic social events, which range from bowling to bingo to dressmaking to S/M fantasy play. ETVC is currently reaching out to the transsexual community, and would especially like more FTM members. Plans are in the wind to give the "New Woman" column a name which is nondirectional. In fact, this might be a good time for female-to-male crossdressers, transsexuals, and transgenderists to participate in the fledgling efforts of a "balancing" act which will undoubtedly take several years to complete. FTM involvement is important so that ETVC, as an organization, will be able to incorporate FTM interests - social and otherwise - into its format.

Finally, on an earthier note, I want to mention the fact that as our community diversifies, so do the articles, announcements, and letters which comprise the bulk of **The Channel.**. I have created the "announcement" section in sheer self-defense - because we receive so many requests for the support of current — and relevant — political causes. Transgender healthcare inclusion, for instance, is an important agenda item in Clinton's upcoming healthcare proposal. Even so, it's not feasible for ETVC to enclose sample letters or lists of senators in the bulk mailing. Requests such as these have routinely been condensed into the "announcement" section of **The Channel,** and this is likely to continue. I hope everybody can come to grips with "reality" and continue working hard to make our futures brighter.

LETTERS

Dear Friends,

I'm writing on behalf of Neutral Corner, your sister group in San Diego. I recently attended California Dreamin' 94 in Burbank, and had the opportunity to speak with several ETVC sisters there, who told me about your many great social and educational programs. We also receive your excellent newsletter on a regular basis. We would like to send a warm hug to all readers of ETVC Newsletter and let you know a little about who we are.

Neutral Corner dates back to the late 1970s, when then-graduate student Vince Huntington was researching transgender issues. To obtain information, he advertised for "crossdressing men to meet in a nonthreatening environment for mutual support and education." Under his aegis, crossdressers came together for the first time. This aggregate of individuals began to develop their own group identity. In the early 1980s, it was decided to establish a non-affiliated local gender group.

Around 1984 the name Neutral Corner was chosen to convey the image of a safe place, as well as a nonaligned member of the diverse gender community. Incorporated status followed as a non-profit organization. Meetings were initially held in members' private homes. But by 1988, there were so many that a public place was needed to accomodate them. Membership dropped in the short run as many feared public exposure. But members returned and NC continued to grow.

The composition of the group also changed. Originally, NC was largely a couple's group. An influx of cross dress-

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

ers changed the group's complexion. Neutral Corner is now open to couples, singles, and transsexuals. As of 1994, NC's membership list includes over 90 people. It is managed by a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, librarian, and newsletter editor. We meet once a month for a dinner meeting. There are often speakers on topics ranging from make up application to transsexualism to psychology and counseling issues. Our monthly newsletter "Reflections" keeps members apprised of group and gender community events.

As Neutral Corner enters its 10th year as an organization, it looks forward to an increasing membership and reaching out to our sisters in San Francisco. Feel free to write to us at P.O. Box 12581, San Diego CA 92112 for more information. Remember us, we are your sisters in sunny San Diego!

Keep in Touch,
Melanie Yarborough, Newsletter Editor
Neutral Corner

Dear Editor,

Kathy [redacted] letter in the May/June '94 Newsletter spurred my thinking about the role that the non-transgendered play in the lives, health and growth of individuals in the transgender community. I was surprised to read that a non-transgender supporter of the community could be seen as a weakening force and that it was assumed that a therapist would be speaking for rather than in addition to transgendered individuals.

And as for "using someone who is not transgendered to speak for transgender rights", I do not see a problem. If I don't stand up for my black/lesbian/transgendered sisters' rights, mine might be the next to be abridged. As a participant in the planning for the upcoming LGBTAC Public Hearings, I was impressed at the broad spectrum of individuals invited to testify. Not a word in opposition was raised when invited speakers were identified as nontransgendered although there was ample opportunity to object at the time.

As a nontransgendered individual, I would like to support the transgender community in the ways I best know how — through my work as a psychotherapist and my chosen role as a community activist when I believe individuals or groups are being oppressed. I feel badly to know that at least one group, TN, "united in anger: does not welcome my efforts and cannot see the value of diversity in their struggle."

Lastly, I would like to express the differing view that the voice of a psychotherapist on behalf of a principle, does not automatically contaminate it. Only the most ignorant will presume that the subjects about whom a therapist is concerned are necessarily "mentally ill."

These people will rarely set aside their prejudices against all that is familiar to them just because they are addressed only by the transgendered communiy. A far more effective approach is to target an enlightened audience and expose them to speakers with whom they can identify. Then trust the process. Thank you, ETVC, for opening your organization to all who are interested and supportive.

Sincerely,
Barbara F. Anderson, M.S.W., Ph. D.
Certified Sex Therapist and Clinical Sexologist

Dear Community Outreach members,

I want to thank you for your recent presentation on gender for my class at De Anza College. The information and presentation of gender related material was an invaluable addition to my class. The committment and openness of your speakers (this presentation, specifically Melissa and Rachel) offered my class an excellent opportunity to learn an abundance about gender issues. Thank you for your candidness, humor and availability — and for driving out and spending a late evening with us. I hope we have the opportunity to work together again soon — in the meantime, best wishes for a warm, happy and healthy spring!!

Again, Many thanks
Sincerely,
Angela Block
Sociology, De Anza College

Presidents Message

J. K. Bentley

First, some thanks and praises. As you know, we have seven new officers on the ETVC Executive Committee. They replace a group which has figured importantly this past year, and, for some, many years before. President Cindy Martin, for example, leaves the ExCom having changed its character and effectiveness immeasurably for the better. It was Cindy who coaxed our dormant non-profit aspirations to life and, with the expertise and hard work of Sandy Kasten aided by Ginny Knuth and Nancy Ann Martine, shepherded the work to completion. It was she who disciplined the ExCom into drawing up realistic budgets and sticking to them, inaugurated our Anti-defamation effort, spearheaded the ban on smoking and ran meetings that got things done. We will reap the rewards of Cindy's efforts for many years.

Vice-president Dianne Summers has widened the scope of our Cotillions beyond what anybody dreamed. When she wanted to move it to the Russian Center, she had to do it over the protests of myself and others. In the end we naysayers were shown to be wrong and her "gamble" proved to be splendidly successful. People raved. ETVC made big bucks. And now our friends in the gay community have followed her lead and will stage some of their biggest events at the Russian Center.

Nancy Ann Martine served longer on the ExCom than anybody, nine years or more in the thankless task of treasurer. In addition, she and Ginny early made contacts with the gay community that have been crucial to our club. Our participation in Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day would not have been possible without them. Our long stint at Chez Mollet, the fact that the door was always open to us at Lily's, or that we enjoy Kimo's as a venue for mid-month socials, educational events and TS seminars, is due directly to the bridges they built and continue to maintain.

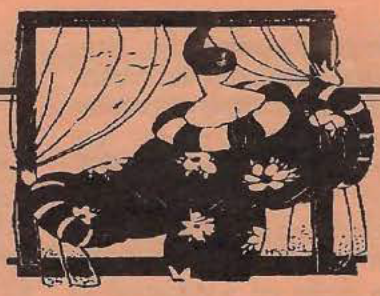
Trina Martina [redacted] lately our Social Co-chair, but previously Education Co-chair, and before that two term President, and before that Outreach Co-chair, was ExCom's premier utility player. Whenever a gap had to be filled, there she was. She has also been our liaison to RGA and SGA, serving prominently in those organizations, as well. And nobody - NOBODY - knows the by-laws as well as she, or could be more fair in sharing her knowledge, even if it worked against an issue she supported.

Happily for ETVC, although Telzey leaves ExCom after serving many years as Outreach Co-chair, she will remain on the Outreach Committee. Answering telephone calls and volumes of letters with requests for information, servicing ETVC's hotline and much more, Telzey quietly performs tasks vital to

Continued on page 6

SEND IN YOUR DUES NOW

Special Events



Hijra - A Way Of Life

Wednesday, July 20

Recently returned from her sabatical in India, Anne Ogborn will share with us her experience of joining and living with the respected Hijra community (transgendered people who hold spiritual positions). It will be a fascinating video presentation and interactive dance performance reflecting the lives of these exceptional people, who are revered and sought after by families to complement important Indian ceremonies with their rituals, costumes and dance. Kimo's 8pm $3.

ETVC Dance Socials at Kimo's

Wednesday, July 13 and Wednesday,August 10

Nothing to do on a Wednesday night? Come to Kimo's (Polk at Pine, S.F.) upstairs, and dance the night away. ETVC dance socials are the second Wednesday of every month. Come, join the fun! Starts at 8 pm; No admission fee.

Friendship Bingo

Thursday, July 28 at Eichelberger's

Come join us for a night of fun, laughs, good times, and good friends. Friendship Bingo is a great game. Fill your bingo card with names of old friends and new ones. then, get them all in a row and... BINGO!... The best prize is all the new friendships made, but material rewards will be given to all that hit Bingo. Starts at 8 p.m.; $3 for members, $5 for guests.

Beauty Secrets

Wednesday, August 17

Is your face capable of launching a thousand ships, or do you feel it will sink the Titanic? Find out for sure as *Channel* columnist Bill Jones presents a practical evening of makeup techniques and beauty secrets. Bill will select members of the audience for critiques and touchups so that you can learn what's best for you, the do's and don'ts of application and which colors to use (and avoid)! Even if you've been doing it for years, there's always something new to learn in today's world of fashion and beauty. Don't miss this one! Kimo's 8pm $3

The Night of Androgyny

Thursday, August 25th, at Eichelberger's

Ever seen Pat from Saturday Nite Live? Well, Pat lives in the heart of us all, and this is the night to let Pat out. It may be difficult to hide your preferred gender, but androgyny is the mood. Come find out if you can tell what gender "Pat" is. Special grand prize for the best androgynous look. Starts at 8 p.m.; $3 for members, $5 for guests.

TS Seminar/Social

Sunday, August 21

Life as a transsexual is certainly a challenging one, but sometimes it can be downright dangerous! Join SFPD Sgt. Stephan Thorne (an FTM transitioning on the job!) as he teaches us easy-to-learn self-defense techniques. All attendees will be certified in the use of Pepper Spray (certification is mandatory if you want to carry this weapon)! Our TS Social will follow immediately after the seminar with drink specials and buffet. This will be an empowering afternoon for all self-identified transsexuals. Kimo's 2pm FREE!!

ETVC Socials, Part II

Since February of this year we have expanded our social schedule to include mid-month events at Kimo's (Polk and Pine St., San Francisco). These are held on the second Wednesday of each month, and thus far we have had very good attendance...so pencil us into your social schedule.

Now, I know, we advertise these as "dance socials" and you might be thinking, "I'm too tired on Wednesday night to go out to some crowded, noisy dance club." You'll be pleased to know that Kimo's is different. The atmosphere is more akin to a cafe with a DJ, so between dances you can socialize with your friends (and yes - in our group, that person you met two minutes ago is very much your friend). You may have heard that finding a parking spot in the Polk Street area is a bit like grabbing a handful of Mercury, but remember, this is Wednesday Night and parking is rather easy to find on weeknights.

We are becoming a regular crowd at Kimo's, thanks to those who attend our events there, and thanks to the Kimo's staff, who have been nothing short of fantastic. If you have not made it to our mid-month socials yet, make a point of being there July 13 and August 10. Jane will be there to greet you with a bouquet of something (ah...the aroma of catnip in the Summer...) and we promise you an evening you will want to repeat. And we will.

Gender Bowling Night

All levels welcome

Third Friday of each month

Call (415) [redacted]

TV/TS/TG GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

A Calendar of Events for July & August

JULY					
1	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510)
1	RGA	Social	Meets at 8PM	San Jose	(408)
3	**ETVC**	**Education Committee**	**Meets at 1 PM**	**San Francisco**	**(415)**
5	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510)
8	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510)
8	**ETVC**	**Poker Social**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**San Francisco**	**(415)**
8	South Bay	Gender Discussion Group	Meets 8-10 PM	San Jose	(408)
9	**ETVC**	**Executive Committee**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Palo Alto**	**(415)**
9	SGA	Dinner/Social	Starts at 8 PM	Sacramento	(916)
10	FTM	Informational Meeting	Meets 2 PM	San Francisco	(510)
11	**ETVC**	**Outreach Committee**	**Meets at 7:30 PM**	**Berkeley**	**(510)**
13	**ETVC**	**Dance Social**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Kimo's-Upstairs**	**(415)**
14	**ETVC**	**Significant Others**	**Meets 7:30-10 PM**	**Union City**	**(415)**
15	**ETVC**	**Bowling Night**	**Call for details**	**San Francisco**	**(415)**
15	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408)
15	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510)
18	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510)
20	**ETVC**	**The Hijra**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Kimo's-Upstairs**	**(415)**
21	**ETVC**	**Couples Group**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**San Leandro**	**(415)**
22	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510)
23	SGA	Dinner/Social	Starts at 8 PM	Sacramento	(916)
26	**ETVC**	**Social Committee**	**Meets at 8 PM**	**Pacifica**	**(415)**
28	**ETVC**	**Friendship Bingo**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Eichelberger's**	**(415)**
29	RGA	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	Sunnyvale	(408)
31	**ETVC**	**Education Committee**	**Meets at 1 PM**	**San Francisco**	**(415)**
AUGUST					
2	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510)
5	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408)
5	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510)
6	**ETVC**	**Executive Committee**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**TBA**	**(415)**
8	**ETVC**	**Outreach Committee**	**Starts at 7:30 PM**	**Berkeley**	**(510)**
10	**ETVC**	**Dance Social**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Kimo's-Upstairs**	**(415)**
11	**ETVC**	**Significant Others**	**Meets 7:30-10 PM**	**Oakland**	**(415)**
12	**ETVC**	**Poker Social**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**San Francisco**	**(415)**
12	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510)
12	South Bay	Gender Discussion Group	Meets 8-10 PM	San Jose	(408)
13	SGA	Dinner/Social	Starts at 8 PM	Sacramento	(916)
14	FTM	Informational Meeting	Starts at 2 PM	San Francisco	(510)
15	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510)
17	**ETVC**	**ETVC Beauty Secrets**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Kimo's -Upstairs**	**(415)**
19	**ETVC**	**Bowling Night**	**Call for details**	**San Francisco**	**(415)**
19	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408)
19	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510)
21	**ETVC**	**TS Seminar**	**Starts at 2 PM**	**Kimo's-Upstairs**	**(415)**
21	**ETVC**	**Family Picnic Day**	**Starts at 11 AM**	**Castro Valley**	**(510)**
23	**ETVC**	**Social Committee**	**Meets at 8 PM**	**Pacifica**	**(415)**
25	**ETVC**	**Night of Androgyny**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Eichelberger's**	**(415)**
26	RGA	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	Sunnyvale	(408)
27	SGA	Dinner/Social	Starts at 8 PM	Sacramento	(916)

OTHER GROUPS

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

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)[redacted]

Sacramento Gender Association (SGA) Blue Rose Chapter meets 8 PM the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month at The Sierra Inn, at Fulton & Auburn Blvd. Write: PO Box 215456, Sacramento, CA 95821. Call: (916)[redacted]

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)[redacted]

The Tenderloin Self-Help Center (a project of the Central City Community Hospitality House funded by the Community Mental Health Services) TV/TG/TS Support Group meets every Wednesday, 3:30 - 5 PM, 191 Golden Gate Ave., San Francisco. Call: (415)[redacted]

FTM, a support group for Female-to-Male crossdressers & transsexuals, holds both open, Informational Meetings, and closed, Support Meetings. Write: FTM, [redacted] Oakland, CA 94618. Call: Voice Mail (510)[redacted]

ETVC Membership Application

Please Print

Mailing Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Preferred Name: _____ Family Member's Name: _____ (If Applicable)

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

How did you learn about ETVC? _____

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

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

Please remit by check or money order to:

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

ETVC Bulletin Board to go Online Soon

by Jamie Faye Fenton

This summer, the ETVC Computer Bulletin Board System (BBS) will enter service. Personal computer users will be able to call in, send and receive electronic mail messages, and access a library of information about transgender matters.

The equipment requirements to access the ETVC BBS are modest. Almost any model of personal computer will do nicely. A used IBM-PC computer with a small hard disk and a monitor can be purchased for around $250. $50 more will buy a modem (a device which connects the computer to a telephone line). Often the seller will include a printer for $50 or $100 or more.

If you have the money, you will want to get a more powerful personal computer that can display color graphics and run Microsoft Windows. While not needed to get on our BBS, the extra power will make playing games, doing chores, and using online services like Prodigy and America On-line much easier.

Another alternative is to get an Apple Macintosh system. Any Mac will suffice for calling the BBS, or for games, chores, and other services. You will still need a separate modem. Mac prices are not much higher than those for IBM compatibles, and Macs are definitely easier to setup and use.

Setting up the computer is getting easier all the time. Unfortunately the part of the setup ritual involving the modem can still be difficult. If you buy the modem at the same time as you buy the computer, you will have fewer difficulties. if this is not possible, try and find someone whom you can call on if things don't seem to work right. There are several ETVC members who would be glad to help you join our on-line community, just get a message to me and one of us will help you through.



ETVC Photographer and resident BBS guru Jamie Faye Fenton

Most modems that are Hayes compatible should work OK for accessing the BBS. Modems are rated at how fast they can send and receive data over the phone line. The unit of speed is called BAUD, a word that means "bits per second." As it takes 10 bits of computer information to represent each letter in a word, dividing the baud rate by 10 gives you an idea as to how fast the words will be drawn on the screen.

Needless to say, the faster tha baud rate, the happier you will be. Speeds range from 300 baud to over 14400 baud. Modems that go slower than 1200 baud are considered obsolete, so expect one to be "thrown into the deal" for nothing. A 14400 baud modem should cost around $120, while a 2400 baud model goes for around $60 new. The ETVC BBS will handle 14400 baud data, so if you can afford it, it is the way to go.

To use the modem, one runs a program on the computer called a terminal program. This program turns your computer into a teletype machine. There are many terminal programs available, almost all will work OK. Some of them are free or available from the authors for a modest payment. I use a program called Microphone. An excellent program for the Mac is ZTerm-9 (the PC version is called QModem).

Those who just can't wait to test their systems are invited to call the Rainbow Gender Association Computer BBS at (408)-248-4162. ETVC will be using similar software, and we hope someday to link the systems together.

Jamie Faye Fenton can be reached using the ETVC voicemail system at 415-[redacted] box number 5264.

Presidents Message, Continued from page 3

the life of this club. I am pleased and grateful to say that she will continue her Outreach Committee support.

Cori, retiring as Social Co-chair, leaves behind a legacy of hard work and resourcefulness. When Lenny Mollet announced the closing of the Chez, Cori got right out and beat the bushes for a new place. A lot of bushes had to be beat before she found Eichelberger's. I tried to talk her into staying on the ExCom, but she's got this job that works her seven days a week. "Couldn't you give the eighth day to us?" I asked. No deal. At least she stays on as our newsletter advertising director.

I will always remember Education Co-chair Evette as being able to bicycle to ExCom meetings in the most remote places. Like Martina, a utility player, she was active on the Outreach and Cotillion committees. I trust that involvement will continue, along with something she has pushed and pushed for until it burst into life, our new Multi-Media Committee.

We, the new ExCom, have been handed a splendid legacy of accomplishment by our predecessors. Each accomplishment, of course, begets new challenges. Now that we have non-profit status, how do we use its tax benefits to help ETVC to grow? Can we continue to measure up to the high standards set at this year's Cotillion? How do we use our new multi-media capability to reach out to the thousands of transgendered people and millions of the general public who don't know about us?

I have a lot of confidence in our new ExCom. Even though many of us are new to ETVC, many of us also come to office with years of experience in other organizations. In the next couple of months we will be forging our agenda for the coming year.

You don't have to be an officer to come to Executive Committee meetings. Some of the most effective ExCom work done this past year was accomplished by general members such as Attorney Sandy Kasten, Voice Mail expert Jamie Faye Fenton, Newsletter Editor Kevin Horwitz, Renaissance person Jano Bogg and ever-present, ever-thoughtful, ever-watchful Ginny...to name just a few. ... Join us.

The International Congress On Cross Dressing, Sex and Gender

Call For Papers

The International Congress On Cross Dressing, Sex and Gender has issued it's first call for papers for presentation at the Congress to be held at California State University, Northridge, in the San Fernando section of Los Angeles on February 23-26, 1995. Papers are invited on transvestism, transsexualism, and all aspects of non-conforming gender expression. We are soliciting and anticipate wide ranging viewpoints summarizing and criticizing current research in biological, psychological, sociological, cultural and historical aspects of gender crossing. Organized sessions are particularly encouraged which will allow widespread discussion of where we have been, where we are going, and what we need to do to come to terms with a variety of gender behaviors. Interested participants should submit four copies of the abstract of the proposed paper or session. The abstract should be no longer than 500 words. Personal identification of the submiter should be on a separate sheet attached to the first copy. The deadline for abstracts is October 1, 1994. Send abstracts or requests for information to the Center for Sex Research, California State University, Northridge, Northridge, CA 91330. For additional information, fax 818-[redacted]

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The Miss ETVC Chronicles

Chapter Two - Accountability Time

by Lauren René Hotchkiss

It's been five months since the Cotillion, and you've probably begun asking yourself, " so, just what has our duly-tiaraed Miss ETVC been up to? " Well, wonder no more, for with daily planner before me, here's the low-down in chronological order:

Sunday, January 30th: I began the day with a bit of outreach at the California Miracles Center, graduating from the 1st year ministerial training class. As I was going directly from there to the ETVC post-Cotillion brunch at Max's Opera Cafe, I was, of course, in full Miss ETVC regalia.

Monday, February 1st: Paid a visit to DVG in Walnut Creek to attend a post-Cotillion party, and to thank them for their show of support at the Cotillion - they bought five tables, wow! I've felt very close to DVG since its inception over three years ago, and, as one of its earliest members, even had the honor of naming the club (though my original suggestion was the Diablo Valley Girls from HELL, as I recall). The day was also the birthday of newly crowned (yet temporarily crownless) Mr. ETVC, Francis, and so a cause for double celebration.

Friday, February 4th: Paid a similar visit to RGA, in San Jose. RGA has also always had a warm place in my heart, as it was the first gender club I ever attended, and were it not for Martina's and Becky's kindness to a very frightened ingenue, it might well have been my last — besides, they bought 3+ tables at the Cotillion.

Saturday, February 12th: Made an appearance at Lily's on S.F. Imperial Court voting day in support of candidates. Made ETVC and music history by being the first musician and Miss ETVC to play slide guitar with her scepter.

Saturday, February 19th: Attended San Francisco court Coronation at the Gift Center; a rather humbling experience for your Miss ETVC, who had already become accustomed to standing out whenever she wore her tiara and carried her scepter, and now stood paled in significance next to royal personages with foot-high tiaras and crowns, and battle-lance sized scepters.

Thursday, February 24th: First appearance at ETVC social as Miss ETVC. Performed solo numbers, duets with Mr. ETVC and others, as well as group numbers with the entire Ex-Com and other amateur ensembles.

Sunday, March 13th: An appointment with Destiny. Angelique Hardy nearly succeeds to Miss ETVCdom when the royal Miss ETVCmobile is totaled on the freeway by an insurance-less 4x4. Fortunately, however, there is a guardian angel that watches over Miss ETVCs. Though the car was turned into an accordion-mobile, I walked away without a scratch.

Thursday, March 31st: ETVC Cocktail Party social at Eichelberger's - Oohh!, finally got a chance to wear that delicious new cocktail dress.

Saturday, April 9th: Attended ISE Imperial Ball at Henry J. Kaiser in Oakland. Their last big event before their coronation in Sept.

Tuesday, April 19th: Appearance at The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, AND Transgender Task Force in San Francisco. There was not time for me to testify at this event, but it was a valuable experience, and good dry run for the public testimony before the Human Rights Commission proper, at City Hall in May.

Thursday, April 28th: ETVC Corset Social, Eichelberger's. Though uncorseted on that particular occasion, I was not, of course, untiaraed.

Thursday, May 12th: Appearance before the Human Rights Commission in S.F.'s City Hall. I was very proud of the large turnout for this event and impressed with the very articulate testimony by members of ETVC and other individuals and groups from the Transgender Community. I felt that we all gave good accounts of ourselves, and according to sources with contacts with the Supes, that impression is shared by them as well.

Friday, May 20th: Made a goodwill ambassadorial visit with members of the 1994/95 ETVC Ex-Com to RGA in San Jose. Similar diplomatic missions are planned to DVG and SGA.

Thursday, May 26th: Attended Awards Dinner and social at Eichelberger's.

Thursday, June 30th: ETVC Inaugural Ball, installation of new officers. Eichelberger's

In addition, of course, there have been monthly attendances at Outreach and Ex-Com meetings. Current projects I'm spearheading include: 1) development of an ETVC Presskit as an aid to media exposure, 2) procurement of permanent office space for ETVC and 3) revision of ETVC Information pamphlet.

Mr. ETVC, Francis, in addition to participating in nearly all of the above events, has also been active as a performer at Lily's and other locations, and has been busy as an ambassador to the Gay and FTM communities. See his "Night Man" column, elsewhere in this issue, for more details.

Well, there you have it, a complete run-down from the end of January through June. Till next time...

• • • • • • • • • • • • • •

NEWSFLASH - Word has just reached the Royal Throne room that Mr. ETVC has finally gotten his crown, yay!

Editors Note: Last issue's Miss ETVC Chronicles contained an error in the seventh paragraph which stated, "I have no intention of being the best Miss ETVC that I can be." It should have read, "I have no intention of being the the best Miss ETVC ever," ...and so forth.



Sandy Kasten accepts the 1994 Ginny Knuth Member of the Year Award from Ginny at the Awards Dinner and Social at Eichelberger's, May 26th.



Night Man

Francis Vavra

The Rumors Are True

To paraphrase, "the rumors of my death have been greatly exaggerated;" the rumors that I am on testosterone are true. Bulletin: Mr. ETVC seen in alley outside Tom Waddell Clinic repeatedly stabbing orange with a disposable syringe. Mr. ETVC heard through door of nurses' station: "I can't do it. I am a wimp after all...YOU do it...AGGGGHHH..." That was the first time. I'm much better at it now, I don't even cry. No more sneaking in and out of the Transgender Clinic Tuesday nights, swearing my compatriots to secrecy. After outing myself at the recent Human Rights Commission Hearings at City Hall, there is no place to hide. Actually, I've been taking testosterone mixed with estrogen in a low oral dose the past year for medical reasons. Then a few months ago, acting on my personal desires, and after much contemplation and good therapy, I felt I was finally ready for the straight stuff (injectible, easier on the liver).

What does this mean, for me as a self-identified cross-dresser? I do still consider myself a cross-dresser. Men's clothes are exciting, and I will probably always feel different and special when wearing them. For someone who has always been (seen as) femme, this is a major step for me, and I can say that my life is truly in transition. I have never really related to myself as "butch" or "masculine', but deep inside, have always felt "male." I am swimming in the uncharted waters somewhere between the extremes of part-time cross-dresser and post-op transsexual, on the razor's edge of beingness; a "shape shifter" (Native American term I prefer). My spiritual teacher speaks of "both/and" as an alternative to the rigid "either/or" of limited choices. I am the flip-side of MTFs who want their own breasts, grow their hair long, but continue to live as men. I wish to be perceived as more masculine; to have a deeper voice, and grow my own mustache (the one you see is mine, but...). I have no interest in surgery or changing my legal status to male, and there has been peer pressure in both directions. Not to cut my hair any shorter. To continue dressing femme. To take a full dose (I'm on a partial of what many FTMs take), to "go for it."

A fellow FTM recently asked if I was "serious, or just playing?" Well, I am seriously playing. I am doing what is comfortable for me, in my own style—at my own speed. Society forces us to "choose", which is why being transgendered is often confusing for others. They want to categorize and box us, dismiss those who are different, so they don't have to think about their own dual nature, or the possibility of more than two genders. What if you could only: choose yellow or red; sleep or wake; stand or sit; be redhead or blonde, gay or straight (no bi's); only wear one dress for the rest of your life! ...YES, I like choices, and I want both. The masculine femme, the feminine man, the androgen. The mustachioed woman, off to join the circus with my gypsy relatives, embracing the spirit of Orlando. I'm still a Night Man, but now, sometimes I'm a Day Man too. My "lipstick attacks" occur less often these days, but occasionally there will appear in my closet the formerly "invisible dress" begging to be worn (along with all those necklaces and accessories). But I'm sure none of my readers could relate to that.

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The Transgender Fiction Corner

By Veronica Smith

Although there are plenty of well written nonfiction books about transgenderism, finding a novel that deals with it in an interesting manner is not easy. I'd like to start a dialogue with The Channel readers about TG fiction. Below are the brief reviews of three novels I've recently read. I'd really like to hear from anyone who has any suggestions for those of us who would like to build up the transvestic literature section in our libraries.

Shaman by Hugh Fox, Permeable Press, 1993 ($10.95). In this novel, we follow Jack Daluz, a cross-dressing English teacher, as he travels from university town to university town disbursing federal grants to small literary magazines. On this journey, Jack decides to come out to all of his friends and peers. The book is written in a poetic, Ginsbergian style that may be off-putting to some, but once you get used to it, the novel tells a fairly coherent (and perhaps too familiar) narrative with many scenes that are both poignant and evocative. The hero should be accessible to most of The Channel's readership: a twice married, 44 year old professional who's tired of dressing only in the closet..... 👠👠

Crygender by Thomas T. Thomas, Baen Books, 1992 ($4.99). Imagine a future in which organ transplants are so common that one can choose a gender nearly as easily as one chooses a hair style. This is the world of Crygender, an artificially created hermaphrodite so beautiful and sensual that he/she is desired by both men and women. On the now privately owned Alcatraz, Crygender runs Babylon, an establishment that indulges any desire one can afford. However, after an interesting and imaginative beginning, this sci-fi becomes a moderately exciting technco-thriller. Basically, the story strings together several possibilities of what the future might bring which are fun in themselves, but does not tie together the various elements very compellingly. ..... 👠👠👠

Whores of Lost Atlantis, by Charles Busch, Hyperion Press, 1993($21.95). Julian, a gay actor, is more or less "forced" to become a drag queen; he's only hired for his drag characters, for which he has a special talent. The more drag he does onstage, the more he identifies with his female persona and becomes more androgynous offstage. An ironical side effect of this transformation is that he becomes enamored with women, so enamored, in fact, that he begins to feel that he's a lesbian trapped in a male body. There are many well-told scenes of high camp, perhaps even too many; the novel has a tendency to become episodic at times. However, it offers an original and humorous reversal of the "forced to do drag" plot. ..... 👠👠👠

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Evening Of Three Mistresses

Ever fantasize you're a naughty school girl being spanked by a strict school marm? Or a tied-up secretary being shown the ropes by a domineering female boss? Want to experience an endorphin rush from being whipped by a powerful woman? How about that special introspection that comes when constrained in a second skin of rubber; rubber so tight it restricts your movement and reshapes your body? Are you man or woman enough to submit? Want to be a slave?

If the answer to any of the above questions is yes, you should have been at Kimo's, Wednesday, May 18, when Mr. Francis Vavra hosted a panel of three professional dominatrixes who enjoy working with cross dressers. Sybil Holiday, Sara Kira and Lady Verushka discussed their craft and answered questions with an audience of about forty.

Sybil offers two programs with special interest for the cross dresser: one is feminization training to discover the "woman within" and the other is indulging erotic fantasies like those referred to above, and as Sybil puts it, "no fantasy is too bizarre." The next speaker, Sara Kira wraps her subject within layers of latex until the person is disoriented with restriction and sensory deprivation. At that point, Sara administers guidance with special tools and techniques that facilitate re-eduction. Once Sara has the subject properly prepared and receptive, she allows "Playtime," when the "rubber maid" can sometimes become the "slutty girl." Lady Verushka, the last speaker, finds the process of transforming men into women an exhaustive one, needing much attention to d e t a i l . Therefore, her sessions are long, ranging anywhere from two hours to two days. She says she gets special pleasure training her ladies to be lascivious.

In the question and answer section, all dominatrixes emphasized that they did not switch roles during their sessions: they were always in charge. There were minor differences of opinion on whether physical or psychological torture was more effective, but there was general agreement and respect of each other's craft. The audience was attentive and respectful, as seemed appropriate, but I was worried at how carefully Juana took notes.

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Embracing Transgender Diversity

Luanna L. Rodgers, M.A., MFCC

The basic assumption of gender is that there are two categories: male and female. As most readers know, however, one size — or in this case, two genders — does not fit all. It is injurious for many individuals to attempt fitting themselves into a strict interpretation of male or female, even if granted the additional option of changing from one to the other through sex reassignment. Some people truly are a blend of male and female, and feel they cannot honestly represent themselves as single-gendered. That is a tough position to occupy in society-at-large. It's even more difficult if you can't find support within your own community. Increasingly, I witness discrimination and polarization within the transgender community itself. "Shoulds" and "should not's" abound. Is there a correct way to be transgendered? PC TGs?

Many transgendered people end up feeling badly maimed when they are judged by those within their own community. Discrimination within the community occurs on the basis of degree of gender conformity within the cross-gender role, degree of closetedness, type of transgenderism (TV, TS, TG, "new" men and women, fetishists, or those "just out for fun"), class differences, ethnic differences... respectable TGs' versus those with alternative lifestyles, sexual identity and affection preference, level of interest in occupying a gender role full-time or in surgical reassignment. Divisions have not served other communities well and I doubt it will benefit the transgendered community. Feminists have said for years that a derisive remark about one woman disempowers all women. Is there a message here for the transgender community?

As a psychotherapist, it saddens me even more that some of the judgments orginating from biases held by early sex and gender researchers, psychiatrists and physicians, are perpetuated and internalized through transgender folklore. Modern service providers have abandoned many of these judgments (and beliefs) — but the grapevine lives on! (And so do the old outdated textbooks). I have found a great deal of diversity within the transgender community - many courageous people who work at accepting and embracing their individuality, and who write their own scripts for success. The transgender community appropriately includes drag performers and cross dressing satirists; those who crossdress for the erotic thrill of it, or for emotional comfort; people who crosslive full or part-time; those who are androgynous or non-conforming within their gender role; transsexuals who seek genital reassignment as well as those who don't; those who see themselves as men and women within their new gender role, as well as those who continue to identify as transsexual or transgender. They represent all ethnicity's, socio-economic classes, occupations and visions - and they are heterosexual, bisexual, gay and lesbian.

That includes a lot of people and a lot of diversity. I think they all have a place here, and deserve respect. The transgender community as a whole can benefit from the breadth of views and the richness of the experience of all its members.

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



OTHER VOICES

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

Crossdressing

by Rosa

I have been married to a cross dresser for nine years and in that time I have learned to know and love "Sharon", Perry's feminine persona. I've been asked, "how do you make your relationship work?" It's challenging especially when there's a cross dresser involved, but some essentials are communication, quality time, and love.

Communication has played a large role in our relationship. We discuss our feelings openly and we listen to each other, NOT HEAR, LISTEN. We also respect each other's opinion - even though we may not agree. Perry also gives me a lot of quality time. We spend time as a couple and do things as a couple. Perry is there for me when I need a shoulder to lean on that's not Sharon. By the same token, I'm there for Perry and/or Sharon, when he or she needs me. Another thing is that Sharon is not the nucleus of our relationship, she's only a part of the whole in which she is integrated - so that it works.

Love is expressed in many ways. One way, I believe, is that I understand and enjoy Sharon as a part of our lives. Perry creates boundaries for Sharon so that she doesn't interfere with our relationship. We also show our love for each other and voice it every day. Making a relationship work is difficult, and a cross dressing relationship is much more challenging; however, working with each other and balancing your feminine and masculine personas will aid in it. Giving, taking, and sacrificing is part of life, but sometimes we need to be reminded of it.

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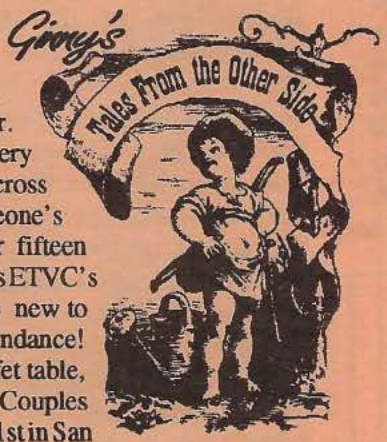

Since 1985, our Couples Group has been meeting on the second to the last Thursday of every month except November and December. These friendly social events are a very comfortable way to be introduced to cross dressing as they are held in someone's home and usually about twelve or fifteen attend. So it is not as overwhelming as ETVC's monthly socials can be for someone new to this lifestyle. We encourage your attendance! Everyone brings an item for the buffet table, and the socializing begins. The Couples Group will meet on Thursday, July 21st in San Leandro - mark this date on your calendar!

In August, the Significant Others Group (SOS) is joining the Couples Group for a special Family Picnic Day on Sunday, August 21st at 11AM at Lake Chabot in Castro Valley. The picnic will be a non-cross dressed event (one of our few). Maybe you will find a friend with whom you can share your thoughts and feelings about living with a cross dresser. The Family Picnic sounds like a lot of fun, and we hope you'll join us at Lake Chabot. Call 510-[redacted] for details.

A Plea to the HRC from a Significant Other

(Actual speech delivered at City Hall)

I speak before you today on behalf of the hundreds of wives, partners and family members of transgendered people in San Francisco. I have lived in this alternate lifestyle for over ten years with my transgendered partner, and have tried to help others cope with the challenges of this lifestyle through a support group for significant others which I have helped to facilitate since 1985.

I am not gay or bisexual or transgendered, nor was I disabled in any way until I lost my leg a year ago to diabetes. I am a genetic woman who fell in love with a man who told me a year later he was a transvestite. Since that time, in 1983, I have been learning to deal with this issue in our relationship, as well as educating myself about what transgenderism is. No one seems to know what causes these "different" feelings, but everyone seems to have an opinion about the negative aspects of men trying to be women and women trying to be men. To some it's a joke, to others, an embarrassment, and to many it is disgusting and deserves punishment. Wives, partners, children and other loved ones of transgendered people feel the intolerance and harrassment that ignorance causes people to show just as deeply as the transgendered person. We fear our loved ones could be in serious danger on the streets of San Francisco and be physically harmed by vicious attacks on them - and we even fear for ourselves when we are with them. We, too, are in the line of fire. We, too, hide this "secret" from people where he is employed for fear discovery might mean his employment and our income would be terminated. We, too, can be evicted from our homes. We, too, live with the signs painted on our garage doors that say, "Faggots live here." We, too, have to find a way to explain to our friends and neighbors who that painted lady was I saw you with last Saturday night. We, too, have to live down the myths... the innuendos... the fears for our well being and the possible physical and mental abuse of our children.

All we did was fall in love with a good person who happens to be transgendered. Please at least give us our human right to live in peace in San Francisco. Thank you.

Ginny Knuth, Member, ETVC

Significant Other Support Group

The Significant Other Support Group invites all Significant Others to attend our meetings. Group members define Significant Others as wives, lovers, friends, children and others close to TV/TS persons who are themselves not TV/TS. We encourage you to ask the SO in your own life to attend, particularly if she or he needs support from peers in dealing with feelings about the TV/TS in her or his life. All meetings are kept STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL to help insure that a safe, supportive environment is created in which all attendees feel secure enough to freely share and talk about their feelings. We are frequently assisted by a helping professional with a specialty in our area of concern. Our next meetings will be Thursday, July 14 and Thursday, August 11. There will be a couples and significant others family picnic Sunday, August 21. You are all welcome with open arms. For more information call Ginny at (415)[redacted]

Priests of the Goddess: Gender Transgression in the Ancient World by Will Roscoe.

Reviewed by Veronica Smith.

Dr. Roscoe is associated with the Institute for Research on Women and Gender at Stanford University. In a paper he submitted at the recent American Historical Association's convention in San Francisco, Dr. Roscoe suggests that in ancient patrilineal-patriarchal societies with polytheistic religions, men escaped powerful societal demands through self-feminization (mostly by transvestism, but in some cases, castration) in the service of goddesses. Roscoe points out that there were more gender options in polytheistic cultures because there were more female religious figures onto which sexual tensions could be freely projected. Thus, gender diversity and ambiguity were thought of very differently. For example, there were six gender subcategories in Sumerian mythology and fourteen gender options in ancient Indian mythology. In his paper, Dr. Roscoe compares transvestic groups in three early cultures, then draws possible reasons why gender transgression was so pervasive in the ancient world.

As early as the third millennium B.C., the gala of ancient Sumer (ancient Iran/Iraq) were mentioned in temple records. These priests were associated with Inanna or Ishtar, and dressed as the goddess in rituals; Ishtar is even described as having "changed their masculinity into femininity." Similar to the gala were the galli in Anatolian Phrygia (roughly, ancient Turkey). The galli were followers of Cybele. Attis, the lover of both Cybele and Acdestis (an androgyne), was castrated (either imposed or self-inflicted) and his castration is the foundation act of the Cybelean Cult. The cult's priests were assigned to temples, but also roamed in bands, danced, sang, begged, and, often, demanded tribute at weddings and births. To refuse paying was to risk incurring a curse. References which date back as far as the 8th century B.C. describe the galli as having painted faces, bleached and curled hair, heavily bejeweled and, in some cases, castrated. The cult and its attendants spread throughout the Middle East in the wake of Alexander's conquest in the 4th century B.C., and were introduced into Rome in the 3rd century B.C., where the galli were specifically labeled an intermediate gender. By the first century A.D., Cybelean festivals were incorporated into the Roman religious calendar, and the galli were found throughout the Empire.

Roscoe compares the galli with the hijra of India, who are also men who have taken vows to serve a goddess, roam in bands, act in a bawdy manner, threaten curses if refused alms, and are often times castrated. The hijra are a well-established feature of social landscape of India today, but there are references to them dating back as far as the first millennium B.C., and there are even earlier references to people "neither male nor female" who acted similarly to the hijra. Roscoe links these various examples with others to create a long, wide-ranging chain of gender transgression, and suggests why such diversity should have been so much a part of ancient societies.

Roscoe believes that new divisions of labor developed as pre-urban communities became more complex. Since most types of labor were gender-based in primitive societies, as more work choices developed so too did gender options. The societal -sexual tensions that resulted from ambiguity of labor assignment and gender status in polytheistic male-dominated cultures was projected onto an appropriate mythical figure, and by men becoming devotees to this mythical figure, these tensions were relieved (this is assuming that myths are directly related in relevance to a culture's conscious and unconscious emotionally - charged issues).

But what does this mean to us? Most cross dressers at one time or another feel that they alone. But what if we discover that, not only are we not alone, but that there is a long history of crossing the line? More and more it is coming to light that transgenderism has been an integral part of many cultures. In a previous column I reported on genderbending in Ancient Greece, and here Will Roscoe stretches our history to the beginning of recorded time.



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The New Woman

Report on the HRC Hearings
by Bobbi Dunne

On thursday, May 12, in the Board of Supervisors Chambers at San Francisco City Hall, the Human Rights Commission held a public hearing as part of its commitment to identify and develop strategies which will combat discrimination against the Transgender Community. Much has been written about that meeting. In a front page article in the San Francisco Examiner (written by Rachel Gordon), our members were quoted with accuracy and respect; our needs discussed with compassion. Legislation proposed by Supervisor Terence Hallinan to protect us in the workplace was presented (without any editorial complications). The quality and professionalism of the Examiner article reflects the maturity of our own community, which, in the space of 4 hours utilized approximately forty speakers. These speakers contributed insight into our history, terminology, and diversity, and shared examples of discrimination experienced in nearly all facets of our lives.



Bobbi Dunn speaks at the HRC hearing. (See the article on page 1, also) (Swift Silver Photo)

The SF Bay Times, in an excellent article by Mindy Ridgway, called it an "Historic Hearing On Transgender Rights." In an editorial in the same issue, the SF Bay Times announced that it has changed its maasthead to read the "Gay/Lesbian/Bi/Trans Newspaper & Events Calendar for the Bay Area." Their reason for doing so is simply that we have become so visible and organized that it's time, now, to recognize our significant contributions to the queer movement — both historically (Stonewall) as well as currently (through our continued activism).

I have been reluctant to name even a few of those who were present the night of May 12th, because I'm afraid that if I name even one person, in fairness, I must mention everyone. Ultimately, the evening was a result of a collective effort working together for a common cause - to encourage creation and passage of legislation designed to extend rights enjoyed by mainstream society to the Transgender Community. However, I would be remiss if I didn't mention the great debt of gratitude we owe Terence Hallinan for his proposed legislation. Also Larry Brinkin, Representative, Lesbian/Gay AIDS Unit, Human Rights Commission, devoted an incredible amount of time and effort during what turned into a year's preparation. Kiki Whitlock of the Lesbian/Gay/Bi/Trans Advisory Committee of the HRC set the tone, and taught many of us the art of championing our beliefs when faced with the reality of political compromise.

Those of us who were fortunate to experience the power of the evening - and with it the realization that we are empowered with the ability to bring about change - fundamental change - through the legitimacy of our cause, know there is still work to be done. A meeting of the HRC Advisory Board will be held on July 19, 1994 at 25 Van Ness Avenue (8th floor), at 5:30 p.m. The Transgender Task force, a vital link to the city government and a rallying point for our multifaceted community, will come up for review at that time. It is important that our voices be heard, and I hope to see everybody there. Thanks.

Coping With the 'Uninvited Dilemma"
by Sandra [redacted]

"The Uninvited Dilemma" gives a good picture of what life is like for a pre-op or post-op transsexual. The book, written by Kim Elizabeth Stuart, a local author who conducted extensive interviews with 70 transsexuals, comes highly recommended by several bay area therapists who have worked with transgendered people. It was published in 1991, and is available from IFGE, or Metamorphous Press. In San Francisco, it may be purchased at A Different Light Bookstore.

Topics addressed in the book include possible motivations for transgendered behavior, social adjustment during childhood as well as later on in the working world; sexual patterns/preferences, family relations, and expectations/problems confronted during transition.

The author does an excellent job of interpreting and reflecting on these important topics. I do want to forewarn prospective readers of three observations that should be kept in perspective, although they in no way dilute the value of the publication to our community.

First, the author insists on using her own terminology to replace well established terms. her choice of terms may have been more appropriate, had they been invented first; but it only confuses the reader when the term 'former' transsexual is used throughout the book to refer to what we all know as 'post-op.' I

10 Reasons for S.R.S. I Never Told My Therapist

1. Easier to slide down a bannister
2. More room in my pockets
3. No more fear of Lorena Bobbit.
4. Cheaper than a Harley
5. Lost my key to the men's room
6. Tired of being "goosed"
7. Excuse to park with one tire on the curb
8. Wanted to lost 10 quick lbs.
9. April fool's joke on my doctor
10. Heard they were hiring meter maids.

— Venus

don't even use the term 'former' to refer to my (former) wife unless it is absolutely necessary for clarity.

Second, the group of subjects interviewed consists of both MTF and FTM transsexuals; and throughout the book they are referred to almost interchangeably. More emphasis on their differences, possibly even two separate publications, would enhance the coherency of the publication.

Finally, the author insists there is no middle ground between being a transvestite or a transsexual; if you are transgendered at all, you are either one or the other. I found this one of the most interesting ideas presented in the book, and it deserves considerable thought. It is, however, only an opinion, and the author refuses to entertain any discussion that it may not be a universally accepted truth. Most of her subjects are transsexuals, and few if any are transvestites. No credentials are cited to qualify her as a therapist, and this does challenge some classifications made by the psychoanalytic community.

Despite the potential objections posed by these observations, this is the best treatment I have found on the subject. I purchased an extra copy for my (former) wife to whom I have recently decided to reveal my transgendered lifestyle. I could never find the words to express the ideas in a way that would achieve the understanding reflected in this in-depth publication. The author displays considerable insight combined with knowledge gained from her interviews. This, plus extensive research ,have resulted in a sensitive discussion of what it's 'really like' to live in a transgendered world.

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by Christina M. Hollis, Phd
Autobiography of MTF through transition, "the discovery of my existence"

B0158 The Male Cross Dresser Support Group
by Tama Janowitz
A novel pointing a funny picture of today's male-female relationship wars and romantic expectations.

B0160 7 individual VHS tapes of the complete 2nd annual Transgender Law and Policies Conference, *held in Houston, Texas in August, 1993...have recently been donated to our lending library. Thanks, Melinda!*

Barbara's Jottings

Barbara [redacted]





Barbara, before and after... ...Which is which? ...and after what?

As the new Secretary of ETVC, and a relatively new member too, I am honored that you have entrusted this position to me. My goal is to get us more, and more positive, awareness about the gender community to the general public, and also to educate the membership to the endless possibilities that, together, we can achieve. Together we can and will do all things, and I am calling on all of us to help in this task. Please let me know what YOU feel can be done and what YOU can do to help achieve it. This is a GREAT organization, with a FABULOUS record and reputation of deeds past done, let's also add to the record, with deeds YET to be done. I will be keeping you all informed, on an infrequent basis, of my progress.

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Gender Skybox

Pam [redacted]

May marks the end of the membership year and the election of club officers. After two years on the hot seat, Cindy Martin will not seek another term as president. You've done a fine job Chief. If your try-out with the White Sox fails, there's always room for a guest commentator here in the skybox.

Before the presentation of year end awards, a few questions. Which way is the Freedom Day parade running this year? East to West was tradition until last year's west to east route. Do we return to tradition, stay with revision or try something new like starting in the middle of town and spreading out in all directions through the city? Enough said. On with the awards.

Rookie of the year: Jamie Faye Fenton, our diligent club photographer. Whenever two or more crossdressers get together, you can almost be sure Jamie Faye will be there with her camera. Our resident print-cess also merits recognition for her fine work of setting up the ETVC voice mail system.

Manager of the year: Dianne Summers. DiSum (rhymes with slice 'em) made what now seems like a quantum leap forward with her production of this year's Cotillion. From securing the Russian Center, to putting together an all-star production staff, to helping sell a record number of tickets, to driving a carload of freshly cooked lasagna across town for the buffet, Dianne swung for the fences and connected for a grand slam.

MVP (Most Valiant Performer): Francis Vavra. It's tough being the first to do something, tougher still to be the best; Francis can include himself in both categories. Having already made history for entering the Cotillion, Francis did himself one better by earning a point value high enough to make finalist and tying Lauren's score for the title of co-regent.

Best Late Game Clutch Performer: Cori [redacted] for finding us a new home at Eichelberger's on short notice. Cori found us a home with great food and a terrific staff. It's not everyday you get new, stylish and comfortable. Cori, where do you shop for shoes?

Best home away from home: Just Rewards, home to our East Bay sisters (and brothers), the Diablo Valley Girls. Ample parking, a spacious dance floor and a relaxed, informal atmosphere make J.R.'s a great place to spend your first Tuesdays and third Mondays.

Best Real world all-star team: JKB, Bobbi Dunne, Francis, Roxanna et. al. who attend the meetings of the LGBTAC (Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Advisory Committee). Far from fun and entertaining, these meetings are an important process in the battle for rights in the city, with the potential to set legal precedents elsewhere. I hear it's been a rough job ladies and gentlemen, thanks so much for doing it.

The Middle Way

Owww!

©1993 by Lauren René Hotchkiss

(Third of three parts)

It was then that the eye shields had slipped a little from my eyes and I saw upon her wall the framed diploma from Marquis De Sade University, in Transylvania, and a commendation letter from Jose Torquemada. Looking back toward Manoosh, I could see her nostrils flaring with delight at the acrid smell of my frying flesh. She began to move faster, plunging the needle into my face, and ripping the hairs, sometimes several at a time, from my face, only stopping now and then to pry me from the ceiling.

Just when I thought that I couldn't take anymore, and I was ready to scream, it was over.

She began to administer cataphoresis; a process whereby a medication is applied to the skin by means of a treated roller which is also connected to the machine. This is to bring the blood, which had fled my face in mortal fear, back into the dermal capillaries.

After arising from the treatment table, my legs shaky, but glad to still be alive, she spun me around to face her with one stevedore like arm, and gave me the following orders:

She told me to go home and apply ice to the treated area to cut the swelling - in other words she wanted to eliminate all evidence of her abuse. She said though a slight redness may appear following treatment - slight, my ass - that it was a part of the normal healing process and would soon disappear.

She went on to warn me that though the skin may break out somewhat, and some scabbing may appear, I should resist the temptation to rub or scratch the treated area, as this could lead to permanent scarring. As if she could care less.

She stopped talking and began to look meaningfully from her watch to the door. A subtle hint.

You mean that's it, I can go home now?" I began to give a sigh of relief, congratulating myself on managing to survive the ordeal when she added:

Oh, that wasn't so bad, now was it,... you coward, and just think, you should be done in another fifty treatments or so."

Ahhhh!!!!

I'm convinced to this day that the blood of the ancient Moorish torturers flowed undiluted in the veins of Manoosh the impaler. She only worked on me for about 15 minutes, but each one seemed an eternity. Apparently she did not sterilize her instruments well, because I ended up with an infection which didn't go away completely for several weeks. She would have been thrilled.

As I was passing through the waiting room on my way out of Manoosh's office a man was coming in to read one of the interior electrical meters. As I was the only one in the room at that time, he asked me what kind of a business it was. When I replied that it was an electrology clinic he asked:

What's that?"

Now I must admit that from time to time, especially when I'm in pain, I'm prone to fits of a particularly droll sense of humor. It was unfortunate for him that I had one of these attacks just as he was asking me a perfectly reasonable question.

"We transplant brains. (pause for dramatic effect) Oh, and by the way, we're looking for a few more volunteers. Doing anything after work?"

His face lost all color.

And speaking of faces he must have noticed the mutilated condition of mine just about then because he asked: "What happened to you."

"...it was Manoosh the Impaler."

He ran out without even checking the meter.

But I digress.

I subsequently tried several other electrologists, some better than others, but all paling in comparison with Manoosh the Impaler, before finally finding an electrologist I felt comfortable working with.

April TS Seminar: A Visit with Dr. Edward Falces

By Philippa Venus Garner

I walked into Dr. Falces slide presentation at Kimo's a few minues late, having cycled from Marin. There was a big turnout and I had to sit on the floor in the aisle to see the screen. The image that greeted me was of a lovely feminine torso with a more than ample penis. Dr. Falces was explaining that hormone therapy had quite a dramatic effect on a young person's body shape. Also, that the individual shown had sufficient penile skin to create a functional vagina. "It's an advantage to be well hung," he said, "otherwise skin must be taken from the lower abdomen, as in a tummy tuck, to create adequate vaginal depth."

Dr. Falces is a small, neat and self-assured man with a sense of humor. Two other gender surgeons I have met share these qualities. He expects his patients to have made their gender role transitions so completely before they come to him, that the actual surgery is mere "icing on the cake." If a patient's recommendation is from a therapist whom the doctor doesn't know, he requires them to get approval from his own psychiatrist before he will operate.

The program continued with very graphic operating room photos alternating with medical illustrations explaining the SRS procedure, step-by-step. It was fascinating material but he went through the pictures a little too rapidly for easy comprehension. Perhaps he wanted to discourage do-it-yourself-ers. Dr. Falces uses the more common penile inversion methods for MTFs and spoke skeptically of the procedure which employs a section of the large bowel for the new vagina. "It overlubricates," he said, "you have to wear a pad all the time."

The FTM operation was amazing to see. The penis is formed from the tissue of the lower abdomen and as the surgery proceeds, it appears to "grow" from the body. Silicone testicles are placed in the labial skin which eventually stretches to resemble a normal scrotum. The clitoris is left intact and can be sexually stimulated by a "T-bar" device inserted into the penis, which also holds it erect. Dr. Falces considers FTM surgery to be still in the developmental stages. A large penis can be formed by the present technique, but "it serves for barroom bets only." In the future it will be possible to "hook up the neves" and to greatly improve the urination.

The doctor had this to say about post-op MTFs: "Two days after surgery they're all bitches." And of the FTMs: "they turn macho. They won't rest or show up for appointments." As for long-term satisfaction of his patients, he complained of poor statistics: "many of them move away and won't answer questionnaires or keep in touch." Dr. Falces declines post-op care for those operated on by other surgeons, except in emergency. He also performs different kinds of surgeries including facial contouring, liposuction, and fat redistribution, rib cage reduction and, of course, breast augmentation. For the latter, he locates the implants under the chest muscles to avoid the "two grapefruit halves on an ironing board" look. Thank you, Dr. Falces, for an entertaining and valuable presentation.

Memorial Day

by Kim Elizabeth Stuart

Memorial Day tends to bring out the quixotic and bizarre nature of this country. Even the date has been temporal. Naturally, we used to celebrate this day on May 30. Now it has just become one of those long, three day weekends. We honor the war dead on the last Monday in May.

In cities and towns throughout the nation there are 21 gun salutes, fireworks and a posture of military solemnity and ritual. How strange to fire guns and simulate explosions — the very cause of death in war — to pay tribute to those who have died. How strange for a group of Civil War buffs to get together, as they do each year, to reenact war battles to honor the dead.

We seem to thrive on violence and death. Much of the money devoted to our infrastructure goes to policing and incarceration. More of our people per capita are behind bars than in any other democratic country. Much of our export wealth is derived from selling arms all over the globe. We are the largest exporters in the world of killing devices.

When we light fireworks, shoot guns and reenact bloody battles, we do not honor the dead. All this serves to remind us of what we have become, not who we should be.

Our politicians have condemned the bloody military regime in Haiti, but they are shooing refugees away from our shores. They are appalled at starvation in many African nations caused by lawless thugs with guns. They are shocked at the bloody and devastating destruction in the wake of the first Rodney King verdict.

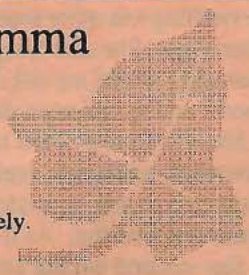
How interesting that we never hear politicians talk about some of the causes of the bloodshed. Where did the Haitian military receive most of its training and guns? Primarily from us. Where did all the guns in those African nations come from? Most of them came from our country and the former Soviet Union.

Again, how did the great cities of this country become fertile ground for crime and revolt? From neglect of our infrastructure. Not just roads, bridges or streets, but people themselves. We need to celebrate life by directing our resources toward people — their health, their liberties, their parks and open space, and their education.

If we celebrate life in this manner, we shall indeed honor all who have fallen in war by sanctifying life rather than the accoutrements of killing.

copyright May 30, 1994 by Kim Elizabeth Stuart

The Uninvited Dilemma
A Question of Gender
by
Kim Elizabeth Stuart
Research Supplement available separately.



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Know Thyself (Again)

Review by William A. Henkin, Ph.D.

Identity Management in Transsexualism: A Practical Guide to Managing Identity on Paper, by Dallas Denny, M.A. (from Creative Design Services, P.O. Box 61263, King of Prussia, PA 19406).

The first official, surgically-assisted sex-change recorded in Western history took place in Germany, in 1882, when Sophia Hedwig had her external genitals altered and formally became Herman Karl. Early in the 20th century a well-known Danish painter, Einar Wegener, convinced he was really a female, went to Berlin to have his genitals removed and took the name Lili Elbe; Elbe died soon after a second surgery (intended for vaginal construction). The *first* sex-change operation , according to gender specialists, took place in England, in 1949, when Laura Maud Dillon became Laurence Michael Dillon; and (considered by Westerners) the first sex-change operation,is Christine Jorgensen's, whose 1952 surgery took place in Denmark, and whose transformation from male to female was publicized in newspapers and magazines throughout the world.

Some of the problems shared by Karl, Elbe, Dillon, Jorgensen, and the thousands of transsexual men and women who have pursued their dreans for wholeness in the final third of this century, will be immediately apparent, even to people who never thought about the differences between sex and gender; breasts as well as internal and external genitalia to be built up or removed; body hair to be grown or dispersed; voices to be altered; body contours, posture, gait, carriage, manners, and attitude to be reformed; family, career, relationships, and social conditioning to be utterly reconstructed.

But wholly apart from these obvious difficulties of reconfiguring life — apart, even, from the less obvious psychological strain involved in resolving transsexualism — there is a very practical set of problems few people consider (if not confronted with the need to do so). These problems concern the paper trail we all leave behind that defines us, to a large degree, for our fellow humans.

From the day we are welcomed to the world with a birth certificate, to the day we are welcomed from it with a death certificate, our name and designated sex follow us everywhere. When we attend school, enroll for military service, or visit a doctor or dentist... when we apply for a driver's license, a passport, or a library card; go to work; get a social security card number; pay taxes; buy insurance; seek credit standing; register to vote; are called for jury duty; become involved with lawsuits; when we marry or divorce; seek government services; calculate our own estates — from birth to death, who we are is defined for others repeatedly by these simple facts: my name is John, I'm a man; or, my name is Jane, I'm a woman.

Managing our own identity in the world is rarely a problem for most people, though the tasks impinge on everyone all of the time - but for transsexuals it is critical, because identity management determines so completey how we are seen and known by others. A few authors have addressed the subject in the past, but since 1990 only *Legal Aspects of Transsexualism*, by Sr. Mary Elizabeth, SSE has been indispensible.

Now Dallas Denny has written what amounts to a companion volume to Sr. Mary Elizabeth's book — and this is also indispensible. Though less complete than *Legal Aspects* regarding specifics of the law, *Identity Management* is also more prescriptive than descriptive, telling people how to achieve as well as define their goals. The book contains appendices with names, addresses, and model forms that are eminently useful. In addition, Identity Management is a delightfully personal book, both because Denny illustrates with anecdotes from her own gender journey — and, she is a rather charming writer.

"When I moved to Georgia," she writes, "I was armed with a Tennessee driver's license identifying me as Dallas Denny. My photo was very androgynous. But the license said I was a male. I filled in the Georgia application, and checked "F" in the box which asked about my sex. The examiner took my old license and began entering information into the computer. I held my breath, hoping she would not notice the "M" on my license, and she must not have, for she said nothing, and when my license came back, it had an "F" on it. Of course, I might have been okay even if she had noticed. She might have thought it simply an error. If you pass successfully, and if nothing otherwise points out your transsexualism, the wrong sex designation on a document may be looked at as a mistake. It rocks the world of the clerk less to believe a mistake has been made in the paperwork than it does to realize someone started out as a member of the other sex.

The world of American transsexualism is changing in profound ways. The first tribal elders remain important figures - in fact, as well as in myth - but for the most part they have made their impact. The next generation of leaders, now really the gender "old guard," is composed of people who founded important organizations and edited publications that changed and defined a movement. Many of them are, appropriately, consolidating these gains for themselves and for their community. A new group of movers and shakers is coming to power in a radically altered world, where gender concerns are part of mainstream dialogue.

In this world, Dallas Denny is a figure of value, and of growing importance — not only because she is founder and director of the American Educational Gender Information Service (AEGIS), publisher of *Chrysalis*, one of the most important contemporary magazines devoted to gender concerns, and was recently elected to the Board of Directors of the International Foundation for Gender Education. No, Denny is important because she has something important to say, the willingness to say it openly, and the ability to say it in ways other people can hear. *Identity Management in Transsexualism* makes all these facets of her value clear.

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"The Back Page"

Announcements, Etc.

Logo: 1984-1994: Announcing a contest, a contest to redesign our ETVC logo. The girl in our present one served us well for many years. Young, fresh, the eternal ingenue, she symbolized what many of us wished we were but few could become. Increasingly, however, she has come to symbolize what more and more of us aren't.

For instance, she is MTF. But more FTM's are becoming leaders in our club. How does that girl represent them? We are beginning to gain more Asian/Pacific Islander and African American members. Could that obviously Caucasian face possibly represent them? Even for many of us who are Caucasian and would assasinate to look lovely and nineteen, the naively happy face in our logo does not portray our maturing vision of women.

What does? Ah, that's where you come in. Get out your paper and pens or crayons, turn on the computer, because if you can evoke the essence of ETVC in an easily apprehended graphic, you could win eternal fame and fortune (if $100 is a fortune). Second place wins semi-eternal fame and $50. Third place gets fleeting fame and $25.

Only members of ETVC are eligible (yes, you can include your contest entry with your $20 ETVC membership renewal). Put your entry on 8 1/2 X 11 paper with your name and address printed on the bottom of the page. No entries will be returned, so make sure you keep a copy for yourself. Only one entry per member. All entries must be postmarked no later than August 31, 1994.

ETVC's New Officers



Standing (l-r): Jennifer [redacted], Social Co-Chair, Kristen [redacted] Education Co-Chair, Jano Bogg, Treasurer, Jane Kamper Bentley, President, Francis Vavra & Lauren Hotchkiss, Outreach Co-Chairs. Sitting (l-r) Ayme Kantz, Education Co-Chair, Barbara [redacted] Secretary, Lisa Maxwell, Vice President, and Jackie Conner, Social Co-Chair.

On April 18th, 1994, Bobbilyn West Witherspoon had S.R.S. performed by Dr. Yvon Menard, M.D., of Montreal, Canada. She is now recuperating comfortably at her northern California home. Should anyone planning S.R.S. wish 'first-hand' information about Dr. Menard's wonderful surgical ability, clinic facilities, and the 24-hour support of Trans - P.O.R.S. (Transsexual Post-Operative Residence Service," contact: Lynn Witherspoon, P.O. Box 926, Laytonville, CA. 95454.

Marcia's Ninth Annual Corset Show: Saturday, July 30, 1994, 1:30 — 5 (doors open at 1). A Corset-related conference featuring real life modern-day corset wearers relating true experiences; historic and contemporary literature; authors of corset-related literature; reproductions of William Lord's rare 1869 corsetry classic, "The Corset and the Crinoline" will be available!

Where? At the Eros Center, 2051 Market Street (Market and Church). For more information, contact Marcia [redacted], P.O. Box 2982, Sacramento, CA 95812.

Health care Reform: We are encouraged to participate in the health care debate process by writing our elected representatives. Our voices must be heard, or we will have no one to blame but ourselves when we end up with a national health care program that we can't use. Even if you do not identify as a transsexual, your opinion and support are urgently needed and greatly appreciated. For more information (including a health reform contact list, sample letter, etc., please contact Ayme Kantz at [redacted] Thank you for your help!

Now Available For Purchase From ETVC: "A Guide for Male to Female Transsexuals Considering Shifting Gender Identity," Revised Second Edition, by Kim Elizabeth Stuart. Get your copy of this fact-filled pamphlet, written by the acclaimed author of "The Uninvited Dilemma," at any ETVC social for just $5, or send $5 plus tax and $1.50 for postage and handling to ETVC, P.O. Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142, Attn: Publications Committee. Allow 4 to 6 weeks for delivery.

A Transgender Pride Project from Leslie Feinberg: Leslie Feinberg is currently working on "the book I needed to read so badly when I was a scared, ashamed transgendered teenager." She has assembled historical and cross-cultural research on transgender,and has located 150 photos, graphics, etchings and paintings of transgendered individuals from many nationalities and time periods. Together, they will make up a book tentatively titled "Transgender: A History of Change. She has been awarded a grant from the Column Foundation in New York City, and this will be in the amount of all the donations it receives earmarked for the "Transgender Pride Project." She would like interested persons to make a tax-deductible donation to this educational project. Checks should be payable to the Column Foundation, c/o William Sachs, Esq., 7 Penn Plaza, Suite 830, NY NY 10001. Please note that this contribution is for the Transgender Pride Project. Thank you for your help.