

Get Ready For Cotillion '97!

by Leslie [REDACTED]

Mark January 25, 1997 on your calendars for a night of fun and entertainment!

Imagine yourself dressed in your finest, perhaps as a debutante, as we crown a new Mr. and Miss ETVC and say thank you to Valerie and Bobbie for representing us so well this past year.

The 13th Annual ETVC Cotillion will be directed by Trauma Flintstone and Lulu [REDACTED], and produced by Leslie [REDACTED]. They need plenty of help, so please volunteer if you can. We need CONTESTANTS (it really is a very special experience), as well as ETVC members who are willing to help with everything from taking tickets to joining the clean up crew. Please call me (Leslie) right away at [REDACTED] so I'll know I can count on you.

We will have one major change this year. The Russian Center is unfortunately unavailable to us this time around. As a consequence, we will take the Cotillion back to the



Mr. & Miss ETVC 1996
Valerie Genalo and Bobbie Bentley

California Club where it has been staged in years past. Look for further details to follow.

You can reserve your Cotillion Table and Advance Tickets for Cotillion '97 today! Read the ticket information on the enclosed Cotillion insert and mail your Advance Ticket Order Form in as soon as possible. As last year, best seating will be assigned on a first come, first serve basis.

SEE YOU THERE!!

1996: A Year in The Public Eye

A Time to Be Out There
By Erin Souza

1996 was not the time to be hiding in closets, or in the back of some bar. It was the time to be out. Out in the community, out in the work place, out at the night spots and major public events. As individuals and as an organization we made our presence known.

For me personally, it meant making the decision to live full time in the feminine role and to come out at work. I wasn't the first, nor was I the only one. Among others who took that bold step were Lisa Barboza (formerly Lisa Maxwell), Sandra [REDACTED] and Diane Giles. Diane even made a few headlines in the process.

Of course if you are going to be out, it helps to be damn good at what you do. Do you think Dennis Rodman would still be working if he was not the best defensive player in the NBA? Still, Dennis was someone for us to rally around in one of the more unlikely places for anyone with feminine tendencies.

Locally, ETVC continued to increase its profile. The ETVC banner was proudly displayed at the NOW march and the AIDS walk. We were there

Continued on page 3

Mr. ETVC 1996 — From Beginning to "Forever"

by Bobbie Bentley

Life as I knew it will never be the same, because ETVC "picked me up." I was asked to run for "Mr. ETVC 1996", when I had barely even heard of ETVC! I was told that I would have "a lot of fun". Boy, did I have fun!

The whole year-long experience has been beautiful, and joyful. First I had to figure out who ETVC is; then what that meant to me. Answer: they are everyone and anyone together, for a number of good causes, and out for a good time. They are educating, supporting, and contributing to those good causes — my kind of people!

My biggest challenge was at the beginning — at the Cotillion, proposing to 350 people at once:

"If you say you'll be my bride,
Then we'll take a big long ride..."

The easiest part of it all was being with some of the most beautiful "power femmes" I have ever met, addressing community needs. Among the things we did together this year, we allied ourselves ever more closely with other groups, such as CUAV, FTM International, and the San Francisco Human Rights Commission.

We gave money to Project Open Hand, and to the San Francisco Transgender Task Force.

Continued on back page

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	Erin Souza
Vice-President	Leslie [REDACTED]
Secretary	Veronica Smith
Treasurer	Jano Bogg
Education	Nancy [REDACTED]
Outreach	Telzey Adams, Sandra [REDACTED]
Social	Laura Van Nuys, Evette [REDACTED]

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Membership (as of 9/30/96)	277
Total 1995 Membership	430
New Memberships this year	24

TREASURER'S REPORT

MONTH	INCOME	EXPENSES	DIFFERENCES
July	\$5010.72	(\$2352.10)	\$2658.62
August	(\$524.38)	(\$2191.94)	(\$2716.32)

The "Home For ETVC" Fund is now \$827.50
ETVC is a non-profit corporation.

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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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 &

VOICE MAIL 415-[REDACTED]

B.B.S. 415-[REDACTED]

Letter from Elizabeth

By Elizabeth [REDACTED]

On behalf of ETVC's newsletter committee and editors, I would like to extend our regret that many of you received your last Channel so much later than it was scheduled to arrive. Some unforeseen publication problems held up our going to press, and a new U.S. Postal Service method of handling bulk mailings seems to have caused additional delays. We believe we now have the situation under control and hope that these problems will not recur.

As we come to the end of 1996, I mark the end of my first year as editor of the Channel. Looking back, it is hard to believe that when I was first asked to take on this responsibility, my reaction was to believe that it would be a burden I would not be able to carry.

The challenges have sometimes been great, but the burden I feared has never materialized. Putting out the newsletter has given me the chance to meet many of you I would not have known, and to get to know some of you much better than would otherwise have been the case.

Preparing The Channel has allowed me to view some of our events — the Cotillion, for example — through a different sort of lens, intensifying and enriching the experience. It has also allowed me to vicariously participate in some activities that I was unable to attend in person.

Finally, it has given me an unexpected chance to have fun. Working with contributors (and simply reading your contributions) has been a genuine pleasure. I have enjoyed the sense of humor and excitement so many of you have put into your offerings. I only hope that the finished newsletter has met with your satisfaction.

As the calendar runs out, I want to take this opportunity to say thanks. 1996 has been a blast for me. I hope the coming year is even better — and that the work we do in The Channel reflects it.

FTM News From The 'Net

We learn from the Internet:

On October 9th, The Ingersoll Gender Center in Seattle, Washington started an FTM telephone night. FTM's will be available to answer the phones from 6PM to 8PM every Wednesday night. Call (206) [REDACTED] to talk to a live person.

(Of course, Bay Area FTMs are encouraged to continue to contact the Bay area-based FTM International group at (510) [REDACTED] for resource and meeting information.)

The World Famous 9th Annual

Texas "T" Party

March 11-16, 1997 in Dallas, Texas

Can you imagine.... Being "her" for a week in a first-class hotel with your interests in mind! Being able to buy any item you want or need from our many vendors. The only gender event which welcomes your spouse or partner with a discount for couples. This event is run by women *for* Cd's, not by Cd's for themselves! We are interested in *your* needs. Join all your friends and make new ones at the Texas "T."

For information call,
write or fax:

Texas "T" Party
P.O. Box 17
Bulverde, TX 78163

Phone or Fax:
(210) [REDACTED]

e-mail TX T PARTY@aol.com

Please include S.S.A.E.



Da' Prez' Box

ETVC President Erin Souza

Holiday Identity Struggle

Who am I? Who do I want to be? These questions, not the unique property of us transfolk, are questions we ask if and when we have the luxury to do so. If we ever do

get some sense of an answer, we then work to make our outer presentation to the world congruent with our inner vision, encountering, in the process, resistance from others who want to keep us congruent with their vision of whom they think we should be. This conflict is often most apparent at this time of year, the holidays.

Think about it. You devote time and energy to make changes in your life — earning a degree, learning new job skills, developing a talent, overcoming long held fears, maybe even transitioning to another gender — only to return to your family of origin and have all that dismissed as inconsequential. There you are again, suffocating within the confines of the role in which they originally cast you:

"Your hair's getting pretty long. You're not getting 'funny' on us are you?"

"Are you still doing that cute little performing thing?"

"You don't really mean that honey. You've always loved Jello — here, I know you want more."

"Hey, putting on a little weight there, aren't you guy?"

And on and on. Maybe you even get stuck at the kids' table because you're not married like your siblings. And God help you if you don't fit into the Norman Rockwell image of the traditional family gathering, if your gender identity or choice of a partner is not "mainstream."

"Are you going to come, you know, *like that*?"

"You're not bringing *him* with you, are you?"

All this can suck the life and sense of self respect right out of you if you are not careful. So, be careful. If you cannot avoid such gatherings, try to minimize the time spent at them. And by all means, make time with people who do respect who you are and the vision of yourself that you put forward. Sometimes the best gifts you receive are those you give yourself.

CONGRATULATIONS to Mr. ETVC 1996, **Bobbie Bentley**, who was recently elected to the board of directors of the San Francisco Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Pride Celebration. It's one thing to ride in the parade; it's quite another to help organize and run it.And if you haven't checked out **Bobbie's** electrolysis service, you're missing one of the best deals in town.

CONGRATULATIONS are also in order for 1996 Cotillion set designer **Beverly Hills Gold**, who is now the new Empress of Alameda County. And to San Francisco's newest Grand Duke, **Marvin Capeheart** and Grand Duchess, **Tiger Lily**. **Tiger**, one of my favorite local entertainers who wears everything well, now gets to wear a crown as well. You go girl!

Best wishes, gender fans, to all of you this holiday season and in the coming new year.

Year in Review

Continued from page 1

answering phones on KQED and marching in the parade on KOFY....okay, so **Lulu** was seen marching in the parade on KOFY, while the rest of us could be glimpsed in the background. We had our booths at the parade and the Castro Street Fair.

Our own Gender Fair grew in size and public visibility during its second year. When the unique S.F. nightclub/bowling alley **Rock 'n' Bowl** had its farewell party, we were invited as part of the regulars, garnering some ink in the Bay Guardian.

We even got out to the suburbs to play some miniature golf in all our transgendered glory. And we were invited by none other than **Empress Jose** himself to dance as "vestal virgins" at **Emperor Norton's** memorial service. Equally important have been visits by individual members of our speaker's bureau to schools, businesses and community organizations in the Bay Area.

All in all it has been quite a year in the public eye. If you missed any of it, do not fret. These opportunities and others will present themselves in 1997. I am going to make the most of them. I hope you will, too.

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• • • • Special Events • • • •

The Mid Month Socials in November and December will be combined with other events due to the Holiday Season.

2nd Annual ETVC Miniature Golf Tournament

Sunday, November 10th

Valerie Genalo, our Miss ETVC 1996 who is always a winner, defends her title of ETVC Miniature Golf Champion awarded to her last year after achieving the best scores of the day. She's not easy to beat, but you can have a lot of fun trying as we test our putting skills on the friendly greens of the Malibu Castle Golf and Games in Redwood City (off Highway 101). Game time is Noon, and the cost is \$8 per golfer. The four best scorers will comprise the final foursome who will compete in the championship round for the coveted Winner's Cup. Gather your friends for a foursome or enter individually and get matched up with new friends. See you on the "links". For information and registration, call Erin Souza at [REDACTED].

Octoberfest in November

Wednesday, November 13th

Komen sie nach Jelly's to celebrate a rollicking Bavarian Octoberfest party. (So all right it's not October. But it was October VERY recently.) Best RheinMaiden costume will be recognized. Bier Stein slinging contest. Lots of POLKA music to dance to. (OKAY, okay a very little polka music.) Dirndles de rigueur. Lederhosen laudable. Valkyries welcome. Jelly's, Pier 50, SF, at 8:00 PM, Members \$4, Guests \$6.

Joint RGA/ETVC/DVG Dinner

Friday, November 22nd

Come visit with our sisters from other gender support organizations in the South Bay and the East Bay; the Rainbow Gender Association and Diablo Valley Girls. We'll enjoy a girl's night out at Bobby McGee's Restaurant, located in the Embassy Sweets Hotel, 150 Anza Boulevard, Burlingame near the San Francisco Airport. Call Trina for reservations before November 17th at [REDACTED].

Note: There will be no November end of month social due to Thanksgiving.

ETVC Christmas Potluck Party With Special Guest - Dr. Mildred L. Brown Sunday, December 15th

The holidays bring together the Social, Educational and TS Committees to welcome you to the Christmas Season. Join us for a Holiday Potluck Party ... And you can pick up that perfect present for your family and friends (or your own night reading) an autographed copy of Dr. Mildred L. Brown's sensational new book, "True Selves: Understanding Transsexualism". Dr. Brown, a sex therapist, gender identity counselor and long time friend of ETVC who has guided hundreds of transsexuals through their transitions, will gladly answer your questions and share her expertise with you. Do bring along your favorite holiday buffet dish to share. This is a free event; however donations are of course, very much appreciated. Kimo's, Polk and Pine Streets, San Francisco, 2 PM.

Educational Seminar: Dr. Lin Fraser Making Resolutions You Can Live With — And Up To!

Wednesday, December 18th

Every New Year do you find yourself saying "this year I'll tell my partner I'm a crossdresser," or "this year I will get down to a size 10 and buy a hot pink sequin minidress?" And every year around February, you realize you still haven't had that talk with your mate — or that you've gained 20 pounds over the holidays? If you answered yes, come to the December ETVC Education Seminar. Dr. Lin Fraser will be the featured speaker and her subject will be "Looking Forward to the New Year: Goal making and following through." Fraser will explore how you can make resolutions you can realistically keep. Bring your list and discover how you can improve your chances at succeeding in your goal-making in 1997. Kimo's, Polk and Pine Sts, SF, 8 PM, \$3.

Flying Down to Rio - New Year's Celebration

Thursday, December 26th

New Year's with a Latin beat. Escape the barren drear of San Francisco in the winter and fly down to sunny South America, or take a cab to Jelly's. Wear your best Ginger Rogers heels and show how well you can do everything that Fred did, and backwards. Big hat bonanza - prizes for the best Carmen Miranda hats.

Jelly's, Pier 50, SF, 8:00 PM, Members \$5, Guests \$7

Events Coming Up Soon:

Mr. /Miss Gay San Francisco Pageant,
Holiday Inn Van Ness, Saturday, November 2, 1996.

The Imperial Gala, Introduction of Candidates for Emperor and Empress of the Imperial Court - 1997

Holiday Inn, Van Ness and Pine. SF Saturday, January 11, 1997

Call Ginny at [REDACTED] for reservations and information.

Jelly's A DANCE CAFE

(formerly Olive Oil's)

295 China Basin Way
at Pier 50
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Free Parking!
(415) [REDACTED]

TV/TS/TG GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

OTHER GROUPS

November

1	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408)
1	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510)
2	Imperial	Mr/Miss Gay Pageant	Starts at 7 PM	Holiday Inn, SF	(415)
3	ETVC	Outreach Committee	Meets at Noon	San Francisco	(510)
3	ETVC	Newsletter Committee	Meets at 1 PM	San Francisco	(415)
4	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510)
7	DVG	Pacific Center Rap Group	Meets at 7 PM	Walnut Creek	(510)
8	ETVC	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Francisco	(415)
8	S.Bay	Gender Discussion Group	Meets 8-10 PM	San Jose	(408)
8	ETVC	Lending Library Open	Hours 7-11 PM	San Francisco	(415)
8	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510)
9	SGA	Social	Starts at 7:30 PM	Sacramento	(916)
10	FTM	Informational Meeting	Meets at 2 PM	San Francisco	(510)
10	ETVC	Miniature Golf	Starts at Noon	Redwood City	(415)
11	ETVC	TS Committee	Meets at 7 PM	Kimo's Mtg.Room	(415)
11	ETVC	Education Committee	Meets at 8 PM	Kimo's Mtg.Room	(415)
13	ETVC	Octoberfest in November	Starts at 8 PM	Jelly's, SF	(415)
14	ETVC	Significant Others	Meets 7:30-10 PM	Palo Alto	(415)
15	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408)
15	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510)
17	ETVC	Executive Committee	Meets at 4 PM	Livermore	(415)
18	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510)
19	ETVC	Social Committee	Meets at 8 PM	The LineUp, SF	(415)
21	ETVC	Library Committee	Meets at 1 PM	San Francisco	(415)
22	RGA	RGA/ETVC/DVG Dinner	Starts at 8 PM	Burlingame	(408)
22	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510)
23	SGA	Social	Starts at 7:30 PM	Sacramento	(916)
29	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510)

December

2	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510)
5	DVG	Pacific Center Rap Group	Meets at 7 PM	Walnut Creek	(510)
6	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408)
6	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510)
8	FTM	Informational Meeting	Meets 2 PM	San Francisco	(510)
9	ETVC	TS Committee	Meets at 7 PM	Kimo's Mtg.Room	(415)
9	ETVC	Education Committee	Meets at 8 PM	Kimo's Mtg.Room	(415)
12	ETVC	Significant Others	Meets 7:30-10 PM	Pleasant Hill	(415)
13	ETVC	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Francisco	(415)
13	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510)
13	ETVC	Lending Library Open	Hours 7-11 PM	San Francisco	(415)
13	S.Bay	Gender Discussion Group	Meets 8-10 PM	San Jose	(408)
14	SGA	Social	Starts at 7:30 PM	Sacramento	(916)
15	ETVC	Outreach Committee	Meets at 1 PM	Kimo's, Upstairs	(510)
15	ETVC	TS/TG Xmas Party	Starts at 2 PM	Kimo's, Upstairs	(415)
15	ETVC	Executive Committee	Meets at 6 PM	San Francisco	(415)
16	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510)
17	ETVC	Social Committee	Meets at 8 PM	The LineUp, SF	(415)
18	ETVC	Dr. Lin - Resolutions	Starts at 8 PM	Kimo's, Upstairs	(415)
20	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408)
20	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510)
26	ETVC	Flying Down to Rio	Starts at 8 PM	Jelly's, SF	(415)
27	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510)
28	SGA	Social	Starts at 7:30 PM	Sacramento	(916)

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, 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]

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 [REDACTED]

San Joaquin Gender Association, meets at the First Wave Bar & Grill, 321 W. Weber Street in Stockton. For dates and times, write to 1141 Catalina Drive, Box 163, Livermore, CA 94550 or call Winifred at [REDACTED]

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

Full year membership June 1 - May 31 is \$25.00 (Family - \$35.00).

Part year membership from January 1 - May 31 is \$13.00 (Family - \$18.00) (New members only).

Please remit by check or money order to:

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

ETVC Outreach Activity Update

by Sandra [REDACTED]

After several years of devoted efforts, Denise and Thalia have asked for help in coordinating the ETVC Speaker's Bureau, although they expect to continue doing presentations when needed. I intend to reduce my speaking engagements to allow time to act as the coordinator and focal point for speaker scheduling.

I hope to organize the bureau on a regional basis so more of us can share the responsibilities. This will take time and cooperation. Those interested in participating in outreach presentations should contact me. I will provide a form to describe some information about yourself and the times and locales you are available for speaking. You can reach me at [REDACTED] or through ETVC/Outreach. c/o The Channel.

The goal of ETVC outreach efforts is to

provide information and maintain a positive image of the transgendered community to the outside world. To better meet this goal we have long envisioned a training program for our speakers. In coordination with the Pacific Center Speaker's Bureau, we are implementing such a program. Saturday training sessions are being planned. Advance scheduling is difficult, so I will contact interested speakers when sessions are scheduled.

All speakers and potential speakers are encouraged to attend at least one training session. A future update will include more details on what we learn during the training sessions.

In addition to speaking engagements, the ETVC Outreach Committee has been responsible for the Gender Fair and our participation in the Castro Street Fair this year. Finally, we maintain the ETVC Hotline. As the first contact for many potential new members, this can be the lifeblood for the future of the organization. Our hotline is 'call-forwarded' to different members of our hotline staff each

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415 [REDACTED]

weeknight on a rotating basis. Members interested in participating in this effort should contact Melissa or me listed above.

ETVC Walks for AIDS Charities

by Jane Kennedy

For the third year, ETVC members participated in the city-wide AIDS Walk on Sunday, July 21st in Golden Gate Park. Everyone didn't catch up with everyone else from the group this year, but twelve of us took the 6.2 mile hike, contributing over \$2,000 to the



Early Birds at AIDS Walk: Erin, Sara, Everett, Ann and Diane.

over \$3 million collected from 23,000 walkers overall. We were proud to be a part of this extraordinary event, and you better believe the brunch that followed at Ginny's never tasted so good. What a way to work up an appetite!

The AIDS Walk people are already inviting groups to sign up for next year's AIDS Walk. We expect to be there for our fourth year and we hope you will all join us. Just send me a note c/o The Channel if you would like details. Our thanks to everyone who helped to make this a very special Sunday in July.

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The Trannywed Game

By Veronica Smith

So your house is on fire, and you only have time to save one article of clothing. Which article of clothing do you think your wife would think you would save?

Which article of clothing do you think she would like to see burn?

If you think you would have known the answers to questions like these, you should have been at the Trannywed Game on August 21.

You would have seen Donna and Julie, Nancy Ann and Ginny, and Toni and Valerie try to guess what their partners would do.

The show emcee was our prez, Erin Sousa, who was in rare form and there was a small audience that really enjoyed the show. It was especially fun when the couples started bickering over messing up the answers.

Next time we do it, check it out.

Wilhelmina M. Beins

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Passing Out Hints on Passing

by Sandra [REDACTED]

About a dozen of us gathered at Kimo's Upstairs on September 19th to discuss our experiences at passing and trying to pass. Randi coordinated the discussion and began by relating some of her own experiences. Erin continued by sharing her thoughts. Everyone present got a chance to contribute to the discussion. Many of us had also attended Bill Jones excellent presentation of makeup tips to enhance passing on the previous weekend.

For the best chance to pass avoid flashy clothing. Try to dress much like the other women around you — although this isn't as much fun because they often dress much like men. Let your own hair grow out if this is possible, or at least choose a conservative style wig. Practice feminine deportment: try not to walk like a man. Your own interpretation of the picture you present may not be accurate so seek the advice of outsiders, and ask a trusted friend for an honest appraisal.

You never really pass at gatherings within our community where you're known as transgendered. You have to venture into the real world to test the waters. It was suggested we shouldn't have to pass to be accepted. In any case we are likely to attract attention when we fail to pass. We have to be prepared for this and to command respect, it helps if we display a dignified appearance to the public — even when we don't always pass.

Most people are preoccupied with their own affairs and won't even notice you trying to pass. Most that do read you will mind their own business; some are even supportive. Only a few are openly hostile. If you are relaxed and just acting natural, your chances of getting read are greatly reduced. If possible, don't even worry about getting read: It's usually not as bad as it might seem; sometimes even genetic women have a hard time passing.

The more comfortable you are with your presentation the more your confidence will grow. It's almost a cliché, but it's true that if you're confident that you will pass, you probably will.

To minimize the risk of discovery when you are cross dressed, try to go where no one knows you in your other life. It helps if you have a sense of humor and can just be yourself. Be comfortable, but not so comfortable you don't recognize danger when it is present. And remember we should always go out together — then when we get read, we'll always have someone else we can blame.

Barbara J. Anderson

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Clinical Sexologist
Certified Sex Therapist

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Cosmetic Surgery to Enhance Appearance

by Sandra [REDACTED]

On August 18th, about eighteen of us were treated to a discussion of surgical techniques available to bring out our best feminine features. San Francisco plastic surgeon Dr. Douglas Ousterhout, who previously spoke to us in the last month of our life at the Chez Mollet, led the discussion at Kimo's. His vast experience with transgendered patients was reflected in his well-received presentation.

Dr. Ousterhout learned the techniques of craniofacial surgery from Dr. Paul Tessier, the French surgeon who developed them. His presentation featured several before and after slides, and two of our own members shared the joy they have experienced as a result of being his patients. It may be advisable to wait for the effects of hormone therapy to stabilize but since a female face is socially acceptable on a male, it is not usually necessary to begin a transition before proceeding with facial surgery.

The need for cosmetic surgery is very aesthetic; it is affected by genetic heritage, age, smoking, exposure to the sun, previous surgery, and several other factors. A consultation with the plastic surgeon is needed, and, where suitable, x-rays should be taken if needed to determine a surgical program appropriate for each individual.

Dr. Ousterhout outlined the methods he uses to reshape facial contours to achieve a more feminine appearance. A female face usually has a more curved forehead, more obtuse angle at the top of the nose, and more pointed chin than the flatter forehead, acutely angled nose, and broader chin of the male face.

Other procedures used to achieve feminization include thyroid reduction, jawbone surgery, and scalp shifting. Facelifts, eyelid surgery, cheek implants, and the removal of fat deposits are often used to improve the facial appearance of both sexes. Many of the procedures can be performed from inside the mouth to avoid visible scarring.

It is usually more economical to have as many desired procedures as possible performed at the same time, but some require healing before others can be performed. Most soft tissue surgery can be completed under local anesthesia, but more extensive bone contouring procedures require a general anesthetic.

Dr. Ousterhout also performs breast augmentation surgery; he prefers to use textured saline-filled implants. The results are best when female hormones are taken for a period before the surgery. He often performs fat removal from various parts of the body. A tummy tuck is effective for a major reduction of the abdominal area; liposuction can be used for the treatment of a small area.

He told us he refrains from rib reduction surgery because it leaves a noticeable scar and regeneration makes this procedure counter-productive. He is also reluctant to perform hip implants since they are often uncomfortable and unnatural in appearance. Well, we can still go to Frederick's of Hollywood to fill this need.

Dr. Ousterhout's fee for consultation, exclusive of x-rays, is applied towards later surgery. The surgery usually needs to be scheduled one to three months ahead, but considering the results, this can be well worth the wait. An excellent brochure describing feminizing cosmetic surgery for transsexuals is available from his office at the Davies Medical Center.

Trina's Tidbits from the "World of RGA"

by Trina Martina [REDACTED]

Would you like to dress to the nines and go to dinner in an extravagant hotel restaurant? Please join RGA, ETVC, and DVG for a dinner at Bobby McGee's Restaurant in the Embassy Sweets Hotel, 150 Anza Blvd., Burlingame on November 22, at 8 P.M. We do request that you make reservations with Trina at [REDACTED] by November 17. Note: Anza Blvd. is just south of Burlingame Blvd. and has direct access from northbound 101; Millbrae Ave is recommended from southbound 101. Individual reservations can be made directly to the restaurant at (415) [REDACTED]

The Silicon Valley Gender Association wishes to invite you to a book release party for Dr. Mildred Brown to celebrate the publishing of her new book, "TRUE SELVES: Understanding Transsexualism" on Friday November 8, 1996, 7:00 p.m. at the Billy DeFrank Community Center, 175 Stockton Ave in San Jose. Refreshments will be provided (sponsored by Crossers, a new boutique in San Jose just for us.)

Note: Dr. Brown's book has been reviewed in this issue of The Channel by Kim Elizabeth Stuart, well known and highly respected author of "The Uninvited Dilemma".

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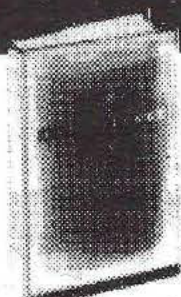
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by Mildred L. Brown, Chloe Ann Rounsley

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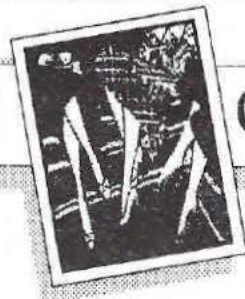
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OTHER VOICES

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.

Wife and Times of a Crossdresser

by Juana Smith

Some Secret Joys of Being a Crossdresser's Wife

I've been told by several of the crossdressers that their spouses have a hard time sharing their hobby and I understand that. But at the same time, I think it's too bad the couple can't learn to share something that's so intense for the husband. And, there are some secret joys in being a crossdresser's wife.

Take for instance the second time we went to Chez Mollet with Hubby dressed as Veronica.

As I've mentioned before, for our first social, Hubby was dressed in a colorful, but conservative outfit that, uh, worked real well. But the theme for the March social was to be "Leather and Lace" and this seemed to tap into some hidden level of Hubby's long repressed crossdressing.

Veronica started following the helpful hints in TV/TS magazines (some of them pretty sleazy) to achieve this or that kind of look. We had been experimenting with different styles at home, but for the March social, Hubby wanted something more daring. It was as if after our initial reconnoitering, Veronica was ready for a full-scale (or I should say "frontal") assault.

I'd come home to find him trying on different outfits, incorporating some of my lacy lingerie as outer wear, and trying wild, bizarre make-up. A week before the social, I found him with surgical tape wound tightly around his chest and wearing a bra stuffed with two huge water balloons.

He said he was searching for both cleavage and "naturalness." He had tried foam rubber breast forms and socks filled with birdseed, but he liked the heft and bounce of the water balloons.

I said, "That's good, dear" — and thought, *this certainly put a new spin on water weight.*

However, I was more concerned with whether he could breathe and asked if he wouldn't be uncomfortable. As he struggled pulling as much as he could of his pectoral up over the tape, he said in an exasperated tone, "I don't want to look silly."

Now, girls, I think my husband is a pretty smart guy, but sometimes he says things that are so stupid I just want to savor them like rock candy. I went over to him, placed my hand on his shoulder, and said, "No, you sure don't want to look silly, dear."

We both laughed pretty hard at that. He said that on top of the nervousness he felt about going out dressed again, he was very undecided about what to wear: the leather and lace theme suggested it would be okay to experiment with a kind of trashy, hooker look (which he confessed he really wanted to try), but he didn't know what the boundaries of taste were. So I helped him dress for dinner at home that night.

We tried on different outfits, emphasizing the frilly femme look and an interesting (and slightly disturbing) trait developed: whenever Veronica changed clothes, it was as if her personality changed slightly. The frillier the outfit, the more femme she would act. I pointed this out, and she said she just felt more girlish with the lacy stuff. I said that was okay, but not to overdo it. She said she'd watch herself.

We settled on a black leather skirt, fishnets, high heels, and a red lacy peignoir that would allow for cleavage, but hide the lifting apparatus. On the night of the social we would get home from work early, go to a motel to change and have dinner at the Chez before the social (I had enjoyed their prime rib special).

But on the day of the social, Hubby was late getting off work and the first room we got at the motel smelled of gas, so we had to change rooms. Before even starting, we were already late for our dinner reservation.

All this added to Veronica's nervousness. His jaw clenched at every frustration. At one point he said, "I feel stupid. We'll just go home." I told him I'd call to say we were running late and that I would do his make-up to speed things along.

Hubby dressed with grim determination. He was so focused that we hardly spoke at all while I did his face. When we were finally ready I asked if he just wanted to relax a little before going. He said, "No, let's do it." I felt we getting ready for D-Day, not going to a crossdresser's social.

He drove carefully, but whenever we passed under a street light I could see his knuckles were white. Finally we were outside the Chez. Again, I asked him if he was okay. He said, "Fine. Great. Let's go."

At that moment, he opened the door, turned his head to check the traffic, lifted his leg high to clear his heel over the

Significant Other Support Group invites all Significant Others to attend our meetings. Group members define Significant Others as wives, lovers, friends, children and others close to TV/TS persons who are themselves not TV/TS. We encourage you to ask the SO in your own life to attend, particularly if she or he needs support from peers in dealing with feelings about the TV/TS in her or his life. All meetings are kept STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL to help

insure that a safe, supportive environment is created in which all attendees feel secure enough to freely share and talk about their feelings. We are frequently assisted by a helping professional with a specialty in our area of concern. Our next meetings will be Thursday, November 14, and Thursday, December 12. You are welcome with open arms. Call (415) [redacted] for more information.

door frame and burst his left "breast" with his knee. I heard a strangled gasp squeak out of his throat as the water swooshed through his lacy peignoir, over the leather skirt and down the fishnets.

I knew this was something he would probably laugh at in time, but the time was not then. I thought I'd wait for him to speak, but he just stared ahead and breathed slowly through his mouth. The only sounds were cars going by, the occasional drip of water and my stomach growling. Finally, he said, "I guess that's that. Let's go back to the motel, change, wash and go home."

Sometimes I think we girls are better in crises than our men. After all, we've often had to deal with last minute emergencies — maybe not water balloons bursting in our bras, but you know what I mean.

Prying his hand from the steering wheel, I told him that it could have happened to anyone (though, for the life of me, I couldn't think of any other person in the world it could have happened to), and that we'd go back, call the Chez (again), get Hubby's foam rubber breast forms and we'd be all set. I told him lace and fishnets dry out quickly. (I wasn't ready to give up on that prime rib.)

We did go back. After a little wine and some food, Veronica regained her humor. We had a great time. And we now share a silly, funny memory. The only thing disturbing about what followed was that Veronica did indeed loosen up. In fact, she seemed downright giddy, and began acting in that fey, girlish way that I'd seen before. I tried to remind her to ...

But that's another story.

Ginny's

It is already time to think about the holiday season and all the joys of families, children, presents and the good spirit of fellowship it brings with it. It seems this year has gone by so quickly, and much has happened in the transgender world both locally and nationally to make us all feel a little better that somehow - maybe - the word is getting out that we are a special group of people only in the fact that we have much love and good will to share with others and have found important ways to express ourselves and find our inner peace.

With the work being done by speaker's bureaus, television opportunities, liaisons with other communities, and raising funds for charities all over the country and yes, even the world, plus the activist work happening nationally by various transgender political groups and lobbying our congressional representatives in Washington ...slowly, but surely our message is being heard. Whether it is being understood or not is another question, but it is at least being heard and that's how you begin to teach and others begin to learn. Congratulations to all of you for holding your head high and proudly believing in yourselves. The 90's will be the decade of our breakthrough as was predicted. It's up to us now how we will finally be perceived. To our transgendered friends, I suggest you go positively forward



... but remember, as comfortable as you may be feeling in comparison with previous times, your wives and children and friends, love you though they may, are still dealing with an uneducated society and need your support and understanding as they struggle to not just accept your differences (many of us have worked out our own feelings and found we can live the transgender life style after all), but now must find ways to stop living a lie and share your joys with their loved ones ... their parents ... their co-workers ... their ministers ... their neighbors. Give your partner the gift of patience, sensitivity to her feelings and assistance by helping her to find ways to delicately spread the word to those people you both care about.

Have a jolly old Christmas ... and be ready to work hard in 1997 for the respect you deserve from others as you maintain your rights to be who you are!

Birth Announcement

The baby's here! Yes, Rosa and Sharon's baby was born on Friday, September 6th, a week early. Beautiful little Marisa Barbara was seven pounds, five ounces and has gorgeous black hair and big eyes like her Mom. Sharon was happy it was a girl .. this way she won't have to share her clothes with a teenage son: Marisa will have her very own wardrobe, I'm sure!

The \$50 Foxy Lady Gift Certificate which was to be awarded to the person at the baby shower who came closest to the actual date of birth of Rosa's baby was won by the one person who really wanted an early delivery and who did the most work to get Marisa here — Rosa herself! Congratulations my friend, you deserved it. Does Foxy Lady have baby booties? Probably, but let's not ask why.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Out on the Town with Darcy

by Darcy Leopard



Hello everybody! I've been having such a good time going out to different venues en femme that I started thinking about doing a column describing my adventures. When I mentioned the fun I was having during a telephone conversation with Ginny, she suggested that perhaps I should start writing for the newsletter about it. Bingo! I guess it was meant to be.

My primary purpose in writing this column is to share with you places that, in my experience, have treated transgendered people well. I will be emphasizing places that are relative unknowns in regard to whether they are "TG friendly" or not. I want to emphasize that, in spite of the fact that several people have told me that I am passable, my friends and I are generally not passing when we go out. I mention this so that you know that we are being perceived as transgendered.

The first place I would like to tell you about is a cozy little Middle Eastern restaurant called Amira, located at 17th & Valencia streets in the Mission District of San Francisco. It is a relatively small, intimate place creatively decorated in warm tones and soft lighting. The food is reasonably priced and delicious, serving such Middle Eastern standards as hummus, tabouli, baba gonoush and pita bread, while also serving interesting dishes such as pasta mixed with pine nuts.

A TG friend of mine named Eleanor Cadillac Moria Ling (Whew!) had asked me to review a documentary screenplay she was working on, so we decided to have dinner at Amira as a prelude. She arrived at my place wearing an androgynous, multi-colored blouse and a beautiful, knee-length maroon velvet skirt with

tassles at the bottom. She also sported fish-net stockings with worn-out black tennis shoes. I decided the tennis shoes had to go. Fortunately I had a pair of black-patent leather ankle boots that were her size. They looked great on her, and completed the outfit well. I myself chose to compliment the coziness of the restaurant by wearing a creme-colored lambswool/angora sweater, a ribbed, stretchy black miniskirt, opaque black stockings, and black, suede-leather ankle-boots.

We arrived at the restaurant before eight o'clock, which I highly recommend since parking can be extremely difficult in this area later on. We seated ourselves on a plush couch next to a low table, in front of the stage where the belly dancers perform. As we looked around, we saw that the place was relatively busy but not crowded. We received some curious looks from people, but nothing negative. Our waitress arrived promptly and cheerfully took our order.

Moments later we were sipping Cabernet while our dancer for the evening took the stage. I have seen several belly dancers perform before, as I really enjoy this art form as well as the drumming that accompanies it. I found this dancer particularly interesting because her technique had her matching the rhythms with her hips on an almost beat for beat basis. After a while we noticed that she was starting to have difficulty with the fastening on the back of her ornately decorated brassiere. After fussing with it several times, she suddenly apologized to the audience about the situation and stepped off the stage. Then she walked right up to me and said, "Could you help me re-fasten this, my dear?". Of course I gladly obliged, and she thanked me warmly before returning to the stage. It felt nice that she was comfortable enough with my presence to choose me of all people to help her.

After the performance when we were settling up with our waitress, she asked us if we were all dressed up for a particular occasion. I responded with, "Not really, we're just having fun!"

"That's great!" she responded. "I'd like to do that myself more often; get all dressed up for no particular reason and go out for a good time!"

PAULA-JO HUSACK, M.A., M.F.C.C.
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CROSSERS

by Jamie Faye Fenton

On September 14, a new store named Crosser's opened in the San Jose area. Billed as a full service boutique for cross-dressers, Crosser's sells clothes, wigs, shoes, jewelry, accessories, makeup, and beauty supplies. One of the partners, Carla, is a cosmetologist who can do makeovers, makeup lessons, hair styling, nails, and wig restyling.

Crosser's is co-owned by Angie [REDACTED] and her sister Carla Blair. It is located just off Winchester Blvd. near Hamilton Avenue on a side street. The location seems reassuring to closeted people. Angie and Carla conceived this business idea in August, and moved quickly to open for business 17 days later. Despite the hurry, the place is well stocked and decorated. The front part of the store sells clothing and accessories, the middle part has a tanning booth and an area to socialize, and the rear part is the beauty parlor and the changing room.

A recent ad in the Metro, the San Jose free newspaper, has produced a steady stream of visitors. While I was there, several first-timers came in and looked around. A business like this is a good place to do outreach — RGA newsletters, SVGA posters, and Billy DeFrank Center "safe sex" kits are available here.

There are some rough edges — they need more large sized shoes and stylish large-sized clothes and didn't have any publications yet. Angie and Carla are enthusiastic and are obviously learning from their customers as they go along. For example, they are changing their hours to be open on some weekday evenings.

In a refreshing contrast to some vendors known to gouge cross-dressers, prices here are comparable to mainstream stores.

Crosser's is located at 3110 Impala Drive, in San Jose (near Winchester & Hamilton). At present, they are open every day except Monday. As the hours they are open may be changing, it is advised to call ahead: (408) [REDACTED]



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BOOK REVIEW:

TRUE SELVES

Understanding Transsexualism For Families, Friends, Co-workers, and Helping Professionals

By Mildred L. Brown, Ph.D. & Chloe Ann Rounsley

ISBN 0-7879-0271-3

256 pp-\$25.00-Cloth

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Review by Kim Stuart, October, 1996

Has your daughter suddenly announced to you that she's going to take hormones, have surgery and be a man? Are you confronted with a son who wants to follow an opposite path? Or are you a therapist with a patient suffering from gender dysphoria, and you haven't a clue about how you can help a transsexual? Well then, have I got a book for you.

Mildred Brown is a sexologist who has specialized in working with men and women who have gender identity problems for almost two decades, and she's seen it all. In collaboration with Chloe Ann Rounsley, a free-lance writer and journalist, Dr. Brown shares the insights she has acquired over the years as a therapist working with transsexuals.

Don't be turned off by the thought that you're going to be confronted with a lot of clinical jargon that you'll have to wade through. This is a book based on the experience of a therapist, that's true; but it's also one of those rare books written by a professional who shares her experience from the perspective of a fellow human being. In short, it's user-friendly. The book is written in clear, understandable English.

Dr. Brown certainly believes in The Standards of Care which are minimum guidelines set forth by the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association for the medical and psychological treatment of transsexuals, but she appears to be flexible in applying those guidelines to individuals. In my mind, one statement by Dr. Brown sets the tone with respect to her attitude toward transsexuals, and provides us with an insight into how she views the people she works with. It sets this book apart from some other books written by therapists:

"Although the listed criteria are frequently components of transsexualism, they are not characteristic of every transsexual. Most transsexuals share similar difficulties regarding their gender incongruity and often report similar life experiences as a result of their condition, but they are by no means all cut from the same cloth. There is no such thing as a 'typical' transsexual."

Many readers see stories in their newspapers that often have some bizarre twist to them about transvestites, drag queens, transsexuals and homosexuals, and they just tend to lump them all together in their minds as sexual misfits. The authors clarify these terms right from the beginning; so we are able to read about the feelings and experiences transsexuals have during their lives without confusing them with the very different feelings involved with issues about sexual orientation, or persons who just enjoy cross-dressing from time to time.

This book is sort of a life journey because the authors start out with the feelings transsexuals experience at an early age and carry that right on through into adulthood. Many of the stories told are poignant, and the book helps you, the reader, relate to the sense of

incongruity transsexuals often feel from the time they become aware of themselves as individuals.

TRUE SELVES is thorough and comprehensive, and it shares the secrets of so many different lives. The authors describe the process of making transitions from one gender to the other in terms of the psychological and social adjustments that are necessary, and the various surgical procedures transsexuals typically feel they want and need in order to make successful transitions. The many obstacles transsexuals have to navigate in order to achieve some sense of oneness with themselves are discussed in detail.

Most important of all in this wide-ranging discussion perhaps, is the set of guidelines provided by Dr. Brown in helping transsexuals and the persons who love them cope with these transitions that are, at best, usually painfully difficult for transsexuals and loved ones alike.

At the end of the book, the authors have thoughtfully provided one of the most comprehensive resource guides for helping professionals, transsexuals and their friends and co-workers I have ever seen. It is an invaluable document in and of itself.

This is a serious and important book. If you know a transsexual, care about a transsexual or are interested in understanding or helping a transsexual, then TRUE SELVES should be on your reading list.

Kim Elizabeth Stuart is a widely recognized authority on the subject of transsexualism, and is the author of The Uninvited Dilemma, A Question of Gender, and the Research Supplement To The Uninvited Dilemma., both published by Metamorphous Press. She also is the author of a booklet entitled A Guide For Male To Female Transsexuals Considering Shifting Gender Identity published by ETVC. Kim Stuart can be reached at her internet address which is:

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Ask the Therapist

by Luanna L. Rodgers, MFCC

With Family

A family trend is developing and growing stronger day by day as the pride transgendered individuals feel in themselves and their community increases. What is happening is that transgendered people are embracing their interconnectedness - searching for ways to be transgendered and at peace with their families. People are coming out as transgendered partners and parents. You say this is not surprising to you, you've been a parent all along. Yes, but how have you handled it? Have you kept your transgendered expression separate from your family life?



Certainly the media and, to a large degree, the medical profession have seen transgendered people in isolation. Early textbooks either show transsexuals naked before and after reassignment in clinical pictures or the cross dresser in black garter belt and stockings-along with no context, no family, no life - just starkly portrayed specimens. Nonprofessional publications have done no better with their exotic, erotic photos of "she males" in sexual poses or the stories of forced crossdressing. This is hardly the life of the average transgendered person.

It is difficult to be different. If every time you look for representations of yourself you find images that increase your shame and add to your sense of alienation, it is unlikely that you will easily summon the courage to discover that, as a transgendered person, you are neither perverse, nor shameful. If you continue to hold that negative view of yourself, you would never, ever bring that part of yourself to your family. You want to bring your family good, healthy things, and if you feel you aren't, then you cannot be fully yourself with them.

Some are discovering through their own self acceptance that their transgenderism isn't ugly or harmful. It is not something to hide from the family. Much like the lesbian mom who reveals to her children the nature and depth of her commitment to her female companion, disclosure and inclusion can get rid of family secrets and facilitate closeness. The children can also learn something about courage in the face of differentness and compassion for minorities. The family as a whole can feel more supported by and connected to each other.

For some families, privacy and compartmentalizing the transgendered expression will be the best or only option. It is essential that within an intact family, before involving the children, that the spouse feel comfortable with and supportive of their partner's transgenderism. Prior to telling the children, spouses must be in agreement about disclosing. They must decide together how, what and when to disclose, be prepared for the ramifications, and equipped to support the children in their understanding and adjustment. As with other parenting issues, parents must provide a united front so as not to confuse the children or draw them into conflicts that are, in fact, the parents'.

Transgendered expression will also be maintained private and separate from the children if it is primarily sexual or fetishistic. The lesbian mom will disclose age appropriate information to her children about her love for her female companion, which may include letting them know that she has an emotional and physical bond with her. She will not disclose this by bringing the children into the bedroom while she makes love with her partner. Likewise, for the transgendered person for whom crossdressing is primarily erotic and takes place in the bedroom or in front of the mirror, leading to arousal and release, it is not appropriate for children to be included. Such expression is too "adult" in nature, overstimulating and possibly traumatizing to children. To display such behavior in front of children, in fact, falls within the definition of child sexual abuse, just as would exposing children to adult masturbation or intercourse while not cross dressed.

The decision to inform your children of your transgenderism should be for good cause. It should be beneficial to them and you - life enhancing. It should be to promote family values of harmony, closeness, honesty, intimacy and understanding. If your transgendered expression is a frequent, regular part of yourself and your life, if you are going to be including other transgendered couples or parents into your family's get-togethers, if you are actively and openly working for transgender rights, it may make sense to inform and include your children. Even if you are not yet a parent but may be planning a family, these issues are worth considering.

In summary, you may find it appropriate and beneficial to let your children know of your transgender identity if:

1. You have done the internal work necessary to feel positive about your identity as a transgendered person.
2. Your spouse or partner is accepting and supportive of your transgender expression and supports telling the children. If you are a single parent, perhaps there is another significant adult in your children's life who would be involved in this decision.
3. You are prepared to support your children in coming to terms with your transgender identity, and prepared for the ramifications (children may, for instance, tell others).
5. Your transgender expression is not primarily sexual or erotic in nature, and therefore, are not appropriate for involvement of children
6. Disclosure is really appropriate to your life situation and to facilitating closeness and understanding between your children, yourself and your partner.

In my next article I will address common responses children have to transgendered parents' disclosures and concerns children have at different ages. I will offer some recommendations for successful and supportive disclosure and parenting.

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

The Uninvited Dilemma

A Question of Gender

by

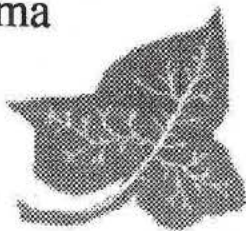
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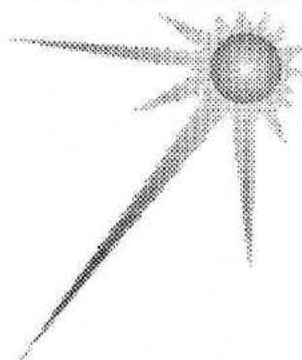
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I ran out of
Body and Mind
all used up
by human life.
Then my soul
and spirit drifted
out and about
to where I could
not follow.

What's left are
memories of what
should have been and
what is,
filling the minutes
of eternity with
air and sights
fragmented with
a sweet calm of
internal peace
almost as if there
is no reason for
worry because I
and only I know
the way to you!
With time and grace
all will be real and alive.

Bobbie Bentley, 1996



Beginning to Forever

Continued from page 1...

We made special efforts to get more and better health care for all TVs and TSs by working with the California State Office of AIDS, the Lyon-Martin Women's Health Clinic, and the Tom Waddell Clinic. These groups are now, more than ever, on our side — so give them a call.

My partner, Katherine Collins, and I have opened a truly affordable TV/TS Electrolysis office, and implemented a program of free hours of electrolysis for members and supporters of ETVC, to show our appreciation for all their hard work.

I think I introduced the "butch dyke" facet of transgenderism to the group.

With ETVC members' help, I was elected to the Executive Board of the 1997-98 Pride Celebration Committee. I will try to ensure better Transgender participation and visibility in future Pride Day parades.

Last, but not least, I gained tremendously in self-confidence because of your faith in me and your friendship; and I fell in love with ETVC forever.

So keep the faith — and watch out, because there's a Big Bad Dyke right behind you!

Thank you all, and see you all real soon!

Dr. Bobbie Bentley... "The Cowboy Poet"

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Show Begins 8:00 PM Sharp!

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between 6:30 PM and 8:00 PM

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1997 ETVC Cotillion**

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I have enclosed \$ _____ as a deposit, or the total amount due (circle one)

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with Sage [REDACTED] and Susan Stryker

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Susan Stryker (MTF) is a renown Bay Area teacher, historian and author. Her recently published book, "Gay by the Bay" is a history of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered communities in the Bay Area.

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