

The Night of the Haunting Beauties

by Veronica Smith

Where does a Vegas showgirl meet a Venusian spirit? Where does Dracula meet the Werewolf? Vampira meet vamps? The Andrews Sisters meet the Fly? And where oh where would an eclectic evangelist with flashing crucifixes meet a statuesque nurse fully equipped to relieve her pent-up feelings? At the ETVC Halloween Bash, of course! These beings and 120 other glamorous gals and galactic ghouls in gorgeous get-ups exposed gartered gams, gabbed galore, gouged gourds, giggled, gamboled, gaped, and generally had a gas at The Dunfey San Mateo Hotel on Friday, October 27.

Though the location was the same for a second year in a row, a lot of new faces showed up as is reflected in the winners of the different categories: Tina [redacted] won the \$50 door prize. Little Melissa won a clock radio in the pumpkin carving contest. Lori Fox, a ravishing knock-out from the Windy City, was voted both Most Glamorous and Overall Top Winner. She won a \$25 gift certificate for photos at Studio International and also a \$100 credit at Joyce's Perfect Fit. (Wow!) First time guests Lisa and Roxanna, in psychedelic outfits were judged Best Couple, which garnered for the groovy duo a \$50 gift certificate at Rosalie's New Look. (Great!) Cummora, the electrified, crucifix-flashing evangelist (talk about cross dresser) won Most Creative and also received a Studio International \$25 gift certificate. Stephanie, the well-equipped nurse, injected a lot of humor into the proceedings and was rewarded for being the Best Vamp/Most Trashy Contestant with a \$25 gift certificate from Romantasy. (Would I have loved that!) And, lastly and least, Juana and I



Halloween Party Contest Winners: (l-r) Veronica, Juana, (M/C Erin), Lori, Stephanie, Cummora, Lisa, and Roxanne

were the Most Scary, for which we got a, uh, a toaster?

As was said, this was our second year at The Dunfey and we want to thank Cathleen Howard, their new Catering Sales Manager, and her staff for making us feel like welcomed guests. The general consensus was that there was a noticeable improvement in the food selection. It would seem vampires don't only go for blood; they also suck up trout canapes and buffalo wings. All of the food disappeared as the band played its last set. And what a great band it was, too! Bolé Bantu played a rich mix of African and Third-World Beat, fun to listen and dance to. (Our own Deann [redacted] is the band's drummer.) But not only did we have a lively dance band, we also had Kintouari, a beautiful troupe of dancers, to inspire us to get wild and cut a rug. The combination of dance and sound was breathtaking (and after all that dancing, I certainly needed to take a breath).

Special thanks must go to our dynamic and seemingly indefatigable Social Chair Lulu [redacted] and Social Co-Chair Tedra who do so much of the oft-times unappreciated job of getting everything all together for these events. Lulu was greatly aided by Jackie [redacted] who stepped into Lulu's heels for a week to negotiate with The Dunfey and collect the pumpkins. Erin Souza, Trina, and Laura [redacted] all chipped in on the decorations and getting the place ready. Let's not forget to thank our three outstanding judges, CT, Mr. Clean (aka Armand the Great) and Chicken (of the Sea), all from the musical group Sharkbait. And the indispensable Ginny and Sharon's best half, Rosa, were at the door taking tickets and counting the money. Word is that the bash was a financial, as well as a social, success.



Halloween Partiers: (l-r) Telzey, Victoria Secret, Lauren and Brenda as Angel and Elvira

photos by Telzey ...composite & digital editing by Kevin Anderson

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	J. K. Bentley
Vice-President	Lisa Maxwell
Secretary	Jamie Faye Fenton
Treasurer	Jano Bogg
Education	Trina [REDACTED]
Outreach	Lauren Hothckiss & Erin Souza
Social	Lulu [REDACTED] & Tedra Thomsen

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Membership (as of 11/30/95)	338
Total 1994 Membership	438
New Memberships this year	45

TREASURER'S REPORT

	INCOME	EXPENSES	DIFFERENCES
October	\$3168.27	(3690.16)	(521.89)
November	\$3137.34	(3818.20)	(672.86)

ETVC is a non-profit corporation.

Donations are gladly accepted.

Donations to ETVC are TAX DEDUCTIBLE on both federal and California income tax returns.

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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Layout & Design	Kevin Anderson
Printing	Your Place Graphics

AD RATES

	Per issue	Per year
Business Card	\$25	\$125
4" X 5"	\$60	\$300

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]
VOICE MAIL	415- [REDACTED]
B.B.S.	415- [REDACTED]

EDITORS NOTES

Francis Vavra

That elusive existential concept, Time, is after me again. This summer was a lesson in creativity, daydreaming and introspection. But like the idle rich who go through fortunes in weeks while most of us budget and pinch pennies, I squandered part of my unexpected jackpot of four unemployed months of freedom sleeping in, shopping, taking short trips, worrying about finances, sending out resumes and writing. Now that I am working again, creative batteries recharged and buzzing, time is a precious commodity as projects vie for my attention. Living what was once only a fantasy, amazed at the adventures now possible, my twin-gendered life and creative drive are leading me down yet another road. I want to document the feelings, activities and people who have been part of this adventure before I forget the details through the passage of even more time.

I leave you with one last "Night Man" story I just had to include, as Erin and I packed so many experiences into one short weekend. I bid a fond adieu to all the Channel readers as the Editorship changes hands and I begin my book in earnest. Your contributions of articles and stories of interest make the Channel what it is! Please continue to send submissions to ETVC, P.O. Box 426486, S.F. CA 94142-6486, attention: Editor. I send a very special thank you to all the Channel staff who do the behind the scenes work assisting the Editor, and to the team who folds and sends it to all our readers! And now it's time to say goodbye to all our company....



The Way Things Work

by Jamie Faye Fenton, ETVC Secretary

How does your Channel newsletter get to you? is a long and involved story:

Our members fill out a membership application at a social or send in their applications or renewals to the post office box. Several times a week our President, Jane Kamper Bentley, picks up our mail and takes it over to Ginny, who opens it up and sorts it. When Ginny finds a membership application, she deposits any moneys in the bank and lists it on a cash receipts report which is sent to our Treasurer, Jano Bogg, who updates the general ledger. The application is sent to Sandra [REDACTED] who updates the database to show dues paid along with any updates to your name and address.

Every two months the Newsletter Committee meets at Ginny's and our Editor, currently Francis Vavra, assigns articles to our staff. Newscom members attend our events and turn in articles to Francis for editorial review. Our photographer, Elaine [REDACTED] submits photos to Francis and Ginny for possible use in the newsletter and placement in our ETVC Photo Library. Photos by other members are also accepted at that time for review and possible use. After selecting which submissions to run, Francis and Ginny do an editing pass, fixing any mistakes made by the reporters. The advertiser's copy art which has been sold by the Advertising Manager is added to the package which is then sent to Kevin Anderson, our outside design consultant, for layout of the newsletter.

When Kevin is done doing his layout, the proofs come back to Francis and Ginny for a final check. They are then released to our printer, Tom Zamot of



Michael Bowman



ETVC was saddened to learn of the death of Michael Bowman, who passed on November 9, 1995 while visiting his family in Ohio. Michael was the manager of Kimo's Bar in San Francisco, where ETVC held its mid-month socials, educational seminars, and recent Big Shew. It was Michael who graciously made Kimo's available to ETVC, and saw to it that our events were posted on the large outside marquee.

Michael Bowman was a fun loving and hard working soul; former Emperor XIV A.N., Mr. Gay San Francisco and Grand Duke, who originated the Gay Community "Cable Car" Awards. A life celebration was held at Kimo's on December 2. He will be missed.

Your Place Graphics for reproduction. When we have a solid date for when the print job will be finished, we schedule a "stuffing party" at Ginny's.

Lulu [redacted] and her intrepid crew of "Folders, Stuffers, Lickers, Stickers, Stampers & Sorters" then convert boxes of paper along with the labels generated from Sandra's database into properly formatted and bundled postal materials. This group includes Telzey Adams, Joann & Geri [redacted] Erin Sousa, Chris York, Pat [redacted] Ginny and me, along with any others willing to help.

Let's thank all the volunteers who work hard to bring us the Channel! (and all ETVC events and services).

The time delays involved in picking up, sorting, and forwarding mail sometimes cause members to receive reminder notices when in fact they have already renewed their memberships. Forgive us if it happens to you and do let us know if you have missed an issue!

I am going to have to stop effusively praising Cindy Martin's efforts at producing the Transgender Forum Web Page, as she has asked me to join this effort as her business partner and I don't want to brag. I am most honored by this invitation and have accepted.

We have changed the Internet address (or URL) to be:

<http://www.tgforum.com/>

Cindy and I have a lot of interesting ideas on how to serve the Internet transgender community which we will be presenting during the next year. We are committed to providing free Internet presence to any non-profit transgender organization that asks.

President's Message

Changing Channels

by Jane Kamper Bentley



"Thanks, but no Thanks!"

That's what one of our significant other members told a TV talk show producer trying to book her and other Bay Area couples for yet another daytime video circus.

Good for her! Haven't we all had enough of this junk?

There was a time when the primary concern about appearing on television was personal risk.

"What'll I do if my boss sees me?" Balanced against fear was the opportunity to show thousands or millions that we were not at heart so different from themselves. Besides, the more we got on television, the better informed the public would become, paving the way for acceptance. Part of what we sought has come to pass. There may be a hermit in the Idaho woods who hasn't heard of "transgenders," "crossdressers," "FTM's" or "transsexuals," but it's unlikely. From Pocatello to the Castro, largely because of television talk shows, transgender nomenclature has become as familiar and easily referred to as infomercials and sound bites. The question is, have people learned anything about us beyond a handful of simplistic definitions?

The talk industry has done a lot for us, and a lot to us. If we are better known than we were, say, fifteen years ago, we seem to be little better understood. If, fifteen years ago, we were portrayed as strange but harmless, with interesting stories to tell, familiarity has not led to deeper understanding but new levels of superficiality and exploitation. Now, instead of being introduced as "men who like to dress as women," or "women who live as men," we are "Transvestites (or Transsexuals) Who..." Fill in the blanks: "Who Are Lesbian Strippers," "Who Have Sex Showers With Their Dogs," etc. The message is that we are weirder than anybody thought.

Not all talk shows mistreat us, but even when they attempt to be respectful, the questions are as naive and unenlightened as ever, starting with "Which bathroom do you use?" Enough! It's time to stop trading our self-respect for a free airplane ride and 15 minutes of infamy. If others want to do it, let them. But not us.

As I write this in mid-November, we are about three and a half weeks away from another sort of television appearance. It's a kind of call in show, but there won't be a hostile studio audience and nobody will interview us about our sex lives. On December 11, ETVC's Outreach co-chair Erin Souza has arranged for some two dozen members of the TG community to answer phones during pledge night at KQED. Sure, some knuckleheads won't get it ("Hey, c'mere, Homer, there's some weird transvestites n' transsexshuls answering phones on television"). Our appearance itself, however, won't hold out any hooks on which to hang prejudice or preconceptions. We will simply be there, not as clowns in the video circus, but as concerned people doing high profile community service just like thousands of other reputable people before us. It's the right kind of picture, and a message we can be proud of.

Want to talk to a real, live transvestite, Homer? Call and make a pledge.

ETVC President
Jane Kamper Bentley

Special Events

Mid-Month Gabfest

Wednesday, January 10th

After a short intermission we're reviving our mid-month social with a couple of changes. First, the format—it ain't been easy to get a rave-up going on a Wednesday Night. (Those dance socials have been .. well .. not even lack-luster.) What we need mid-week is a get-together, a time to share tall (girl) tales and tuck technique, and a time to dish dirt. Secondly, in keeping with this new spirit, we're moving it to Eichelberger's, the venue with the menu where the food is fine and the ambience divine. Come join the girls, bring a friend or just your (femme) self for a good yak. Free (except for what you eat or drink) Eichelberger's, 17th Street at Florida, SF, 8:00 PM.

Educational Seminar: Community Center Project

Wednesday, January 17th

Berkeley has Pacific Center. San Jose's got the Billy de Frank Center...places where lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgender folk can come together to learn, meet, get sliding scale therapy, grow. San Francisco so far has nothing like it. The goal of the Community Center Project (CCP) is to secure a site and raise funding to construct a center that will meet the needs of our city's sex and gender minorities. It's no pipe dream. It will happen. The TG community has a chance to be a part of this exciting project almost literally from the ground up. Learn more about the CCP and how you can help build our future. \$3. Kimo's upstairs, Polk & Pine, SF, 8 PM.

Swap Shop Social

Thursday, January 18th

We are pushing our January Social forward a week so it's not at dress-rehearsal time. Yes, we're approaching "C"-night. (that's "C" for Cotillion to you who are new) and if you unaware are standing around in your undawear wonderin' what-ta-wear, then get back in your closet. (o.k. ... we know you're out, but do your duty, girl!) pull out your tired and huddled masses of frocks, gowns, and perilous/painful footwear and haul it on down to the "Swap". What about that size 9 you couldn't resist and then got home and couldn't get zipped ... or the sexy pumps that pinched? Well, one gal's trash can be another's treasure. We're gonna try it on and trade it .. have some fun and make some deals. Eichelberger's, 17th Street at Florida, SF, 8:00 PM, \$3 members, \$5 guests.

TS/TG Seminar: Baby Can Walk A First Birthday for TG Civil Rights in SF

Sunday Afternoon, February 11th

Happy Birthday to us! It's just one year since the birth of San Francisco's transgender civil rights law. Come celebrate and review what the past year has meant to the TS/TG Community, as well as what lies ahead. Our panel will include four people vital to the law's passage: Supervisor Aide Shelley Salieri; Kiki Whitlock, former chair of the Transgender Task Force; Larry Brinkin from the San Francisco Human Rights Commission; James Green, Director of FTM International—and perhaps a surprise or two. Birthday cake and potluck dinner. For self-identified transsexuals. FREE. Kimo's upstairs, Polk and Pine, SF, 2:00 PM.

Valentine's Heart to Heart

Wednesday, February 14th

February '96 must be made for us — a mid-month Wednesday *SMACK* on Valentine's Day! So come on down for candy kisses and cute cards, share sweet secrets, declare desires, or just flirt for fun ... and for FREE! Eichelberger's, 17th Street at Florida, SF, 8:00 PM.

Educational Seminar:

Just Like A Woman: Learning to Be Who You Are, with Wilhelmina Beins

Wednesday, February 21st

Why does your significant other look so much more feminine in your old coat than you do in your new skirt? Well, you wouldn't expect to become a police officer just because you bought the uniform. Being a woman—or at least being accepted as one—is much more than the clothes you wear. It's how you move. How you sit. How you think. And how do you do it? You learn from the best: Wilhelmina Beins. She's helped hundreds of cross dressers and transsexuals to shed their shells of male behavior and become the women they were meant to be. \$3. Kimo's upstairs, Polk and Pine, SF, 8:00 PM.

Sadie Hawkins Day Night

Thursday, February 29th

Leap Night! February '96 finds ETVC in Dogpatch for the Sadie Hawkins Day Race festivities. Remember those deelishus hill-beauties Daisy May, Moonbeam McSwine and Wanda Meatball? Or Appalachia's answer to the American family, Li'l Abner, Mammy and Pappy Yokum? What about Marryin' Sam and Fearless Fosdick? If you do, then get out your little polka-dot tops and ragged skirts showing lotsa leg or your yooneek hats, overalls and big boots. Either way, don't forget the corncob pipe and outrageous accent. If you don't remember them, if this makes no sense at all, then come and meet 'em. Dress is "dress-down knockout gorgeous", or "hunky hillbilly", or "mountain mammy" ... even city slickers is welcum but we maht marry y' off tuh wun uv r big helthy gals. Prizes will be dispatched or rather, dogpatched, whatevah takes yor fancy. Jelly's, 295 China Basin Way (at Pier 50), San Francisco, 8:00 PM, \$3 members, \$5 guests.

San Francisco Imperial Court Gala and Coronation Events

Coronation 1996 is going to be absolutely fabulous and you might want to make your plans now to be there. The Imperial Gala to introduce candidates for Emperor and Empress of San Francisco will be held on Saturday, January 20, 1996 at the California Club. Tickets are approximately \$10-\$15, and we will have a table. Call Ginny if you want to join us.

Coronation week is February 25th through 29th with events such as the Monarch's Roast and the In-Town Show happening. Call the Voice Mail Message Box for dates, times, locations and costs. The Coronation itself is being held at the Fairmont Hotel — yes, you heard right — The Fairmont Hotel atop Nob Hill. There will be reasonable room rates for the weekend from March 1st through the 3rd. An out of town show will be held in the hotel on Friday night, the Coronation is on Saturday night and the Victory Brunch will be on Sunday. We will be reserving two Coronation tables and tickets will be \$35 apiece.. If you want to go — and surely everyone would want to experience a night cross dressed in their finery at the Fairmont — call Ginny at (415) [REDACTED] quickly. Tables are going fast. You really don't want to miss it — it just doesn't get any better than this!

TV/TS/TG GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

JANUARY

1	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510)
4	DVG	Pacific Center Rap Group	Starts at 7 PM	Walnut Creek	(510)
5	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510)
5	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408)
6	ETVC	Executive Committee	Starts at 8 PM	San Francisco	(415)
7	ETVC	Newsletter Committee	Meets at 11 AM	San Francisco	(415)
8	ETVC	TS/TG Committee	Meets at 7 PM	Kimo's-Upstairs	(415)
8	ETVC	Education Committee	Meets at 8 PM	Kimo's-Upstairs	(408)
10	ETVC	Mid-Month Gabfest	Meets at 8 PM	Eichelberger's	(415)
11	ETVC	Significant Others	Meets 7:30-10PM	San Francisco	(415)
12	ETVC	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Francisco	(415)
12	S.Bay	Gender Discussion Group	Meets 8-10 PM	San Jose	(408)
12	ETVC	Lending Library Open	Hours 7-11 PM	San Francisco	(415)
12	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510)
13	SGA	Social	Starts at 7:30 PM	Sacramento	(916)
14	FTM	Informational Meeting	Meets at 2 PM	San Francisco	(510)
14	ETVC	Outreach Committee	Starts at 1:30 PM	TBA	(415)
15	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510)
16	ETVC	Social Committee	Starts at 8 PM	Eichelberger's	(415)
17	ETVC	Community Center	Starts at 8 PM	Kimo's-Upstairs	(408)
18	ETVC	Swap Shop Social	Starts at 8 PM	Eichelberger's	(415)
19	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408)
19	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510)
19	ETVC	Bowling Night	Call for details	San Francisco	(415)
20	Imperial	Gala	Starts at 7 PM	San Francisco	(415)
20	RESC	Potluck and Social	Starts at 4 PM	Santa Rosa	(707)
27	ETVC	Cotillion	Starts at 6 PM	San Francisco	(415)
27	SGA	Social	Starts at 7:30 PM	Sacramento	(916)

FEBRUARY

1	DVG	Pacific Center Rap Group	Starts at 7 PM	Walnut Creek	(510)
2	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510)
2	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408)
5	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510)
8	ETVC	Significant Others	Meets 7:30-10 PM	Palo Alto	(415)
9	ETVC	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Francisco	(415)
9	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510)
9	ETVC	Lending Library Open	Hours 7-11 PM	San Francisco	(415)
9	S.Bay	Gender Discussion Group	Meets 8-10 PM	San Jose	(408)
10	ETVC	Executive Committee	Starts at 8 PM	San Francisco	(415)
10	RESC	Potluck and Social	Starts at 4 PM	Santa Rosa	(707)
10	SGA	Social	Starts at 7:30 PM	Sacramento	(916)
11	ETVC	Outreach Committee	Meets at 1:30 PM	Kimo's Upstairs	(415)
11	FTM	Informational Meeting	Meets 2 PM	San Francisco	(510)
11	ETVC	TS/TG Seminar	Starts at 2 PM	Kimo's Upstairs	(415)
12	ETVC	TS/TG Committee	Meets at 7 PM	Kimo's-Upstairs	(415)
12	ETVC	Education Committee	Meets at 8 PM	Kimo's-Upstairs	(408)
14	ETVC	Valentine Social	Meets at 8 PM	Eichelberger's	(415)
16	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408)
16	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510)
17	ETVC	Bowling Night	Call for details	San Francisco	(415)
19	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510)
20	ETVC	Social Committee	Starts at 8 PM	Eichelberger's	(415)
21	ETVC	Just Like A Woman	Starts at 8 PM	Kimo's-Upstairs	(408)
25	Imperial	Coronation Week	Many events	San Francisco	(415)
24	SGA	Social	Starts at 7:30 PM	Sacramento	(916)
29	ETVC	Sadie Hawkins Day	Starts at 8 PM	Jelly's - SF	(415)

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 in Sacramento. Write: PO Box 215456, Sacramento, CA 95821-1456. Call: (916) [REDACTED] for meeting locations.

Diablo Valley Girls (DVG) Meets first and third Monday of every month. 8 PM at Just Rewards Nightclub, 2520 Camino Diablo in Walnut Creek. Write: DVG, PO Box 272885, Concord, CA 94527-2885. Call: (510) [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]

Redwood Empire Social Club meets one Saturday each month in Santa Rosa for a potluck social from 4 PM until early evening. For dates, location and reservations, call Diane or Ann at (707) [REDACTED]

Please Print

ETVC Membership Application

Mailing Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Preferred Name: _____ Family Member's Name: _____

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

How did you learn about ETVC? _____

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

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

Please remit by check or money order to:

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

Cotillion 1996 - The Summer of Love, or "just a simple happening!"

by Lisa Maxwell

Welcome to the '96 Cotillion, an event of fun, fantasy, and adventure for all of us! Come and get tuned in and turned on to the latest thinking in transgendered fun on Saturday evening, January 27th, 1996 at the Russian Center, 2460 Sutter St. near Divisadero in San Francisco. Doors open at 6:00 PM, and the show starts at 8:00 PM sharp.

Oh, Whatever Shall I Wear?!

Feeling demure? - then wear those fabulous formal evening dresses! Really Wild? - then wear your most outrageous period clothing; remember bell bottoms, hippie skirts, and for the men, army jackets. Wear flowers in your hair, and please join us for this special evening of love and pleasure.

They Really Did It This Time -

The Russian Center has been extensively remodeled, to the tune of \$1 million in renovations... with an all new bar, kitchen, rest rooms, seismic structural support strengthening, and a new electrical system — WOW! this is really serious... the place is absolutely beautiful; also, they have wheelchair access and an elevator. Naturally, the cost of remodeling is being passed on to us, and we are going to have to raise ticket prices. Now, just person to person... this is something that I really didn't want to

do... but we had to, otherwise we would eat it big time. So we had to raise ticket prices to \$23 advance, \$28 door. OK, that was the hard part for me, and it's over.

The Show -

And, like ahh, what else are we doing? We are having an incredible show with very talented contestants and our wonderful director, Tiffany Woods. Our show this year will be over in three hours, as we intend to be completely finished by 11:30 PM. How? By having food in the form of light snacks and hors d'oeuvres at all of the tables; this means no food lines, just come in, get your drink, and sit down at your table for an incredibly far out time. Low cost drinks will be available at our fully stocked bar.

Debutantes -

If you are new to the Bay Area, are just coming out or are attending your first Cotillion, you are considered to be a debutante! Upon arrival at the Russian Center, ask the ticket takers to direct you to the debutante sign-up area. The debutante introductions are held on stage after intermission, so line up at stage right (audience left) to go on stage and be introduced to our community.

Photo Booth:

Be sure to wear your best outfit for this exciting evening. To help you remember this amazing event in your life, we will have

a photo booth set up to capture those wonderful moments on film.

Parking -

... is available just across the street from the Russian Center at the low cost of \$4.00 until 2:00 AM.

A Table for You and Your Friends -

Tables can be reserved in advance for groups numbering up to ten people. Call Ginny at (415) [REDACTED] for table reservations. There will only be a small number of seats at tables for those who come without reservations, but lots of great balcony seats. A map of the table arrangements will be posted on the entry door to the main hall.

Tickets -

On sale at the following locations: in the City at Eichelberger's, Marlana's, Kimos, and Piedmont; in the North Bay at Continental Wig Salon in San Rafael; in the South Bay at Hamburger Mary's in Downtown San Jose and at RGA socials, and in the East Bay in Walnut Creek at JR's, home of DVG socials. Tickets are also available through the mail by sending your check to ETVC at Post Office Box 426486, SF CA, 94142-6486. For additional information or if you would like to help us out at the Cotillion, call Lisa Maxwell at (415) [REDACTED] any time. Please leave a message and your call will be returned.

Jelly's A DANCE CAFE
(formerly Olive Oil's)

295 China Basin Way
at Pier 50
San Francisco

Free Parking!

(415) [REDACTED]

The New KIMO'S
1351 Polk Street — S.F.
(415) 885-4535

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They Came to the Fair!

by Ginny Knuth

ETVC's First Annual Gender Fair was a wonderful success. Combining a dozen vendors, over 100 happy members and guests, a beautiful, sunny, breezy but mild Saturday afternoon, a restaurant on the Bay with a delicious brunch, friendly waitresses, dining outside with entertainment by the Blue Angels practicing for their show on Sunday, and balloons and bargains everywhere, excitement was in the air and everyone agreed it was a great day for crossdressers in San Francisco.

It was our first event at a new venue, Jelly's Restaurant in the China Basin. There were many "thumbs up" for this location, as it is larger, all on one floor, available on an exclusive basis, is off the beaten track and very private, the food is good, the service excellent and the management cooperative, plus there is lots of parking. We hope we will enjoy many other planned events at Jelly's in the future.

So many thanks are in order. First of all to our members who supported this event — many of you we haven't seen for some time. How good it was to see you and share this fun day with you. Then

our most sincere appreciation to the vendors and professional helpers who once again shared their time and expertise, as well as their wares, with us. Thanks to Rosalie, who brought a table of wigs for people to try on and a table of jewelry to enjoy. Also to Ann Grogan of Romantasy for her display of corsets, etc., and to Denise Howes for her photo opportunities and jewelry. It was good to meet and talk with Matthew B. Love, Hypnotherapist and Dr. Joy Shaffer, Barbara Anderson, MSW, PhD, Luanna Rodgers, MFCC, and our long-time friend, Dr. Lin Fraser. It was interesting to learn from Patricia Nakamura and Guy Campo about their electrolysis procedures, and to get information from Jamie Faye Fenton on Computer Access to the transgender world and Stephanie [redacted] about the Tenderloin Aids Resource Group.

Naturally, there are special ETVC people who work hard to put an event like this together and too rarely do we acknowledge these sweethearts. It wouldn't have worked without the TLC of Jane Kamper Bentley, Nancy Ann Martine, Erin Souza, Jackie [redacted] Trina Martina, Kindra, Diane [redacted] Bow-K, Evette, Ann Giles, Cheryl and all the others who helped set up and tear down for this event. You are the greatest team, and you created one of the most exhilarating days of love, sharing and general camaraderie for ETVC in a long time. We'll do it again next year, bigger and better. See you there!

The Encounter

by Lauren René Hotchkiss

As far as I know, the following is not a true story. But then again, it may be happening even as I write...

I glanced to my left side casually as I heard Sally seat another woman at the hair dryer beside me. For a moment I was startled; it looked like..., but no, I couldn't be sure, for Sally was standing between us now, fussing with my perm rollers, applying the solution to my hair. But then the woman spoke.

"How are things going with you and that gorgeous new husband of yours, Sally?" I knew that voice. Sally's reply was lost on me as I fought to control the panic that hearing that voice again had stirred up. I always knew that one day I would run into her; had rehearsed again and again how I would handle it, what I'd say. But now that it was really happening, I didn't know what to do.

As if from a distance, I heard Sally speaking once more. "I've often wondered if you two ladies knew each other or were related, since you have the same last name,

but I've never had you both in the shop at the same time to ask before." The phone at the front of the shop began to ring. "Well, I'll leave you two to talk while I get that"

As my shield left I prayed that she wouldn't recognize me. She looked at me curiously, as if trying to place me, but apparently she couldn't.

"Hi, she said, "My name's Ann, and you're..."

I hesitated a moment before answering. "I'm Laurie."

"Actually, Cunningham is my ex-husband's name," she went on, "I've been divorced for almost two years." I fought to control the magazine shaking in my hands as she began to talk about her ex-husband, and the terrible thing he'd done that she could not live with, could not forgive. "I won't even let my son and daughter go near him, now."

I heard Sally hang up the phone, feeling grateful as she came over to stand between us once more. "Well, how are you two getting along?" Not waiting for a reply, she began to fumble in a box on the counter behind us. "Darn, I'm out of #2 rollers.

I'll go get some from one of the other stations. I'll be right back."

I'd been thinking about my life during the last two years, while she'd been talking. Before the surgery, I'd been required to go through more than a year of preparation. The months of physical and emotional pain and readjustment had been worth it though, I thought, as I caught my reflection in the mirror on the other side of the beauty shop. I looked exactly like I'd always hoped that I might. I began to feel the tears — were they of joy or sadness — form in my eyes and run down my cheeks.

"Did Sally say something about your having been divorced two years ago too?"

"Y-yes."

Hearing the tone in my voice Ann turned to me and said, "Don't I know you from somewhere, dear?"

She was giving me that curious look again, still trying to place me. I just couldn't stand it anymore.

I turned to face her and said quaveringly, "You should, d-dear," how strange to say that word again. "I am your ex... I was your husband... once."

Transgender Invasion of Cyberspace

by Sandra [REDACTED]

On November 15th, our own Jamie Faye Fenton brought her own computers to Kimo's Upstairs to share with us the wonders of transgender resources in cyberspace. About 25 of us huddled around Jamie as she demonstrated how to locate, access, and navigate various computer sites devoted to the transgender community. Kimo's provided the telephone line needed to connect us to cyberspace.

The simplest connection demonstrated was our own ETVC Bulletin Board System; this is free (except it's a toll call outside the San Francisco area). This popular system provides local message service as well as the sharing of files with gender information, stories, and pictures. Transgender support areas also exist on the AOL, Compuserve, Prodigy, and Microsoft networks. Several specialized services such as the alt.transgendered site are also available on the Internet.

Truly the star of the show was the Transgender Forum; this World Wide Web site is the result of many hours of hard work by our past president, Cindy Martin. The site is visited from all over the world around 40,000 times per month. It uses an

impressive graphic display with pointers to a multitude of services for the transgender community. Pointers provide (almost) immediate access to pages devoted to personal postings, a bulletin board, a current news section, a calendar of events, shopping guides, tips on things like skin care and electrolysis, and the very extensive photo opportunity section with pictures of all of us from all over the world. Provisions are made to submit your text or pictures (no nudes) to the site. Listings of other transgender organizations, and pointers to other transgender Web sites are also offered.

If you want to try your own connection to any of these services you will need a Mac or a PC compatible computer, with a modem and some communication software. A 14.4KB or faster modem is recommended for the best results. A subscription to a service such as zoom.com is needed to access the Internet or Web sites. Some services like AOL or Compuserve also require subscriptions.

[Ed. Note: see also "Webs We Weave" article by Jamie Fenton in '95 May-June Channel with additional information on this topic].



Jamie Faye Fenton, Cyberspace Wizard, poses at Education Seminar at Kimo's

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Night Man

by Francis Vavra

Adventures in Confusion

When Dillon and I were invited by the Fresno Imperial Dove Court to the "Mardi Gras" fundraiser on a ranch outside Fresno, I imagined a dusty western adventure with small town atmosphere. Dillon couldn't attend, so I drove Erin, Miss ETVC '95, to her first out-of-town event. On the phone I had told the event organizer Ruben, the Empress of Fresno's handsome Latin partner, about my gender situation since the invitation included a weekend stay in a household of gay men. He told me I was "blessed twice", and looked forward to meeting Erin and I. By event time, I figured he had told everyone, and appeared in role as my male self.

We encountered some wonderful people, and enjoyed talking in depth with them about transgender issues as it was not a crowded affair like coronations. As we strolled about the theme built ranch (main street, "old fashioned" buildings, a jail which held "arrested" people as part of the fund raiser, and huge barn where the drag shows were held), several people came out to us as transgendered, reinforcing my belief that everyone "knew" about me. However, the MC for the afternoon show we performed in introduced me as "Miss ETVC I", and Erin as "Miss II", giving me a puzzled look, since I had a long handlebar mustache! I did Bo Diddley's "I'm a Man" number, starting with a swagger and ending with a swish. A straight woman hit on me and when I returned her attention, the day got even better. I realized how isolated people are out there when she later "found out" the women in the show were men; she jokingly asked me what I was and I jokingly told her. Shortly after we had danced to a few disco songs between shows, she suddenly swung her purse over her shoulder disappearing into the night, never to be seen again.

During the evening show Tiffany, our own Miss ETVC '90 and recent Empress of Alameda County MC'd, re-introduced us correctly to the crowd and explained about ETVC. Another woman who had been "arresting" people earlier in the day joined Erin and myself to watch the show. I hadn't noticed her much, wearing jeans and no makeup, but now her short hair was hidden beneath a long blonde wig, her makeup was terrific, and she wore a sexy gold lame top. Saying she was a butch woman "in

drag", she was flirtatious and we struck up a conversation. She invited us to the after-party at a Fresno bar, where we ended up for more disco dancing. She kept apologizing for wanting to dance with me, emphasizing she was a lesbian not attracted to men, but was intrigued by me and couldn't understand why. After my earlier failure, I decided not to tell this woman about me, though I dropped several hints. When she asked the disc jockey to play a slow song, I felt I was doing something right, had a wonderful time with her playing out our respective fantasies (the femme as a man, the butch as a femme), figuring she knew. When I walked her to her car at closing time and tried to kiss her, she turned away, exclaiming "You're acting just like a straight man... no no... I'm a lesbian, but I like you..." Ever the gentleman, I kissed her hand and her cheek, returning to the bar for Erin to find the house we were staying at.

Tired and lost at 2:00 a.m. never finding the right street, we gave up and resorted to checking into the only open motel with two beds. As we got our things from my trunk, two of Fresno's finest cruised into the back parking lot and stopped to watch and question us. Asking if we lived around there, it was all I could do to suppress saying, "Of course we live here! That's why we're checking into a cheap motel in the middle of the night!" Instead, I kept my composure and in my deepest voice announced we were from San Francisco and were taking a room for the night. They stared some more, nodded and drove off. Later I told Erin I should have removed my rainbow "Celebrate Diversity" button to blend in more, to which she hilariously replied, "Right, I'm sure they noticed that button right away and thought you looked suspicious, ignoring the fact you were removing a boom box from the car trunk while standing next to a six foot plus woman in a purple dress in the middle of the night."

The next morning, we ate breakfast in a local coffee shop both looking quite androgenous, Erin in 49'ers T shirt, shorts, shaved legs, women's pumps and big hair, myself with no makeup, arched eyebrows, jeans and fedora hat (no stubble, I borrowed Erin's razor). It was fun walking down the highway so attired when I ran out of gas (see Erin's "Gender Skybox" article). As the old gypsy man took off with his kids, 5-gallon gas can and our money, the lesbian woman was reading the ETVC newsletter we had given her with my latest story about going full circle back to female again, becoming even more confused, since she thought I was a man becoming a woman! She later wrote me, delighted I was a woman somewhere beneath the outer Francis, and wanted to get to know me better. So I made the trip again on Thanksgiving weekend to spend time out in the country with dogs, kids and a woman curious about transgender issues and this man/woman. But that's another story...

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Gender Outlaw: On Men, Women, and the Rest of Us,

by Kate Bornstein. New York: Routledge.

241 pp. + Bibliography, \$23.00

Review by William A. Henkin

For several years Kate Bornstein has been riding the circuits as "America's favorite transsexual." She's the one who wasn't sorry when Geraldo focused on "Transsexual Regrets: Who's Sorry Now?" Her first play, "Hidden: A Gender", whose original run was on the friendly boards of San Francisco's Theatre Rhinoceros, in its subsequent tours around the country turned out to be a major force in expanding an ongoing dialogue about the multi-faceted nature of gender. It helped move the discussions out of the crossdressing clubs and academic journals and into the nation's general consciousness. About a year ago Bornstein was featured on the cover of Tapestry magazine with her lover, playwright David (nee Catherine) Harrison. From the perspectives of a new lesbian born and raised as a man in partnership with a new man born and raised as a woman, their interview pointed up the complex challenges - and excitement - many people experience who truly search to understand their gender.

Though Bornstein is by no means the world's first post-operative transsexual lesbian, she is the one who has spoken and written most widely, not only at gay and gender events and media, but for mainstream outlets as well. Highly visible and articulate, she has had a hand in altering our national awareness both of sexual orientation and of gender identity.

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Congratulations Tommi Rose!

Well known San Francisco female impersonator Tommi Rose, who recently moved to Los Angeles has been crowned Empress of the Imperial Court there.

Tommi M/C'd, performed in and provided sound for numerous ETVC Collisions. ETVC wishes her a successful reign and a wonderful year.

This book includes interviews with the author, a couple of previously published articles, questions, quips, quotations by the famous and the unknown, and acknowledgements of Bornstein's transsexual peers and antecedents. It is a celebration of what she has discovered in her journey so far, and she's rather pleased with the turn her life has taken. Bornstein says repeatedly that she speaks for no one but herself, transgendered or otherwise, and urges more questions and fewer answers - it is hard for anyone familiar with gender identity issues to disagree with her major themes:

- that gender exists on a continuum rather than as a binary structure;
- that feeling discomfort with the gender one has been assigned at birth does not mean a person is ill or even wrong;
- that, at least in our society, gender distinction is a form of class distinction; and
- that the Standards of Care first promulgated by the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association in 1979 to protect people who were wandering unprepared into surgery with doctors equally unprepared, could benefit from a new revision based on the new information about gender now available.

Years back, when I saw "Hidden: A Gender", I scribbled one of the play's concluding statements on a handbill. I later lost the piece of paper I'd written on, but since the entire play is reproduced toward the end of this wonderfully quirky and idiosyncratic book, I have it again and can offer it to you:

"I don't consider myself a man, and quite frequently I doubt that I'm a woman... Gender is not the issue. Gender is the battlefield. Or the playground. The issue is us versus them. Any us versus any them. One day we may not need that."

That day has not yet arrived, but Kate Bornstein has certainly brought it a good deal closer. Gender Outlaw is one of very few books I could consider indispensable to a contemporary discussion of the nature of sex and/or gender.

[Ed. Note: Gender Outlaw by Kate Bornstein is available from the ETVC lending library]

WILLIAM A. H ENKIN, Ph.D.
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Gender Skybox

By Erin Souza

Tiara Tales

Happy 1996 from the Skybox. Where your interim Miss ETVC '95 examines the 1/27/96 expiration date stamped inside her regal head gear and wonders, "Can more adventures await between now (late November at the time of this writing) and my departure for the Wuzzy Home? So far, I've enjoyed my membership in the Tiara Club. To recap:

September 2: Return to my old hometown of Hayward for my first official appearance as Miss ETVC, the ISE Coronation at Centennial Hall, where Empress Tiffany goes out in style. Mr. ETVC '95, Dillon King, not quite used to having new consort who talks more than he does. Lock tiaras in lobby with '94 Miss ETVC, Lauren Hotchkiss .. lose on technicality. Rematch at Caesar's Palace this July.

September 16: SF Ducal Coronation. Dillon on disabled list. Francis Vavra, Mr. ETVC '94, reactivated from retirement, accompanies me. After the event, we narrowly avoid regal disaster when Francis just misses backing ETVCmobile into prominent Imperials.

October 19: Garner an honorable mention at Ginny's X-dressed Teddy Bear Halloween Party. To be more accurate, my bear garnered the honorable mention. Team with President Jane Kamper Bentley for encore of Dueling Ahh-nolds skit.

October 21-22: Rack up major mileage on ETVCmobile with trip to Fresno for Imperial Dove Court's Carnival '95 event. Francis and I schmooze with several wonderful folks from the valley in our capacity as performers and ambassadors from Bay Area gender community. Trip home proves to be eventful as well when malfunctioning fuel gauge fails to alert us our gas supply is low. Come to a sputtering stop outside of Merced. Hike along highway until we find family dwelling with sign: GOAT FOR SALE. Sense opportunity to make ETVC history (herstory?) as first regent to bring back animal mascot for club. Alas, fuel purchase takes precedence. Spend most of available cash compensating family's patriarch for the time and effort he spent getting gas for us from station in town. Goat will have to wait for future Miss ETVC.

October 27: Dance up a storm in purple witch costume at ETVC



Miniature Golf Tournament Finalists: (l-r) Jane, Lulu, Vicki, Diane, Donna, Telzey, Valerie, and Deann. (Photo by Jamie Faye Fenton.)

Halloween Ball. Reunite with former partner in gender crimes, Dianne Summers. Under Dianne's wicked influence, I help her start a conga line.

November 19: Dream of ETVC Miniature Golf Tournament becomes a reality. Twenty-three attend Sunday afternoon event at Malibu Castle Golf and Games in Redwood City. Eight finalists (see photo) advance to championship round, including new member Vicki, and club presidents Jane Kamper Bentley (ETVC), Donna Freeman (DVG) and Diane [REDACTED] (RGA). Valerie shoots a 50, in high heels no less, to win trophy and top prize of Cotillion tickets. Deann places second with a 52. Telzey takes third with her 60, while Lulu and Diane tie for fourth at 61. Consummate good sport Gelzey wins back her entry fee with the day's "high" score of 89. Special thanks to prize sponsors Lisa Maxwell, Romantasy, Piedmont Boutique and Rock 'n' Bowl. Extra special thanks to Ginny for her work as event statistician.

More tiara tales next time, gender fans. In the meantime, I have a farewell number that needs work. See you at the Russian Center.



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Speaking as a Majority of One

by Roxanna Rochette

Questions get me going. "What does your family think about it?" "How has it affected your relationship?" "Do you have children?" "Which public restroom do you use?" "Have you thought about toning down your red hair?" "Will your crossdressing lead to transsexualism?" "Don't you feel vulnerable in such short skirts?" These and more are typical of the many questions asked face to face by students of psychology and human sexuality classes.

I first became bitten by the bug several years ago while sitting in on a class at San Francisco State watching a presentation by several crossdressers including my partner Francis. From this initial experience I felt my own brand of transgendered expression plus a willingness to speak frankly about sexual orientation and what I see as the sparkplug to crossdressing, sexuality, could be a positive addition to greater understanding of transgender issues. Thus speaking strictly as a majority of one has proven a good alternative to the arcane pratfalls within the ETVC political genderscape.

What has been a bit surprising to me, considering the nature of the class content, is a general shying away from asking probing questions regarding personal sexuality and how it relates to crossdressing. With encouragement from one course instructor to be as open as I might wish I try to push the envelope by being as frank as possible relating episodes and situations exploring some of the worlds open to me via the feminine guise. As a completely unscientific sociological statement I have found the female students asking the majority of the questions and the male students a distant second, some of them seemingly a bit uncomfortable with my appearance. Considering their age this may touch upon their



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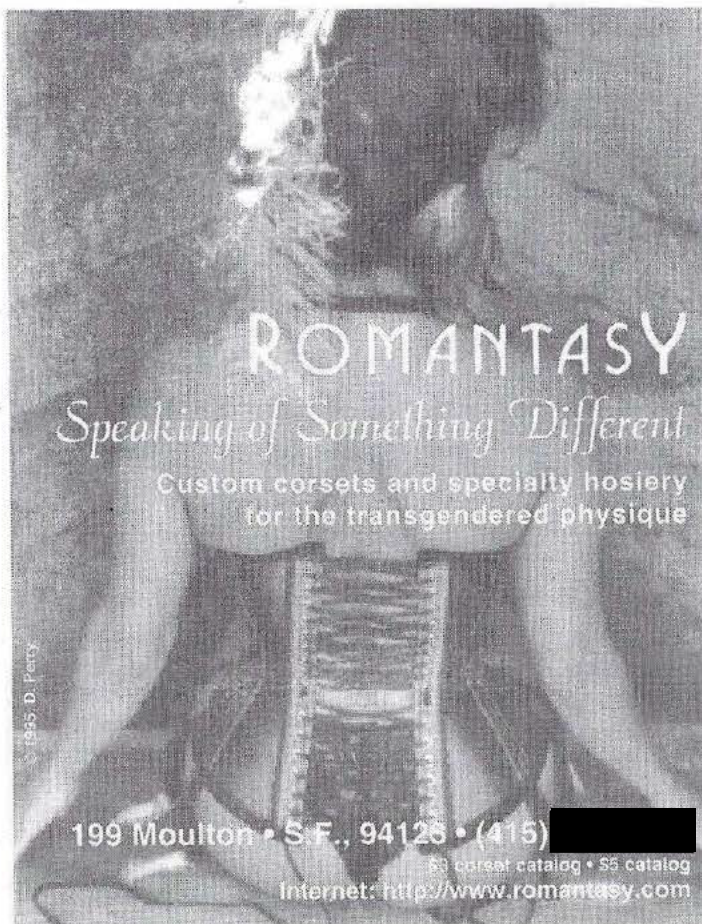
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uncertainties about what is male gender. Those who are non-straight, either through self-identification or how I read them, ask the most and best questions. And of the men, the Asian men ask virtually nothing, which could be more of a cultural thing. In all there seems little difference between students today and when I was a student many years ago, which adds another page to the more things change, the more they remain the same.

Seated before a class along with Francis and sometimes one or two other crossdressers I get the impression we are about as radical as one can be. Each of us in turn lays out our stories, some of the origins and why we do what we do. In telling my own history as a crossdresser I like to use as much show and tell as possible in how I present myself in dress style along with an ample use of photographs illustrating personal changes in image over the years. Every class is slightly different and having no set format I always speak extemporaneously. Of course this approach invites the occasional gaffe but then I just smile and try to look pretty. Needless to say the added twist of living in a double crossdressing relationship and its counterpart clothes closet creates a kind of who's on first curiosity.

To date I feel I have gotten as much out of speaking as anyone as it has clarified my thoughts and understanding about myself in where I come from, where I might be going and just who am I. As to some of those questions, my answers may not be for everyone but they are right for me. To the time-worn "which public restroom do I use" I usually say the one I'm dressed for if at all possible since the men's room can be a very scary place for a lady.

[Ed Note: Roxanna is a member of ETVC's Speakers Bureau].



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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.

An Elegant Event — For You, Too!

by Ginny Knuth

The wives and partners of the cross dressers in ETVC have often complained about our meetings being held in a bar, and have stated, quite honestly, I'm sure, they felt uncomfortable in a bar scene with men in various types of dress (from hookers to the chain gang) depicting to them at least an embarrassing, sometimes lewd atmosphere they just simply did not want to be involved in. Consequently, these significant others have told their partners they would not go out with him when he was cross dressed! So the cross dresser goes out by himself, makes friends and creates a second life separate from that of the person he loves. Before you know it, this break-away action could be the beginning of a tear or rip in the foundation of a relationship that might not be able to be mended.

To deal with this problem, both parties have to look for ways to accept what is and make compromises that will keep the

experiences and energies important to each of you flowing between you.

Perhaps one way a significant other can try to compromise would be to consider going out with her cross dressed husband or partner to certain events planned by the support groups with activities in couple's homes that have been specifically designed for couples ... or, at least, go to those events planned to entice the cross dresser to look and behave in a manner as elegant as she can possibly be.

Do you remember the words to the song from "Hello Dolly", "...if you ain't got elegance, you can never ever carry it off"? Well, ETVC has a very special event in January each year called the "ETVC Cotillion". It is a sort of fantasy Miss America contest in which nine or ten ETVC members vie for the title of Miss ETVC (and Mr. ETVC) for the year. This January will be our twelfth annual Cotillion, at which time we also recognize new gender community members on stage as our Cotillion Debutantes. Everyone dresses in their very finest gowns and it is a time of happiness, contentment, elegance and pride for our cross dressers — a time they look forward to and plan for all year long.

You should be sharing these important joyous moments. It would mean so much to him if you would open your heart and your mind to this part of him by being there, surrounded by his friends, in the dramatic Russian Center. Give it a try this year — it's really a lot of fun and usually a good show — the date is Saturday, January 27, 1996. It could be the beginning of the most important sewing project you ever attempted.



Can you imagine your dining room table covered with over fifty teddy bears and other assorted animals cross-dressed in costumes from little aprons to lingerie? What a delightful party we had, thanks to over thirty-five of you who brought contestants to the competition. Our friends from the Godfather Service Fund, Larry Cook (their treasurer) and Bill Rolls (AKA Imperial Princess Faberge) had a very tough time as judges deciding on the winners ... they were all so cute, really! Our first prize winners included Prettiest, a pig-tailed cowgirl from Jamie Fay

Fenton; Scariest, a psychedelic clown bear from Trina Martina; Creative, two twin white bears in matching blue and white dresses from Lori Fox and Sexiest as well as Overall Winner with a leather chanteuse bear, Brenda Altman. Congratulations to all the winners and to all who took a moment of their time to create the animals and donate them. Larry and Bill took a huge box and three large garbage bags filled with the animals, along with close to \$100 you donated to the Godfather Service Fund. The GSF directors thought the animals were so charming, they decided to give them to the AIDS patients as Christmas gifts. And people ask

me why I like this organization .. thank you for your generosity and your kindness.

We are all so excited about the success of the North Bay potluck meeting that was hosted by Diane and Ann in their lovely Santa Rosa home on November 4th. This most gracious couple has decided to open their home for Saturday potlucks and get-togethers once a month. It's an open group — everyone is welcome. We have been searching for such a long time for a nice venue for the people up there, and it was heartwarming to see a good turnout (see Charlene Hunter's article about the Redwood Empire.) Dates of the next two meetings are Saturday, January 20th and on Saturday, February 10th we are all especially invited to share a potluck Valentine celebration with our gender friends. These meetings start at 4:00 PM and it is a great way to meet some of our members who have been unable to make our socials on Thursdays due to the distance. C'mon up, ladies!



Nancy Ann and Ginny host Teddy Bear Social for Godfather Fund

Photo: Bow K.

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, January 11 and Thursday, February 8. You are welcome with open arms. Call (415) [redacted] for more information.



The New Woman

Roberta "Bobbi" Dunne

Vice President of Administration,
San Francisco Lesbian, Gay,
Bisexual and Transgender Pride
Celebration Committee

Perhaps this feeling of drifting away started on September 5th when I went back to work. Heavy Construction will do that. The sheer pain of unused muscles regrouping to withstand physical strain alone with the emotional impact of returning to an arena I'd fought to re-enter absorbed my attention. And while it has gone well, it has left me with time for little else.

I was unable to attend the Bay Area Transgender Law Association meetings in Berkeley. I also missed the group meetings in San Jose geared to develop legislation in Santa Clara County similar to the TG protection adopted her in San Francisco last January. Melinda Whiteway is working tirelessly on the legal front with these groups and needs support from within the community. I encourage everyone concerned with health, work and housing issues to check with her on meeting dates and get involved.

Here in the city the Transgender Community Task Force is looking at legislation to reestablish health care coverage for SRS. It, too, needs support. On the national scene, the first annual National Transgender Lobbying Day, sponsored by the International Conference on Transgender Law and Employment Policy, Inc. and Transgender Menace, took place October 2nd and 3rd in Washington, 'DC., with Lisa Maxwell, James Green and Stephan Thorne contributing to its success.

This year has seen tremendous strides in reestablishing our links to the greater struggle for civil rights for all diverse communities. It is significant that Phyllis Randolph Frye was invited by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) to lead a workshop on the Employment Non-Discrimination Act at the November "Creating Change" conference in Detroit. Protection for Transgender and Transsexual citizens of the United States was deleted from this legislation through the efforts of the Human Rights Campaign earlier in the year. Given the set back in TG rights, it is encouraging to see more responsible organizations, such as NGLTF, embrace a policy of inclusiveness.

Even with my madcap work schedule in construction, I had the honor as Vice President of Administration for the San Francisco Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Celebration Committee, Inc., of attending the International Association of Lesbian and Gay Pride Coordinators Inter-Pride Conference October 5th through the 8th in Phoenix, Arizona. This organization represents the established Pride Event producers from throughout the world, and this year voted to change its by-laws to recognize bisexual and transgender participation and issues. This is only a partial victory for a strengthening of ties among diverse communities inasmuch as Heritage of Pride/New York was lukewarm in its support (one yes, one no, one abstain), and Boston, where much of the division within the Diverse Lifestyles Community first began in the early 1970's, voted three against. Undoubtedly, much work needs to be accomplished in both those cities. I am presently attempting to reconstruct the vote (with a refusal of cooperation from IAL/GPC secretary

Marsha Levine) in an effort to better interpret regional support. This is essential if we are to geographically isolate areas of weakness and strength. However, the International Association now reflects the reality of our existence within the greater framework of the community and as such recognizes our contributions.

Just a few housekeeping notes in closing: The Parade Committee has reestablished "monthly" General Membership meetings held every second Sunday at 5 PM in the Audrey Lord Room at the Women's Building, located at 3543 - 18th Street, San Francisco. For further information call (415) [REDACTED] I may be reached by e-mail at [REDACTED]@AOL.com.

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The Uninvited Dilemma

A Question of Gender

by

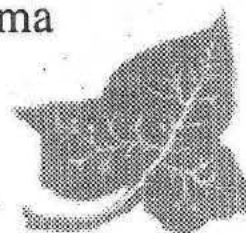
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Educational Panel - Transgender Issues and Religion

by Diane Lask

On Wednesday September 20th, the Educational Committee presented something just a bit different for its monthly event. A panel of religious representatives from around the Bay area gathered together to handle some tough and interesting questions about transgender issues within their religions. The panel consisted of four representatives from the Jewish, Catholic and Christian Ecumenical faiths. A fifth representative from the Lutheran faith was scheduled but due to a family emergency was unable to attend. We even had an openly transgendered minister from the San Jose area on the panel whose unique insight on the issues involved was very much appreciated. Because of the potentially touchy nature of the subject, the panel was moderated by the Educational Chairperson who presented the panelists with a list of questions regarding gender issues. Additional questions from the audience were taken along the way as well. Both the audience and the panelists were soon engaged in a spirited and very friendly discussion of a variety of transgender issues. Each of the panelists seemed to be bringing the message that being transgendered does not mean that one has to be cut off from one's faith and all seemed to agree that there were some very viable options available in each of their religions.



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News from the Redwood Empire

by Charlene Hunter

Just imagine a house situated at the end of a country lane, nestled among a grove of live oaks. That is where our first Pot Luck took place. We had fifteen or so members and guests, some from as far away as Chicago. As to the question, can we cook? That was soon put to rest with the arrival of plates of Thai food, filled rolls, baked ham and shrimp and dip. Also to feast upon were many salads and, if one still had room, a fine selection of desserts were there to be sampled.

While many were conducting conversations in the living room, others were watching Nancy surfing through the Internet. This was my first exposure to the Internet, and it was a pleasant surprise to see many familiar faces on the 'net.

I believe all had a good time and look forward to the next get together (ed: see calendar page), and would like to thank Ann and Diane for making their lovely home available for us.

The panelists offered the surprising advice that, even in the least transgendered aware faiths, one should shop around for a minister or rabbi who is more receptive to the issues that we face. All the panelists agreed that their various religions had not touched very much on transgendered issues and as such it may well be more a personal issue regarding one's own appearance and presentation as well as the comfort level of the congregation with the individual that determines the level of acceptance within a given congregation. Although not the best answer we could have hoped for, it does give us some concrete advice on how to best integrate oneself into (or perhaps back into) the religious community.

Without exception the discussion was seen in a very positive light by panelists and participants alike. It was unfortunate that there was such a light turnout at this event by our membership as only about fifteen members attended the event. Although some seemed to feel that it might just be the effects of the summer season, many seemed to agree that perhaps much of our membership might have been afraid to attend because of a perceived notion that the message might not be a positive one. If such was the case it is a shame indeed as everyone left with more hope and perhaps enlightenment than when they had arrived. Being transgendered, whether it be transsexual or cross dresser, is more than just wondering what wig to wear or what shoes to buy. Whatever our respective genres, the lifestyle choices that we make affect virtually all of our daily life. It is imperative, if we are to live happy and fulfilled, that we explore all our options, not be afraid to face the truth and understand how to deal with it and if necessary, change it. I hope to see more issues like this explored in future ETVC events because the difficult questions are the ones best explored.

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First Steps

by Lisa Maxwell

What, When and Where — The first ever National Transgender Lobbying Day occurred on October 2nd and 3rd, 1995. Over 100 people from around the country converged on a small College Park, Maryland hotel to plan the complete lobbying coverage of all Members of Congress, in both the House and the Senate. (And were we ever complete; most of us were completely exhausted at the end, completely aware that we actually made history, and completely proud that we were finally standing up for our human rights in the land of the Foggy Bottom, which was absolutely beautiful.)

Five of us were there from California; Michelle the firewoman from LA, Shelby from Sacramento, James Green, Stephan Thorne and me. We five covered all 49 California Congresspersons and both Senators. Recommended footwear: running shoes! Accessories: Electrolyte fluids (Whew!). The event was started with a live televised (CNN) News Conference on the steps of the U.S. Capitol. I cannot describe the beauty of all of us, standing on the steps of the Capitol. Together. We were also covered by ABC's 20/20 news magazine. This event would not have happened without the efforts of Phyllis Randolph Frye of ICTLEPT and Riki Lynn Wilchins of Transsexual Menace. The amount of effort put into this event was incredible, and they deserve our gratitude and thanks.

Who was Reached? Of the 535 Members of Congress, a total of 520 were directly contacted via interviews and meetings with the Member of Congress' Legislative Aides (L.A.). The Legislative Aides are usually wonderful young, idealistic, aspiring politicians who brief the M.C. on important issues, and they all have specialties in various areas, such as health, employment, gay/lesbian issues, and so on. So, with a smile and a chance, we met them all and pressed the flesh. Some of them had never met a T person before, some of them didn't believe we were T's until told. But this event was not about passing; it was about being who you are, breaking down the boundaries of perceived gender, and getting politically involved.

What was Said? When we met with the M.C. L.A.s (got that?) we had some really good infor-

mation to hand out, covering the following four issues: a) the ENDA Bill, b) Health Care transgender inclusion, c) Bureau of Prisons protection of transgendered inmates and d) the Hate Crimes Reporting Act. We were primarily urging modification of the wording in the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, ENDA, (H.R. 1863 and S. 932) to include, in addition to sexual orientation protection, gender identity protection to cover pre and post-op transsexuals and crossdressers employment discrimination. In addition, we urged inclusion of transsexual care in all health insurance policies (usually, transsexual health care is specifically excluded). Another major issue covered was changes in the Federal Bureau of Prisons Standards to allow separate facilities for TS and Gay inmates. You can probably imagine what could happen to a pre-operative TS who might end up in prison. There is currently no protection for such an individual.

A hate crime against a transgendered person occurred in August '95 in Washington, DC when, in the course of treating an auto accident victim, it was learned that the victim was a pre-op TS. At that point, urgent emergency care at the scene was disrupted by laughter and derision. Care was eventually continued, but the victim, Ms. Tyra Hunter of DC, died at the hospital. *This could have happened to any of us, think about it, this is real.* In her case, her injuries were fatal and urgent care presumably would have had little effect on her survival, but there was pain. Transsexual Menace organized a protest in front of the DC City Hall, and some of us met with Mayor Marion Barry to show him our concern.

What's Next? This event has achieved Annual Event Status. This was the first step in gradually becoming more politically involved, and in securing our human rights, free from discrimination. It is going to be a long process, and we are well aware it could take years and years to achieve. In this Congress, our chances of achieving protection are remote. But the very exposure of this issue to a Congressman such as Bob Dornan of LA (an arch conservative with whose staff I met) means that we are no longer invisible, but showing ourselves to be fine, taxpaying, consuming, VOTING Americans, who deserve the same equal treatment as anyone else. This is not about special rights; it's about being treated equally. So next year, we hope to see you there, this event is not to be missed!

GIANNA E. ISRAEL

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