



How many Miss ETVC's can you stuff into one convertible? The record set in 1988 is three, equalled this year by Miss ETVC's Billie Jean (1992), Teri (1991) and Tiffany (1990) with room to spare for Tyrrell Stanley and Kristin to ride on the trunk and ETVC Vice-President Rusty to drive.

How many ETVC members can you get to march in the parade? Terri, Pam, Barbara, Evette, Telzey Adams, Billie Jo, Karin, Brittany ("I was watching the parade, but then I split from my friend and just joined in"). Telzey counted a total of 17. Who'd we miss? By the time the parade contingent arrived, the booth was as packed as discount day at the Goodwill, with Cori, Donna Freeman and Amy doing most of the crowd-shmoozing and pamphlet disbursement, aided by Lauren Hotchkiss, the ubiquitous Martina, and - who'd we miss?

How cold can your fingers get before they fall off? Ask Jessica, wet everywhere but behind the ears after a long stint at the Imperial Court's beer booth. Can you learn to hate the sight of money? Ask Nancy Ann Martine and Ginny Knuth, bill changers at the suds palace.

How fabulous can those Fabulous Foxes get? Who knows! They just keep topping themselves with every appearance. Ten minutes and three numbers on the Hot Colors Stage was all they needed to attract an emotional, commotional throng of celebrants, primed to hear the orations of Thalia Gravel and Jane Bentley, followed by an original song, Hand in Hand, sung by Lauren Hotchkiss (see page 16). The occasion was immortalized by the indefatigable Janet and her video cam, reputedly grafted to her hand by Dr. Biber.

Who else? Roxanne, photographix for our new Roving Eye feature; Margo and Paulette (Paulette fitted our booth with a welcome tarp covering), Deann, Stephanie, Dr. Robin Dea, part-time fashion guru Lin Fraser & family, Luanna Rodgers, Terri, Alison, Laurie from San Jose. And three surprise visitors.

## Gay Freedom Day 1992 Serious Fun



Fabulous Fox Joanne "tells all" to Boys Life reporter. Pam & Deann know better. Photo: Roxanne de Lyon

They had arrived in San Francisco from Singapore just two hours previously: Patsy, Jean and Kelly. Somebody in their hotel mentioned the Gay Freedom Day Parade. "We still can't believe it," said Patsy. "There is nothing like this back home." All three were post-operative women.

"You don't have a parade like this, ever?"

"No."

"What about clubs, organizations for transgendered people?"

"Nothing," said Patsy. "We all live alone. We cannot even marry. The

government has forbidden transsexuals to marry. Somebody who had married a female-to-male transsexual had made such a fuss when she found out that the government made a law against it."

"Just like that?"

"Yes," she said, smiling sadly, then brightened. "Oh, but American men are fantastic."

Singapore sounded so repressive, so much like...Oregon, where, we had learned from one of the stage speakers, fundamentalists are striving to pass a law to deprive homosexuals of their rights.

If there is such a thing as serious fun, Gay Freedom Day is it.

*Dont Forget Your Dues - Support ETVC By Sending in your \$20 Renewal*

# ETVC NEWSLETTER

ETVC is a non-sexual, membership based organization with the purpose of serving the educational, social, and recreational needs of gender-challenged people, their spouses, significant others, family members, friends, and professionals in the helping services.

For details about ETVC programs, membership, newsletter subscriptions, and classified ads, please write to: ETVC Secretary, PO Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486

## OFFICERS

President	Cindy
Vice-President	Rusty
Secretary	Jane
Treasurer	Nancy Ann
Education	Martina & Evette
Outreach	Lauren & Telzey
Social	Cheryl & Pam

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

Membership (as of 7/31/92)	261
1991 Membership	189
New members this year	25

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance on 6/1/92	\$4,604.35
June Income	\$1,972.00
June Expenses	\$2,573.24
Balance on 6/30/92	\$4,003.11
July income	\$1,322.00
July expenses	\$1,286.67
Balance on 7/31/92	\$4,038.44

The ETVC Newsletter is published the last week of February, April, June, August, October and December. Materials for publication should be sent to ETVC by the first day of each of these months. Newsletter contents reflect the opinions of the contributors and the editor, and are not necessarily those of ETVC.

Other organizations may reprint or reproduce portions of the newsletter for their members, provided ETVC is acknowledged.

## NEWSLETTER STAFF

Editor	Jane Kamper Bentley
Copy Editors	Donna & Julie
Layout & Printing	Your Place Graphics
Photographer	David Swanson

## AD RATES

	per issue	per year
Business Card	\$20	\$100
4" X 5"	\$50	\$250
8" X 5"	\$125	\$625
8" X 10"	\$275	\$1300

## PERSONAL ADS

ETVC will accept personal ads from ETVC members at the rate of \$1 per line. We will *not* accept ads with a purely sexual objective.

Send ad copy and a check for the appropriate amount to: ETVC, PO Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-3151

Ad deadlines are the first day of June, August, October, December, February and April.

## HOTLINE

510- [REDACTED]

# EDITOR'S NOTES

by Jane Kamper Bentley

The theme I asked our regular contributors to think about this issue is anti-defamation: a subject I had not thought much about until a conversation with Cindy Martin earlier this summer. "The gender community," she said, "has gotten very good at intramural communication, but we still don't have a national organization that's ready to go out there to answer lies, distortions and misrepresentation by news and entertainment media. It's something we need very badly and we need it on the national level."

It also seems to me that anti-defamation is a job to be done by individuals and clubs, as well. The resources needed are primarily human. Who volunteers to put some bells on cats?

**Speaking of cats** - bad ones - one week before the Republican National Convention, GOP Chairbeing Rich Bond was drawing up the battle lines.

"This campaign," he said, "is about values. The values of Hollywood vs. Huntsville, Greenwich Village vs. Greensboro, Cambridge vs. Columbus." He did not specify to which Hollywood he referred. Presumably not the one where Mickey Mouse and Rambo live. His opposition of Cambridge (home of America's intellectual "elite") and Columbus (home of the free and the brave?) was cynical. I'd have thought the class division was by streets: Wall and Main. Greensboro, (in the home state of homophobic Sen. Jesse Helms) as the antithesis of Greenwich Village (where "all them fags" live) was ominous.

This election is indeed about values: values vs. imposed standards of behavior and belief; and about whether we will respect differences or persecute them; whether we will be divided in fear or unified by the search for mutual understanding. We in the transgender community will no doubt go unmentioned in this campaign, but do not doubt that wherever you live, whatever your sexual orientation, whether you are in the closet or out, this election day you will be voting in Greenwich Village.

**After composer John Cage died** in August, my favorite PBS interview program, Fresh Air, replayed a 1982 interview with him. Cage, you'll remember, used anything from household gadgets to regular concert instruments for his compositions. I had never heard his musical theory before and found it fascinating.

Most composers are concerned with the relationship of sounds. Cage celebrated individual sounds. A car alarm claimed the same right to his aesthetic attention and appreciation as a piano sonata (or, as a very un-Cage-like popular song once put it, "Everything is beautiful in its own way"). We don't have to go to concert halls to hear music; we can do it just walking down the street.

What does John Cage have to do with us? Perhaps quite a lot, for his challenge was not just to music but to a philosophy that tries to order the world according to predetermined ideas of what - and who - should and should not be in it. If every tone has its own integrity and beauty, so does each person. We, too, are music.

## LETTERS

*We recently sent a letter (and our check for a subscription) to Dallas Denny, Executive Director of AEGIS, which publishes Chrysalis Quarterly, requesting background on AEGIS, its purpose and goals. Here is her reply:*

Editor-

AEGIS is a nonprofit clearinghouse for information about gender dysphoria. We maintain a telephone help line, and through it and through the mail, we answer reasonable questions about gender dysphoria and make appropriate referrals, following the HBGDA standards of care. We're also a publisher, and in addition to CQ, have sev-

eral booklets (which you should be getting as part of your subscription). We've done a mammoth (350 pp+) bibliography of gender dysphoria, which we distributed for free for some time. Thanks to Vern Bullough, the work is under contract from Garland Press, and will be published with the title *Gender Dysphoria: A Guide to Research*. I've written a smaller, 40-page annotated bibliography which will be co-published by AEGIS and Renaissance Education Association. We are taking over the information-distribution functions of J2CP, and will soon be making a joint announcement with J2CP to that effect.

AEGIS is affiliated with Renaissance Education Association and Gender Dysphoria Trust International in Britain. In

addition, I'm on the Publications Committee of IFGE and the Board of Directors of the Outreach Institute, and am a Vice-President of GDTI. Incidentally, I'm a licensed psychological examiner in Tennessee, and am working on a doctorate in special education from Vanderbilt University in Nashville.

We maintain a 29-member board of advisors, the members of which represent all major areas which impact transgendered persons. Most are well-known in their fields. We have psychiatrists, endocrinologists, plastic surgeons (including an SRS surgeon), nurses, seven or eight Ph.D.'s, an electrologist, sex therapists—you name it. We actively solicit the opinion of the board for direction for AEGIS.

AEGIS is very concerned with health, consumer, and treatment issues. The first three issues of CQ respectively addressed those subjects. Our reader base is about 2/3 consumer and 1/3 service providers; we have many subscribers from the treatment community, including Toby Mayer, David Gilbert from the Center for Gender Reassignment, George Brown, Alice Webb, Leah Schaefer, and Walter Bocking from the Minnesota program.

AEGIS is a new organization, not yet two years old. We're long on ideas, but still short on personnel and funding, but I'm convinced that great things are ahead of us. Assuming the J2CP functions will give us a 20 year tradition in information dissemination, going back through J2CP through the Janus Information Facility to the Erickson Foundation. With that and 501 (c) 3 status, we should be able to put together a funding proposal to maintain an office and personnel to man phones during business hours.

That's the game plan for now. We've had an illustrious start, and now we must lay in for the long stretch.

Best,  
Dallas Denny

Editor,  
We had some great fund raising committee meetings in Houston and, without a doubt, the most important thing that happened during these meetings was Ginny Knuth's presence and input. Her contribution was invaluable. The members of the committee agreed that she had so much to offer that we invited her to join our committee, and our community is fortunate she accepted.

Sincerely,  
Laura Smiley  
Winslow Street Fund  
[Redacted]  
Waltham, Massachusetts 02154  
(617) [Redacted]

*Along with her letter, Ms. Smiley included a check and her ETVC membership application. I apologize to her and to Ginny for implying last issue that Ginny was made a Winslow Street Trustee. Ginny was made a member of Winslow's Fund Raising Committee. - Editor*

Editor -

Hello, it's just me, Elaine. I was really happy that I received a letter from you. It was an honor (thank you, you made my day that day)!

I feel real bad for not showing up in S.F. for the parade. I let everyone down and I feel as if I'm a liar, a cheat! I wanted to be there so bad! Anyway, as you can tell, I'm still alive. No one has shot me yet or sent a snake-in-a-box in the mail for me to open.

This week I think I'll be seeing a 'vite who I never met. But only by letter. She's tried catching me at home but I was at work. She's been dressing up for 20 years and never met any TVs ever!

I know another TV in Spokane. She thinks she knows it all and wouldn't listen to me when we went awhile back to the redneck bars here at home. She wouldn't shave her legs, arms or chest and told me she could pass any day or time as a woman. She was lucky that she didn't get her head kicked in by those crazy miners and loggers! Heck, everyone knew me. They somewhat picked on me, but in return I received respect from most. I was told I looked good, my clothes were real nice and that some of the

women here in town could learn from me. So I really don't fear the bars here.

I do have a name picked out for the group that I'm trying to put together. I will call it the Shonone Dolls. It's a start, and I'll do my best to get something agoing up here, even if it kills me.

Well, I better hush for now. I hear my neighbor's logging truck fire up (Kenworth). I sawed logs for that truck last year! But not no more. I traded my saws for dresses and spikes (Ha, Ha). I'd rather play girl than logger any day or time!

I'll be down your way, I won't plan it, either. I'll just show up. Whenever I plan something - Murphy's Law, you know. I'd like to punch Murphy's Law out, but girls don't do them kind of things (just the rang-a-tangs from Kellogg).

When I do show up in the big city, I'll call either Ginny or Telzey from the Chez. Until then, take care and God Bless -

Sincerely,  
Love, Elaine

P.S. Here's a picture of me last Xmas with Rick & Steve, the "Harley Boyz."



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Cindy Martin

Okay, so what am I going to do as president of ETVC? Glad you asked me that question, but you shoulda asked me BEFORE the election. Now I'm not telling.

Yes, I am. The very first thing has been the re-establishment of our hostess committee. New people at the last two meetings were directed to officers whose job it was to try and make them comfortable as well as answer any questions. This will continue at every meeting. Let me know if you want to help.

Building and retaining membership is a major focus. As part of that, we are seeing to it that every member gets our newly revised Tip Sheets and Library bibliographies. In addition, at recent budget hearings it was also agreed that there will be no increases this year in members fees and event fees. Also, the officers will soon be taking up my suggestion that we have a family membership plan intended to bring more loved ones into the community by lowering the cost of significant other memberships. Look, too, for an expansion of club activities, including shopping trips and boat cruises. We want you to enjoy and benefit from being a member of ETVC.

Anti-defamation activities will also be high on my agenda. The officers recently contacted the International Foundation for Gender Education to determine their interest in taking the national lead in fighting intolerance and misinformation about our community. If they agree, I am likely to suggest a fund-raising event to help back their efforts. We also may try to produce audio and/or video presentations for use in this ground-breaking effort and could use experienced technical people to move such a project ahead. Typically, the little bit of information about our community that has been in the electronic media has been done by non-transgendered people. It's time to change that.

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*You'll come out a winner - however the  
cards turn up - when you attend the*

## CASINO IMPERIALE

*A Benefit for the Council of Empresses and  
the AIDS Emergency Fund.*

Your \$15.00 ticket gets you a buffet dinner, a live  
show, and \$10.00 in gaming chips.

Starts at 7 PM November 7, at the California  
Club, 1750 Clay St., San Francisco.

Ask any ETVC officer or Ginny for tickets.

## Special Events

### In The Style

Saturday, September 12

Is it your crowning glory or does it just lie there like it was dropped onto your head from a great height? Your wig, that is. Maybe you need to join the Education Committee for a session at Rosalie's New Looks, 782 Columbus in San Francisco's North Beach. Rosalie will teach us about choosing a wig and how to style it so it *looks* like it was styled and not road kill. 4 p.m. \$3.

### September Back to School Dance

Thursday, September 24

It's time to dance, dance, dance at the back to school sock hop. You can celebrate or commiserate the beginning of the new school year, while you show off your best dance outfit. Is it the fifties look for you or are you a modern day trend-setter? Show us your stuff. Also get that right look with the fabulous wig fashion show (held over from August) brought to you by New Looks by Rosalie. Music, a raffle for prizes from Rosalie and more. Members \$3. Guests \$5.

### Shop 'Til You Drop

Saturday, October 3

You say your wife just lent you *her* credit card and you're dying to use it but you're shy all alone around strange malls? You don't have to shop alone. Join ETVC and Susan (authoress of ETVC's completely updated Tip Sheet) for a tour of San Francisco's fabulous South of Market factory outlets: The 660 Building (26 stores); the big Burlington building; Lily Ann's. And more! The merchants know we're coming and will greet us with open arms. Meets at 12 noon outside the Chez Mollet.

### Halloween Dance

Thursday, October 29

Beware, it's that time of the year again. Abandon yourself to the wild, the wicked, the enchanting allure of that someone else you always wanted to be. Join the frenzy as we dance up a witch's storm in the haunt of the Chez Mollet. There will be chilling prizes for the best costumes and ghoulish good fun for all. Members \$5. Guests \$8.

### ETVC Hang Out Nite

Remember when you was in high school and it was Wednesday and your best buddy called and said "Hey, whatta' ya' doin' tonight?" and you had to say "Nuttin'" cause he was a good guy and all, but he just wouldn't of understood, so you had to spend the rest of the evening under an overpass singing doo-dee-wap-wap instead of doing what you really wanted? Hey, what if you had this buddy who owned this bar where you could be who you really wanted and sing doo-dee-wap-wap, too? Through the end of September that's exactly what you can do at the Chez Mollet. Check it out. Starts at 8 p.m. You know you wanna'.

## CHEZ MOLLET

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Every Wednesday Thru September

8:00 pm

Special Dinner from \$9.95

Well Drinks, Domestic Beer & Wine \$1.50

### PRIZES & SURPRISES

(415) [REDACTED]

527 Bryant St.

(between 3rd. & 4th. Sts.)

# TV/TS/TG GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

A Calendar of Events for September & October



## SEPTEMBER

1	....	Foxy Lady Social	7:30 - 9:30 PM	San Francisco	(415)
1	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510)
2	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berekeley	(510)
4	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408)
10	ETVC	Outreach Committee	Starts at 8 PM	San Leandro	(510)
10	ETVC	Significant Others Support	Starts at 8 PM	Oakland	(415)
11	ETVC	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Francisco	(415)
11	RGA	Gender Discussion Group	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408)
12	ETVC	Education Committee	Meets at 1 PM	Lily's	(408)
12	ETVC	Rosalie's New Looks	Starts at 4 PM	Rosalie's Shop	(408)
12	ETVC	Executive Committee	Meets at 7:30 PM	San Francisco	(415)
14	ETVC	Social Committee	Meets 7:30 PM	San Francisco	(415)
16	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510)
17	ETVC	Couples Social	Starts at 8 PM	TBA	(415)
18	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408)
21	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510)
24	ETVC	Back to School Dance	Starts at 8 PM	Chez Mollet	(415)
25	RGA	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	Sunnyvale	(408)
26	SGA	Dinner/Social	Starts at 8 PM	Sacramento	(916)

## OTHER GROUPS

### Pacific Center for Human Growth

A counseling-oriented growth center, sponsors all-inclusive gender support groups on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, and last Friday of the month at 8:00 PM. The Center is located at 2712 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley. Call (510) [REDACTED] for more information.

### Rainbow Gender Association (RGA)

meets on the 1st and 3rd Friday of the month at 8:00 PM at the New Community of Faith Church, 6350 Rainbow Drive, San Jose. RGA can be contacted by writing: Rainbow Gender Association, PO Box 700730, San Jose, CA 95170.

### Sacramento Gender Association (SGA)

Blue Rose Chapter meets at 8 PM on the fourth Saturday of each month at the Town & Country Inn's restaurant 2060 Auburn Blvd, Sacramento; call (916) [REDACTED] for directions. Write Blue Rose Chapter, PO Box 215456, Sacramento, CA 95821-1456 for more information.

### Diablo Valley Girls (DVG)

Meets on the 1st Tuesday and 3rd Monday of every month at 8:00 PM at Just Rewards nightclub, 2520 Camino Diablo in Walnut Creek. For more information, write: DVG, PO Box 272885, Concord, CA 94527-2885, or call (510) [REDACTED]

## OCTOBER

2	RGA	Social	Starts at 8PM	San Jose	(408)
3	ETVC	Shopping Tour	Starts at Noon	Chez Mollet	(408)
3	ETVC	Education Committee	Meets at 5:30	Chez Mollet	(408)
3	ETVC	Executive Committee	Meets 7:30 PM	San Francisco	(415)
4	....	Rosalie's Social	Starts at 1 PM	San Francisco	(415)
5	ETVC	Outreach Committee	Starts at 8 PM	San Leandro	(510)
6	....	Foxy Lady Social	7:30 - 9:30 PM	San Francisco	(415)
6	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510)
7	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510)
8	ETVC	Significant Others Support	Meets 7:30 - 10 PM	Pleasant Hill	(415)
9	ETVC	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Francisco	(415)
9	RGA	Gender Discussion Group	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408)
12	ETVC	Social Committee	Starts 7:30 PM	Chez Mollet	(415)
16	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408)
19	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510)
21	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8 - 10 PM	Berkeley	(510)
22	ETVC	Couples Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Leandro	(415)
23	RGA	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	Sunnyvale	(408)
24	SGA	Dinner/Social	Starts at 8PM	Sacramento	(916)
29	ETVC	HALLOWEEN	Starts at 8 PM	Chez Mollet	(415)
30	Pac Ctr	Open Rap	Meets 8 - 10 PM	Berkeley	(510)

## ETVC Membership Application

Please Print

Mailing Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date: Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ New Member: \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you learn about ETVC? \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Full year membership June 1 - May 31 is \$20.00**

Please remit by check or money order to:

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



## OTHER VOICES...

*Other Voices is a newsletter within the ETVC newsletter exclusively for Significant Others. If you are the spouse, lover, parent, child or friend of a transgendered person, this is your chance to offer your perspective on yourselves, your significant other and the world. Send letters and articles to: "Other Voices, c/o ETVC, PO Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486.*

### Significant Other Support Group

The Significant Other Support Group wants to invite all Significant Others to attend our SOS group meetings. Group members define Significant Others as wives, lovers, friends, children and other close to TV/TS persons but are themselves not TV/TS. We encourage you to ask the SO in your own life to come to these meetings, particularly if the SO feels she or he needs support from peers in dealing with feelings about the TV/TS in her or his life. It is important to emphasize that all meetings are kept STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL. This is to help insure that a safe, supportive environment is created in which all attendees will feel secure enough to really be able to share and talk about their feelings. We are frequently assisted by a helping professional with a specialty in our area of concern.

The SOS group meets the second Thursday of each month from 8 to 10 p.m. Our next meetings are scheduled for September 10 and October 8. You are all welcome with open arms. For more information call Ginny at [REDACTED]

### A Call for Tolerance Julie Freeman

It seems that everywhere you turn today there is a reference to discrimination. Certainly the Rodney King beating and verdict set off a series of events which made it clear to even the most apathetic of souls that something is wrong in this great country of ours.

Whether it is the KKK espousing their hatred of blacks, hispanics and Jews, or heavy metal groups demeaning women and minorities, or satanic cults with their abuse of children, etc., we all must be aware of the increasing intolerance permeating our community.

For a long time, we in the gender community have been aware of discrimination towards crossdressers, transsexuals, gays and lesbians (remember the flap over Ross Perot's mentioning that he would not put gays and adulterers in high-level governmental positions). We have all been incensed at the heavy-handed portrayal of minorities in movies, among them the Oscar winning *Silence of the Lambs* and more currently, *Basic Instinct*.

There is an ever-growing reaction to discrimination - Act Up and Queer Nation are two of the more outspoken groups dealing with homosexual concerns. GAL is a crossdressers' organization attempting to bring about tolerance and understanding of transvestites and transsexuals.

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### Love Knows No Gender: Pride and Partnership

by  
Luanna Rodgers

The Gay and Lesbian Freedom Day in San Francisco gave my partner, Thalia, and me a wonderful opportunity to feel free to express ourselves and to celebrate. The T-shirts we found there emblazoned with the message, "Love Knows No Gender," had a special and empowering message for us. I felt particular joy and pride holding my partners hand on a day honoring non-traditional relationships. It is a rare and cherished occasion that provides so much support.

When couples are involved in a relationship that is, in some way non-traditional, it is especially important to nurture yourselves as a couple. There is very little validation for the non-traditional couple in our society. In fact, some days it can feel like there is unrelenting opposition. You must, therefore, create your own special moments of pride and celebration. Honor and support one another, celebrate the richness of your relationship and the unique qualities you both possess.

The Gay and Lesbian Freedom Day is one opportunity for a non-traditional couple to fortify themselves with courage and optimism and experience how it would feel to live in a society free from discrimination. It can be a powerfully healing experience. Alas, it comes but once a year! Fortunately, there are many ways couples comfort and empower themselves. Those who are out and public and those who are closeted and keep their cross-gender expression at home need

So it appears that for every hate group that evolves, a counter group appears. Skinhead groups as they hold their rallies and pass out hate literature find themselves facing anti-defamation groups.

But we have a long way to go. We can write letters about newspaper articles and media events that disturb us; we can picket organizations that discriminate. We can appear on talk shows to explain who we are and why we are.

Can we expect a more tolerant nation? It is hard to say. Many of us who grew up with the Civil Rights movement of the 60's are upset and grieved to see racism so rampant today. It makes me wonder if mankind can ever become kinder and gentler. It seems for every step forward, hostility and bitterness set us back.

Hope that by continuing to recognize defamatory acts when they occur and taking positive action to prevent them from re-occurring, we may see progress.



Luanna Rodgers

nurturance and strength equally, though they may find it in different ways.

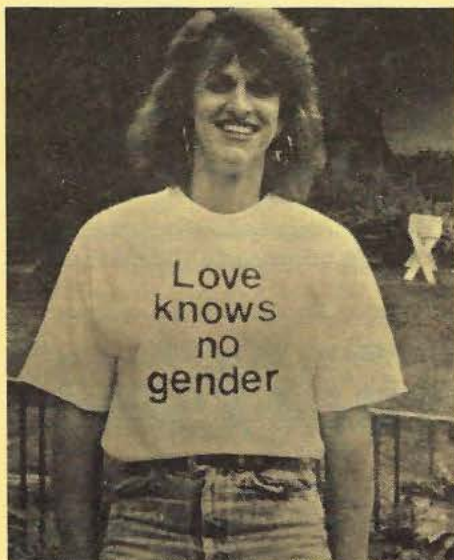
Your own ways of honoring the fullness of your relationship may be as individual and unique as you are. How do you and your mate grapple with the challenges of having a non-traditional aspect to your relationship? In what ways do you value and show understanding for one another? Can you feel pride in your relationship and strength in your bond of love? Will you allow yourself to have fun with the non-traditional aspect of your relationship? Is it okay to talk about? Laugh about? Cry about? Feel excited about? Feel puzzled about? What do you each find comforting? What do you each find empowering?

## Off the Shelf

Among ETVC's extensive video library are just a few selections which can be said to have a special appeal for wives and lovers of crossdressers. Just such a selection is *Husbands and Wives: Best Friends and Lovers*. 83 minutes long, of high quality and produced by Donna Mobley, it contains face to face discussions with crossdressers and their partners.

Ginny Knuth, recent recipient of our newly named Ginny Knuth Member of the Year award, and herself the significant other of a crossdresser, highly recommends this video.

"For those who have never been to an SOS meeting or had a chance to talk with other women about their concerns, I think this is a good way to see that these relationships can work. It does perhaps overemphasize the positive, but then there *are* positive aspects to this lifestyle."



Thalia Gravel

Have you told each other what works for you? Private times of companionship, affection and communication can do wonders for easing the tensions that can arise from having a non-traditional aspect of your lives together. So can finding the support of others.

Develop your own rituals and opportunities for valuing your love and the uniqueness of your relationship. Not everyone has the same comfort level or needs. Marching in a Freedom Day Parade with thousands of strangers is not everyone's cup of tea. Perhaps just tea for two and a quiet discussion of affection and mutual understanding is more affirming to you and your partner. Your moments of pride may be playful:

You can buy the tape from IFGE for \$27.50. Or you can rent it from ETVC for a one-time \$10.00 refundable deposit that enables you continual borrowing privileges. Send your check along with your name and address to the ETVC PO Box.

Video tapes may be kept up to one month.

## Just Ask (a GG)

Julie Freeman

Question: Can you explain PMS?

PMS, or pre-menstrual syndrome, is a condition that describes the emotional and physical condition of the female a few days (or, in some cases, longer) before the onset of her monthly period. For many women, physically this condition may simply be a period of water retention, tenseness, headaches, cramps, etc., associated with hormonal changes. Because the woman is physically uncomfortable, she may become irri-

time to pamper yourselves with massages, manicures or special activities you both enjoy. Your expressions of pride might be political: joining with others, speaking out, or supporting efforts toward anti-discrimination legislation. You may support yourselves by socializing with other couples in similar situations. Find what works for you both. Your own special moments of pride-building should fuel your love and celebrate your right to be unique individuals, restoring you both from the debilitating effects of living with discrimination in our society.

Even for those of us who love participating in Gay and Lesbian Freedom Day as one of our empowering rituals, it is hard to stretch its healing power until the next year! What about declaring the third day of each month Gender Freedom Day in honor of a "third gender" and all alternative gender expressions? This way we can remind ourselves of the pride and solidarity we have with others in our circumstances twelve times a year. Maybe, then, gradually, our self-confidence and pride would expand until it was with us 365 days a year!

Heal and honor yourselves.

Have pride.

I'll be thinking of you on the Third!

*Luanna L. Rodgers, M.A., MFCC is a licensed psychotherapist specializing in work with the gender community. She has offices in San Francisco and the East Bay.*

table and more easily upset - emotional changes. Usually this condition abates when her period begins and her body regains a more normal pattern.

For a few women, the condition may be more severe, leading some individuals to believe that women are not capable of making responsible decisions during this part of their cycle.

What is most interesting about PMS is that it is a relatively new phrase within the medical community. In the past most of us took those days of physical discomfort in stride, never considering it noteworthy. For me personally, when I was growing up, I just felt slightly under the weather but never considered it a real problem. It did not cause me to miss school or activities and certainly never affected my ability to make responsible decisions. It never occurred to me to use PMS as an excuse to avoid work or as a rationalization for strange behavior.

I think crossdressers need to know there is nothing about PMS that is mysterious. Simply liken it to a case of the flu - which, as we know, varies from individual to individual, and from one flu virus to another. Certainly individuals suffering from the flu are not considered "less" than others and their "irritability" is considered normal - to be expected.

Women should not use PMS as an excuse for poor behavior, nor should society view PMS as a way to discriminate against women.

## DISCRIMINATION IN YOUR LIFE?

In October, I have the opportunity to sit on an advisory panel for the City and County of San Francisco who will be familiarizing themselves with discrimination against transvestite, transgendered and transsexual individuals as a first step toward enacting protective legislation. If you feel that you have been discriminated against in employment, housing, legal or financial situations, please write to me describing the incident. Include the date the incident occurred, the location, and identify the perpetrator (i.e., employment agency, lender, rental agency, etc.). Your experience could help in planning protections in the law against further discrimination. Include your name and phone number so that I can contact you if I need additional details. You may submit your incident anonymously if you prefer.

Luanna L. Rodgers, MFCC

San Francisco, CA 94114

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## Martyrs

By Thalia Gravel

We need martyrs.

I'm not suggesting that anyone needs to die for the cause, but for us invisibility has equaled success for too long. Our models have been the well-concealed closet or the perfection of "passing." These have become our straightjacket. By accepting them we pass on poor role models for future generations, both "gender enhanced" and straight. This means all our pain is bound to be replicated in future generations with no hope and no change. We and our offspring will continue to cringe and the bashers will continue to feel entitled.

We need visibility in a context of everyday life - from those of us who thrive on being outrageous to our most boringly conventional regular folks. A few have ventured out and become "mobile gender education units." Whether in front of an audience of students or on the streets, it is necessary to impress images of real, living, breathing people onto concepts of gender that are too frequently viewed by the majority culture as marginal at best and freakish and horrifying at worst. We must be willing to sacrifice in large and small ways to make ourselves visible.

For us visibility has too often been the smarmy sensationalist talk show, the supermarket tabloid headline and Silence of the Lambs. When we get lucky, we get Paris is Burning and Marjorie Garber's Vested Interests. In our usual contexts, being public is a sacrifice. You cannot be an average person and be public with your gender stuff. Yet.

Not everyone needs to be "out." In these tough times it is very hard to want to add one more burden to an already scary life. To put yourself, your relationships and your family at some risk is not a pleasant prospect.

Everyone can do something. Write letters encouraging reasonable portrayals of gender people and castigating those who create stupid ones. The Gay And Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation provides us with a model for action. Don't sit still when you hear confused, ignorant garbage from family, friends or co-workers. You don't have to confront people to at least throw their assumptions into question. Support people who are out working for the betterment of our lives. They need to know what they do is valuable to you and that they are not totally insane doing it. Criticism is to be expected, but temper it with the thought, "Can I help to do it better?"

Last, consider how issues and groups are connected. While you may or may not be gay, lesbian, bisexual, transsexual, transvestite, a member of an ethnic or racial minority or female, all the issues affecting these disenfranchised groups are your issues. The systems that deny full humanity to them are the same ones that keep you from being a whole person, too. If you want to perpetuate these systems, do nothing. If you think your lot could have been better, and you don't think our next generation should suffer as much, consider the idea that all struggles for human dignity are the same struggle and "their" martyrs are our martyrs, too.

## Cindy At Large

I love to play golf, but because of my schedule I almost never play with people I know. So every week without fail I go through this little moment of dread after I hear my name matched up with a group of strangers. Are these people going to be okay? Or jerks? I'm suspicious. Then we do our little introductions, and most importantly, share little bits about ourselves to prove that we've got the same basic values, and it's okay. Usually.

I mention this because of a growing debate between two major groups in our community that is focused on passing, but really should be about values.

On the one side are those who feel that crossdressers' traditional emphasis on passing is silly, unhealthy and a little fascist. These folks, who I'll call Expressive Individualists (or, "EI's"), argue that it shouldn't matter how a person looks because we're all human beings worthy of respect. No one should get razzed, or worse, for looking unconventional. The EI believes that self-expression and personal exploration are of paramount importance. They argue that those in the community who snicker at their individuality are repressive bigots who don't really want diversity. This is the person who might say "I am a gender person, this is how I want to look and screw you if you don't like it."

On the other side are those I'll call the Social Conformists (or, "SC's"). This group, probably the majority of crossdressers, also believes in self-expression, but they prefer a conservative appearance that lets them pass as the opposite gender. The SC argues that respect and dignity come to those who behave and look respectable and dignified. They say that it is unfortunate that the world makes judgments based on a person's appearance and demeanor, but that's how it is. Expressive Individualists, SC's say, hurt the community by their outlandish appearance because they reinforce public stereotypes that transgender people are weird, marginal types. Worse, the EI's put themselves at high risk of physical attack from homophobes and hate-mongers, the social conformists claim.

Not surprisingly, both groups righteously believe that they do the best job of outreach to the public. The EI's say that passing by definition means

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being invisible and that our community needs more, not less visibility. The SC's counter that very few crossdressers truly pass close inspection and that when they are read at least they have left a nice impression.

I don't think this debate, which is remarkably similar to the assimilationist/separatist argument in the gay community, would exist if the average person really understood that transgendered people hold the same basic values as everyone else.

Let me explain: I believe that part of the reason for prejudice is suspicion and fear that the other person really might think differently about things that count. We see someone who looks strange to us and we don't really trust them. We will rely on stereotypes and biased lies to make our judgments unless we are comfortably certain these others also believe in basics like self-responsibility, honesty, loyalty, honor, fidelity, etc., and so on. In other words, once I know you're civilized, I can tee it up and play with you.

We need to stop wasting time trying to prove who is the most politically correct or the most intellectual or has the best color sense. We need instead to get out the message that we, too, are decent, honest people no matter how we may look.

**BURIED AT THE END** of recent news accounts about the discovery of "gay brains" was the remarkable quote by UCLA researcher Roger Gorski who said that all human brains begin as female but in men the brain turns male if dosed with the right amount of hormones while still in the womb.

I love this theory, not only because it resonates so perfectly with my own sense of who I am, but also because it adds to the growing evidence that nature, not nurture, is the main reason there are sexual minorities, including ours.

In case you missed the story, researchers at UCLA announced in July that gay men appear to have brain structures more resembling those of women than other men. The "gay brains" theory stems from research on a structure called the anterior commissure which is believed involved in communication between the two hemispheres of the brain. The researchers said the discovery strengthened a growing body of evidence that people are

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probably born gay.

A FRIEND was telling me and social co-chairs Pam and Cheryl that she was worried about how she would explain her shaved legs to a new lady friend. We suggested the truth, but that was out for the time being. So we came up with these, our Top Ten Excuses for Shaved Legs:

- 10 Just got back from Barcelona where I was inspired by the Olympic swim team.
- 9 I was singed by a motorcycle exhaust and just evened it out.
- 8 It was a bet.
- 7 My last girlfriend liked it. Don't you?
- 6 It's a San Francisco thing.
- 5 I used to be a uranium miner.
- 4 They went overboard on the prepping before my operation.
- 3 I body doubled in a Lady Remington ad.
- 2 I accidentally took my sister's Nair to the ballgame instead of my sunscreen.
- 1 A gang of drag queens jumped me and Epilady-ed my legs.

**SPEAKING OF HAIR**, AEGIS founder Dallas Denny told the GenderFlex newsletter that "electrolysis is the most terrible part of being transsexual. Take it from me. Getting your (colorful word for penis) cut off doesn't compare." AEGIS is the Atlanta-based American Educational Gender Information Service.

**PRESS RELEASE** from the International Foundation for Gender Education tells us that IFGE had an exhibit at the recent American Psychiatric Association meeting in Washington where they talked with many of the shrinks in attendance. First time a gender organization has been at the convention. Nice work. P.S. The APA convention will be in SF in 1993 and IFGE plans a booth again.

**BODY SHAPING TIP:** Mens' torsos are much longer than women of the same height. A male's natural waist can be as much as 4 inches lower than a woman's. If you are body shaping with pads, notice where your elbow is when your arms hang at rest. Pick a spot an inch or so below that and make that point where your faux waist begins.

**GEORGE MICHAEL** has a new music video coming out that is being directed by drag-ophile fashion designer Thierry Mugler. I love this guy. Recently, the tabloid Star indirectly paid homage to Mugler when it featured three of his creations in a story on the worst outfits of all time worn by famous women. My favorite was Sharon "Basic Instinct" Stone in a kind of golden Statue-of-Liberty-Gone-To-Seed-in-Reno job that would have had us on our seats at the Cotillion. Anyway, Mugler often features beautiful drag babes in his haute fashion shows and is using the lovely and growing-more-famous Lypsinka for the Michael video.

**HAVE YOU SEEN THE MENSWEAR LOOK** that is supposed to be hot this fall? I kinda like the butch look on women, but most of this stuff is gruesome. Where are you when we need you Thierry?

# Foxy Lady Boutique



## Tuesday Social CALENDAR

Foxy Lady Boutique's discount fun shopping party extravaganza. Fitting rooms available, fashion consultation, dressing optional. Everyone also welcome during regular boutique hours.

7:30 - 9:30 pm

September 1

October 6

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# Roving Eye

**Roxanne de Lyon**

*Yet another new feature. And a disappointment. We wanted to print all the interviewee's pictures, but couldn't. Which means we must describe the missing Jessica and Kristin to you: They are knockouts.*

**Question:** Why did you come to the Gay Freedom Day Parade?

**Place:** ETVC booth during San Francisco's Gay Freedom Day Parade

**Jessica [redacted]:** Several reasons. I drove Ginny down. She needed help bringing materials and she wanted me to take photos for our photo



*Francis Vavra*

album. Also, it's a lot of fun. It's the fourth time I've been here. It's good to be associated with a lot of other interesting people and to show my support for the lesbian and gay community.

**Francis Vavra:** To see the parade. To see friends and to be seen. To celebrate being part of all the sexually open and free people.

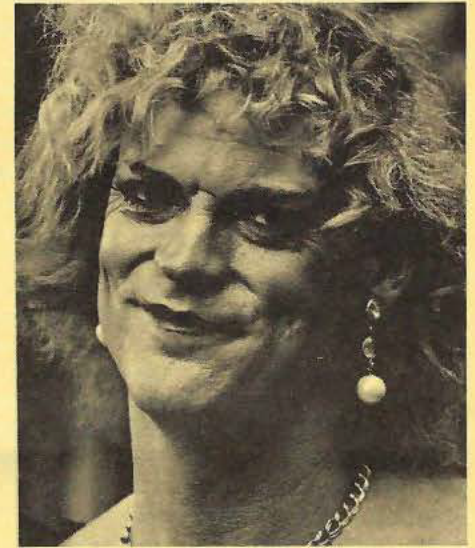
**Cori [redacted]:** I just basically wanted to help with the booth at ETVC. I wasn't here last year. This is the first time I've seen anything like this. The number of people is what amazes me most. It's astounding. The reaction of the people passing is amazing. Some look away. Some seem genuinely interested. It's reassuring that there are a lot of people who have some interest in crossdressing.



*Cori [redacted]*

**Kristin [redacted]:** A chance to come to a wild party dressed in broad daylight. How could I pass it up? Without ETVC and DVG (Diablo Valley Girls) I never would have had the courage to come out. Now that I've gotten over the fear, I just want to go for it.

**Roberta M:** I wanted to make a statement for what I believe in, which is for people to be able to express themselves as they choose. I felt great marching in the parade. I felt a lot of support from the people. This was the next logical step in my coming out, since before today, I never stepped outside dressed when it wasn't dark. I was starting to feel like Dracula, going out after dark and having to be home before dawn. The high point for me was having a cute lesbian come up and kiss my hand.



*Roberta M*

## Label Identity

There is probably no topic of interest to members of the gender and sexual minority communities as hotly debated as is the subject of labels.

While I can appreciate and respect the viewpoint that some have expressed - that labels are necessary for the purposes of self-identity and community bonding - I feel that there has been entirely too much stress on the label and not enough given to the importance of the person as an individual. Oftentimes, in our enthusiasm of at last being part of a community in which we can fit, we become so wrapped up in the label identifications that we subjugate our personal needs that do not fit the established norm for that label.

While I agree that initially, labels can be helpful in lessening the sense of personal isolation and in creating a sense of belonging, they are also unfortunately largely responsible for the balkanization that so divides our community. Regrettably, the very labels we take as our standards accentuate our differences rather than stress our unity and strength, thereby creating a factionalized mentality. Such exclusionary labelism is more likely to keep us divided and to retard our advancement than to create any real change of attitude in those we wish to educate. I feel that the energy we expend in fighting amongst ourselves would be better directed

into focusing on programs of social awareness and political activism that would be of benefit to all our community.

I have noticed within the numerous gender and sexual minority organizations and support groups that I have known, a tendency to form cliques around those with like label orientations. Even in so-called "open" groups that supposedly serve the needs of all member of our community, this same fragmentation occurs with very little interaction or understanding between the various factions.

Within the professional community, labels have been accepted as necessary for the purposes of classification and diagnosis. While these were once thought to be of some clinical use, this view is now being questioned. The American Psychiatric Association admits that the establishment of their findings was on an examination of less than two percent of our community. The current view of most helping professionals is that transgendered behavior is not, of itself, indicative of mental aberration.

Another area of the great label debates involves possible changes of label classifications as they exist in the Diagnostic Statistical Manual, Third Edition - Revised (DSMIII - R). While this, too, was once of use in establishing insurance benefit coverage regarding sexual reassignment

# I Haven't Got a Problem

Cheryl Marie [REDACTED]

The monthly social had just ended and everyone was making their way from the back room of the Chez Mollet. As I passed by the bar I heard someone say we all looked good. Two rather handsome men in their mid-thirties were engaged in a discussion with Telzey and Pam. One their way home from a late night at the office, they had unknowingly stopped in at this out-of-the-way restaurant and, to their surprise, ran right into a bunch of us. Being the buttinsky and blabbermouth that I am, I jumped into the conversation (sorry, Telzey and Pam).

After they got through asking the usual questions of "why, when and how did this 'problem' start" (does everyone have to ask the same dumb questions? Don't they know that the fluoride did it?), one of them observed, "Considering the circumstances, you seem very normal." He then added, "Your openness gives the impression that you are well adjusted and in touch with your lives." (how true, how true) This statement got me to thinking about how little one person sees of another's life at first meeting. What he didn't see was how much growth through pain we have shared. He also could not see how much willingness we needed to accept ourselves as we are.

I am very fortunate to have found willingness and self-acceptance. It was not always so. How did I find whatever self-acceptance I have and how did I become willing to look at myself? Well (it wasn't in a makeup mirror), I wish I had a simple answer. I'm not sure how or when it happened, but I do know what the real "problem" looks like and what the "answer" looks like.

When I was young I knew two truths about Cheryl even before she had a name: 1. That being in touch with her was warm and comforting and 2. That after leaving her presence I had to run away as fast as I could, denying to myself that this experience ever happened. It was almost as if my mind had a blank spot for any reference to the feminine side of me. When the time or mood called to return, it was like gravity. I couldn't resist the pull. Yet the desire for Cheryl was always overshadowed by the denial of her existence. So I struggled with a component of my life that became

---

by **Lauren Rene Hotchkiss**

surgery, its use now is rather limited, as most insurance companies' policies carry specific riders that prohibit the paying of benefits for such surgery, maintaining that transsexualism is a pre-existing condition and therefor not covered. The ethics of its use as evidence in legal proceedings is also currently being challenged.

There is a tendency with labels to see things in terms of black and white. The reality, however, is that there is a wide spectrum between the extremes of gay and straight, transsexual and transvestite, masculine and feminine. Within each label there is so much diversity and individuality, so many individuals who do not neatly fit the constructs of the definition, as to render the label useless. Even among the non-transgendered there is such variety of supposedly gender-specific behavior that there is little validity to the viewpoint that "real women" or "real men" don't do this or that.

The central point, I feel, is that beyond the label, whether it be gay, lesbian, transsexual, crossdresser, black, white or whatever, we are all people, and neither the clothes we wear, nor our sexual preferences or the the color of our skin are really important. Though we all have our own agendas and our own timetables for realizing our life paths, what is important is that we are all here for a purpose: to discover the unity of all people and realize the connections we all share.

increasingly stronger in desire and at the same time more entrenched in denial. This insidious character trait - denial - was always a part of me, and like my feminine self I denied that I had it.

I denied denial.

Over time, through misfortune and good fortune (maybe it was magic, fairy godmother?) I was able to understand that I lived a life of denial and that was the real problem. Accepting that I was in denial was part of the answer. Only by embracing the issue I was trying to ignore could I stop running away from it. Unfortunately (didn't ya' know there is always a broken cookie in the jar) this self-acceptance has a way of affecting other parts of one's life (where's the fig leaf?) and that means that I could never be whole until I accepted all the parts.

The biggest piece that I needed to understand was that part of me which is Cheryl. To do so would require coming out of the closet, interacting with others and developing a relationship with this other part of myself. I was at first afraid and unwilling to accept this; staying in the closet seemed much safer. But it's dark in there and I was curious to know "who I am" and that curiosity gave me the willingness to try to acceptance. Then an odd thing happened: I got excited at the prospect of meeting me, all of me.

When I stepped into the Chez last August wearing a calf length black pleated skirt and soft white blouse (Billie Jean, are you there?) I feel that I discovered the last major piece of my life. That evening was one of a select few memorable events of my life. What I discovered at the Chez Mollet was not the prime rib (although that's good, too); I discovered me and the willingness to accept the whole of me, including Cheryl. This in turn has spilled over into other parts of my life with positive results.

If you are sitting on the gender fence (watch out for the pickets) because of fear, denial and lack of willingness to look at yourself, think of the possibility that you could be more. Imagine meeting someone you have always wanted to know, yourself.

So get curious about what kind of she or he you could be, and in so doing find the answer to how, why and when did this problem start?

The answer is, this is not the problem, this is the solution.

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## Really Big Stars !



Tommi Rose (rt) joins Fabulous Foxes (clockwise from bot.) Joanne, Diahanna, & Zia for a photo op' after ETV's 'Really Big Show' on June 28th, 1992 Photo By Jessica Stang

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### Full-Time Cross-Living Group at Pacific Center Jill Enquist

One of the problems of full time cross-living (whether TS, TG or other) is that once you're doing it, you're not supposed to have any more problems. If you do, it means that cross-living "isn't right for you" and you should stop. Which is ridiculous. Problems don't vanish just because you're finally cross-living. Anyone who says otherwise is either extremely fortunate, lying, or a fool.

The Cross-Living Full Time Group was begun to discuss the problems and issues associated with cross-living full-time in a safe setting. Issues discussed have included passing/not passing, who to tell about yourself, being a social leper, and family issues, among others. One night the

limitations and drawbacks of surgery were discussed, while another meeting was devoted to criticizing caregivers. The CLFT group gives transgendered people a chance to talk openly about their concerns without fear of peer ridicule or disapproval of the medical and helping providers.

The group is limited to people who are cross-living full time in the gender opposite that of birth. People who come not understanding that requirement are usually allowed to sit through a meeting but politely asked to not come back in the future. Partners coming with someone are asked to wait in the lobby until the meeting is over. Disruptive people, however, are asked to leave immediately.

The group is open to all people cross-living full-time. It meets at the Pacific Center in Berkeley at 8:00 p.m. on the first three Fridays of the month. For more information, please call: (510) [REDACTED]

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# FROM IFGE WITH LOVE:

## My first Board Meeting

Roxanne de Lyon

Finding myself without a newsletter to edit, adrift in a sea of need to contribute, I was picked up by a passing freighter named IFGE. I asked, "What can I do?" They said, "We steer this ship with a committee, you can be a member of that Board of Directors."

So it comes to pass that your wayward editor emeritus tackles new challenges. I fly to the Houston Convention to attend my first Board meeting. Now I'm new at this game, I have to learn the rules, and meet the other players. I'm full of questions. I seek out the other members of the board - we all have white ribbons on our name tags. I want to know - I need to know - which are the TVs and which are the TSs? I naively assume that's all there is in this "world." Pre or post op - it's really none of my business - but why does it seem to matter? But I won't ask straight out - that's rude - I'll just wait for some cues - maybe someone will say Trinidad along the way. An interest in Trinidad, if not decisive, is often indicative. (Trinidad is the sex reassignment island in southern Colorado).

So I catch Wendy - Board Chair - in the lobby - here's my chance. I sidle up - totally cool facade - and start talking. Boy, it's quick how I head for the question: "Well .. just what are you? - er - I mean - How do you think of yourself? - er - I mean - What do you call yourself? I'm rather sensitive to the term transsexual these days - I mean I don't want to be rude — uh — (a pause too long)—"

Wendy replies calmly, "I'm a woman."

I ingest a large dose of "feeling like an idiot" medicine - something inside of me snaps - no, not a muscle or anything - a mental thing, a value, a little piece of my TV vs TS belief stuff shatters, quake-like. I go, 'OK, she's a woman, OF COURSE!' - just as she appears.

We move on to talk about business.

Finally the Board meeting - the moment I've waited for - I don't want to appear stupid, or numb, or brain dead. I'm anxious to jump in and say something intelligent, maybe even clever... I've yet to discover the severe

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J2CP is an information and referral service which provides pamphlets and literature about gender issues. An information package is available for \$35 which includes Priority Mail shipping. Referrals are available, to therapists and gender programs. State whether you are M-to-F, F-toM, or TV.

J2CP also provides the "TerraNet BBS" which offers specialized AIDSnet and GENDERnet access to health and research information, and to gender-related forums. Write for further information. Electronic mail service is available to registered users.

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### International Foundation for Gender Education TV/TS Tapestry Journal

*Serving the Crossdressing/Transsexual Community since 1978*

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

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

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lack of knowledge and background information under which I am working. But I'll soon enough have both feet into my mouth up to the safety heels that keep you from swallowing your legs up to your knees and turning yourself blue, which is universally considered disruptive to the meeting.

The meeting is over - oh yeah - they knew I was there - hopefully there are no contracts out on me. There will be battle scars. I'll survive.

Later that evening I am recapping the meeting with Renée - I start to go into a TS joke. She snaps at me, "Why do you TVs pick on TSs?" She means it.

"It's only in fun," I say meekly.

"Every time you do that you exacerbate problems for them. Just leave them alone!" she demands.

I'm hurt - my mouth is still sore from chewing on my feet all morning - my brain reels trying to think of some words that will make me right. Some way of rationalizing my position. I hate this feeling in my gut. I might have to spend the whole night wide awake, eating everything in sight or hiding under the covers, reeling with emotion. Bummer.

I try a new tack. I thank Renée for pointing out these deficiencies in my understanding of the world. I quip that my learning curve isn't quite as flat as my chest - still trying to squirm away from reality with feeble humor. The 'energy' doesn't change. I ask to be continually reminded of my biases and misconceptions; "Keep pounding away," I say. We hug - a long hug that conveys the mutual gratitude of a week's worth of working together intensely and affirms a loving relationship. There is sadness in our parting - joy in our friendship. It's late and I have an early plane to catch tomorrow.

Epilogue: I have since attended another IFGE Board meeting, more fully prepared, and found the effort to be loving, rewarding and meaningful. IFGE, alive and healthy, is doing the outreach and education on a national scale that will soon make gender exploration less traumatic and more fun for all of us, no matter what our path.

*Roxanne de Lyon is editor emeritus of the ETVC Newsletter, a graduate of the Nancy Ann McAnn school of Persuasive Voice Projection, the Billie Jean Jones School of Etiquette with a Graduate certificate in Literary Lambastation, and has audited the Transsexual Clearinghouse home study course for no credit where she was awarded a failing grade. She is currently a cross dressed monkette sentenced to aimless wanderings of penance, self-discovery, and humiliation. She can not be reached at 1-800-HIH-EELS where she is never in and the answering machine is broken.*

## SUMMARY OF EX-COM MINUTES

7/11/92

Officers present: Cindy, Rusty, Nancy Ann, Martina, Evette, Cheryl, Pam, Lauren and Telzey.

Guests: Donna, Julie, Paulette, Olga, Karin Miller and Ginny.

Previous minutes approved.

### Reports:

**President:** Requested all ExCom members take turns as hostesses during socials. No response yet to her letter to IFGE. Wants to create a library list to send to new members joining by mail.

**V-P:** Thanked all for participation in Gay Freedom Day. ExCom gave Rusty its thanks for a job well done.

**Sec'ty:** Membership renewal ahead of last year at this time. Our new printer is Your Place Graphics, which volunteered a bid approx. \$200 lower per issue than Print Wise. Bulk mail tabled.

**Social:** Submitted possible calendar of events for the year. 6/28 Social's fund raiser brought in approx. 70 can of food & \$100 for Coalition for the Homeless.

**Outreach:** Presented list of pubs. in which we advertise. Evette to obtain information about training to create a video on public access channel 25.

**Education:** 7 attendees at presentation by CUAV on safety in the streets. President requested finished Tip Sheet by July 28 social.

**Treasurer:** Report read and approved. 1992-93 budget passed unanimously.

**New Business:** Lauren will contact various sources about services for young people with gender issues. She also wants to start a new group for ETVC singles.

Ginny asked ExCom members to consider sending money to the Winslow Street Fund to build monies for grants to the gender community.

### Motions Passed:

1. To mail notices about the Chez Mollet's "Hang Out Nite" all expenses to be paid for by Lenny Mollet.

2. To make a one time \$100 contribution to the SOS group.

3. To secure advertising for the Cotillion in the Imperial Star Coronation program, 9/5/92. Cost \$50.

4. To secure advertising for the Cotillion in the Grand Ducal Coronation program, 9/19/92. Cost, up to \$100

8/8/92

Officers present: Cindy, Jane, Nancy Ann, Martina, Telzey, Lauren, Evette, Pam, Cheryl. Previous minutes approved.

### Reports:

**President:** Hostess committee did well last social. Library bibliography and Tip Sheet should be ready for mailing with newsletter.

**V-P:** None submitted.

**Sec'ty:** Because of vacation & other delays, newsletter is behind schedule.

**Treas.** Report read & approved. Cheryl said she could not cover expenses charging \$4 per audio tape. She will have to raise it to \$5.

**Social:** At Sept's Back to School theme at social, Rosalie's New Looks will donate wash & sets, eyelashes & a hairpiece for a 50/50 raffle.

**Outreach:** Lauren will write an article for impending ETVC singles group. Evette reports that training, production & post-production at public access channel 25 could be very expensive. Committee agreed that we needed more focus, clearer goals and a solid commitment from individuals before fund raising for such a project.

**Education:** A shopping tour led by Susan should prove popular on October 3.

### Motions approved:

1. To authorize Cindy to spend appropriate monies for mailing the library bibliographies and Tip Sheet.

2. To hold our next Executive Committee meeting on September 12.



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## CUAV at ETVC

Cori [REDACTED]

The July 11 Education Committee event was a presentation by Greg Merrill of the Community United Against Violence (CUAV) focusing on hate crimes against lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgendered persons. The point most emphasized by Greg was that hate crimes against our community (and those who commit them) do not always fit a specific profile. No time or place can be assumed to be "safe" and anyone whose appearance is perceived as different can be a target for violent behavior.

CUAV considers all forms of hate crimes to be equally serious, be they verbal harassment or physical violence. Greg described cases of violence which they have dealt with, including attacks by strangers, harassment by neighbors, job discrimination and violence from friends and family members of victims. This discussion worked to dispel some of the stereotypes we tend to hold about "bashers" (i.e. the stranger lurking in the shadows).

Greg detailed some of the services CUAV provides to the victims of violence, including their crisis line, referrals to other support agencies, and assistance in dealing with authorities. In some cases, CUAV has contacted individuals responsible for harassment to educate them that their actions will not be tolerated by the community. CUAV also assists in police training and presents classroom programs in the San Francisco Public schools regarding gay lifestyles.

The presentation also included safety tips (carry those whistles) and a discussion of self-defense techniques. Greg also offered many suggestions on ways to handle potentially dangerous situations, most of which would be good common sense procedures for anyone to use in an urban environment.

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## Additions to the Audio Cassette Tape Library:

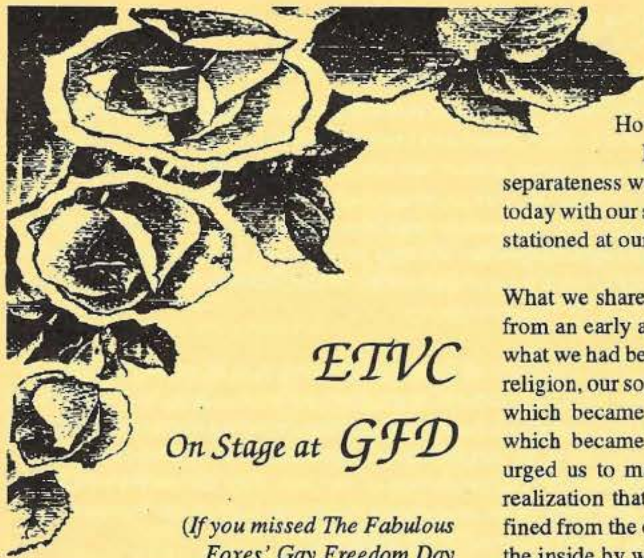
ACT IX - 4/11/92 Wilhelmina Beins asks, "How's Your Image?"

ACT X - 4/16/92 Ariadne Kane's "Genderlingo."

ACT XI - 7/11/92 CUAV, "Safety in Our Streets."

To cover increased production costs, we've had to hike the price of all ACT tapes to \$5, which still includes postage and handling.

Also available now from our Video Library: ETVC Cotillion 1992 (1 hr.). \$10, includes postage & handling.



## ETVC On Stage at GFD

*(If you missed The Fabulous Foxes' Gay Freedom Day performance, don't despair. It's all been captured on tape by Janet, our DVG (Diablo Video Girl). In fact, you can see all who appeared, The Foxes, Thalia, Lauren and Jane. Can't wait? OK, then, here's the text of our remarks and Lauren's lyrics: Ed.)*

### Jane

Hi. My name is Jane Kamper Bentley. I'm Secretary of ETVC. No, we are not the Evangelical Traditional Values Coalition; we're the Educational TV Channel.

Don't look for us on your dial.

TV stands for transvestite, which these days is a term that seems to say both not enough and yet too much. Our membership are not just transvestites (or, crossdressers, as many of us prefer to be called) but also transgenderists, transsexuals, wives, lovers and friends.

To a lot of the general public, transvestite means prostitute. Nothing wrong with prostitution. How else would we get our billionaires and presidents? It just doesn't happen to define us.

What does? I don't know. I'd have a hard time defining just the three of us who appear in this segment. What do we share? Six pierced ears, three yards of hair and a combined shoe size 35, triple Q.

One is a crossdresser, who occasionally dresses as a woman; one is a transgenderist who lives most of the time as a woman; and one is a transsexual.

Two are divorced. One is in a long term relationship with a genetic woman. One is heterosexual, one is bisexual and one is quintessential.

One is a musician. One is a graphic artist and one is a taxi driver.

Two have no children. One has four and is raising her two teenage sons as a single mom.

I don't know about Thalia and Lauren's religion. I'm a deprogrammed Lutheran.

How do you define such diversity?

I don't think you do. Yet in our separateness we have been drawn together here today with our sisters who marched and who are stationed at our booth by the fountain.

What we share, I think, is this: an inner voice from an early age calling to us to be other than what we had been instructed by our parents, our religion, our society and the state; a compulsion which became an act of liberation; a shame which became our pride; a loneliness which urged us to make connection; and a growing realization that we cannot and will not be defined from the outside by what we are, but from the inside by who we are.

And now, the head of ETVC's Speakers Bureau, Thalia Gravel...

### Thalia

Thanks, Jane. It is always a pleasure to be introduced instead of explained.

We have all heard an awful lot recently about family values. I would like to ask why we don't instead think more about valued family - the kind of valued family I see before me. This is a big family reunion and I feel privileged to be included. We transgendered people are like the kids next door or the distant relatives of the gay/lesbian/bisexual community. We are excited to be able to hang out with the "big kids."

There are at least as many kinds of transgendered people as there are bisexuals, lesbians and gays. If we are to gain acceptance and self-respect we must look to your successes, your coalition building and your activism. The lesbian/gay/bisexual community has been our models for many things. You have shown us the way out of the closet. You have given us an example of pride and self-esteem. And it's obvious that some of you taught some of us how to do our hair.

The family here today was the community that some of us came out in. This was the community that made a place for us. For some of us your community is our community, and ours is yours. And for those of us who aren't out - and that's the majority - we can be the invisible allies each community needs so much.

And we know we have to challenge all the assumptions that oppress all of us.

We share your rage and despair.  
We share your joy and love.  
To paraphrase Kate Bornstein: The transgender culture is not your culture, but

transgender culture weaves through the eons with your culture and, at times, we kiss. Today is one of those times.  
Thank you.

### Lauren

Hand in Hand  
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intro.

vs. 1. Once we were creatures of the shadows  
Afraid to stand up for our rights  
Frightened to step out of the darkness  
And take our place within the light  
But as we let go of yesterday  
Together we began to find the way

chorus Hand in hand, we stand as one united  
Hand in hand, all across this land  
Hand in hand, building bridges that lead to understanding  
Working together hand in hand

vs. 2. The time for guilt is over  
The age of ignorance has passed  
No longer do we have to be ashamed  
The time for pride has come at last  
A brand new age has just begun  
It's time for us all to stand as one  
(Chorus)

bridge. Can't you hear our voices swell  
From a whisper to a roar  
We shed the shackles of the past  
We won't be held back anymore  
(Chorus)

vs. 3. And as we turn and face tomorrow  
There's still so much we need to do  
Our whole future lies before us  
But we can't make it without you  
Together, we'll discover the way how  
And there's no time like now  
(Chorus)  
(Chorus)

tag. Working together hand in hand

