

ETVC Channel

May 1998

Volume 17, Issue 3

Esprit de Corps:

Pacific Northwest Groups to Host Late May Gender Gala

By Elizabeth [REDACTED]

For those who think of the Pacific Northwest as a gloomy and foreboding place, where rain is omnipresent and a sunny day causes folks to die like flies, here's some news: to those of us who have visited the area, Oregon, Washington and British Columbia are among the most appealing spots in the world, blessed with wonderful, friendly people and some of the most astonishing physical beauty one is likely to experience.

If you are thinking about making a trip to that part of the world, later this month might be a good time to go: three major Northwest gender groups are combining resources to host a "coming out party" for transgendered men and women in Port Angeles, Washington May 20-24, and it promises to be a marvelous affair.

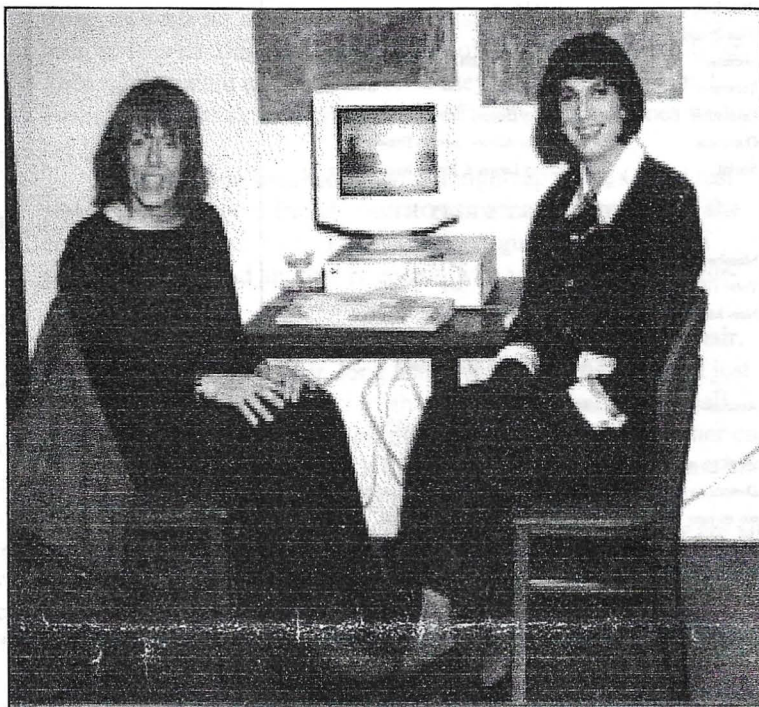
The gala is called "Esprit 98," and promises "five fun-filled days of parties, dinners, classes, special events and lots of fun." It will be held at the Doubletree/Bayshore Inn in Port Angeles, a full-service hotel located on the city's waterfront, a well-known tourist Mecca.

Among other things, organizers have promised special classes on a variety of subjects of special interest to transgendered people, including sessions on make-up and creating a feminine identity. They are also planning special outings to shop at local stores and dine at local restaurants, a "Big Sister" mentoring program for newbies, a wide variety of vendors who cater to those with specialized gender identity needs and — perhaps best of all — a guided trip to lovely Victoria, British Columbia, for tea and garden viewing.

For information, check the Esprit website at:

[REDACTED]

Or write to Esprit 98, P.O. Box 1101, Renton, WA 98057.



Venues, anyone? Jamie and Cheryl relax during an ETVC social at the late, lamented CyberWorld last year. CyberWorld, alas, is no more. If you have ideas for new ETVC social venues — or a favorite club you think we should consider — contact our Social co-chairs, Darcy or Evette.

(Photo By Telzey Adams)

INSIDE:

Special Club Events.....	Page Four
Other Groups	Page Five
Six Week ETVC Calender.....	Page Five
Executive Committee Minutes	Page Nine

WARNING : THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANNEL! IT IS TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP! DON'T DELAY — DO IT TODAY!

THE CHANNEL

Educational TV Channel 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, P.O. Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486. Minutes of all ETVC committee meetings are available to members on request.

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 Outreach: Telzey Adams, Sandra [REDACTED]
 Social: Darcy Leopard, Evette [REDACTED]

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Membership (as of 3/08/98) 324
 Total 1996-97 Membership 391
 New Memberships this year 80

TREASURER'S REPORT

Account Balance as of 3/08/98 \$0.00
 The "Home for ETVC" fund is now \$2017.50

ETVC is a non-profit corporation.

Donations to ETVC are TAX DEDUCTIBLE on both Federal and California income tax returns. Talk to your tax advisor for details.

Channel, the ETVC Newsletter, is published monthly. Submissions should arrive at ETVC by the 20th day of the month preceding publication. 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 as the source of the material. Copyrighted materials may be reproduced only with written permission of ETVC.

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Business Card:	\$25	\$125	\$250
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Letter From
 Elizabeth



By Elizabeth
 [REDACTED]

A Fond Farewell

As you can see, the changes just keep on coming at the *Channel*. This month's edition contains a number of innovations, including a front page index to help guide our loyal and faithful readers to some of our most eagerly sought features, and a six-week calendar of events designed to help guide you all well into the next membership month.

The six-week calendar is a necessary compromise between the two-month planner so many members have requested and the one-month schedule we have been running in the new, monthly *Channel*.

Unfortunately, we are simply unable to accommodate a two-month calendar of events at this point — for the simple reason that we are not able to see clearly that far into the future ourselves! You see, we have difficulty scheduling many events far in advance because unforeseen eventualities so frequently force us to belatedly change those plans. Venues suddenly fall through — as was the case with the late and much lamented CyberWorld, which unexpectedly went out of business earlier this year. In addition, speakers scheduled for our popular educational seminars sometimes are forced to cancel without notice, leaving us with an event that either must be changed or dropped.

Even when the *Channel* was a bimonthly and published a two-month calendar, events often outran our plans, and our listings wound up being inaccurate. That was part of the reason for switching to a monthly newsletter, with a quicker turnaround and publication schedule. Sometime in the future, we may be able to accommodate members' desire for a two-month schedule of coming events, but for the time being, we hope you will find the new six week calendar useful.

In other news, this is a swan song of sorts for me as editor of the *Channel*. Starting with the next issue, the newsletter will have a new editor at the helm: Ayme Kantz. Many of you will remember Ayme from her previous tenure as an Executive Committee member. Others will at least recognize her name and face from the ad she and Katherine Reed have been running in the *Channel*, notifying you of their group counseling sessions for members of our transgendered community. Ayme has loads of experience as a newsletter editor, and will continue to improve the *Channel* in coming months.

As for me, I thank you all for the grace and good humor you have displayed during my tenure, and for letting me share this small portion of your lives. It has been a pleasure working with you, and your stories have enlightened, entertained and inspired me. Please stay in touch. . . .

Seattlite Reports on Her Experiences During Cotillion 1998

By Debra Darling

Well, what a wonderful time we had in San Francisco. You have heard much about the Cotillion, so I will not dwell on that part of the trip except to say we had a good time, and thank you to all who put it on. Even my hair dresser, who came down from Seattle and her two friends enjoyed the show.

Karen and I arrived on Thursday, after a non-eventful flight from Seattle. I knew I had been doing this too often when the agent at the Alaska check in counter greeted me with a big hello and said she had not seen me for a couple of weeks. Apparently I am well known on this airline, and now I have pictures to prove it.

We rented a car with no trouble, not even the usual double take at the gate when they check the driver's license. Then it was downtown to the hotel where we quickly checked in. They had given us a king size bed, and were most surprised when we insisted on separate beds. Oh, well, the education goes on.

Next stop was a nail salon downtown. It is on the second floor at Kearny and Pine and features massaging pedicure chairs. We both had our nails done, and it was exquisite. This is a must. The cost is modest, especially when you consider how good it feels. Take open-toed sandals with you so the polish doesn't smear when you leave.

Friday we drove down to Santa Cruz. We had lunch at the Pontiac Grill and turned a few heads. Every one was polite though and we even got our pictures taken. On the way back

we stopped at Rocsil's in downtown Oakland, and turned a few more heads. That night we tried a new place, Storeyville, in SF. Good food, great jazz, nice decor, and the folks at the bar just insisted in talking to us. Oh--it also has acres of free parking. Afterwards we went to Brunos in the Mission District. Also good jazz, nearby parking, and lots and lots of twenty-something folks. They never batted an eye at us, once they decided we were not available. (I did get felt up a couple of times, but that goes with the territory.)

Each night we finished up with a nightcap at the Gold Dust where Karen made a friend. Some guy in the high tech field she could talk software with. He seemed intrigued, and made it a point to join us and another tv couple who ventured in on Saturday night.

Sunday, though, I discovered the virtues of non-human hair. Karen wears her own hair, long and slightly curled. It rained just a bit (all right it poured) and by the time we got to breakfast all she wanted to do was find a curling iron. By the time I put her on the plane home, she was just a bit bedraggled and more than a bit put out. I'm glad I was staying behind.

I suggest you try out all of the places mentioned. They are all TG friendly, very straight, and very hip. They seemed to appreciate our business and we were treated as we expect to be, every time.

See you all soon I hope. That's all for now.

(Editor's Note: This Column Was Held Earlier Due To Space Limitations)

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Darcy Leopard
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A Tale of Two Lisas

ETVC Member Lisa and Treasurer Lisa share a serious moment of conversation.

(Photo By The Smiths)



Special Events

Mid Month Social Wednesday, May 13th

Join us for a relaxed evening of light banter, cocktails and the latest gossip from the transgendered community. 8:30 p.m., Cafe Mars, Seventh and Brannan Streets, not far from the San Francisco Flower Market. No charge.

End of Month Social Thursday, May 28th

An important evening for our club, as this is the meeting at which the elections for new officers will be held. Be sure to be present to cast your ballot, and to check out a brand new venue, Charpe's in the city's trendy Hayes Valley. 8 p.m., 131 Gough Street at Lily. *Sic semper tyrannis!*

Kalani Kicks Up Her Heels!

Kalani, our lovely first runner-up for Miss ETVC 1998, strikes a provocative pose with an entertainer from this year's Imperial Coronation.

We didn't catch this lucky gentleman's name, but he seems to be enjoying Kalani's company thoroughly!



(Photo By Telzey Adams)

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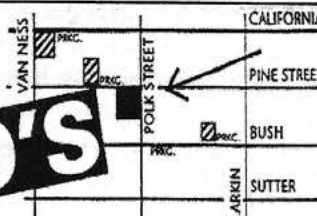


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ETVC Extends is warmest thanks to the generous contributors who are helping us retire the debt for our club's new computer system. Your generosity has helped make the most recent issues of The Channel possible.

Nancy [REDACTED]
Mina Schwartz
Janet Bowman
Joyce [REDACTED]
Chris Silver

Cindy [REDACTED]
Susie [REDACTED]
Leslie [REDACTED]
Millicent of El Cerrito
Nicole and Debbie Cook

David B. [REDACTED]
Valerie [REDACTED]
Kelli [REDACTED]
Robert [REDACTED]

If you would like to join the list,
please send your contributions to:

Educational TV Channel
P.O. Box 426486
San Francisco, CA 94142-6486

Other Groups

Pacific Center for Human Growth, a counseling oriented growth center sponsors all-inclusive gender support groups on every Friday 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, P.O.Box 700730, San Jose, CA 95170. Call: (408) [REDACTED].

Sacramento Gender Association (SGA) Blue Rose Chapter meets 8PM the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month in Sacramento. Write P.O. 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, P.O. Box 272885, Concord, CA 94527-2885. Call: (510) [REDACTED].

DVG Rap Group (RCC) meets first and third Thursday of every month, 7 PM at Rainbow Community Center, 2637 Pleasant Hill Rd. at Taylor Blvd. in Pleasant Hill. For more info, call (510) [REDACTED].

FTM, a support group for Female-to-Male cross dressers & transsexuals, holds open Informational Meetings and closed Support Meetings. Write FTM International, Inc., 1360 Mission St, Suite 200, SF94103 or call Voice Mall (415) [REDACTED].

TGIF (TransGenderism is Fun), a social group for transgenders, meets one Saturday each month at a private home in Santa Rosa for a potluck social from 4 PM until early evening. For dates, location and reservations, call Diane or Anne at (707) [REDACTED].

Silicon Valley Gender Association (SVGA), a new transgender support group meets at the Billy De Frank Community Center in San Jose on the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month from 7PM to 9PM. For more info, call (408) [REDACTED].

Far West Women (FWW), a support group for TGs affiliated with the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Alliance in Humboldt Co., meets every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the Month at 8 PM in the GLBTA Center at Fourth and "D" Streets in Eureka. For info, call the Center at (707) [REDACTED].

TV/TS/TG Groups and Activities

Six Week Calendar

MAY

01	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408)
01	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets at 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510)
04	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510)
07	DVG	RCC Rap	Meets at 7 PM	Pleasant Hill	(510)
08	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510)
08	SVGA	Support Grp	Meets at 7 PM	San Jose	(408)
08	ETVC	Poker	Starts at 8 PM	SF	(415)
08	ETVC	Library	Hours: 7-10 PM	SF	(415)
09	FWW	Meeting	Starts at 8 PM	Eureka	(707)
09	ETVC	Bowling	Starts at 8:30 PM	SF	(415)
09	SGA	Social	Starts at 7:30 PM	Sacramento	(916)
10	FTM	Info Mtg	Meets at 2 PM	SF	(415)
13	ETVC	Mid-Month	Starts at 8:30 PM	SF	(415)
15	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets at 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510)
15	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408)
18	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510)
21	DVG	RCC Rap	Meets at 7 PM	Pleasant Hill	(510)
22	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510)
22	SVGA	Support Grp	Meets at 7 PM	San Jose	(408)
23	SGA	Social	Starts at 7:30 PM	Sacramento	(916)
23	FWW	Meeting	Starts at 8 PM	Eureka	(707)
28	ETVC	EOM Social	Starts at 8 PM	SF	(415)

JUNE

01	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510)
04	DVG	RCC Rap	Meets at 7 PM	Pleasant Hill	(510)
05	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510)
05	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408)
10	ETVC	Mid-Month	Starts at 8:30 PM	SF	(415)
12	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510)
12	SVGA	Support Grp	Meets at 7 PM	San Jose	(408)
12	ETVC	Poker	Starts at 8 PM	SF	(415)
12	ETVC	Library	Hours: 7-10 PM	SF	(415)
13	FWW	Meeting	Starts at 8 PM	Eureka	(707)
13	ETVC	Bowling	Starts at 8:30 PM	SF	(415)
13	SGA	Social	Starts at 7:30 PM	Sacramento	(916)

ETVC Membership Application

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

How did you learn about ETVC? _____

Please Note New Rates: Full year membership June 1 - May 31 is \$30.00 (Family - \$40.00).

Please remit by check or money order to:
 ETVC, P.O. Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486



Sandra Reaches Out

By Sandra [REDACTED]

By the time you read this you should have received your ballot to vote for our ETVC officers for the coming year. Also on the ballot is a proposed new set of bylaws that strive to preserve the spirit of ETVC while addressing concerns that have expanded since its origin sixteen years ago. Finally, you need to return your ballot to express your preference for the name of our organization in the future; and to make sure we have a future, it would help if you send your membership renewal for another year along with your ballot.

Let me know if you want to join us on TV at KQED in June; I'll send announcement of time, date, and procedure before the event. If you are or want to be an outreach speaker, plan to come to our ETVC Outreach Speakers Workshop planned later in the summer. For the second time in seven years, my area code has changed; it seems they've added the previous ones (415+510) to get the new one. Call me at (925) [REDACTED] to make sure you're on the list of speakers.

Our speaker activity has slowed somewhat, but we've recently spoken to the Castro Lions Club and the San Francisco chapter of PFLAG in addition to a number of presentations at local colleges. Some instructors satisfied with previous speakers call the speakers directly. If you are requested to speak to a class and you want ETVC to be recognized, and possibly receive an honorarium, let me know. I'll give you a description on our speakers bureau to give to the instructor. This also gives them our non-profit tax id number, and encourages them to request an honorarium from their department.

The ETVC web site is at www.transgender.org/tg/etvc. You already know about www.tgforum.com. Look too at www.ifge.org; this has an especially good list and description of several publications, videos, and movies on transgendered subjects. Recent media attention to transgendered topics includes an episode of Boy Meets World which has a boy dressing as a 'babe' to see first hand if women are treated badly by men; he finds out they are. An episode of Nash Bridges filmed in San Francisco features a drag beauty contest complete with a 'freak-out' scene reminiscent of the Cry- ing Game. Finally, a scene in Cybill has the red-haired

daughter dressed as a blonde Barbie for a performance; this prompts the comment, "Zoey, you're already a girl; you don't have to dress like a drag queen."

In the April Channel, three paragraphs were omitted from my article SRS Examined Closely describing Dr Schrang's presentation in February. Since these formed an important part of the description of the event, I am repeating them below.

Dr Schrang speculated that flexible dilators that adapt to the curved shape of the neo-vagina better than the usual straight rigid plastic variety could be found at an adult novelty shop. Frequent dilation is needed as long as inflammation and healing activity are present.

At one point, Dr Schrang's presentation was interrupted by an activist in the crowd who seized an opportunity to protest the requirement of therapists' recommendations for the surgery, as well as the absence of programs to subsidize the surgery in this country. Ironically, such programs exist in Great Britain and some other countries, but they are rigidly controlled by the recommendations of therapists.

Dr Schrang follows the Harry Benjamin standards, but he doesn't feel they are carved in stone. His fees are comparable to other surgeons performing the same services in this country. Though this includes only a small handful of doctors, any trend for young doctors to learn the techniques of reassignment surgery has yet to be observed.

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Katherine Reed, LCSW

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Pretty as Princesses

Our Miss ETVc for 1997, Dale Carlson, poses with her successor, Miss ETVc 1998, Di-anna. Two talented ladies — and so lovely to look at!

(Photo By Telzey Adams)



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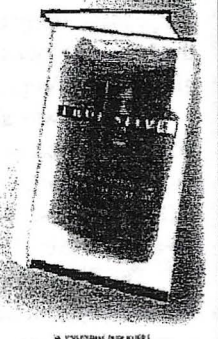
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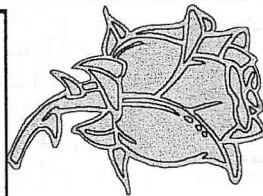
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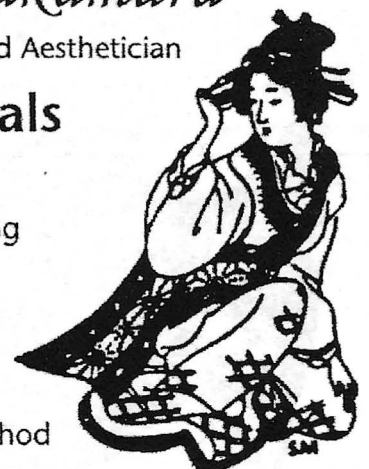
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"I SAW BILL CLINTON IN DRAG!!"

(An Eyewitness Account By Miss Di Di Mau)



I am **not** making this up. It was after the Gay Mardi Gras in Oakland's Old Town on September 20, 1997. Our good friend Stephanie and I attended the event with some of the other ETVC girls, and a great day was had by all.

This was the first attempt at an event of this type in Oakland, and the weather was perfect - perfect for my outfit, which might have outraged the citizens of Rio. The former Empress Tiffany engineered a "head dress parade" through the several blocks of the venue, and my outfit helped me give it my "Vegas" best.

Later, I was shocked to see the Channel 5 cameraman pointing the camera right at my face! What a disaster! I raced after him, and got his arm in a vise-like grip. "**GET-THE-SHOES!**" I demanded. The slow pan of this showed up as the "tease" on the Six O'clock News.

The day being over, Stephanie and I moved on to San Francisco for dinner at the GrubStake on Pine Street, just around the corner from Kimo's. This place is open late - has great food - and is TG enthusiastic.

Upon finishing our meal and after giving some tourists something to twitter about, we noticed the Motorcycle Police tearing up Pine Street with sirens blaring, pushing everything out of the way. We were at a loss to figure this out, but suddenly remembered, "the President is in town." It was him, all right - and his whole entourage. We couldn't pass this up - we ran into the street to watch the parade pass by. And here they came - Scads of SF Cops, limos of all types, a sinister looking armored Chevy Suburban, and a van full of Secret Service Agents, who looked surprised (read: click safety's off) to see a 7 foot tall Blonde Drag Queen in a Micro dress and 6 inch platforms standing there waving.

Then, there He was - the Man in His Limo! Stephanie and I jumped up and down and screamed and yelled. I had pulled it off! "**I SAW BILL CLINTON IN DRAG.**"

They tore on up Pine Street at about 50 MPH, and life in the Gulch went back to normal (?).

They say when you wake up in the morning and find confetti outside your house, you know the parade has passed you by. After all this excitement, we repaired to the Power Exchange for an evening of wholesome entertainment.

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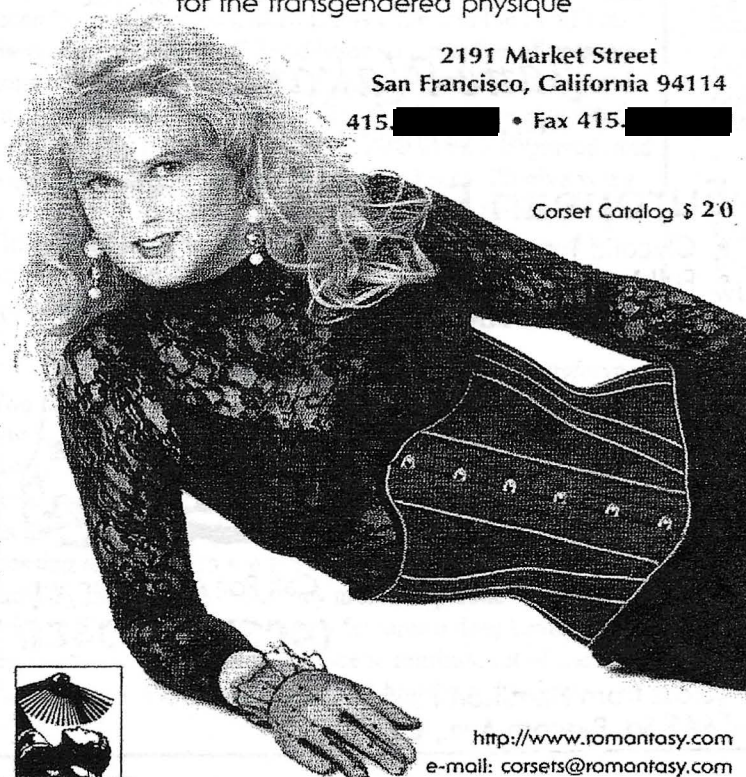


photo: J. Vonier model: Darcy Leopard, first runner-up Miss ETVC 1996



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The Uninvited Dilemma

A Question of Gender

by

Kim Elizabeth Stuart

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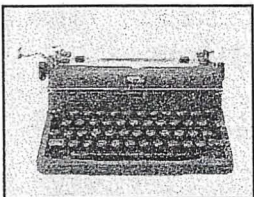
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Clinical Sexologist
Certified Sex Therapist

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Executive Committee Minutes

The monthly meeting of ETVC's Executive Committee was on March 8, 1998.

Madam President called meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Communications and Announcements: Kim Stuart has asked about books and/or money due her. The Ducal Court is taking place on Saturday, April 11. Joan Goodnight will be in town to discuss California Dreamin' on April 4. There is a Fund-raiser for the SF Community Center Project. The Sacramento Gender Association will have a show on March 28.

Minutes: Erin noted that in February's minutes, Veronica wrote "individual and singular memberships" when she obviously meant "individual and family memberships." With that correction, Leslie moved February's Minutes be approved, Evette seconded and they were unanimously approved.

President's Report: Storage locker fees were overdue. It was decided to empty the locker and store the stuff elsewhere. Nancy Ann must move out of her house by the end of the month and needs to get rid of a lot of old club documents.

Vice President's Report: After looking at the Cotillion financials, it looks as if the club lost around \$2,500.

Secretary Veronica: Membership is 324 of which 80 are new. The newsletter was then discussed. Nancy was disappointed with the photos; she believed the photos were important for the many members

who only read the newsletter and never come to socials. Jamie suggested different software. Sandra thought that perhaps the club should go back to the old schedule of a newsletter every two months. Leslie and Veronica wanted people to be patient and let Elizabeth get used to the new system.

Treasurer: Leslie passed out an account of ETVC's finances. They were lousy. There is no money in the bank and ETVC will need another \$2,000 before the end of the present fiscal year. There are April, May and June newsletters to put out and the ballots, envelopes, officers' statements, bylaws need to be copied and mailed by mid-April. Awards need to be bought and printed for awards/election night. It doesn't look as if there will be a Really Big Shew this year: no place to hold it and no money. On the plus side, the recent request for donations for the computer fund had produced over \$500 in contributions.

Education: Nancy reported that the Dr. Schrang lecture was well attended and broke even. Nothing is scheduled for March. Juana has been putting her efforts into organizing the seminars and speakers for California Dreamin'.

Outreach: Sandra's projected expenses were the phone bill and ads. She could put off the Speaker workshop program until the summer when the club may be more financially secure. She will need a venue though. She and Leslie will speak at the Castro Lions Club on April 1. The club's web address was wrongly published in the newsletter. It will be corrected in the next one.

Social: *CyberWorld* has closed. ETVC could have *Kimo's* between 8:00 and 10:00 on the last Thursday of the month for \$3.00 a person. At 10:00, *Kimo's En Drag* show starts and ETVC members could stay and watch. The general feeling was, since most of the 50 or so members who can be depended upon to show up for each meeting rarely arrive promptly at 8:00, the club would actually be renting a room for about an hour for approximately \$150.00. And then members would be stuck watching the same show every month. This did not seem satisfactory. Evette said that she would check out *Thirsty Bear*, the *Up and Down Club* and *Giraffe*. March, April and May's mid-months are scheduled at Lilo Lounge. March and May's end-month socials are scheduled to be at *Café Mars*. April's will be part of California Dreaming.

Old Business: Erin asked if anyone was following the Community Center Project, but the view was that the project had stalled. Erin had asked Ronnie Jean to run for Outreach since Telzey did not want to co-chair again. Lulu Blau reported that she would not actively seek the Presidency or Vice Presidency but would not refuse if it were thrust upon her. Ms. Blau then left and Veronica thrust the presidency on her. Leslie said that she would not mind being VP or Prez as long as she could continue having an active part in the Cotillion. Evette announced that she would run for Social Chair and that Darcy would not. Other names brought up for consideration were Q, Kalani, Ayme Kantz, Aqua Marine, Janet Bowman and Dale Carlson. The subject of pro-rating membership dues was raised. The proposal was that pro-rating would take place one time only: when a member first joins. It would be divided by the number of months left before the ending of the membership year. In other words, if the yearly membership were \$30, the pro-rate amount would be \$2.50 for each month. Leslie motioned for approval, Juana seconded, and the motion was approved.

Adjournment: At 6:30 p.m., Leslie moved to adjourn, Evette seconded it and the motion was passed.

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Sex and Drag and Rock 'N' Roll

By Rachel [REDACTED]

Well, there is no sex in this, but I did get your attention, didn't I?

As a tranny since birth (and out to my wife one year), I find that I enjoy dressing and going out anywhere that I would enjoy in drab. Transgender friendly events and socials are great, but sometimes I just want to wear that new special outfit to go shopping on a beautiful day in San Francisco, or to see some of my favorite bands -- one of which just happens to perform tunes that make subtle references to crossdressing and drag bars.

The band is "Cracker" and they are playing at "Slim's" in San Francisco. I am excited, as I have never seen them live. As usual my friends who enjoy music that isn't on the radio can't join me for a variety of reasons. But an opportunity presents itself perhaps for Rachel to go instead. I think about it, but "Slims" in SF is definitely straight and the Santa Cruz surfer crowd fan base from where the band members live may be a bit macho for my taste.

However, I know in my heart that this is a great chance to really bring together my love of live music and my love of cross-dressing.

I drive down to San Francisco after work with my car packed and ready to go. I arrive early and do my usual urban guerrilla drag routine inside my car in the parking garage on 11th Street near the club, the safest place I know of. As showtime approaches

the garage is filling and some unsuspecting "Cracker" fans pull up next to moi (in all my mascaraed glory) to park their car. They walk to the concert with a slightly bemused look.

Finally I'm ready. I think, "Was this a GOOD IDEA?" and I walk to the show.

I approach the entrance to "Slim's" and the crowd is starting to slow and Rachel is definitely noticed and not all for the good of my self esteem. I get to the door and the bouncer asks for ID. Damn, I have to pull out my non-femme driver's license for one last smirk (although a bored smirk at that) and finally I'm in. The music is loud but clear and it sounds very powerful.

I thought I missed the opening of "Cracker" but it was the warm up band "Black Lab." I get my femme drink at the bar and go stand in the crowd to enjoy the show. The music ends and now I'm standing in the milling crowd feeling very alone and telling myself that maybe this was not such a great idea.

Then the tranny gods once again smile down on me as this very cute blond girl, Allison, wearing a cool and short punkish hairstyle, approaches me and says, "I just wanted to tell you I love your eye makeup."

Well, that was it. The rest of the night was a blur. We talked about makeup and shoes and music (her girlfriend dates one of the guys in "Black Lab"). She introduced me to her boyfriend and their guest from Scotland. We all got on very well and someone suggested that we get closer to the stage. All of a sudden, Rachel has three new friends and all the disapproving stares from the crowd become curious looks like, "Who is she?"

The first notes of "St. Cajetan" start up and the place goes wild. I'm ecstatic, as this is one of my favorite "Cracker" tunes. We are maybe four bodies back from the stage and the lead guitar player makes eye contact in a very positive way. (So the drag references in their music are not a coincidence.) My heels give me a better view over the crowd than I ever had before (another reason drag is great). About five songs into the set, David Lowery (the lead singer) is singing the song, "I Ride My Bike," where the second verse goes:

"I'm gonna comb my hair

Gonna wear a dress

Wear it all day long just to think about you"

Well, Allison is stunned. She turns to me and says, "He is singing about you!" Then she tries to tell her boyfriend (who missed the lyric) that David Lowery was singing about me. I just laughed and felt like quite the celebrity.

Well, to make a long story short (which is usually very hard for me) the rest of the night was quite a highlight of my new life out. Many times during the concert I was enjoying the music so much and feeling so comfortable as Rachel that I can truly say I had a "peak experience"

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Mail Order Madness: Places To Shop Without Leaving Home

By Elizabeth [REDACTED]

OK, so a lot of you girls out there are probably classic size tens who can round up an attractive outfit that fits you perfectly on the rack of your local Clothestime. To paraphrase Julius Caesar (whose toga size was a natural eight), your motto probably is: "I came, I shopped, I conquered."

But for me and a lot of my TG girlfriends, clothes shopping is -- pardon the term -- a real drag. I long ago gave up trying to find anything in a size 18 in thrift shops, as us hefty girls would apparently rather burn our old clothing than give it away to charity. Moreover, looking for outfits at Ross has become less and less satisfactory, because the Plus-size racks there are usually highly picked-over, and the items that are left would look more appropriate on the head matron in a women's prison.

If you are sick of finding things that fit but don't look good -- or things that look good but don't fit -- take heart: there is an alternative. Try shopping by catalog. A number of mail order houses cater to us Plus-size girls with clothing that is stylish, inexpensive and -- best of all -- made to fit us.

Now I don't mean Frederick's of Hollywood: The size range at Frederick's is too limited and the clothes are -- well, a little too exotic for many of us. Nor am I referring to rip-off artists like Michael Salem, where the advertising is as shoddy as the merchandise and the prices are much too high.

I'm talking about places where genetic women enjoy the convenience of shopping by mail or telephone, and where the styles may not be haute couture, but at least they are attractive and serviceable.

Tops on my personal list is Chadwick's of Boston, which publishes a regular catalog with clothing that runs up to size 16 (plus a limited selection of items in sizes up to 3X). The selection is good, and the prices are definitely in the Ross range: for instance, the current catalog offers a very cute blue denim front-zip jumper in four colors for only \$19. Add one of their short sleeved knit silk sweaters at \$24, and you have a

great new springy outfit for less than fifty bucks.

Chadwick's also puts out a special catalog that strictly features larger sizes, "Jessica London from Chadwick's." I've purchased several outfits from this collection and I simply love them all. Not long ago I bought a navy blue silk crepe de chine sheath and blazer set from this catalog for only \$79 that fit perfectly. The blazer can be worn with jeans and a pullover for a dressed-down casual look, and the sheath works by itself as an evening dress. Put them together and you have a very chic businesswoman's outfit.

Another outfit that specializes in sizes for us full-figured girls is Lane Bryant, whose retail outlets are probably already familiar to you. Bryant's catalog is loaded with everything from underwear (including some hard-to-find foundation items and incredibly inexpensive panties) to evening dresses, although the bulk of its stock is in sports clothing with a distinctly casual look. Lane Bryant's current catalog features a darling short-sleeved skirt suit for only \$36.99, and loads of cute bathing suits.

Silhouettes is another mail-order company that specializes in larger sizes (12W-34W). Its prices are higher than Lane Bryant or Chadwick's (a linen-polyester jacket, for example, runs \$69, while my entire silk jacket and dress combination from Chadwick's was only \$10 more). But it is also considerably more hip, with a wide array of casual styles designed with the younger woman in mind.

So if you are looking for a new outfit for Spring and finding it hard to gear up for shopping, try the lazy woman's method and place your order by post. If nothing else, you won't be lonely: your mailbox will soon be bulging with catalogs from other women's clothiers, shoe stores, wigmakers, etc., as all of these businesses share mailing lists!

(Cross References is an occasional column of tips for Cross-Dressers)

Where To Find Them

Believe me, all you have to do to get a catalog from one of these companies is send them a post card requesting it. Write to:

***Chadwick's of Boston and Jessica London from Chadwick's of Boston**, One Chadwick Place, Box 1600, Brockton, MA 02403-1600.

***Lane Bryant**, P.O. Box 8301, Indianapolis, IN 46283-8301

***Silhouettes**, Hanover, PA 17333-0069

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*President Erin
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(Photo By Telzey Adams)



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