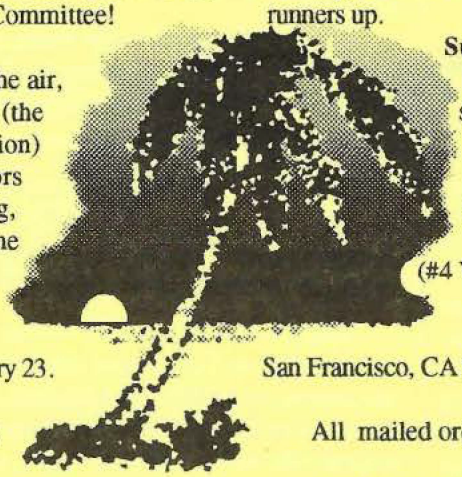
Educational TV Channel ETVC

N E W S L E T T E R

VOLUME ELEVEN, NUMBER 4, *JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 1993*

Imagine

Imagine...Robin Leach speaking to you from Chez Mollet, World Headquarters of the ETVC Cotillion Committee!



Today, there's a special excitement in the air, as the committee has just learned that IFGE (the International Foundation for Gender Education) will be holding its quarterly board of directors meeting right here in the City famous for fog, football and frou frou. Now, for the first time since 1989, ETVC members can attend an open-to-the-community IFGE board meeting right here in San Francisco at the Golden Gateway Holiday Inn, Saturday, January 23.

After brief discussion, the committee is inspired to extend the Cotillion experience from an evening to an unprecedented, fabulous Cotillion *weekend*.

Friday, 7 PM: Join members of the IFGE Board of Directors for elegant dining at the Chez Mollet, followed by a jaunt to Finocchio's at 10 PM.
Saturday 9 AM: Attend the IFGE's board meeting.
Saturday 8 PM: The Ninth Annual ETVC Cotillion.
Sunday, 12 PM: Victory brunch with Miss ETVC and her first two runners up.
Sunday, 4 PM: At the Blue Muse, Empress Jose and Finocchio star/Cotillion MC Tommi Rose sing the loveliest songs and say the nastiest things...

Cotillion tickets ($20 in advance, $25 at the door (price includes a pre-show buffet)) may be purchased at Chez Mollet (527 Bryant), Lily's (#4 Valencia), Marlene's (482 Hayes), or The Cinch (1723 Polk); or send your check or money order to ETVC, PO Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486.

All mailed orders must be received by January 15.

For further information about Cotillion tickets, dinner, brunch, show reservations and prices, call (415) [redacted] or (415) [redacted] To reserve a room at the Golden Gateway Holiday Inn, call (415) [redacted] and say you are with IFGE.

Reservations are limited, so act now. Then get ready for a glamorous weekend living like one of the rich and famous.

Ginny

Dec. 13

Ginny - our Ginny - is in the hospital. Tuesday, December 8, doctors at St. Luke's Hospital in San Francisco removed a portion of her left leg up to about six inches above the ankle. Ginny had suffered the effects of diabetes in that foot for many years until a relentless infection set in that could not be stemmed with medication.



A second operation is scheduled, after which she will remain in the hospital about three weeks. Ginny reports that her vital signs are excellent, no doubt helped by the visitors and flowers that flood her room.

Recover soon, Ginny. We love you.

Ms. Information

How would it be reported if Phil Donahue wore a false beard and an ill-fitted hat to introduce a panel of Hasidic Jews? Thanks to B'nai B'rith's Anti-Defammation League, no television host would think of doing such a thing. And yet, after Mr. Donahue made the cover of People magazine by wearing a skirt to introduce a program about transgendered males, the only thing louder than the nation's guffaws was our community's silence.

Now the time has come to speak. On December 5, the ETVC Executive Committee appointed its first ever Director of Public Relations, Roxanne de Lyon. As such, she will be our spokesperson to the entertainment and news media, correcting lies and distortions and praising fair and honest depiction (such as a recent episode of the TV series, *Picket Fences*). What we have started locally we hope to promote nationally (see President's Message, page 3). Got a lead for Roxanne? Call the Hotline, (510) [redacted], or write her c/o ETVC, POB 426486, S.F. CA 94142-6486.

More next issue.

Clean Air Act

It's official. A majority of ETVC's Executive Committee has voted to ban smoking in the back room of the Chez Mollet at all ETVC sponsored functions. The ban goes into effect at the January 28 social. Smokers can still light up in the front bar, restaurant and patios.

ETVC NEWSLETTER

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

President	Cindy Martin
Vice-President	Rusty [redacted]
Secretary	Jane Bentley
Treasurer	Nancy Ann Martine
Education	Martina [redacted] & Evette [redacted]
Outreach	Lauren Hotchkiss & Telzey Adams
Social	Cheryl [redacted] & Pam [redacted]

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Membership (as of 11/30/92)	362
1991 Membership	346
New members this year	52

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance on 10/1/92	$4,390.63
October Income	$1,202.40
October Expenses	$2,820.40
Balance on 10/31/92	**$2,772.63**
November Income	$1,081.65
November Expenses	$794.88
Balance on 11/30/92	**$3,059.40**

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
Copy Editors	Donna & Julie Freeman
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 $1 per line. 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-[redacted]**

EDITOR'S NOTES

by Jane Kamper Bentley

I have a friend who cannot get a job, or when she does cannot hold it.

My friend is pretty and feminine. She has a voice many of us would envy. Unfortunately, those very traits are what keep her from earning money as a man that she needs to complete her transition as a woman. She isn't lazy, late or rude, but one day the boss told her that her voice did not fit the Sharper Image that the corporation wanted to project. She was fired.

I have other friends who enjoy prestige and power as males. Their lives as women are part-time. No one in the Real World must know, so skirts and designer dresses are closeted behind Brooks Brothers suits. They are not oppressed but repressed. What a pity.

What a pity that our "community" is at such a divide. One group, often impoverished, ostracized, discriminated against because of what Kim Stuart calls "The Uninvited Dilemma." The other, with a merely "Inconvenient Dilemma," aiding and abetting social oppression by its silence.

There are no names to be named. No one is bad for preferring the closet. No one is righteous for being uncloseted. But we might ask ourselves, "If we are a community, what kind of a community are we?" Are we merely an agglomeration of similar behaviors? Are we grazing sheep who leave weaker members to the wolves? Or does community imply active care and concern? Are we our sister's keeper?

Not long ago, one of our members used her influence to help a member in transition get a job at her firm. Which set me to wondering if her action might not be repeated by others. Maybe not the same kind of help. It may be indirect, such as letting jobless sisters-in-transition know when openings arise and whom to contact. Or it could be as simple as helping someone put together a resume.

We seem to be like groups of people separated by a deep canyon. On one side, those who need help. On the other, those who can give it. Who will step forward to help build a bridge to connect the haves with the have nots? Who has the skills to introduce those who need work with those who can supply it? Who knows where the work is? Your sisters need you.

Let's talk. I'm available at most socials, or you can write to me c/o ETVC, POB 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486.

Boulton and Park Society
Fifth Annual

Texas 'T' Party
"Tea for Two"
February 26 - 28, 1993
in San Antonio, Texas

A fun weekend for cross-dressers
their families and friends

Come for:

- *a weekend to dress with the girls*
- *the Texas sun and warm weather*
- *the activities, the outings*
- *meeting friends, new and old*

write to: **Texas 'T' Party**
P.O. Box 700042
San Antonio, TX 78270

or call: **(512)** [redacted]
(Wednesdays, 7:00 pm - 9:30 pm CT)

Election 1992: Cautious Hope

Jane Kamper Bentley

If there was a lot of hopeful news for sexual and gender civil libertarians in the 1992 presidential and congressional elections, state proposition results bespoke a more mixed message. Score a save in Oregon, with defeat of the fanatically anti-gay Measure 9, but a loss in Colorado with passage of Amendment 2, which struck down local laws prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

The religious right in Oregon, having learned how to craft hate law from their Colorado brethren, vow to gather 50,000 signatures for a ballot proposition similar to Amendment 2. But attack has met with counter-attack. In a mock-up of the Surgeon General's warning on cigarette packs, the front page of the November 19 San Francisco Bay Times read: "Warning: The Passage Of Amendment 2 Has Made Travel To Colorado Hazardous To The Lives Of Gays & Lesbians. Spend Your Money Elsewhere." A map of Colorado was captioned, "State of Denial."

Shortly after the election, Ellen Summers of the North West Gender Alliance in Portland, Oregon, and Laura Smiley of the Gender Identity Center in Denver, Colorado, were asked for their assessment of the election.

"First of all," said Ms. Summers, "I want to note how much we appreciate the support of ETVC and the entire gender community. We raised $3,000. As for the results of the election, we were glad to win, but frankly we were hoping for better than a 58% to 42% victory. This proposition was so bad, we felt the vote should have gone a lot more our way."

I understand your opponents, the Oregon Citizens Alliance, have promised to try again.

"One of them said on TV, 'We're coming after you.' But we're not waiting. The governor is trying to get a committee together against this kind of hate. But if the worst happens, and they do get their way into law, we'll take it to the courts and try to have it declared unconstitutional."

Which is exactly what is happening in Colorado. "Right after the election," said Laura Smiley from her Denver home, "Equality Colorado (formerly called EPOC) along with 12 individual plaintiffs, including Martina Navratilova, announced they would file a lawsuit claiming that Amendment 2 denied equal protection under the law."

What effect do you think a boycott of your state will have?

"Things like that can backfire. I mean, if you can do it to them, they can do it to you. I hope proponents reconsider. I think we can turn this thing around with education."

Why?

"I know this sounds odd, but I think that this election may turn out to be a good thing for us. It woke up a lot of people who were apathetic. I'd like to see us launch a campaign of our own to repeal the law. We've got to act, because the TVC (Traditional Values Coalition) is going to Oregon and six to ten other states to work for what they succeeded in getting here."

It looks like a lot of fires to put out.

"But we have a good shot in the courts, and I also think a lot of people are realizing that anti-discrimination laws protect everybody. But, also, Representative Pat Schroeder has spoken with and written to President-elect Clinton, asking him to issue an executive order prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation, and asking him to support legislation to add a sexual orientation classification to the Civil Rights Act of 1964. I've spoken to her personally (she's known me as Larry, and now as Laura), and said 'Heck, let's add gender identity to the civil rights law, too'"

"I hope we all write and lobby our senators and representatives to let them know that we count, too, and that a free society cannot tolerate bigotry of any kind."



President's Message



ETVC is on the road to becoming certified by the state and federal governments as a tax-exempt nonprofit organization. Thanks to the efforts of ETVC Treasurer Nancy Ann Martine, all of the paperwork required to give us this status is under review by a CPA who is expected to have forwarded the documents to the proper agencies by the time you read this. There are many major advantages to becoming a nonprofit, not the least of which is that people who do volunteer work for us may be able to get certain tax write-offs. In addition, we hope to get a major break on our postage costs which are considerable. By the way, Nancy Ann was able to get the CPA work done pro bono...yep, for free. Nice work.

Finally, the Executive Committee has selected me to be our representative in the Congress of Representatives, which will meet during the International Foundation for Gender Education convention in March. I will be bringing a mandate from the Executive Committee to recommend that the Congress put pressure on IFGE to do some genuine anti-defamation work at the national level. Many of you will recall that as recently as last year, a movie with a monstrous gender person won the Academy Award for Best Picture with nary a peep from our community. Other lesser films and television programs continue to portray us as sick, criminal or debased, and nothing is said about it. The ETVC Executive Committee strongly believes that anti-defamation activity is a top priority for our community now and that IFGE, if it truly desires to be our national organization, must take on this task.

Special Events

Publicly Speaking
Saturday January 16

Now that I *look* good, what on earth do I *say*...to the store clerk, the bus driver, the mall guard? The January educational meeting will focus on self-esteem and intentional non-defensive communication. Intended as a stepping stone for those who want to go out, it is also planned to fine tune the presentations of our speakers bureau members, both old timers and recruits. Lily's 2-5 P.M. $3.

The Ninth Annual ETVC Cotillion
Saturday, January 23

The *Ninth* ETVC Cotillion! Maybe we're onto something. Director Stephanie M. and Producer Rusty Levis, who brought you last year's smash hit, team up again, bringing South Seas Romance to San Francisco. Even the tickets are festive! Buffet dinner 7 - 8 PM, at the California Club, 1750 Clay Street, San Francisco. Tickets: $20 in advance. $25 at the door. See any ETVC officer, or call (415) [redacted].

You Oughta' Be In Pitchers...with Miss ETVC
Thursday, January 28

Didn't get any good pix of yourself at the Cotillion? Don't put away (or return) that Cotillion dress just yet. Drop by the Chez to meet Miss ETVC 1993 and get instant photo gratification to boot. 'Cause you *oughta'* be in pictures: high-quality Polaroids taken in a studio-like setting by an experienced photographer for snapshot prices. Share a photo with a friend, or with Miss ETVC herself. Music and Door Prizes. Chez Mollet. Members $3, Guests $5.

Taxing Questions
Saturday, February 6

You're due for a series of medical treatments, beginning with electrolysis and culminating with SRS (sex reassignment surgery). Which can you deduct from your IRS taxes? Some? All? Can you deduct certain expenses you incur as an ETVC volunteer? Or...you and your spouse must divorce because of SRS. In your new status, how can you minimize taxes to your mutual advantage? How are tax codes changing? Do different IRS offices give different interpretations of the law? These and other questions will be discussed by Sandy Kasten, an attorney with an MBA in taxation law, and her significant other, Jano Bogg, who holds a BS in accounting. Lily's from 2PM. $3.

Coronation Flight 1993: Crash Landing, An Evening of Wacky Survivors, Saturday, February 20

The Coronation to which all others pay obeisance, presented by the Emperor Douglass Stromberg and Empress Velveeta Mozzarella together with the Imperial Board of Trustees. Fashion Center, 695 8th Street, San Francisco. Tickets $30. The first ten members to purchase tickets will have a seat reserved at ETVC's table. Ask any ETVC officer, or call (415) [redacted].

Fashion Fling III - Lingerie Revealed
Thursday, February 25, 1993

Just when you thought your credit cards were safe, the Fashion Fling is back. Only this time it's more ...revealing, shall we say? Ms. Joyce Patterson-Rogers will present the literal height of lingerie fashion in tall, extra tall and large sizes. A trained Couturier (one who fits bras, foundations and prosthesis), Ms Patterson-Rogers will explain the fitting and types of breast forms that she offers along with her wonderful line of lingerie and accessories. Door prizes and more surprises revealed.
Chez Mollet. Members $5, Guests $8.

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707- [redacted]
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527 Bryant St.
(between 3rd. & 4th. Sts.)

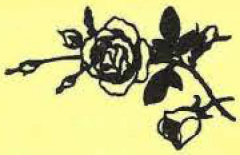
LIFE OUT OF CONTROL?
Or are some areas just not working?
Explore issues of

- sexuality
- gender (TV/TS/TG/SO)
- SM/DS
- anxiety
- depression
- self-esteem/shame
- inner child/alternate personas
- relationships/intimacy

An experienced guide for your journey. Psychotherapy and counseling: William A. Henkin, Ph.D.(c) board certified sex therapist, Fellow, American Academy of Clinical Sexologists, HBIGDA. MFCC licence #22960.
(415) [redacted]

TV/TS/TG GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

A Calendar of Events for January & February



JANUARY

5	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510)
6	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**	**San Jose**	**(415)**
13	**ETVC**	**Social Committee**	**Meets at 7:30 PM**	**Chez Mollet**	**(415)**
13	**ETVC**	**Significant Others**	**Meets 7:30-10 PM**	**San Jose**	**(415)**
15	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408)
16	**ETVC**	**Education Committee**	**Meets at 12 PM**	**Lily's**	**(408)**
16	**ETVC**	**Publicly Speaking**	**Starts at 2 PM**	**Lily's**	**(408)**
18	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510)
20	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510)
21	**ETVC**	**Couples Social**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**San Pablo**	**(415)**
22	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408)
23	**ETVC**	**Cotillion**	**Starts at 7 PM**	**California Club, SF**	**(510)**
23	SGA	Dinner/Social	Starts at 8 PM	Sacramento	(916)
27	**ETVC**	**Decoration Party**	**Starts at 7:30 PM**	**Chez Mollet**	**(415)**
28	**ETVC**	**You Oughta' Be in Pitchers**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Chez Mollet**	**(415)**
29	Pac Ctr	Open Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510)

FEBRUARY

2	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510)
3	**ETVC**	**Social Committee**	**Meets 7:30 PM**	**Chez Mollet**	**(415)**
3	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510)
5	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408)
6	**ETVC**	**Education Committee**	**Meets at 12 PM**	**Lily's**	**(408)**
6	**ETVC**	**Taxing Questions**	**Starts at 2 PM**	**Lily's**	**(408)**
6	**ETVC**	**Executive Committee**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**San Francisco**	**(415)**
8	**ETVC**	**Outreach Committee**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**San Leandro**	**(510)**
11	**ETVC**	**Significant Others**	**Meets 7:30-10 PM**	**Pleasant Hill**	**(415)**
12	**ETVC**	**Poker Social**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**San Francisco**	**(415)**
12	South Bay Gender Discussion Group		Meets 8-10 PM	San Jose	(408)
15	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510)
17	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510)
18	**ETVC**	**Couples Social**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**TBA**	**(415)**
19	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408)
20	Imperial Court Coronation		Starts at 7 PM	Fashion Center, SF	(415)
24	**ETVC**	**Decoration Party**	**Starts at 7:30 PM**	**Chez Mollet**	**(415)**
25	**ETVC**	**Fashion Fling III**	**Starts at 8 PM**	**Chez Mollet**	**(415)**
26	RGA	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	Sunnyvale	(408)
26	Pac Ctr	Open Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510)
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 the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, and last Friday of the month at 8:00 PM. 2712 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley. Call: (510) .

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)

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)

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) .

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)

ETVC Membership Application

Please Print

Mailing Name:_____

Mailing Address:_____

City:_____ State:_____ Zip:_____

Preferred Name_____

Birth Date: Month_____ Day_____ New Member:_____ Renewal:_____

How did you learn about ETVC?_____

Part year membership from Januay 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

Sail Away

Dames at Sea

Avast! me pretties. Which of yer is ready fer th' taste of salt on yer pouty red lips, the feel of the wind in yer wig like god's own hair drier and th' sight of full sail billowed out like a new bra,?

It's all happenin' fer true early this May, as Cap'n Joan Sheldon ploughs the seas from San Francisco Bay to Washington State's San Juan Islands with the saltiest crew this side of Gilligan's Island.

Each day ye'll sail to new adventure under a skipper who knows, aye, an' respects the sea. Each night ye'll make a new port of call. The end of the cruise is not the end of fun, however. At Port Angeles, Washington, there's Esprit '93, sponsored by Vancouver, BC's Cornbury Society, Seattle's Emerald City and Portland's NWGA.

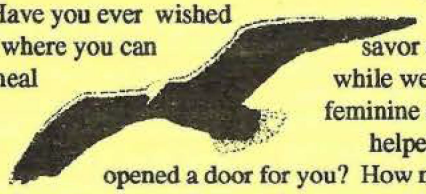
So, quick, now, fetch yer quill an' write to the Cap'n so's yer can sign up 'afore some other scurvy wench grabs yer berth: Joan Sheldon, P.O.B. 6541, San Jose, CA 95150.

BelleVoyage

Then again, perhaps you are less enthralled with the *Voyages of Sinbad* than *Now, Voyager*. For you, high seas adventure is when the Love Boat swerves to avoid a clump of seaweed.

In that case, Dr. Peggy Rudd (author of *My Husband Wears My Clothes*) has just the prescription: May 20-24 she will host the Fourth Annual Dignity Cruise.

Dr. Rudd writes, "Dignity Cruises offer an opportunity for crossdressers and those who love them to share many first-time experiences...Have you ever wished to dine in a formal room where you can savor a delicious seven course meal while wearing your very most feminine attire? Has anyone ever helped you with your chair or opened a door for you? How many times have you wished to experience elegance in every waking hour?



"Or perhaps you have wondered just how much "Lady Luck" would smile down upon you if you played Blackjack, Roulette, Poker, or Craps in your most elegant, formal gown. " You'll cruise the Bahamas in a "Magical world of...nightclubs...shows...Calypso music...lazy hours on the sun swept beaches."

Ask Donna and Julie Freeman what a wonderful time they had on the first Dignity Cruise.

To reserve a place on board, you must act soon by sending a $100 deposit. Your deposit is "fully refundable until the final payment is due, so there is actually no risk in getting it in early." For information call (713) 556 1513 between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. CENTRAL TIME. Or write, Anne of Cruise Ahoy, 11211 Katy Freeway, #300, Houston, Texas 77079. Include name, address, phone and smoking or non. Or write: Dr. Peggy Rudd, [redacted] Texas 77449.

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TV/TS Tapestry Journal

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

The TV/TS Tapestry Journal is intended to be our community's "house organ." It is a tasteful, comprehensive, 150(+) page magazine containing articles, editorials, letters, references, and the worlds largest personal listing directory.

Single Copy $12.00

Subscription $40.00 ($50.00 1st class & Canada)

I.F.G.E., P. O. Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778
(617)[redacted]

Behind The Scenes

Lauren Rene Hotchkiss

(Parts of this article have appeared in the RGA Newsletter)

If you were at the Cotillion last year you probably agree that it was the best one ever, but have you ever wondered what it was like behind the scenes?

For the audience, it represented a fabulous evening of superlative entertainment, but for the cast and crew the smooth professionalism was only arrived at by over two months of careful planning and intense rehearsal.

It all began in late September of 1991 with the first of many Cotillion planning meetings. Over the weeks and months that followed, committees were formed and appointments made that would bring the dream into reality. Through October and early November the contestant line-up began to fill out and weekly rehearsals began under the velvet whip of our indefatigable director, Ms. Stephanie [redacted], and her able assistant, Jessica [redacted], invaluably helped by contestant coaches Wilhelmina Beins and Eva [redacted]

As the holidays passed and the New Year arrived, the show began to come together due to the superb efforts of Cotillion producer and ETVC vice-president, Rusty [redacted], and the planning committee.

At last the weekend of the show arrived. Friday night saw the contestants go through a grueling dress rehearsal - its true, they made us wear dresses - while members of the crew, planning committee and volunteers began to set up decorations and equipment for the show.

As show day arrived, the finishing touches were made while the cast and crew did a final run-through. By late afternoon, we were ready.

After a short break at our hotel room nearby, we returned to the California Club and immediately repaired to our dressing room, none too affectionately dubbed "the freezer," to begin our transformation into the lovely creatures that were later to grace the stage. Imagine a meat locker full of panicked chickens, and you will have some idea of the pandemonium (and the temperature) as the seven of us, our make-up consultants, wig stylists and others, all tried to use a six-by-ten room at once, while a constant array of cast, crew and well-wishers paraded through our midst.

Miraculously, we were all ready as the introductory number began, and we were presented to the audience for the first time. No sooner were we off the stage, however, than we had to make a lightening-quick costume change in order to be ready for the sportswear segment.

Somehow we made it in time once again. We had no time to congratulate ourselves, however, for once more we had to dash back to make yet another costume change for our talent pieces.

"At last, a little bit of a break," I thought, as I finished my song. There were two acts after me, as well as an intermission and the Star Search, before we were due back on stage for the evening gown competition. "Lots of time," said I to myself in blissful innocence, little knowing what lay before me.

I had just slipped into my evening gown and begun to zip it up when disaster struck; the zipper jammed. I had tried the dress on several times before with no problem. Why now! Nothing I or anyone could do would free it. Eventually, a half dozen people were all trying to help me unstick the @#$%* thing. We tried soap, we tried oil, we tried anything you can imagine. All to no avail. Finally my sponsor, Louise Carrol of Continental Wigs, had the fantastic idea of bringing up some of the satin flaring from the side of the dress, and draping it up along the left side of the bust line to hide the zipper. It worked. It created a marvelous bow effect, and even looked like it was designed that way.

I made it to the lineup in the wings with almost five whole seconds to spare.

We all did our turn upon the stage, and then waited backstage for the five finalists to be chosen. At last the verdict was in. Mine was one of the names called.

Now it was time for the one segment for which nobody can completely rehearse. Yes, that's right, the *BIG* question.

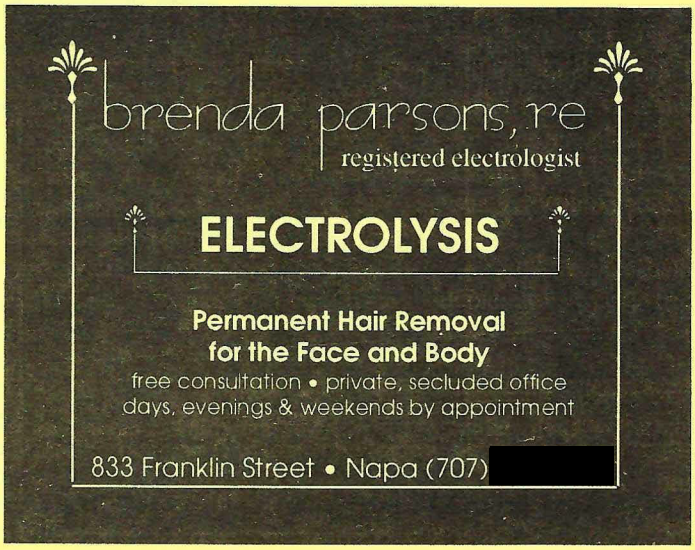
I could almost hear an imaginary drum roll as we each stepped up to take an envelope from Tommi Rose. I breathed a sigh of relief as each of us made it through without fainting, all of us giving reasonably good answers. But then - Oh! how cruel - the l-o-n-g wait as the judges made their final determination.

After three eternities and an epoch or two, the finalists were whisked back on stage and the final decision announced. Billie Jean was Miss ETVC 1992.

The show over, it was back to the dressing room to gather up our strewn about clothing, jewelry and cosmetics, and then to our hotel room for the cast party.

After several hours of celebrating, involving gift opening and hearty congratulations for our new Miss ETVC and the two runner-ups, as well as a seemingly endless supply of pizza, champagne and other libations (we could safely blow our diets now), it was time to head homeward and bid farewell to Cotillion '92.

Though the night of magic was over for another year, it provided some wonderful memories, as well as the opportunity to appear before a warm and receptive audience and to work with a marvelous cast and crew.



Dreams, Hope, Vision: Gifts to Yourself

Luanna Rodgers

The holidays have passed, beautiful times of cheer and sharing. All the gifts have been presented. All the food has been served. Loved ones have been nurtured and cared for. You have given and received. Now it's time to get reacquainted with yourself, to give yourself a gift, the gift of a clear, panoramic vision for your future

Yes, this is a form of that age-old tradition: New Year's Resolutions. It differs, however, in being a true and comprehensive personal life vision matched to your inner needs, rather than a list of laborious "shoulds" to be achieved and abandoned three months later. A life vision can be transformational, buoying the spirit. Love, meaningful work, self-respect and dreams transformed into goals and then into reality; this is the stuff of a life fully lived. We all need a purposeful path in life that honestly reflects who we are. Time spent on such a path, found through introspection and based on true needs, is exciting and pleasurable.

As a gender person, your introspection at the dawn of this new year full of opportunities may directly involve the issue of gender and how it fits into your life. You may ask yourself what activities or gender role variations make you most content and comfortable. You can be very honest with yourself, putting aside preconceived notions of what is "right" or "best." Put aside the judgments of others, also. This is *your* life, *your* year newly beginning. You respect yourself when you take time out to talk with your inner self and be honest.

Step away from the pressures and demands of your daily life for awhile. Listen to what your true needs are. Your way of achieving this may come in any form. It may mean taking a trip to the beach or hiking through the woods to be alone with your thoughts, going to a special spot of contemplation or inspiration, or a weekend getaway at a favorite retreat. You may think, dream, write, draw, review your life, go through old photos, make a life wish-book.

Once you have had this forthright conversation with yourself, and generated some ideas, you will want to involve others in your planning. Loved ones are part of life's delights and are not to be excluded. Let them in on your thoughts and feelings when you are ready.

Make sure you have plenty of support as you set about realizing your dreams (your dreams do include others, don't they?). You may wish to talk with a therapist knowledgeable about gender issues, attend a support group, talk with close friends, share with loved ones. Following a meaningful vision matched to your individual needs does not have to mean being on the path alone.

You may find that your New Year's vision does not focus on gender. There may be other areas you need to explore in order to feel fulfilled. You may want to develop or enhance your relationships with others. You may want to learn to feel freer to express you loving and sexual feelings. You may want to be good to yourself by regaining control over areas of your life that have been out of control because of drugs, alcohol or compulsive work. You may seek meaning for your life. You may want to develop new facets of yourself. It may be as simple as learning to love and respect yourself.

Whatever your particular journey, I wish you a clear vision, an open, gentle mind, few obstacles in the road and a very successful future. May the best of your dreams become reality!

What is Our Agenda?

Thalia

Research on many fronts has begun to give us a multi-cultural history. A history that has always been there, but has not been accessible to most of us.

Thanks to sociologists, anthropologists, womens' studies programs and the greater respectability of gay and lesbian studies, we increasingly are being provided with foremothers, forefathers and forepersons of genders we don't have in our scheme of things. They were and are not all publicity seekers cashing in on their notoriety and violation of mid-twentieth century western norms. They are real people who lived or live within their cultural context in roles we have not dared dream of. They didn't need to go public, they simply existed: Warrior woman, berdache, babain, these people give the lie to our perverse distinctions and narrow expectations.

We live in a world that has two genders and assigns them by the outward manifestation of genitals. As we all know, there are a myriad of rules and regulations based upon these concepts. Do we, who know that there is another reality, challenge the prevailing norm or reinforce it with our appearance and behaviors? One person I frequently speak with on panels has said that if he were given complete social permission to crossdress he would find it much less rewarding. The aspect of doing the forbidden heightens the experience for him and he might not crossdress if it were a normalized act for an adult. His crossdressed appearance is very conventional and does not push any of the boundaries of propriety, so the act of rebellion is carried out in a very normalized manner.

What would be the consequences of a liberalized set of gender norms that would not be so rigidly split and dependent on genitals? Would there be fewer or more people who would take the initiative to explore new roles? How many of us would feel compelled to try to pass even when the definition of man and woman became more blurry? And would more or fewer people seek sex reassignment if their genitals were not the issue in assigning other attributes?

We are beginning to see the faint bits of change in a few disparate realms. For example, when "the boss" is a woman and can't be dismissed as such, we see the stress and realignment of expectations that results. New realities beget new arrangements of power and new forms of backlash, too. Change gives opportunities and brings up fears. What kinds of things can we do to foster positive changes and discourage reactionary, fear-driven repression? The kind of repression that is sold as "good for us" because it fosters "traditional values."

In the larger sense, what is our agenda? What does the so-called gender community desire? Once Jerry Mander called for the abolition of television because, among other things, he felt it was controlling the future of desire. Do the rules we grew up with regarding gender and sexuality govern the future of our desire? Are we doomed to repeat much of the past because we cannot envision a future very different from what we have now? And what can we do?

What is our agenda, folks?

The Night of the Living Vites

Cheryl [redacted]

Who would have believed the number of bizarre, sexy and scary costumed revelers lurking in the shadows, or what tales of mystery and intrigue would unfold from their lips. Ah! but wait, one lovely damsel dares to speak. "This is the night of the living vites," she says in a deep baritone. I should have known: *Anything* was possible at the October 29 ETVC Halloween Social.



l. to r.: Robin, Mystery Vampiress, & Kathryn

The number of people in costumes and the variety of disguises indicate that ETVC members are an inventive lot, if not a little wacky. As one might expect at a sacred gender holiday event like Halloween, the attendance was fantastic. Many members, significant others (bless you and keep on comin') and guests squeezed into the back room of the Chez Mollet. Frankie and Mack (former social committee co-chairs) did a stellar job providing lights, sound and a fog machine to add to the atmosphere. The only problem was a premature eruption when the fog machine got knocked over. Lots of Halloween decor (a coffin, spider webs, masks, bugs and bats (some on two legs)) set the mood for the evening.



l. to r.: Lauren O., Joyce Patterson-Rogers, Mystery Devil.

What about the costume contest, and the winners, you ask? Well, to be honest, in the excitement Pam and I never got all the names of the winners and the score sheets vanished like Dracula at sunrise. So if I miss someone or get a name wrong, blame it on...dee *Cheeld* ren of dee Night!



l. to r.: Diane S., Mystery Mystic, Billie Jean Jones, & Sinead O'Conner

First off, as expected, the Sexy category had an over-abundance of contestants, who were showin their stuff. Tyrrell took first place in a black dress that was cut low on top and shorter on the bottom. A real traffic stopper. The winner in "A Character" were Robin and her SO, Kathryn, as two peppy cheer leaders. In the third category, Scary, a mystery ghost who haunted us all evening turned out to be Joyce Patterson-Rogers behind the mask. You can see her for real when she presents the Lingerie Show at the February Social. Elegant is another category where the ETVC crowd showed up in force, and here we had Nick and Nora Charles (a.k.a. Nicky and Jane Bentley) with the ghost of Asta as the winner. The Bizarre category pitted an Indian mystic (Nancy Ann) against Sinead O'Conner (Zia) with Sinead winning by a hair. Janelle won the comical category. She had to rush off, something about water. Great costume, but do you think being pregnant is funny?



l. to r. Cindy, Nick Charles, Mystery Moll, Roxanna, Francis.

Much thanks to our esteemed judges of the costume contest: Rosalie (New Looks), Diane Richwine (the newly wed) and Stephanie M.

Thanks, too, to those who so generously donated lots of great prizes:

California Theatrical Supply, SF
Chez Mollet - Lenny Mollet
Continental Wig Salon, San Rafael - Louise Carroll
Lucy Ann Jones Voice Coaching, Millbrae
Romantasy Sensual Art 7 Accessories, SF - Ann Grogan
Rosalie's New Look, SF - Rosalie

Please show your thanks to those who support us by patronizing their business.

Finally, much thanks to that real hip and with it Witch, Roxanne de Lyon, for the great job as MC.

With so many great costumes, I could go on for pages - but come see for yourself next year.

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CINDY AT LARGE

Over the last few months I've come to realize that I actually look forward to having my twice-monthly electrolysis treatments. No, I don't like having a "beehive put on my face," as one girl recently described the process. But if could afford it, I'd probably have an appointment every week.

Now, I'm not going to try and kid you. It hurts to get zapped with an electrified probe. It hurts a lot. Thanks to electrolysis, I know exactly where every nerve ending is on my face and neck, and believe me, I could have gotten by nicely without that information.

But the pain pales compared to what electrolysis promises: a smooth, beautiful face. Now I understand why people are willing to go through multiple facelifts and eyelifts and have cheek implants and face peels and on and on. Actually having beauty may be an unreachable grail, but the possibility that you can make yourself gorgeous - permanently - is too seductive for someone like me to resist.

Let me back up a little here. I've always hated my face hair, especially on my neck, but the idea of electrolysis kind of frightened me. It was only when I began to go out in public during the day that I really began to think about going through this very long and expensive process.

It simply became obvious to me that no matter how close I shaved and no matter how skillfully I applied my beard cover that bluish haze on my jaw and lip was going to be there for all to see. I'll never forget the makeup artist who had just finished doing my face making the remark that he could still "see the beardline" but that all "drag queens have to live with it" unless I wanted to have my makeup trowelled on. I also found that a day or two after a very close shave I would get severe acne attacks.

Fed up, I started having electrolysis done last year. Progress was frustratingly slow in the early stages. I switched from one person to my current practitioner and the pace quickened, but it wasn't until somewhere around the 50th hour of work that I got the big payoff.

I was totally cleared of all facial hair. That meant that for the first time in my life I was able to go out using only standard foundation. No beard cover. It was amazing. I looked better without all the heavy stuff and I passed better too. My "Yes, Ma'am" count was going up while the knowing looks were waning. I was hooked.

This isn't to say there aren't downsides to having your hair removed. Actually, there are lots of reasons not to have electrolysis done. As I said earlier, it feels awful having your hair zapped. You are also very likely to have some swelling for a day or more. I've been called "Chip" as in chipmunk by my wisebabe spouse a few times after having work down on my jaw line. You'll get nasty ingrown hairs. It also costs a lot and it takes forever, anywhere from 25-50 bucks an hour for work that can easily take 150 hours for full beard removal. You may also find, as I have, that even a light beard masks a lot of skin problems. Minor acne pitting that you never noticed before suddenly seems very evident once your hair is gone and you are using light foundation.

On the other hand, my skin color is becoming more uniform and pores are permanently shrinking as hairs are eliminated. Last week I threw out half a dozen beard cover products. That alone makes it worth it to stick my face in a beehive.

I haven't mentioned my practitioner's name here because I have a policy against endorsing advertisers in this column, but if you really want to know drop me a line or talk to me. She's excellent, uses first class equipment, disposable probes and truly cares about her clients.

FLUX IN PHILLY Apparently after hearing a constant din of criticism, Renaissance newsletter editor Paula Jordan Sinclair called it quits. Jordan put out a beautiful, lively product that contained her exceptional "NewsQueen" news reports. According to JoAnn Roberts, Renaissance founder, there was a "homophobic subtext" to the criticism of Sinclair.

Roberts is also quitting as a "staffer" on the newsletter and will no longer write her acerbic "Iconoclast" column. Roberts will provide a "syndicated" column to the newsletter called HotStuff which will have fashion tips. No explanation given in the Renaissance News for the change.



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.

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 January meeting will be on the 13th, a Wednesday. Our February meeting will be on the 11th, a Thursday. You are all welcome with open arms. For more information call Ginny at (415) [redacted]

Point of View

Julie Freeman

When wives and significant others first find out about crossdressing, one of their deepest fears is just how far will their husbands go in their desire to emulate and imitate women. Although most of us know little about what prompts this behavior, many of the women I have met are willing to learn about the behavior and try to understand it.

But the fear that keeps cropping up is that of transsexualism. Our knowledge about primary transsexualism as opposed to secondary transsexualism is limited to be sure. Most of us can understand an individual who believed from an early age that he was born in the wrong body. Some, like Tula, make it to the media scene and convincingly make a case for the primary transsexual. Even more persuasive was a movie made several years ago about the late Christine Jorgensen, where a medical work-up led the doctor to conclude that although George (Christine) appeared male he had the hormonal makeup of a woman.

But it is the secondary transsexualism that has us baffled. Is there such a phenomenon and how do we cope with it? I was particularly disturbed, when on a cruise set up especially for crossdressers and their families, to find one member of our group, married with children, out gallivanting at night as a young single woman! "She" was so successful in passing that a single straight man on the cruise was smitten and probably hoped a relationship would develop. Although "she" had the good sense to prevent an unpleasant situation from developing, the fact remains that her wife and children were left somewhere in the background while "she" went out to play.

So when I was asked a few days after that event to write an article on wives and transsexuals by some friends in Tri-Ess, who were concerned about the break-up of families in the gender community, it was not hard to do. Especially since at that time I was also facing some concerns. I had no knowledge of why secondary transsexualism may occur or even if there is such a phenomenon, but I could speak to the feelings and emotions that wives experience when faced with this prospect in their own lives.

Recently another talk show on gender aired with the families of crossdressers. In one relationship, the husband was now living full time as a woman, but had no intentions of ever having surgery. His wife seemed very supportive and happy in their relationship. But sadly, another couple did not. In that relationship, all the fears and anxieties that we wives are troubled about were demonstrated. Although they had been married for over fifteen years and had several children, the crossdresser was now living full time as a woman, with plans to have an operation when financially able. His relationship with his wife is now just one of friendship, "best" friends as the wife puts it. She seemed very resigned to her situation, but it was obvious to the audience as well as the hostess that she was unhappy to say the least. Her husband did not make things easier by alluding to the possibility of having a relationship with a man, sometime after surgery!

Crossdressers need to know of these fears and anxieties on the part of their wives and significant others. They need to reassure their wives as to their love and commitment to them and their families. Only then will their relationships broaden and deepen.

Couples Group

JKB

Have you attended an ETVC Couples Group yet? We've been meeting regularly since 1985 in the quiet and safety of a different member's home each month.

Last September, our hosts were Ginny and Nancy Ann, who live in a lovely pre-Dolger detached house in San Francisco's Parkside District. As usual, each guest brought a dish for the buffet table to add to the delicious turkey pot pie Ginny had prepared.

As we ate, I fell into conversation with Rosa and her husband, appearing en femme as Sharon. Just as there are typical questions a crossdresser is asked ("Which bathroom do you use?"), so there are typical questions one asks of a crossdresser's spouse:

"Did you know about this when you got married?"

Rosa laughs as Sharon answers, "One day we were watching a TV program about crossdressers and I said 'I do that.'"

Rosa laughs again. "And I said, 'Yeah? What are you gonna' wear?"

"Why did you keep it a secret?"

Sharon looks thoughtful for a moment. "I don't know. It was something I did every so often. I'd just never thought much about it."

"Since Sharon told me," says Rosa, "we do a lot more shopping together."

"You seem to be comfortable with Sharon's crossdressing."

"Yeah, sure. Especially when she's her male self and *he* gets grumpy. Then I pull out a dress and say, 'Wear it!'"

"And I say, 'No!'"

"Then I throw out a nightie and she wears that."

Further conversation reveals that Sharon and Rosa have been married seven years. Sharon has a 21 year old son and 15 year old daughter from a previous marriage.

"They both know about me. When I told my daughter, she said, 'Oh, let me see.' My son couldn't care less. Unless it has to do with fishing or surfing, he's not interested."

"Has crossdressing caused you any problems?"

"Yeah," says Sharon, "there were a couple of skirts I got that she couldn't get into."

"I see how other women are dealing with it,' says Rosa. A lot of them are resentful. I never felt resentful."

"We're both nurses," says Sharon, " and both have a lot of weekdays together. We're together constantly. There's nothing I would rather do than be with Rosa. Most of my dressing is when she's not around. I just don't need it when she's there."

"Rosa, what do you get for yourself by coming to a couples group?"

Rosa takes Sharon's hand. "Knowing I'm not the only wife and that there's nothing wrong with what our husbands are doing. It's a little reassurance. A security blanket."

"Anything you'd like to add?"

"She's great!" says Sharon.

In Game Face

Pam [redacted]

Okay, you've read your newsletter cover to cover. You know what's happening in the community. You know fashion and beauty tips. You know about the woman within, the child within and how to declare them as tax dependents. What's missing?

You guessed it girls. A sports section. Don't let anyone tell you sports isn't feminine. After all, it was sports that gave us Lycra-Spandex.

True, we've had little if any sport-related events to report, but that can change. Does anyone's femme self participate in any sports? Maybe you attend sports events en femme. Let me know about it (No, Cheryl, racing late to the Chez like Bobby Unser doesn't count).

Anyone for a femme miniature golf tournament? Bowling? A gender centipede for the 1993 Bay to Breakers? I'm up for any of these, plus more suggestions from you.

A sports angle can also apply to our regular events, like the Cotillion. This is our Super Bowl, kids. Let's treat it as such. We can start by attaching a Roman numeral to it: ETVC Cotillion IX. Gives it sense of permanence, don't you think? You tremble with the same reverent anticipation felt during the parade lap at Indy or playing of "my Old Kentucky Home" at Churchill Downs.

In game face? Gender term "in face" meets sports term "game face." If you go public in face, it helps to have on your game face. It's not any look so much as the attitude that top athletes have which keeps them cool under pressure. Think Joe Montana in the fourth quarter or Larry Bird at the free throw line. Do they let pressure rattle them? They take their best shots regardless of the score and if they fail, they come back for more the next time. Something to keep in mind.

Have fun girls, and remember - it's not over 'til the fat lady lip synchs.

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We're Sorry

Last issue we printed an out of date ad for Ken Pool's Health Education Research Services that included the phone number for Mr. Pool's recently deceased partner, Elfrieda Kitzing. Our apologies to Mr. Pool and to those who called Ms. Kitzing's number.

Club Review

Kristen [redacted]

Well, it seems that in the ever-changing sea of San Francisco nightlife that as soon as you find a good thing, they go and mess it up for you. Such is the case for Klubstitute. Currently, this maniacally great club is on a little winter vacation, having recently been ousted from the 11th Hour location. I'm not too worried though, we've seen the thing bounce around through four different locations in the last year, and we can only have faith that we'll hear of it sprouting like a hip weed somewhere in the near future!

Now here's the good news!...Just recently a whole new club format has come to the Paradise Lounge (11th St. at Folsom); its called FORBIDDEN PLANET! and it bills itself as a weekly Transsexual/Female Impersonator showcase. If you're thinking this sounds like a good time, then bingo! You're right on the money. The hostess of this gender revved party is Bambi Lake and her band, The Living End. Bambi is a stunning blond with over six feet of gorgeosity packed into one designer gown after another! The Living End is a compact but versatile band that not only backs up most of Bambi's guest performers but also features ETVC's very own Dale on killer sax, flute, and harmonica. The performers in this show are great. I don't remember all the names I've seen so far but among them were the famous Holly Woodlawn from New York, as well as local legend Elvis Herselvis and The Straight White Males; also Justin "Glam" Bond.

This club is noteworthy not only for the great entertainers on stage but for the crowd itself. This is a place on Mondays where you can definitely make any type of gender presentation you want and you will not be alone! I'm telling you now that the most interesting people of the Bay Area are all here! The club has also become a regular stop of The Lost Girls and the other night I also caught up with Zia and Joanne of the Fabulous Foxes who were checking it all out.

I don't know how to thank FORBIDDEN PLANET for taking up the slack where Klubstitute left off. Bambi says they're planning to keep doing these shows for a while and I, for one, sure hope so!

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Shopping Tour

Paulette

Have you seen all the clothing and accessory stores south of Market, near the Chez Mollet? If not, you should have come with us Saturday, October 3rd. We found many various stores conveniently around the corner. We started out going to Harper Greer (better known to some as Robert Geer) 580 4th Street. There we found the latest styles at reasonable, but not discount, prices. The sales people knew we were coming and not only accepted us, but were very helpful as well. If you're looking for that perfect business style coordinate that will last awhile, this is one place to look.

Next, we went to the 660 Center, at 660 3rd Street. There are at least 10 shops in this building, and more outside and across the street. There are clothes, shoes, sportswear, accessories, jewelry, and much more here. The sales people are friendly and helpful, and the prices are reasonable for today's budget. Some are even discount. Most of the stores have the larger sizes we girls look for, too.

Our thanks to Susan and Wilhelmina for arranging this tour. I really had a great time, and recommend the rest of you check these places out, if you haven't already.

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She Said...

Cori [redacted]

We tend to focus our attention on clothing, makeup - even walking and hand gestures - while the voice does not always get the attention it deserves. Consider that one half of what others perceive as one's "persona" is based upon one's vocal characteristics. This is the issue which was dealt with at the November 14 Education Committee Event.

Lucy Ann [redacted], a voice coach and ETVC member, made a presentation on the development of a feminine voice. She broke the human voice down into components such as Pitch/Range, Resonance, Intonation/Inflection, Content/Vocabulary and Vocal Intensity/Projection, discussing each separately.

The component of Pitch/Range was discussed as the one people generally think of as most important, but Lucy stated this is not always true. She suggested the use of a "unisex," easy to master pitch, not one that is too high and likely to cause voice strain.

She presented Resonance in terms of "breathiness" versus "nasal" character. Breathiness was cited as the most important feminine voice characteristic. She suggested that one concentrate on keeping one's mouth open more while speaking to avoid a masculine, nasal sound.

Intonation was described as the melody of phrases, while inflection is the melody within a single word. Women tend to use more of this melody while speaking, while a monotone is perceived as a male-sounding voice, regardless of how high the pitch.

Content/Vocabulary are important in maintaining a feminine image. Women tend to speak in questions ("Isn't it a nice day?" versus the masculine, "It is a nice day"). Lucy cautioned against the use of four-letter words and other unladylike vocabulary.

In describing feminine vocal Intensity/Projection, she explained that we lose our ability to project our voice if we attempt to use a falsetto or too high vocal pitch.

Lucy included some observations on women's use of more facial movement, especially jaw and eyebrow movement, and the tendency for women to smile more than men while talking.

As with most abilities, the development of a feminine voice requires practice. A voice coach like Lucy can, however, provide us with some insight into the details of a feminine vocal image. One only needs to listen to Lucy speak to realize this lady knows what she's talking about.

FTM/TS Men of Color

FPSG is an FTM/TS PRE-OPS OF COLOUR ONLY support group. Biweekly meetings in a friendly, NONJUDGMENTAL atmosphere. Open to MEN living without hormones to MEN who are post mastectomy. Gay/bisexual/straight. Issues: survival, relationships, families, legal matters, etc. Activities include: naming ceremonies, "history parties" celebrating transsexuals of color within our various traditions, Contact: FPSG, #634, POB 410990, San Francisco, CA 94141-0990.

Publicly Speaking

Roxanne de Lyon

Surprises lurk at every turn on humility's path.

I'm beginning to fathom myself a gifted though inexperienced speaker. Recently I attended my first National Speakers Association meeting, egotistically bypassing Toastmasters with merely a shrug at their amateur status. I felt comfortable at NSA: "And what's your topic?" they would ask. "I dress up as a woman and speak on gender issues," I tenuously replied. "How interesting," they smiled warily.....I could like these people.

So when Ginny asked me to announce the prizes for the recent Casino Imperiale, there was no doubt I should say yes - "any 'professional' speaker would leap at a chance to speak before a group."

Practice is everything. So what if I had only five minutes to prepare, impromptu is the highest form of the art anyway, isn't it? All I really had to do was read a list of prizes.

"I'll just do my usual comedy schtick." You can make humor, albeit weak and sick sometimes, out of almost anyone's list of items, but - 73 of 'em!

So I mounted the stage, eye glasses in hand, two bourbons under my cincher. The atmosphere was great, the food excellent, the cabaret exciting; but the night was definitely waning. The crowd was tough, the material tougher. "Not a problem for a 'professional.'" Jane drew and announced the winning numbers - all I had to do was provide levity by filling in the dead spots with the "prize" list.

About a third of the way through, an exhausted and distraught Ginny rushed to the stage and frantically motioned my ear down to her mouth. "Don't insult the Empresses," she chided.

I snapped back defensively, "I haven't even talked about them."

"Just don't demean them," she reemphasized.

"Yeah, yeah....."

This bothered me on the way home and for days after. I had made a quip about a hair styling offered by an Empress. What I hadn't done was my homework. I hadn't thought about who donated the prizes, or the purpose of this benefit, or who had put lots of work into this spectacular event and show. I had thought no further than the opportunity to fluff my own ego. Not very professional.

I speak often at college human sexuality classes and occasionally strut through a mall. If I come off as a scared freak or a pompous egotist, what kind of an image do I promote for gender people who follow? Way more important than my ego is a talk that empowers the students, a presence that empowers the people around me, leaving them with a positive archetype of crossdressers and transsexuals. As these positive images accumulate, other TVs have more chances to go out safely and have fun.

Not everyone will speak formally, or on stage, yet more and more of us are going out publicly. We must remember, at all times, who we are and what we represent. Like good Girl Scouts, we should always be prepared. Even for improv.

The January Educational Event will focus on speaking in public. Members of the ETVC Speakers Bureau will share their secrets of success. Attendees will get multiple opportunities to speak. We will explore: Who am I?...What do I offer my listeners?...How to handle problem audience...How to empower the audience, and much more.

Yours truly will coordinate this event, a must for all prospective members of the Speakers Bureau and anyone else who goes out in public or hopes to do so. This dry run for an IFGE Convention '93 Workshop is a great way to help yourself and our community. Don't miss it!

Monkette Roxanne, continues her penitent walk on the path of humility, chanting the mantra: Don't Walk a Mile in My Shoes (Heels).

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The Futile Warrior's Last Stand

Michael

I lie wounded
no longer the controller of my fate
no longer the conqueror and protector
who received so much praise and adoration
from others
My once powerful sword now lays broken,
useless, just out of my reach
My powerful steed bolted when I was thrown
And all those who fought with me against the enemy
have abandoned me

I act no more
only lie passively, helplessly on this grass
bleeding
my groin throbbing with pain
on fire
sulphur burns my nostrils
and a mist descends on the battlefield
and my life

It's really not so bad
Once you give into it
I'm almost relieved
I don't have to pretend to be brave anymore
I can discard my armor
which constricted my freedom
And the scowl which I thought gave me dignity
I don't have to fight anymore

And as my breath grows short
my limbs go cold
I succumb to the truth of this moment
And all my battles seem as nothing
but weary attempts to avoid the obvious
This fatal moment which I feared and
fought for so long
I now embrace and accept its
healing release.

Four Poems by Ken Pool

Wrapsure

What made me crossdress I'm not sure
but when I see my femme contour
and feelings rise to that allure
I'm sure crossdressing will endure.

Safe Gender

The gender basher loves to hurt
just any guy who's in a skirt
and so my dear keep on your shirt
and also watch out where you flirt.

Transvestrite

It was a dark and stormy night
for one quite nervous transvestite
who went out where there was no light
enjoying her new found delight.

The chance of being caught was slight
or so she thought but found not quite
the cop said to him true but trite
few women go where it's not bright.

Gender Imperative

Playing gender as I would
conflicts now with "what I should"
please don't tell me that I could
act like it's for my own good.



(Apologies to Alexis Fury and Leslie B., whose interviews will not appear because we could not get their pictures ready in time for publication)

Place: Chez Mollet, November Social
Question: How far out of the closet are you?



Jasmine Bouquet, Oakland: There's only one person who doesn't know about Jasmine, and that's my father. My mother told me he would keel over from a heart attack if I told him. Otherwise, my neighbors have all seen me. When I go out I find that some people like to get on you. I was out trying on dresses at the MacArthur dress shop. I wasn't in face. And people would come to the window and start pointing at me and laughing, so I would just blow them a kiss. When you do that, their attitude changes. They're friendly, like, "Oh why don't you try this one on or that one on." It doesn't matter whether you pass. As long as you feel positively about your feminine self, that's as good as passing.



Maria Ferrari, San Jose. I'm about halfway out. My folks don't know yet, but I think I'm going to tell them in a couple of weeks. Other than that, I work sometimes in straight jobs as a musician, and sometimes in non-straight jobs, like in a gay bar or a lesbian bar. I started coming out about a year and a half ago. I was in the closet because I was afraid of being myself. Finally, I ran out of excuses to stay in. What I found out was that it was delightful to become yourself, to be yourself. My fears were irrational, based on all the mythical garbage propagated and programmed into me by a patriarchal society that basically just wants control.



Heather G., Oakland: I was fully closeted until a few months ago. I was the only one who knew I had to crossdress. I had not admitted this to anybody and had very little experience doing it. Coming out meant admitting this to other people. First to my wife two years ago. Then this last May, my wife was away for a month, so I took my credit card shopping. I found I could purchase things for a few days and take them back. It was like having a lending library. During that time I felt so good about myself I decided to come out to a woman friend of mine. She's been very understanding. I'm still not ready to go out in public because of my beard. I dont like to wear beard cover. I've started electrolysis, so hopefully within a couple of years, I'll be ready to go out in public.