



## Mean Streets and A Loving Friend

March 26, which was to be our Leather and Lace Social, turned out to be something quite different. Exactly two weeks before, Cameron (Empress XXII Tina) Tanner in full view of standers-by, had been beaten literally senseless by two men with baseball bats. It was a time to grieve for and remember Cameron and to ponder the lessons of his tragedy.

If you attended that evening, you remember the surprise of receiving a metal police whistle on a cord. Why, you may have thought, police whistles? You remember the petition, drafted by Amanda and circulated by Nancy Ann, asking the mayor and chief of police to "do everything in your power to see to it that the individuals responsible are brought to justice." You remember the personal safety lecture by Loretta Whitehead of SAFE (see "Cindy at Large" for details). Most of all, perhaps, you remember the moving talk given by Steve Rascher (Emperor XVI), owner of Lily's, which Cameron Tanner had managed.

We spoke with Mr. Rascher early in April for an update on the friend he had so eloquently eulogized.

"Tina," he said, "though no longer on life support, is still comatose. The prognosis is not very encouraging. She may eventually come out of the coma, but not as the same Tina. There has been severe brain damage."

Had police made any arrests? "No."

Did he think this had been a gay bashing? "Tina had come out from a gay play, so this was not random. The police haven't labeled it a gay bashing, but it doesn't make any difference. It wasn't a love act. It was a hate crime. We all have to unite to stop this violence. Tina is a nuclear force for ETVC and the Imperial Court to center around."

"Tina," concluded Mr. Rascher, "would be most impressed to see the concern and participation of all who have come together for her."

Later in the month Cameron contracted pneumonia. He died on the morning of April 21.

By the time you read this, a 12 hour marathon fundraiser to help cover the costs of his funeral will have been held at Lily's on April 25. Even if you missed it, you can still contribute. Make your checks out to "The Imperial Board of Trustees." On the memo portion of your check write "Tina Tanner Relief Fund." Send it to ETVC, P.O. Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486

## IFGE Convention: First Impressions

From the International Foundation for Gender Education Convention at Houston, Texas, 10 April 1992: ETVC was represented here by our Miss ETVC Billie Jean Jones, Ginny and Nancy Ann, Roxanne (recently elected to the IFGE Board of Directors) and two new members, Philly's [redacted] and Charlene Hunter.

On convention, you learn, see and do a lot of things in a short time. I attended a seminar on public speaking to college classes, where I learned that to be an effective presenter I must be honest, answer all questions fully, ask for an honorarium and keep my knees together.

As one of a panel on community outreach, I described ETVC's efforts and heard a lot of new ideas from other clubs.



Cameron Tanner as Empress XXII Tina

Photo Joe Pulido

On the social side, we took a bus trip to several bar night clubs in Houston's gay district, called Montrose, which had a distinctly Texan air to them: Live entertainment and herds of pool tables.

I met JoAnn Roberts of Renaissance (which will host the IFGE convention next year in Philadelphia) Michele Snodgrass, a volunteer at the San Francisco Sex Information Switchboard, Ann Forrester from Scotland, who's reviving their newsletter, The Tartan Skirt, and a whole posse of Houstonians.

Recipient of the prestigious Virginia Prince Award: Naomi Owen, legal counsel to IFGE and member of the IFGE Board of Directors.

Got to get back to the fun. More next issue.

- Telzey

**Don't Forget Your Dues - Support ETVC By Sending In Your \$20 Renewal**

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.

**O F F I C E R S**

- President Martina
- Vice President Rusty
- Secretary Jane
- Treasurer Nancy Ann
- Education Evette & Paulette
- Outreach Lauren & Telzey
- Social Zia & Vanessa

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**

- Membership (as of 3/31/92) 416
- 1991 Membership 431
- New members this year 98

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

- Balance on 2/1/92 \$6,086.31
- February income 1,440.00
- February expenses 3,156.67
- =====
- Balance on 2/29/92 4,369.64
- March income 651.90
- March expenses 1,429.94
- =====
- Balance on 3/31/92 3,591.60

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 weekend of each of those 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
- Design, Layout & Printing Print Wise
- Photographer David Swanson

**A D R A T E S**

	per issue	per year
Business Card	\$20	\$100
4" x 5"	\$50	\$250

**PERSONAL ADS**

ETVC will accept personal ads from ETVC members at the rate of \$1 per 3 lines. We will not accept ads with a purely sexual objective.

Send ad copy and a check for the appropriate amount to: ETVC, PO Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486.

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

**HOTLINE 510-** [REDACTED]

"THE BEST lack all conviction, while the worst are full of passionate intensity," wrote William Butler Yeats before the days of mediaocracy (or is it "mediocracy?").

The worst in 1939, the year Yeats died, was very bad indeed. It is unlikely that the Age of Television would spawn an aberration such as Hitler. Neither, though, might it be kind to an FDR. It prefers, in this presidential year of 1992, to present us spectacles of dinosaur dancing and mental midget wrestling. Candidates, processed and packaged like supermarket steaks, are all equally tasteless; the best lacking genuine intensity, the worst full of ersatz conviction. Comical in their irrelevance, frightening in their power, presidents and aspirants to the presidency seem more shufflers and destroyers rather than helpers and creators. The real world evolves beyond their control much as the changing weather (or an incoming comet) of the Late Mesozoic lay beyond the control of mighty tyrannosaurus rex.

As we watch the candidates' teleprompted jaws jut, their orchestrated fingers jab and their scripted words hang almost visibly in the air like swamp gas, who can doubt that they are dinosaurs! The question is, are *we*?

Many who crossdress seem to live in two worlds: An everyday dinosaur world of getting and spending, and a dream world of spending and pretending; the latter a quasi-primitive mammalian existence, scurrying from car to mall to car to bar. There are lots of reasons to belong in either one. In the dinosaur world we get to be part—a scale, tooth or claw, perhaps—of a big dinosaur as it rampages the earth, roaring in triplicate. In our mammal world we get to be soft and cute and stroked (even if we just stroke ourselves), but also we are fragile and at the dinosaurs' mercy if they catch us. It may be hard to believe, but time really is on the side of the mammals, not dinosaurs. You just gotta' believe, and, someday, choose. Are you a dinosaur or a mouse?

This year, be a write-in for president under your femme name. I mean it.

**IN A LIGHTER VEIN:** This May could be called our tenth anniversary social, depending on which of our founding members you consult, and there's the rub. I understand that one of our founders holds with ETVC being twelve years old, the rest opt for ten. I'll go with the majority and say we're ten. Whichever it is, Happy Birthday to us. May 28 is one day when we can all be birthday girls. Do they make Mary Janes with heels?

**THIS IS ONLY** the eighth anniversary of our member of the year award, though we have had eleven recipients. They are:

- 1984 - Diahanna
- 1985 - Diane [REDACTED]
- 1986 - Gloria & Sheil
- 1987 - Martina
- 1988 - Diane Richwine
- 1989 - D. Richwine & Melanie
- 1990 - Ginny & Martina
- 1991 - Thalia

How lovely if all our recipients could show up to make this ETVC 10th anniversary extra special.

I DON'T KNOW MUCH about AEGIS, but I intend to learn. They're publishers of *Chrysalis*, which has just come out with its third issue and is the instant standard for all other gender magazines. *Chrysalis* is unique for what you won't find ("Happy to Be a Girl" and "The World Just Doesn't Understand" articles; personal ads; glamour pics) as much as for what you will: A thoroughly professional and inviting layout; consistently informative and readable articles; writers who know their material and stay within their knowledge and experience. Ask Telzey to show you a copy at the next social. One year's subscription (four issues): \$30. Send checks to American Educational Gender Information Service, Inc. (AEGIS), P.O. Box 33724, Decatur, GA 30033. Phone (404) [REDACTED]

A WARM HELLO to Ari, Jenny and Tammi, three real women who showed up at our March Social just because they wanted to see if all ETVCers were as nice as Thalia. Of course not. That's why we had sent our best to address your class at Sonoma State. Someone referred to you as "Thalia's Girls." I would ask you to be Thalia's Apostles and spread the good news among friends and family that we are, as Ari said, "just like other people." And, please, *do* come back!

APOLOGIES to long suffering Jessica [REDACTED] whose excellent photographs have graced many pages of this newsletter, none of which, I believe, have been credited, including the one of Ginny and Nancy Ann that accompanied Cindy's article in our March-April issue. This shall not happen again, if only because, unhappily, Jessica has accepted a job offer from Big Eastern Money and soon will move to New York City. You know—where they make fake picante sauce.

SURPRISE! An article in *Tapestry* with laughs: "A New Endangered Species: The North American Crossdresser" by Nancy Cole had me chuckling *and* thinking. Gimme more.

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

Before I begin, I would like to thank Tiffany, Cindy Martin, and Roxanne de Lyon for their contributions to Tapestry issue #60. Tiffany is beautiful, and ETVC can be proud to have her as its representative. The article about ETVC that Cindy and Roxanne wrote was terrific and was exactly what I hoped it would be. Your wonderful organization has much to teach us all.

Now, the reason for my letter. I have received a number of comments and phone calls concerning Roxanne's editorial in Vol. 10 #4 of your newsletter, which prompted me to go back and read the article again. When I read it the first time, my reaction was, "OK, one person's opinion, now let's get on to something interesting, like Renee's article on 'Romancing the Self.'" When I re-read it, my opinion remained essentially the same, although it seemed like something that would more likely appear in the 'Femme Mirror' than in ETVC's newsletter. It was Roxanne's personal opinion, and I took it as such. She made a few good points, but she also took a few too many swings at the tar baby and got stuck in her own definitions and stereotypes. However, they were her definitions and stereotypes, and she has a right to get stuck in them if that's what she truly wants to do. That doesn't mean I, or anyone else, have to.

I have no intention of debating Roxanne's editorial. However, I do feel qualified and obligated to make a few comments. Most everyone knows I'm a new woman. In fact, when I told my story in Tapestry #59, I caused quite a furor among many members of Tri-Ess and other transsexophobes. *C'est La Vie!* I am now a legal and functional female, and for the first time, in my life my legal documentation is in balance with my mind and my heart. I am also a happy and productive human being, with no hang-ups about my identity or my past. If someone comes up to me and says, "You're not a woman," this is my reply:

"I spent 13 years asking God to fix this; 20 years of misery and looking for a convenient way to die; 17 years of hard work, and over \$50,000 to get where I am. That's one hell of a price to pay for a little peace of mind. I am a woman, and not Virginia, not Roxanne, not anyone is going to tell me otherwise!"

Sincerely,  
Merissa Sherrill Lynn  
Executive Director, IFGE

Dear Editor:

It was with some disappointment that I read of Roxanne's departure from the newsletter over her editorial remarks.

In the original editorial, Roxanne stated that "The way to have 100 percent accuracy in marksmanship is to fire the gun first and define the target as the place where the bullet hit." It seems as though the bullet hit a target on another "range" than Roxanne thought she was firing on. While I considered her original "idea" (to be "moderate" or "conservative" in public presentations) to be different than my own (which is in harmony with my own potentials), and to which G.A.L. partially responded to by saying: "Why should we continue to move through life unnoticed[?]" it seems the bullet pierced an unintended target: Lack of transsexual involvement in ETVC. In lieu of having the transsexually sensitized segment present on the newsletter staff, Roxanne proceeded to "dive" into an abyss of ignorance, a fact she confirmed in the subsequent issue, albeit with a certain "clumsiness."

I do not, in any way, disagree with Christine Beatty's point that it is demeaning to call transsexuals, "men in dresses with their penises cut off;" or that, "being who we are, 'without the need to pretend to be women'" is insensitive to male-to-female transsexuals. Nor do I disagree with the right to speak as expressed by the subsequent letters. In fact, I found the Billie perspective (that of transsexuals speaking from a transsexual perspective) to be an element that has been lacking in previous

issues. In my idealistic world, dialogue is far more important than "correctness," whatever that "correctness" might be.

I hope that the dialogue, no matter how "incorrect" it may be, will continue. How else will the messages be delivered?

My friend, Dallas Denny, once told me that several people had told her she was not a transsexual because she did not conform to all the "requirements." Christine, Cacey and James all wrote to voice objections to "transsexual insensitivity." Roxanne wrote about "The Gender Movement" from a non-transsexual, male-woman perspective (or, as she stated, "female mimic"). All of the above are some of the ingredients in the soup some people label as, "the gender movement," which should include every single person in the world, since everyone has a "gender," rather than a few biological white males.

And this, I believe, is the issue all of us should focus more of our energy on: adding ingredients to the soup. Where are the non-whites? Where are the females? Where are the voices of dissent? If they do not come forward, who will drag (pun inevitable) them into the mix?

Maybe more people like Roxanne, who, it might be said, "should be forgiven for she knew not what she said." (But still got results.) I hope that persons with a more transsexually oriented perspective will contribute to ETVC on an ongoing basis, rather than waiting to object to contributing non-transsexuals who display ignorance.

Luv,  
Billie Jean Jones, Miss ETVC 92  
Publisher of TV Guise

cont. on pg. 11

### **Cameron (Empress XXII Tina) Tanner**

March 12, outside the Victoria Theater, Cameron(Tina) Tanner was brutally assaulted by two men with baseball bats. He died on April 21 at 10 AM after lying in a comma for 40 days.

Mr. Cameron was a special friend to ETVC. As Empress XXII Tina, "she was our patron empress," our own Ginny recalled days later in the dining room of her Sunset home. "She was the first person we met in the gay community and a member of ETVC since 1986. She felt comfortable with herself as a crossdresser and a drag queen. It was Tina who got us a table in the '86 coronation and made sure we didn't feel out of place. She was on a panel at our convention in '89."

"Tina was always supportive of ETVC. She would explain to people in the gay community who we were. As manager of Lily's, she opened up the back room for our seminars at no charge. And if we called and said, 'Hey, we forgot to reserve the room,' she just took care of you."

"She raised a lot of money for charity. In everything she did she was a leader, and was loved and supported by all who knew her. This is a terrible loss of someone we liked and who supported us 100%. This terrible assault was insane and we want to do everything we can to stop this insanity." ♣

CA LIC. #M8288

LIN FRASER, M.A./MFCC  
PSYCHOTHERAPIST  
SEX RELATED PROBLEMS-GENDER COUNSELING

2538 CALIFORNIA STREET  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94115

BY APPOINTMENT  
(415) [REDACTED]

# SPECIAL EVENTS

## Hair Secrets From Europe May 18

Do you have hair (or just bought some) and can't do a thing with it? Come see Franjon do wonders with hard-to-manage hair. See the result of 28 years experience in European Beauty shows and competitions! Franjon will be sharing her talents with us at Lily's in San Francisco at Valencia and Market Streets at 8 PM. Bring a friend. Donation \$3.

## Awards and Elections May 28

Mark your calendar for ETVC's annual Awards and Elections Night at the Chez. This is a free evening for members who will be voting for a new executive committee. Wear your 60's clothes for that hippie or hippette look. For the glamour conscious, Christine Uomini, renowned fashion photographer, will be shooting portraits for a small fee on the patio. Cosmetologist and wig expert Rosalie Jacques of New Looks by Rosalie will bring wigs and do free makeup for all those having their portraits done. Bring your own makeup. Members free. Guests \$5.

## Education Faire June 13

What is the Education Committee? What does it do? The answers to these and other questions can be found when you browse the various materials of this elaborate display. All books, tapes, articles, photos, etc., will be out for you perusal at Lily's, Valencia and Market Streets in San Francisco, at 2 PM. Come meet the people behind the scenes. Donation: None. This one's on us!

## San Jose's Lesbian/Gay Pride Celebration June 13 & 14

With the theme "Pride Equals Power" San Jose's Lesbian/Gay community hosts a two day celebration of sexual and gender equality. Times: 11 AM to 8PM, Saturday, and 1PM to 7PM, Sunday at the Santa Clara County Fairground. 11AM Sunday be at Stockton Avenue between Villa and The Alameda for the parade. For more info, call the Gay Pride Hotline: (408) [REDACTED]

## Rrrreally Big Shew Two June 25

Ed Sullivan didn't make it last year, but Elvis might make it this year. Live entertainment and plenty of big fun. Celebrities and surprises. It's going to be a blockbuster. Bring a can of food and receive a \$1 discount on your admission. Don't bring a can and ETVC will donate the extra dollar anyway. It all goes to the Coalition for the Homeless. Members \$5. Guests \$8.

## S.F. Gay Day Parade June 28

This is it. The Mother of all parades: Colorful. Outrageous. An annual love rally. This year's theme: A Simple Matter of Justice—Harvey Milk. ETVC will be there in the march and at our booth. Our own FAB-you-lous FOX-es will perform on the BIG stage. All we need is YOU. Volunteer to be a parade monitor or marcher. Help to person our booth. Call Nancy Ann at (415) [REDACTED]

ATTENTION!!! ALL CROSS-DRESSERS  
YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO  
ATTEND THE TIFFANY CLUB 12TH  
ANNUAL P-TOWN SPRING FLING

Tuesday, May 26, 1992 thru Monday June 1, 1992  
In the beautiful Cape Cod Community of  
PROVINCETOWN, MASS.

All members of the Cross-Dressing/Transsexual Community,  
their families, friends and those who work on our behalf,  
are welcome to join us in enjoying a vacation en'femme.

For answers to questions, or to get registration forms:  
Contact Hostess Jackie McDonald or Programs Chair  
Erica Jadan, Call: 617 [REDACTED]  
Write: TCNE PO Box 2283 - TCOUT92N  
Woburn, MA 01888-0483

18th Annual Outreach Institute

**Fantasia Fair**  
In Beautiful Provincetown, Mass.  
Live the Fantasy!

**October 16-25, 1992**

For information write: Fantasia Fair, 405 Western  
Ave., Suite 345, So. Portland, ME 04106 35

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Dinner, Soup or Salad

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RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED

**(415) [REDACTED]**

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# TV/TS/TC GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

## A Calendar of Events for May & June



### MAY

1	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408)
5	....	Foxy Lady Social	7:30 - 9:30 PM	San Francisco	(415)
5	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510)
6	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510)
7	ETVC	Outreach Committee	Starts at 8 PM	Sunnyvale	(408)
8	ETVC	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Francisco	(415)
8	South Bay	Gender Discussion Group	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408)
9	ETVC	Executive Committee	Starts at 8 PM	Foster City	(408)
11	RGA	Rap Group	Meets 8-10 PM	San Jose	(408)
14	ETVC	Significant Others Support	Meets 8-10 PM	Pleasant Hill	(415)
15	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408)
16	ETVC	Education Committee	Meets at 12:00	Lily's	(408)
18	ETVC	Hair Secrets from Europe	Starts at 8 PM	Lily's	(408)
18	DVG	Birthday Party	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510)
20	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510)
21	ETVC	Couples Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Francisco	(415)
22	RGA	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	Sunnyvale	(408)
23	SGA	Dinner/Social	Starts at 8 PM	Sacramento	(916)
28	ETVC	Anniversary Party	Starts at 8 PM	Chez Mollet	(415)
29	Pac Ctr	Open Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510)

### JUNE

2	....	Foxy Lady Social	7:30 - 9:30 PM	San Francisco	(415)
2	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510)
3	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510)
4	ETVC	Outreach Committee	Starts at 8 PM	Hayward	(510)
5	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408)
6	ETVC	Executive Committee	Starts at 8 PM	Montara	(408)
8	RGA	Rap Group	Meets 8-10 PM	San Jose	(408)
11	ETVC	Significant Others Support	Meets 8-10 PM	San Francisco	(415)
12	ETVC	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Francisco	(415)
12	South Bay	Gender Discussion Group	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408)
13	ETVC	Education Committee	Meets at 12:00	Lily's	(408)
13	ETVC	Education Faire	Starts at 2 PM	Lily's	(408)
13	....	Gay Pride Days	11 AM - 8 PM	San Jose	(408)
14	....	"	11 AM - 7 PM	San Jose	(408)
15	DVG	Social	Starts at 8 PM	Walnut Creek	(510)
17	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510)
18	ETVC	Couples Social	Starts at 8 PM	TBA	(415)
19	RGA	Social	Starts at 8 PM	San Jose	(408)
25	ETVC	Talent Night	Starts at 8 PM	Chez Mollet	(415)
26	RGA	Poker Social	Starts at 8 PM	Sunnyvale	(408)
26	Pac Ctr	Open Rap	Meets 8-10 PM	Berkeley	(510)
27	SGA	Dinner/Social	Starts at 8 PM	Sacramento	(916)
28	....	Gay Freedom Day Parade	10 AM - 5 PM	San Francisco	(415)

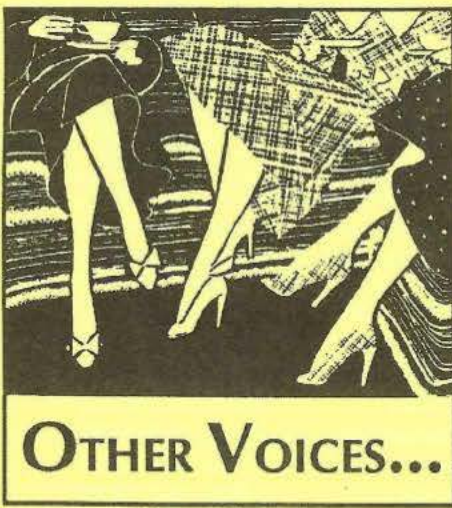
### OTHER GROUPS

**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 8PM 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) 849-4112.



(This issue we inaugurate a newsletter within the newsletter exclusively for Significant Others: Other Voices...If you are the spouse, lover, parent, child or friend of a transgendered person, this is your chance to offer your perspective on yourselves, us and the world. Send letters and articles to: "Other Voices, cloETVC, PO Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486"—Ed)

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## Significant Other Support Group

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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 others 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 they need support from their peers in dealing with their feelings about the TV/TS in their lives. 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 May 14 and June 11. You are all welcome with open arms. For more information call Ginny at [REDACTED]

## The Value of Support (reprinted from Devil Woman Newsletter)

Over the years, our country has seen a multitude of support groups emerge, as a variety of behaviors become known and identified. Among these support groups are many for the gender community as we all discover when we find our "first" organization. A plethora of groups from Tri-Ess to ETVC to DVG, just to name a few. And with the growth of gender support groups comes organizations for the wives and partners of these gender-concerned individuals. Many support groups for the wives and partners, called "significant others" or SO's in gender terminology, have proven of great value to those of us living with crossdressing in our lives. The support that we get helps not only the wife or partner to better understand crossdressing, but helps the crossdresser himself to get a more understanding wife.

Wives usually experience a variety of emotions when they first discover their husbands are crossdressers. FEAR: is he gay will he want a sex change; what about the children; what about his job? ANGER: why is this happening to me; why is he doing this? RESENTMENT: why is he spending so much money on clothes, activities, himself; why does he spend so much time on gender activities? EMBARRASSMENT: what will the neighbors think; what about our relatives, friends, etc.?

Coming to support groups gives the wives and partners a chance to express their feelings and find answers to their questions, or support, at least, where there may be no answers. Many wives have found through support groups that they are not alone and that many of their worst fears may be exaggerations.

It is important for crossdressers to be aware of these feelings and try to reassure and help their wives or partners understand their need to crossdress. Crossdressers may need to proceed slowly and not expect too much at once.

Many times when the crossdresser himself finds a support group, he is so relieved to find that he is not alone in this behavior that he goes ALL OUT - leaving his wife behind fearful, angry, and resentful.

Both need to communicate; both need to be aware of the value of compromise. Both need to be aware of the needs of the other and try to understand where the other is coming from. Otherwise, only heartache may lie ahead. —Julie

## When Your Woman Wants To Be A Person

In her recent article, Renee Chinquapin makes some astute observations about the limitations our culture places on the type of self-expression appropriate for each gender. However, I feel that her advice and attitudes reinforce destructive gender stereotypes.

While I agree with Chinquapin's basic message that a crossdresser needs sympathetic understanding from his lover, she glosses over the anxiety and confusion that many women feel when they learn about their mate's crossdressing. Her statement that the woman's first step is "to set aside her own anxieties" denies the validity of the woman's concerns at a time when she may feel scared and isolated. Since Chinquapin begins her article by acknowledging the challenges that a woman faces when she learns that her mate is a crossdresser, I am surprised that she does not mention that it can be helpful to discuss her reactions with others in the same situation, such as the ETVC SOS groups, or with a therapist who is familiar with gender issues. As Chinquapin points out, most women have been acculturated to focus on men's needs in relationships. It is dangerously easy to forget to take care of ourselves.

I do not think it is appropriate to refer to men as "lunkheads" or "lugheads." This is gender stereotyping.

I am appalled by Chinquapin's suggestion that a woman might ask for something like a new kitchen in return for her sympathetic understanding. Love is not something to be bargained with. The last thing a crossdresser needs is to be threatened with emotional abandonment. To suggest that any person in any relationship prey upon their partner's fears and insecurity is to advocate emotional treason.

I also feel compelled to take issue with the idea that a man might "help with the household." This implies that the household is the woman's responsibility. Men should not "help" with the household. They should do their share where they live.

Finally, I would like to mention that I, for one, like my lover's silky nightgowns just fine—as long as I don't have to wear them! —Sandy

## Point of View

Many wives and partners, after finding out about crossdressing, may in time find support in the form of "significant others" groups. Support groups provide encouragement, knowledge, hope, and eventually may lead to more tolerance and acceptance of gender lifestyles.

Thus it was with great dismay that I read an article, written by a wife who leads a support group in the Midwest, commenting on how transgendered males differ from

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"normal" males, particularly within intimate relationships. The writer suggests that transgendered males are not capable of "normal" relationships with their partners—a whopping generalization to be sure! In time, she concludes, the relationship can be satisfactory, but only if the partner will just keep in mind that the crossdresser is "different." I believe the author meant well, but unfortunately the article is not only biased and subjective, but also filled with generalizations and oversimplifications.

For a wife "new" to this lifestyle, such an article could be overwhelming and traumatic. I was more concerned than upset, however, and felt compelled to respond.

Just what is a "normal" male? One who is married, with 2.3 children, a dog, two cars, and living in suburbia? That model went out when the hippies started carousing on Haight and Ashbury. There is probably a wider dichotomy between so-called "normal" males (the jock vs. the nerd, for example) than between transgendered males and so-called "ordinary" guys.

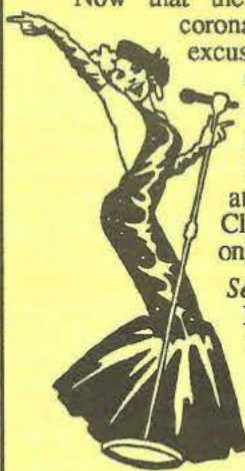
Many crossdressers I have met are able, quite well at times, to blend their male side with the feminine. When dressed, they appear softer, gentler, and more feminine; yet they still exude the power, authority and firmness of their male selves. There is something to be said, isn't there, for a deep voice—it gets the job done.

So rather than cause a rift between a wife and her husband by calling him "different," why not accent the positive—how his "male" mechanical ability to fix a car, dishwasher, lawn mower, etc., is not compromised, but enhanced, when this same ability is utilized to sew a dress, put on makeup and crochet a sweater (considered "feminine" pursuits). Society ironically does accept positively men's ability in the kitchen—but only by referring to them as "chefs." Women are "cooks." The difference in wording supposedly makes this activity acceptable, but we know it all "boils" (excuse the pun) down to the same thing, doesn't it? Articles such as the aforementioned can only lead to division and disharmony in a community which needs all the support it can get to achieve tolerance and understanding. Thus, I decided to respond—something which I really did not want to have to do.

-Julie

NOTE: The Tiffany Wives Support Group Outing is scheduled for October 23-26, 1992, in Provincetown, Mass. For more info write to TCNE, Inc., P.O. Box 2283, Woburn, MA 01888-0483.

### Ms. San Francisco Continental



Now that the glitter season of cotillions and coronations is over are you pining for an excuse to break out the sequins and rhinestones?

You're in luck, girl! On Saturday, May 16, you get to attend the first ever Miss San Francisco Continental at the California Club, 8 PM, 1750 Clay Street, San Francisco. Tickets are only \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door.

See the contestants...or be a contestant. It costs \$50 to enter but you could win as much as \$500. You don't gotta' sing. You don't gotta' dance. Just DARE to be beautiful! Tickets and application forms available at the Mother Lode, Post and Larkin, or call (415) [redacted]

3/7/92

Officers present: Martina, Rusty, Jane, Nancy Ann, Zia, Paulette, Lauren, Telzey, Evette.

Guests: Ginny, Roxanne, Jessica.

Previous minutes approved.

Nominations committee (Ginny, Donna) submitted list of candidates.

Gay Parade Committee (Nancy Ann & Rusty) have begun planning for June 28.

Secretary directed to write letters of thanks to Joe P. for fixing the Chez' PA system and Heather P. for compiling Library list.

Book Library now held by Ginny.

Noted by Ginny: Roxanne is now a board member of IFGE

#### Motions passed:

1. Up to \$250 be set aside for a mailing by the Education Committee to send the library list to all members.
2. No speaker be retained for a fee in excess of \$75 without ExCom approval.
3. Five free copies of Tapestry be given to Tiffany. After first 100 sold, she be allowed to purchase 10 @ \$5 each.
4. We will rent a booth for \$25 at the Circus Circus benefit Easter Eve at St. Paulus church.
5. We will send flowers valued up to \$100 to Renaissance for their 5th anniversary party.

4/4/92

Officers present: Martina, Jane, Vanessa, Lauren, Telzey, Paulette, Evette.

Guests: Donna, Cindy, Janet.

Previous minutes approved.

Martina gave officers ballots to select award recipients and vote for member of the year.

Donna, representing nominations committee, said nominations appear to be set. Ballots to be sent to membership before end of April.

Cindy and Martina will select (with ExCom approval) awards to be presented.

Cindy asked Outreach committee to present a list of publications in which we advertise. She will review and seek other possible pubs for our ETVC ad.

Evette reports that a rep from the Coalition for the Homeless will be present at our June social.

#### Motions Passed:

1. Each officer will give out one award at May social and have one vote for member of the year.
2. Each award recipient will get a lapel pin and certificate.
3. Individual ETVC newsletter articles will be released on disk or by electronic transfer to other publications on request.

### FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TRANSGENDER LAW AND EMPLOYMENT POLICY

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I find it very comforting to blame the victim for the tragedy, don't you?

Moments after getting past my shock about the attack on Cameron Tanner, I was trying to find reasons why he was jumped and why that won't ever happen to me. But I know what the truth is. I know that I am just as vulnerable as Cameron, even if I never go to 16th and Capp.

There are creeps everywhere, even in the suburbs. For example, some of our friends in RGA may recall an incident last year next to the Daybreak in Mountain View, where two men attacked a person in the parking lot. The Chez Mollet is in a quiet area, but there has been at least one car break-in on our meeting nights.

Paying attention to who is around you is the best thing you can do to avoid attack, according to Loretta Whitehead of SAFE (Safety Awareness For Everyone), an expert on personal safety, who spoke to us at the March social.

Among the worst things you can do is to walk around with your head down avoiding people's gaze. You are all but holding up a sign saying "victim." Be aware of your surroundings. Learn to truly see everyone around you and let them know that you see them with brief eye contact. Walk as though you belong and have purpose, not as though you are intimidated. Carry a whistle and while walking to your car have your keys in hand; they make a decent weapon if necessary. If you are getting bad feelings from someone nearby, you should trust those feelings and get out of there. If someone demands your money, do something surprising like throwing your wallet or purse at them and run away, or carry a dummy wallet and throw that. Scream and yell like a lunatic if an attack seems imminent. If attacked, use the hard parts on your body (nails, elbows, etc.) against an assailant's soft parts. Dropping to the ground on your back (yes, on your back), and yelling for help while kicking at his crotch with your heels (the spikier, the better) is also effective.

"Learning self-defense techniques is a very good idea," said Ms. Whitehead, "but if that isn't possible at least learn how to see what is going on around you."

THE EVER-IMPROVING *Cross-Talk* newsletter in LA really let the IFGE have it after issue #59, which featured 22 pages of text and photos describing IFGE Executive Director Merissa Sherill Lynn's reassignment surgery. The criticism was well deserved, since the *Tapestry* is supposed to be the voice of a national organization, not a vanity press for one individual.

But I'll say this about Merissa and IFGE: they do respond to criticism rather well. The latest was a vast improvement over recent ones that have been notably weak on transvestite material. Of course it helped a lot that #60 features our own Tiffany, Miss ETVC 1990, on the cover, and that a 3500 word story about ETVC was given good play (the two authors of the story really seem intelligent, too!). Frankly, I think our story could have been told in about a quarter of the length, but IFGE wanted a very long article. By the way, *Cross-Talk* is really worth its \$24 per year subscription price if you want to know what is going on around the country. Check it out by writing to *Cross-Talk*, P.O. Box 944 Woodland Hills, CA 91365.

SPEAKING OF THE VANITY PRESS: Billy Jean Jones wisely took my hint and has beefed up coverage of the outfits she's been wearing lately. Excellent. I love BJ's newsletter, *TV Guise*. It really is one of the most interesting, and funny, rags out there in our community. In the Feb./Mar. edition Billy Jean wonders why she was the only one from upper California, while all these LoCal gals turned up at San Antonio's Texas "T". BJ, c'mon, it's simple. They got nothing better to do! I mean, have you ever been to Peanuts? (Just kidding. I love the place. Really) Not to change the subject, but what was the meaning of the front page art in the Feb./Mar. TVG? Clothes draped on three crucifixes, including one outfit that looked suspiciously like a gown with a

pageant ribbon Miss ETVC might wear. And what was the deal with the whip and dog collar? A lot going on in that piece of work.

The ubiquitous Billy Jean is also writing a column for Joanne Roberts' new 'zine, *International Transcript*. This is a respectable magazine (how'd BJ get in it?) that is definitely going to compete with *Tapestry*. Joanne Roberts, who works out of Philly, can be very opinionated, but she is usually on the mark and has paid her dues. Good luck, Joanne, I'm pulling for you on this project.

SORRY I was unable to do a full book review on Marjorie Garber's astonishing, *Vested Interests*. Tax time. This one really is worth reading, it offers some truly incredible insights on how crossdressing has helped shape the culture in which we live.

BARRACUDA BAY is what department store folks call the cosmetics area and it's an apt title for some of the counters. Cosmetics offer a seductive promise. That's why so many of us have boxes of barely used cosmetics collecting dust.

I hate wasting money and that's why I love a recent book called *Don't Go to the Cosmetics Counter Without Me*, by Paula Begoun. This book reviews every major cosmetic line, both department store and drug store brands, and describes each line's major products. This is a terrific buyer's guide with all kinds of interesting product information you will find nowhere else. She tells you which ones work best, which stink, which are great buys and which are rip-offs. She also has a very good description of materials that are both good and bad for skin, depending on whether it is oily, dry or normal. It is well worth the \$11.



Bob Page at the Chez

**Bob Page (aka Patti Page)**

Another good friend of ETVC has succumbed to AIDS. On February 5, at age 47, Bob Page died at Kaiser Hospital. For many years, Bob was bartender at Chez Mollet. When the IFGE convention was held in San Francisco in 1989, Bob did the flower arrangements. For five years in a row he did the flower arrangements for our Cotillions as well.

He is survived by five sisters, four brothers and nephews and many friends.

**INFORMATION FOR THE FEMALE-TO-MALE CROSSDRESSER AND TRANSEXUAL**

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Thanks to the amazingly energetic Thalia Gravel our organization now has the finest Speaker's Bureau in the nation. From a modest start in 1988 when the group made five presentations to last year when our people spoke to more than 40 organizations and college audiences, Thalia has made the Speaker's Bureau into one of the most important forms of outreach our club has. Thalia has also been instrumental in professionalizing our telephone Hotline and was the reason ETVC was highlighted in a three-part series on transvestites in 1989 that was aired on KTVU-TV Channel 2.

*Q: How do people react to crossdressers when they come into their classroom or meeting place?*

Thalia Gravel: If a crossdresser slinks into a room and doesn't respond to the people around her then people will think that she's nuts. But if you walk in and engage people and are well-behaved then people think you're a rational person and they won't do anything dumb...they don't want to do or say anything that makes them seem less than socialized.

I've seen it so many times in classrooms. If we are calm, likable and direct the class won't allow someone to get out of line. If they do, the class will turn on them.

It's a cliché, but passing does come down to attitude. And what is passing? If you're 6'2" and rough-looking but you want people to call you Marilyn, they will as long as you are rational and appear well-behaved and fit into the role that you are presenting. On the other hand, you can have someone who is truly beautiful, but if they come off with an attitude expecting male privilege or if you act paranoid, that will overcome any beauty you have.

*Q: How do community organizations respond to our presenters?*

Thalia: I was giving a talk to a Rotary Club recently and they were asking a lot of really good questions...but I think what really interested them was the notion that someone's gender identity could be different from their body...I read to them from a survey done of ETVC members and told them that most of the people were white middle class, middle-aged men and that they were accountants and businessmen and so on and I joked that it sounded a lot like Rotary.

I think, too, that the respectability of the people (in ETVC) was surprising to them. They just didn't know that we weren't all down in the Tenderloin.

They were also really interested in how we compartmentalized our lives. They wanted to know how we manage our lives. They wanted to know how you can think like both a man and a woman.

*Q: Do you get any sense that people are thinking more about male and female roles?*

TG: There is no question that as women have moved into managerial roles that some men are starting to look at their assumptions a little more closely because they have to. We tend to catalyze things and bring some of these issues into focus.

On the other hand, we threaten some young men because they are very resentful of weird people who can get along in the world while they are having a hard time. That makes no sense to this kind of guy and makes him frustrated and mad.

*Q: What kind of questions do students ask?*

TG: You get a wide range but you often hear from women the question "Now that you have taken on this (female) role don't you find it a pain in the ass?" Women have to worry about security, about not being listened to and so on, things men don't give a thought to...then there is always one woman with feet as large as mine who'll ask "Oh, do you get yours at...?" Then there is always the bathroom question...They also find the fact that ETVC exists very interesting. That there is a social outlet that isn't some back alley comes as a surprise to many of them.

*Q: Do you notice whether people are more tolerant and accepting than say four years ago when you started the bureau?*

TG: No. I think they have their heads turned around after one of our presentations, but there is a lot of lack of knowledge and stereotypical thinking. Crossdressing is where gay liberation was 25 years ago...I'm sorry to say this, but we probably need to have a few martyrs if we are going to move forward...Also I think that transvestites have a much tougher (image to correct) than transsexuals. The reason is there are no TV models for success, but there have been TS models that the public knows about.

*Q: What has been the most rewarding part of being involved with public speaking?*

TG: I've seen amazing growth in some of the people who make our presentations...in the process of answering questions they learned something about themselves and that really is great.

*Note - When Thalia became head of the ETVC Speaker's Bureau, she put her career as a graphic artist on the back burner. Thanks to the recession, the burner is off. ETVC needs Thalia and Thalia needs work. If you can help with a job lead call her at (510) [REDACTED]*

-Ed.

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*To Hell with serious stuff this month...I feel like having some fun.*

Once upon a time there lived a woman who married for her second husband the most macho, rednecked and thoroughly unrelenting male that ever lived. He had two daughters, Transvestia and Transxuella, who, though female, were very much like him in all respects. The woman, on the other hand, had a son, Al, who was of the sweetest, kindest and gentlest disposition. The step-father could not stand this young man because he was

so pretty and delicate and not at all what he considered a "man" should be and also because he made the lack of femininity of his own daughters all the more apparent. He gave Al a job with the construction company he owned, doing the hardest, lowliest, most backbreaking work imaginable in the belief that this would make a man out of him. Al had to break out cement, tear out sheetrock, take debris to the dump, and do all manner of things for which he was not suited by nature.

Al bore all this patiently, not wanting to upset his mother by complaining to her about his lot. Though he did the job as best he could, everyone but his stepfather could tell that he just would never be like other men. Because of his more feminine nature, his stepsisters began to call him "Ella."

Al was allowed to wear only the most macho of clothes, and though he would much rather have worn the pretty dresses his mother wore, this was not possible. The sweetness and goodness that shone in his face, however, made him a hundred times more beautiful than his ugly stepsisters, could ever hope to be, however richly they might be dressed.

One day the Queen's daughter decided to give a very grand ball to which all the great people of the kingdom were invited. Transxuella and Transvestia were highly delighted to receive an invitation. Poor Al was not invited. At once they began to busy themselves trying to choose the gowns that they should wear to the ball, but having neither fashion sense nor skill with makeup, they had to at last ask Al for his help, as he knew their clothes and how to use their makeup better than they did.

At last the day of the ball arrived. Though Al was sad that he could not put on a fancy gown and go to the ball with his stepsisters he very sweetly offered to help them with their hair. As there was no one who could do it so well, they gladly consented. Yet even as he worked, they said unkind things to him.

"Ella, don't you wish that you could go to the ball? But then again I suppose you wouldn't fit in...unless you wore a dress. Hee, hee, hee."

Al made no answer. He went on arranging their hair till at last he had them looking as good as could be expected. Soon it was time for them to leave. He stood at the door waving good-bye as they were driven away in a rented limousine.

Al looked after them until they were far out of sight, then crept into his room and fell to sobbing. But Al, like all good crossdressers was watched over by a fairy godmother and as he sat there in tears, she appeared before him.

"My dear, dear child," said the strange little old lady, "why do you cry?"

"I wish—I wish I could—" Al could not finish speaking the words through his tears.

"You wish," said the fairy, "that you could go to the ball. Is that not so?"

"Yes! Oh Yes!" answered Al, sighing.

"Well, but promise to be a good girl, and I will see that you go."

She commanded Al to go out into the garage and get out his old VW Beetle. Al went obediently and backed the old piece of junk, backfiring all the way, out to the driveway; though he couldn't see how that would help him get to the ball. But then, lo and behold, his fairy godmother struck the beetle with her magic wand and before Al's delighted and unbelieving eyes it was transformed into a stretch limo.

As Al looked at the magnificent limousine, his kitten came scampering by, and with but a touch of the fairy godmother's magic wand was transformed into a chauffeur for the evening.

"Now," she said, "you have a limo fit to take you to the ball. Are you not pleased?"

"Oh, yes," cried Al, "but must I go as I am in this old pair of Levis and torn tee shirt?"

She smiled, once more waving her wand, and at that moment he became arrayed in an elegant formal length black velvet evening gown and was bedecked with diamond jewelry. The fairy then gave her a pair of the prettiest glass slippers in the world—size 12—and said as she stepped joyously into the carriage:

"One command only must you obey. No matter what happens, do not stay at the ball after midnight. If you do, your limo will instantly become a beetle again, your chauffeur a kitten, and you will once more be dressed in drab."

Al, now Genderella, promised to obey, and with a word to her chauffeur was driven away.

The queen's daughter, being told that a lovely, young princess that nobody knew had just arrived at the ball, went out to greet her. They exchanged royal greetings as Genderella stepped from the limousine and together they walked into the hall where the company was gathered. As she entered there fell over all a deep silence; everyone left off dancing and the violins ceased to play. On all sides ladies and gentlemen whispered, "How beautiful she is!"


The queen's daughter conducted her to a seat of honor, but as they sat there a strange stirring began in her heart. She felt strangely attracted to this princess in a way she had felt before only for men. It confused her. But soon, overcoming her perplexity, she led Genderella out to dance.

Genderella danced so beautifully that all admired her. She was kind and courteous, too, even to her ill-tempered stepsisters, who did not for a moment recognize in this lovely princess their little stepbrother. At last a splendid feast was served, but in the midst of it all, Genderella heard the clock strike the quarter hour before twelve. She arose and said farewell and then hastened away as fast as she could.

When she got back home, she found her godmother waiting. Gratefully she thanked the little old lady for what she had done, but as she was telling her all that had happened, her two sisters arrived home from the ball. Genderella's fairy godmother

*cont. on next page*

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quickly changed her brocaded gown back into tee shirt and jeans again and disappeared in a twinkling. In his old clothes once more, Al met them at the door.

"If you had only been at the ball," said Transvestia, "you would have seen the finest, most beautiful princess that you have ever laid eyes on. She was very kind to us, too, and showed us much attention. But a boy like you would know nothing of such loveliness."

Al asked if they knew the name of the princess.

"No," Transsexuala answered, "no one knows her name, but the queen's daughter would give half the kingdom to learn who she is!"

The next night the queen's daughter asked everyone again to a ball that she might once more see the beautiful princess. Al's sisters went, and when they were gone and the house was still, her godmother came as before and made Genderella ready. The dress she wore on the second night was even more lovely than the one she had worn before. The queen's daughter welcomed her with beaming eyes and stayed always by her side. Not a thing was less fine and splendid than before; not a person less kind and courteous. Indeed, the music was so beautiful, the movements of the dance such wonders of harmony and grace, the room so bright, and everything so full of joy, that Genderella never thought of how time was flying.

Suddenly the great clock of the palace began to strike twelve. Hearing this, Genderella fled. *One! Two! Three! Four!* Though nimbly as a deer she ran, she began to panic. *Five! Six! Seven! Eight!* She had just reached the broad steps outside the palace when one glass slipper fell from her foot. *Nine! Ten!* She dared not stop to pick it up. *Eleven! Twelve!* Suddenly her gown turned back into faded Levis, the limo disappeared, and the kitten ran off toward home.

As fast as she could, Genderella followed. All she had left of her finery was one not-so-little glass slipper.

In great dismay the queen's daughter ran out from the palace after her, but not a sign of her was to be seen. The guards at the gate said no splendid princess had passed them, only some guy in an old pair of Levis, who ran as if for his life.

The queen's daughter was very distraught and had a search made everywhere, but all she could find of the beautiful princess was the one glass slipper she had dropped. So large was it, that she knew none but the rightful owner could wear it. Hence, she gave orders that whoever could get her foot into it, should come to live with her at the palace.

They began by trying the slipper on the princesses, then on the duchesses, and then on the other ladies of the court; but not one of them did it fit. At last it was brought to Al's two stepsisters. Both tried it on, but of course their feet were much too small for the giant glass slipper. Al, meanwhile, stood by and watched what was going on. He knew his slipper and, when his sisters had failed, said meekly:

"Let me see if it will not fit me."

The sisters burst out laughing. "Could a man wear such a slipper!" they cried. But the messenger looked very earnestly at Al, and said the it was only fair that he be allowed to try it.

So, Al sat down and the gentleman held the slipper up to his foot and—behold!—it went on easily and fitted her like it was made for him, as of course it was. Transvestia and Transsexuala were dumb with amazement, but their amazement was greater still when Genderella pulled from under a chair the mate to that beautiful slipper! Thereupon, in came the fairy godmother, who touched Genderella's clothes with her wand, and—lo!—they became more magnificent than any she had worn before.

His stepsisters, finding Genderella to be the beautiful lady who had been so kind to them at the ball, threw themselves at her feet to beg pardon for all their ill treatment of her. Genderella lifted them up, kissed them, and said she forgave them with all her heart.

She was conducted to the queen's daughter, who thought her even more charming than ever, and soon invited Genderella to live with her at the palace. Genderella, who was as good as she was beautiful, gave her two sisters a home at court. Her goodness made them ashamed of themselves, so they tried to conquer their pride and ill-temper, and grow to be more feminine young ladies. And so they all lived happily ever after.

*What is the moral of the story, you ask?...Heck if I know. I just write the stuff.*

## Letters to the Editor (cont. from pg 3)

Dear Editor:

Hi, it's me, Elaine. I thought that I would throw a few lines your way.

Okay, early this morning my one neighbor came over and gave me this newspaper clipping. It was about this guy who was wearing a dress and jumped out in front of this truck (what a waste!). Anyway, my one neighbor thought that it was me! This one woman that lives here worries very much about me (she's about 67 years old). Gee, I only wished that I could of been there to stop that guy from killing himself. It bums me out.

This last friday I was at a friend's. My ex-girlfriend showed up. Well, she told me that her and her old man and some others were talking and came to the conclusion that she was the reason for me wearing dresses and fixing myself up: to fill the void of her loss. No, she is very wrong. I've always done this. I kept this hid for a long time. Anyway, I explained to her that I was always a transvestite, lived in a closet, and shared it with no one, and now, as of last year, I no longer live in a closet. I'm out and I'm staying out!!

Anyway I do have people who support me. My manager here at the apartments where I live thinks it's okay. I showed him a picture of me. He told me I looked good. Liked my legs. Said "I never would know you on the street if you walked by me. You could fool me!" He told me I can dress however I want. It's not up to him to judge me.

I went to the store last night all dressed up. It was great. Even went to the gas station to get a headlight put in. No one said nothing (my money's good!). It's just like Joan Sheldon said in the article Cindy Martin done. "...You can have fun with crossdressing." And you know something, Joan is right! It is fun! And wonderful!

Sincerely,

Elaine



### In the Closet? Why?

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Most of us are addicts.

We abuse alcohol, drugs, food, caffeine, nicotine, gambling, television and sex in an effort to avoid uncomfortable feelings. We may drink to cover up our shyness, eat to fill an inner emptiness, watch television to avoid relating to our families, or we may work ourselves to death trying to overcome an inner sense of inadequacy. Addiction is compulsive, destructive and insidious, because we try to deny its existence until it frays or destroys the fabric of our lives.

Is crossdressing just another addictive behavior? It can be, depending on how it is done.

Crossdressing is an unconscious attempt to contact, explore, enjoy and eventually integrate the disowned anima or animus archetypes, sources of great wisdom and energy in the shadow world of the unconscious. It is not shameful or depraved, but a wonderful means for enriching life with heretofore repressed creative and spiritual energies.

Crossdressing is addictive when kept locked behind closed doors in order to avoid deeper feelings, such as fear and envy of the opposite sex. Then it becomes a kinky, shameful secret, much the same as bingeing on ice cream after the family's gone to bed. Although, like adolescent masturbation, it may relieve stress and provide a forbidden fruit sort of kick, it can be as lonely, fetishistic, guilt ridden and abortive as any other addictive compulsion.

For crossdressing to be a healthy behavior, it needs to come out of the closet. It can take place in a Mardi Gras/ Halloween/ Gay Pride Parade context, or with other crossgendered folks at

semi-public gatherings, like RGA, ETVC or FTM support groups, or just out shopping with a friend or lover. The point is to learn to integrate the lessons that each crossdresser's anima/animus can teach. The animus might teach a female to walk tall, be assertive, and not worry what men think of her. The anima can teach a man to listen better, to treat himself and others more gently, and to smell the flowers.

When it is shared, when it goes public, when it becomes an accepted part of life, the way a lesbian or gay eventually comes out of the closet with pride and relief, then crossdressing loses its compulsivity and becomes the balancing agent it was meant to be. Men will begin to understand women and the womanly part of themselves. Women, literally standing in men's shoes, will begin to understand their own power and what it is really like to be a man.

What makes this so devilishly difficult is the rigid cultural myth that men and women are entirely different creatures, doomed to mutual misunderstanding and aggravation. The media reinforces this by endlessly bombarding us with images of macho men and their coy, busty, adoring women. One is either this or that, and anything in between is generally ridiculed, unless it is a charismatic millionaire like Michael Jackson, who can get away with gender bending. Talk shows do provide alternative gender role models, but unfortunately remind one more of traveling circus freak shows in a Mark Twain novel than respectful attempts at breaking down stereotypes.

Men and women *are* different. But we all have within us elements of the opposite gender, which is something to be proud of, not ashamed. There are as many ways to express the contragender aspect of self as there are individuals ready to embark on this scary but rewarding endeavor. Some folks express it through crossgender dressing and behavior. They always have and they always will, and it seems as viable a way as any other.

If, however, a crossdresser feels that she or he must drink or get stoned in order to feel authentic in the opposite gender role, it is time to seek support from friends, family, peers or a professional. To crossdress secretly while stoned or tipsy is like dressing in the closet with the light turned off, an addiction within an addiction, and a sad testament to the strength of society's internalized taboos. To distort the crossdressing experience with substance abuse invalidates and trivializes the lessons it has to teach about self-acceptance, self-love and integration.

Renee Chinquapin has a MA in Psychology, and welcomes gender clients in her Berkeley consulting practice. She specializes in working with couples, and in-depth Junian, feminist exploration of Self through dream work and owning projections.

# 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 - 10:30 pm

May 5

June 2

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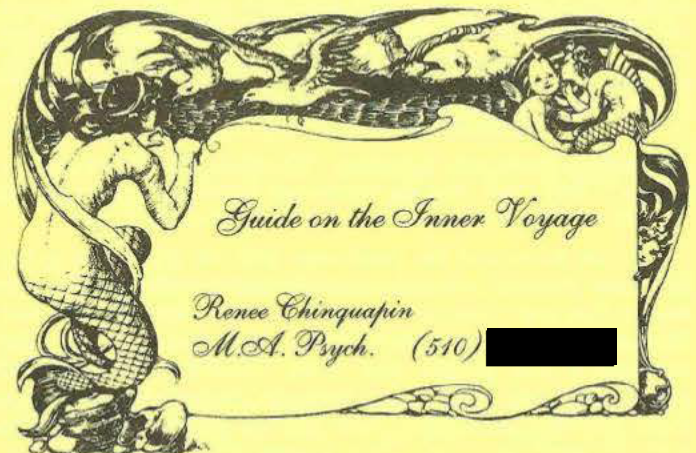
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Guide on the Inner Voyage

Renee Chinquapin  
M.A. Psych. (510) [redacted]

Many moons ago (to be exact, November) I started a series of articles about the Education Committee. This is part 2. To recap: The EdCom (as we are intimately called) has libraries. There is the Lending Library, consisting mainly of books, but also video and audio tapes that can be checked out from Ginny (until we can find another librarian). The flourishing Video Library consists of a vast collection of videos that can be reproduced for your purchase and enjoyment or enlightenment. Articles can be purchased from the growing, extensive Article Library that open the door to many complex questions and answers that we all have. Scrapbooks are available for your investigation at any social at the Chez Mollet. These are a collage of clippings concerning crossdressing, transsexuals, and drag performers. The ever expanding Audio Library has recordings of various speakers who have shared with us at Education events. These are for reproducing and purchase by ETVC members.

Many books have been added to the Lending Library, though many others have been lost or misplaced (sure would like to know what happened to them). Tapes, books, and articles—all have important, helpful and necessary information for your growth as a crossdresser or transsexual. Yes, transsexuals, too. Check them out!

Some time ago, I was given video tapes for the Lending Library. Here is a synopsis of a couple:

**HUSBANDS AND WIVES, BEST FRIENDS AND LOVERS,** by Donna E. Motley: Very informational, honest and open feedback from four couples openly sharing what it is like to be in a crossgendered relationship and how to sustain the relationship by taking the other person into consideration and developing into best friends.

**THE CHRISTINE JORGENSEN STORY,** starring John Hansen: A movie about George Jorgensen becoming Christine, the media's reaction, Chris's seclusion, and her struggle when she falls in love as a woman.

Other new videos:

**BOY, WHAT A GIRL!** Starring Tim Moore.

**SHUT MY BIG MOUTH!** starring Joe E. Brown.

**CHARLIE'S AUNT** (color) starring Charles Grodin.

Check them out, they're good!

**HELP IS NEEDED...**The Education Committee needs more members. This is a great opportunity to learn what makes ETVC tick. Tasks are varied: Phone calls to confirm businesses that welcome our business, notes on speakers, articles for the newsletter, and library keepers are just a few of the opportunities crying out for your involvement—opportunities for feelings of accomplishment and pride! Talk to Evette, Paulette, Martina or Ginny and tell them you want to help. Also, be a part of the decision-making process by attending Education Committee meetings each month (May 16, June 13 - 2 PM). We look forward to meeting you!

We have a faithful promoter in our midst that must be recognized. She advertises our events and writes articles on the ones we've had. Thank you, dear sister, and thank your for TV GUISE. Three cheers for Billy Jean!! Give her a hug!

That's it for now. I hope I will be able to continue this in the future, but this is my final term as co-chair. Due to family situations I cannot run for office again. I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who assisted me during my term. Thank you Martina, Zia, Rhonda, Jessica, Geri, Bridgette, Ralph Judd, Susan, Melanie, Mary Bernice (you are missed), Rusty, Ginny, Lauren, Vanessa, all the speakers who showed up, obviously Margo, and my co, Evette. Thank you to all those I did not mention and I hope you all will support the incoming officers as well. I do want to continue this series and finish the Tip Sheet, however. So, I won't be gone completely.

Here are some thoughts from Harry Benjamin:

It's not a sex change operation,  
but gender confirmation surgery.  
Wholeness is achieved when the gender  
of the body joins the gender of the mind.  
Sex is what you see,  
Gender is what you feel;  
comfort with each is necessary for happiness.

**J2CP Information Services**

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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-to-M, 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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- referrals & resources

WHEN IT'S SAFE ENOUGH TO TELL THE TRUTH, FREEDOM CAN FOLLOW.

A lot of publicity type blurbs this issue. We have for sale the new TV/TS Tapestry magazine, #60, with Miss ETVC 1990, Tiffany, on the cover and features about ETVC inside. Cindy and Roxanne neatly describe who we are and what we do. Tiffany tells about her life and the Cotillion, followed by a large selection of pictures, some quite old, but good. I've already had a call and two letters from people in the East who plan to visit S.F. and ETVC because of this story. Buy your copy—we have lots!—at the end-of-the-month social.

Also from IFGE, and available from me, is a new book and video list. Dr. Sheila Kirk has a revised and updated edition of her book on hormones. Vested Interests: Cross-dressing and Cultural Anxiety by Marjorie Garber, a fascinating and hard to find book, is available for \$37.50. Four new instructional tapes join Metamorphosis—Man Into Woman and Husbands and Wives, Best Friends and Lovers. Along with IFGE's other books and magazines, there's no reason for anyone to say she can't find anything interesting and useful to read about our favorite hobby.

A call from Kat Sunlove at the Berkeley Spectator announces their new 900 number voice mail service, called the "Spectator's Lust Connection." Now I have a place to refer some of the confused callers on our Hotline.

From deep in Texas comes "Counterparts," announcing "a new custom clothing design service exclusively for crossdressers!" A hit at the Texas T Party, Faye Johnston offers fast, personalized, custom-made and guaranteed to fit women's apparel to all crossdressers by mail and telephone. She claims to be able to make any garment to fit any body, anywhere, at a reasonable

price. Alterations and fashion guidance, too! Ask me for her information sheet or contact: Ms. Faye Johnston, Suite 136, 1209 Northwest Hwy., Garland, TX 75041 (214) 327-1853.

It's not too late to pick up their flyers and plan to go to the 10th annual "Be All You Want To Be" in Detroit, June 11-14 (Crossroads, P.O. Box 1245, Royal Oak, MI 48068). Be sure to clip out and include their ad from this newsletter if you're going to the 18th Fantasia Fair, in Provincetown, Oct. 16-25 (Outreach Institute, 405 Western Ave., Suite 345, South Portland ME 04106). When you do, Fantasia donates \$20 to ETVC. Closer to home, Joan Sheldon's next Pajaro Dunes Weekend will be sometime between June 1st and 12th. She will again have a house at Tahoe the last 2 weeks of August. Friends, activities, food. Write her, P.O. Box 7761, San Jose, CA 95150, or find her at the ETVC Thursday social. Just head for the laughter.

Thanks to the three people who wrote and asked for the Boulton and Park Society "Transgender Research Questionnaire." The rest of you, see me at ETVC for your copy. Time is running out. You DO want to be part of this survey.

Back issues of the ETVC newsletter, to 1985, are still available, originals or copies, \$1.00 each. Write the ETVC P.O. Box.

**International Foundation for Gender Education,  
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









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CONGRATULATIONS are in order for the IMPERIAL COURTS of San Francisco, San Jose and Stockton and ETVC members who have received titles.

February 22, residents of the counties of San Francisco, San Mateo and Marin elected Her Imperial Majesty Velveeta Mozzarella Empress and His Imperial Majesty Bruce Harrellson Emperor. ETVC was represented by over fifteen members who presented themselves to Empress XXV Caress and Emperor XIX Michael. Congratulations on your great year, and may the reign of Velveeta and Bruce be as glorious.

At this same coronation our own Nancy Ann Martine was elevated to the title, "Madame Ambassador of Outreach." Ginny ALSO received a title ("Dame to the Order of the Garter").

Residents of Santa Clara County elected Her Imperial Majesty Cheri Empress and His Imperial Majesty Jim Emperor (each on a "yes" or "no" vote) at the Royal Lion Monarchy Coronation in San Jose, February 29. Tiffany, Bridgette, Vanessa (Swiss), Terri, my mother and myself represented ETVC. Tiffany's "brother" performed in Cheri's presentation. CONGRATULATIONS Sue and Sammi on your terrific year, and may the reign of Cheri and Jim be as splendid.

By the time you read this, Tiffany and I will have received the titles "Ambassador to ETVC" and "Ambassador to RGA" at the RLM Investiture. Tiffany has also been name "Ambassador to Alameda" by the LA court.

Residents of San Joaquin County elected Her Imperial Majesty Ruby Empress and His Imperial Majesty Brice, AKA Leanne, Emperor at the I.S.J.D.E. Coronation on March 21. ETVC was well represented by Terri, Tiffany, Bridgette, my mother and myself. CONGRATULATIONS Empress XVII Chantilly and Emperor XVIII Greg on your "'Udderly' Great Year" (as expressed by Ruby), and may the reign of Ruby and Leanne be udderly moovalous.

And let's not forget the elections held March 28 by the Sacramento Gender Association (SGA) at Joseph's Town &



A brace of ETVC beauties (Cindy, Zia, Telzey) grace S.F. Court Coronation  
Photo: Joe [REDACTED]

Country Restaurant in Sacramento. Elected were: President: Glenda; Vice-President: Amanda; Secretary: Christina; Treasurer: Helen; Security Officer: Chrissie; Education: Barbara; Entertainment/Photo: Gwen. Congratulations to all.

**Nominations**

At the February Executive Committee meeting we named our 1992 nominations Committee. At the March Social Donna presented nominates for office for the new membership year. The nominations include:

- PRESIDENT: Cindy
- VICE-PRESIDENT: Rusty
- TREASURER: Nancy Ann
- SECRETARY: Jane
- SOCIAL ACTIVITIES: Pam, Cheryl
- OUTREACH: Telzey, Lauren, Melissa
- EDUCATION: Evette, Martina

Why is my name not next to Cindy's? I feel that ETVC needs a new leader and the Education Committee needs me.

**Comments?**

Send them to P.O. Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486. If they concern an opinion expressed in the newsletter, write *Attention: Editor*. If they concern other points, address them to the officer(s) you feel has/have a need to know. Your submission has a good chance of publication if it is concise, well written and less than one column.

**Event Information**

Do you have a special event in mind? Let me know in advance and I will try to include it on my outgoing message tape. Events in the Santa Clara Valley will be favored, but what goes on the tape is my prerogative. The tape is updated every week, usually twice, sometimes daily. Please, don't be surprised if I pick up the phone, almost certain 6-7 PM. "Thank-you's" appreciated. ♡



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