



ETVC

Educational TV Channel Newsletter

VOLUME SEVEN, NUMBER 2 SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER, 1988

Kaye's Kloset



Good News... Bad News...

June 26th was a glorious day in San Francisco for the annual Gay Freedom Day Parade and subsequent rally at the Civic Center. Virtually hundreds of thousands of spectators lined the parade route and nearly as many may have passed through the tree lined malls of the civic center.

As I waded through the crowd in search of the ETVC booth, I suddenly saw it from afar. . . There, in all its glory, was a large lavender header sign which read in big white letters "TRANSVESTITES-TRANSSEXUALS." Below the table portion, again in large block letters read "E.T.V.C." It was a good looking booth with very good looking ETVC representatives in it, behind it and around it. The passersby were stopping and gathering information for themselves, lovers and friends. They were asking lots of questions and offering kind remarks about us and our mission. I'm sure the tourists, who couldn't pass by without taking a picture or two, will astonish their friends back in Peoria with their vacation photos. I was very proud of ETVC.

As the day wore on, I left the booth to explore other groups and their messages. Upon my return I paused under the shade of a tree across from our booth, looked over, and just about went into cardiac arrest! There, under our banner, in our booth, among some of our finest examples of crossdressers was an ETVC member (who shall remain unnamed) proceeding to remove her wig, dress, slip, bra and falsies. Then standing there in only see-through panty hose, this particular member proceeded to get dressed into his male clothing as if the world was his own personal changing room.

It was obvious that those near him were mortified and embarrassed by this display of inappropriate behavior and poor taste. People walking past stopped dead in their tracks, and I distinctly heard several snide remarks, chuckles and comments. At that moment I, too, was embarrassed for ETVC and myself as a very serious crossdresser.

In contrast to some of the outrageous costumes or lack thereof, this incident may pale by comparison. However, ETVC is not a part of the radical fringe of the gay or eccentric communities, but serves as the rational voice of over three hundred members who are good human beings struggling for acceptance.

My point in bringing this issue to the attention of our

ETVC MARCHES PROUDLY IN SAN FRANCISCO



ETVC members were enthusiastically received by the crowd of more than 150,000 spectators at the Gay Freedom Celebration.

membership is to remind us all, that we have enough difficulties in getting society to validate us and accept our behavior. Our battle for acceptance is never ending, and displays such as that which I and hundreds of others had the misfortune to witness, only serves to set back our cause.

I am extremely proud to be an officer and longtime member of ETVC. Moreover, I am proud to be a crossdresser, and I work very hard to set a good example on behalf of my sister members and all crossdressers at large. Only by doing so, can we expect to gain the dignity and respect of society.

Therefore, I am sincerely requesting all members to maintain a high level of taste and decorum whenever you are publicly representing or displaying your affiliation with ETVC.

What one does in her personal life is her own business; but one must remember that anything one does in public, good and bad alike, reflects on us all as crossdressers. We are constantly being judged and assessed by society, and heaven knows we have enough problems without adding fuel to the fire.

In keeping with my thoughts on this subject, I suggest that each member carefully read and consider Section II, Paragraph E, of the ETVC Bylaws, which deals with the involuntary termination of membership for misconduct.

I would be interested in your feelings and comments relative to this issue. Please let me hear from you.

Lastly, please recall the famous words of John Housema: "We get respect the old fashioned way. . . . We earn it!"



SEPTEMBER PINK SALE

Looking for something special to wear to the next ETVC social? Tired of paying premium prices at Nordstroms and Macys? Come to our one-night-only September Pink Sale to shop for many fine items at prices below wholesale, in fact lower than thrift store prices. Or join the excitement of our Fashion Auction.

Yes, we are having an auction and sale to raise funds for a club computer. Many of our members own personal computers but we think it's time for ETVC to have it's own. The computer will be used by many of the officers so that we can be even more productive.

Are you planning a purge? Or do you have something that didn't fit or look just right? Come to the ETVC Feminine Flea Market and sell your surplus. Sixty percent will go toward a computer and the rest is yours. (You'll probably spend your profits at other tables.) Or if you will donate your excess baggage (clothing, shoes, etc.) to us we will sell it at the ETVC blue-light special table or auction it off to the highest bidder.

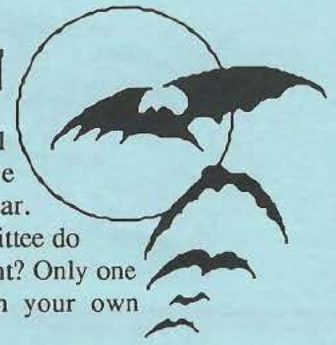
Thursday night September 22 8pm at the Chez Mollet, 527 Bryant Street. \$3 for members, \$5 for guests..

COLOR AND CLOTHING

Our friend, Gratia will show us what a difference the proper colors can make in developing your wardrobe. Learn about which colors are right for to bring out your best. Come join us at the Chez for an informative evening. Saturday September 17th from 4 - 6 PM. Stay and join us for dinner. \$3 for members and guests.



OCTOBER HALLOWEEN



Halloween, our most successful social of the year. The crossdressers night of the year. What will the new social committee do to top last years wonderful event? Only one way to find out—be there in your own fantastic outfit.

Let your imagination run wild and live out your most fantastic feminine dreams. Be a good witch, a bad witch, a super-woman, a bag lady, a nurse, a vampire.



This years contest will award prizes for the Most Original, Most Beautiful Fantasy (for all you beautiful creatures out there) and Most Ghoulish (Girlish? Let your ghoulish figure show).

Get an early start on our favorite holiday, come enjoy our tricks and treats on October 28th 8pm at the Chez Mollet Haunted Castle, 527 Bryant Street.

\$5 for members and \$8 for guests.

MAKE-UP SESSION

One of the fine theatrical make-up artists from Richard Stead Enterprises of San Francisco will demonstrate many of the "tricks of the trade" in creating a feminine appearance. Anything from a finished feminine look to camp drag to fantasy creations can be yours. Saturday October 15th from 4 - 6 PM. Stay and join us for dinner. \$3 for members and guests.

Chez Mollet PRIME RIB

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(BTWN. 3rd & 4th STS. • 2 BLOCKS
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\$9.95



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\$4.25

Plus our regular brunch menu

PARTIES ACCOMMODATED
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COUPLES GROUP

The couples group will meet on September 22nd in Foster City and on October 20th in San Francisco. Come join us for a wonderful evening at the next Couples Group. Please bring a snack, casserole or drink to share with all. For more information call Ginny at her new number, (415) [REDACTED]

SAN JOSE RAP GROUP ETVC & RGA

Come and join us. We'll talk about most anything. Why do we crossdress? Is your feminine persona different? Would you like to swap tips on make-up or clothing or shopping.

We are moving the Rap Group from Wednesday at the Billie DeFrank Center to Monday at the New Community of Faith Church at 6350 Rainbow Drive. The next meetings will be September 12th and October 10th from 8-10 pm. Please call Kim at (408) [REDACTED] or Martina at (408) [REDACTED]



TV/TS/TG GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES



A CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	WHO	WHAT	WHERE	OTHER INFORMATION
SEPTEMBER 1988				
2	RGA	Social	San Jose	(408) 988-0790 Starts at 8 PM
5	ETVC	Rap Group	Willits	(707) 459-9228 Meets 7 - 9 PM
6	Dressing Up	Oakland	(415) 893-0123 7 - 9 PM
6	Pac Ctr	TS Support	Berkeley	(415) 841-6224 Meets 8 - 10 PM
7	Pac Ctr	Open Rap	Berkeley	(415) 841-6224 Meets 8 - 10 PM
8	ETVC	Significant Others Support	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499 Meets 8 - 10 PM
9	ETVC	Poker Social	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499 Starts at 8 PM
10	ETVC	Executive Committee	Foster City	(415) 664-1499 Starts at 8 PM
12	ETVC	Rap Group	San Jose	(408) 243-3919 Meets 8 - 10 PM
12	ETVC	Outreach Committee	Oakland	(415) 465-5701 Starts at 8 PM
13	ETVC	Social Committee	Oakland	(408) 984-5619 Starts at 7:30 PM
13	Pac Ctr	TS Support	Berkeley	(415) 841-6224 Meets 8 - 10 PM
15	ETVC	Newsletter Committee	Redwood City	(415) 367-0986 Meets 7 - 10 PM
16	RGA	Social	San Jose	(408) 988-0790 Starts at 8 PM
20	Pac Ctr	TS Support	Berkeley	(415) 841-6224 Meets 8 - 10 PM
20	ETVC	IFGE Convention Committee	San Francisco	(415) 664-1499 Meets 7 - 10 PM
22	ETVC	Couples Social	Foster City	(415) 664-1499 Starts at 8 PM
24	SGA	Social	Sacramento	(916) 362-8131 Starts at 8 PM
27	Pac Ctr	TS Support	Berkeley	(415) 841-6224 Meets 8 - 10 PM
28	ETVC	Sale & Auction	Chez Mollet	(415) 664-1499 Starts at 8 PM
29	Pac Ctr	Open Rap	Berkeley	(415) 841-6224 Meets 8 - 10 PM
30	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Berkeley	(415) 841-6224 Meets 8 - 10 PM
OCTOBER 1988				
3	ETVC	Outreach Committee	San Jose	(408) 243-3919 Starts at 8 PM
3	ETVC	Rap Group	Willits	(707) 459-9228 Meets 7 - 9 PM
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4	Pac Ctr	TS Support	Berkeley	(415) 841-6224 Meets 8 - 10 PM
7	RGA	Social	San Jose	(408) 988-0790 Starts at 8 PM
8	ETVC	Executive Committee	TBA	(415) 664-1499 Starts at 8 PM
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25	Pac Ctr	TS Support	Berkeley	(415) 841-6224 Meets 8 - 10 PM
26	Pac Ctr	Open Rap	Berkeley	(415) 841-6224 Meets 8 - 10 PM
27	ETVC	Halloween	Chez Mollet	(415) 664-1499 Starts at 8 PM
28	Pac Ctr	TV/TS Rap	Berkeley	(415) 841-6224 Meets 8 - 10 PM

OTHER GROUPS

Pacific Center for Human Growth, a counseling-oriented growth center, sponsors drop-in support groups for transsexuals each Tuesday at 8:00 PM. All-inclusive gender support groups meet 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.

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) meets the 4th Saturday of each month at Lambda Community Center, 1931 L Street, Sacramento, CA. Correspondence should be sent to: Sacramento Gender Association, c/o Stephanie Moellman, 10424 Joel Lane, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670. Call 916-362-8131 for more information about meeting times.

The Tenderloin Self Help Centre meets every Wednesday from 4-6 PM at 191 Golden Gate (at Leavenworth), San Francisco, CA. This is a project of the Central City Community Hospitality House funded by the Community Mental Health Services. Call (415) 554-0518 for details.

<Reaching Out>

Wow! It has been a busy few weeks since the last outreach column. In that time we have gotten the beginnings of an Outreach Committee together, begun a Speakers' Bureau project in earnest and participated in two very public events.

The biggest outreach event of the year, thus far, took place on June 26 at the San Francisco Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day Parade and Celebration. Over 150,000 parade spectators saw ETVC's contingent of three Miss ETVCs waving and smiling at the crowd from a convertible as we marched down Market Street with a marching group of members. Kela, Barbara B. and Kimberly Ann were greeted with great enthusiasm and good cheer. The response was so positive that our safety monitors, Thalia, Telzey, Barbara P. and Teri were able to be charming and have fun with the crowd. The rest of the contingent included Lynne, Kim, Kristyn and her dog, and our banner girls, Vanessa and Martina.

Meanwhile, back at the Civic Center Plaza the famous lavender and violet ETVC booth had been assembled by Gloria and crew. Our able staff of Nancy Ann, Ginny, Evelyn, Belinda and others dispensed information, answered questions and presented ETVC to the assembled multitude. Later they were joined by the parade contingent and all totalled, over 30 members participated in informing San Francisco about gender issues. Thank you, everyone!

The Outreach Committee has been working on forming a Speakers' Bureau to get our members out educating society through speaking at colleges, before professional groups and to the media. Well, no sooner had Evelyn volunteered to take this on as a subcommittee than we had an opportunity to appear on KGO's "Good Morning, Bay Area!" New member Kristyn had contacted Channel 7 after she saw a show featuring Sister Mary Elizabeth. The producers of GMBA were interested and asked Kristyn to set a date. She came to the Outreach Committee for some support. Very quickly a date was set (July 26), and Kristyn and Renee were on for the major part of an hour long show along with host, Susan Sikora, and therapist, Isadora Alman. The audience response was generally quite favorable and ETVC was mentioned on the air and listed on the Information Hotline the show features. ETVC members Evelyn, Martina and Thalia were in the audience, and we each talked to several people before and after the show. Isadora Alman was very forthright and supportive, and she provided good context for the personal information Kristyn and Renee gave during the show.

If you are interested in speaking or helping prepare media materials, talk to Evelyn.

Other activities are proceeding. Gloria, with help from Martina and Marie, is working hard to update the International Support Group Directory. If you travel or are curious about groups in

>Reaching In<

other parts of the country or the planet, we currently have the most complete and up-to-date directory. If you'd like to help with this important reference, see Gloria. Martina and Lauren are continuing their valuable library work. New tapes and articles are needed, and help is always appreciated. Contact Martina about books and articles, and Lauren about videos.

A new, better Tip Sheet is in the works. Let's have your input! Any store, service, therapist or whatever that you think should be passed along to the membership should be in the Tip Sheet. We hope to have two or more members take on the Tip Sheet as their own project. Please help. Contact Kim now.

The other area where we need help is in advertising and public relations. We need writers! If you'd like to write something for publication, press releases, co-ordinate some advertising or help with recruitment and publicity, we want YOU!

Not all tasks are big time-consuming projects. One night a month can mean a lot. We are always stuffing envelopes or working on small parts of projects. So stop by an outreach meeting, meet some other people who are involved, and have some fun as part of this exciting committee. Contact anyone mentioned above at a social, or call Thalia at (415) [REDACTED] or Kim at (408) [REDACTED]. We would love to have you.

Thanks, Thalia & Kim

The Transsexual Phenomenon

by Harry Benjamin

The Outreach Institute announces the reprinting of this classic publication on gender issues. This major work on transsexualism, which includes 16 pages of photos associated with important case histories, and well the known Benjamin Scale of Gender Shift, is available in limited numbers.

The glossy cover edition is priced at \$39.95 and the standard edition costs \$35.95. Please add \$3.50 for postage and handling.

Please make money orders payable to:



The Outreach Institute
Kenmore Station, Box 368
Boston, MA 02215



This project is being supported in part by the Renaissance Educational Foundation.

For a listing of our Article Library (\$1), Video Library (Free), or our International Support Group Directory (\$2) please write to: ETVC - Outreach Committee, Box 6486, San Francisco, CA 94101.

Next Outreach Meetings: September 12th-Oakland & October 3rd-San Jose
Call Thalia-(415) [REDACTED] or Kim-(408) [REDACTED] for more information.

GOOD MORNING, BAY AREA

"Good Morning, Bay Area" - the local, live TV talk show blessed our community recently with a half hour interview with Renee and Kristyn. As usual, Susan Sakora was a cordial, yet cogent moderator giving our girls a real opportunity to represent one facet of our community. The focus was on men, with female mates, who dress as women. Kristyn's daughter, Kelly, appeared live, and Renee's mate, "Doris", called in on the phone to enrich the presentation. Isadora Alman, a local counselor with her own talk show on KRQR, presented a very supportive view of our sub-culture, citing typical reasons why men crossdress, such as sexual gratification and fantasy, the attention the drag queen gets, the specific social treatment the TS gets, etc.

The audience and callers were very supportive of Kristyn and Renee

and the avocation they have chosen, but needed special tutoring on the availability of clothing and shoes. Kristyn and Renee spoke of their experiences at home and abroad relating to their families and the public at large. They shared how long they had been "out" and when they told their families.

Several ETVC members were in the audience for support, an experience I highly recommend. Appearing on or attending this type of show rivals the best adventures when dressed. The opportunities come up quickly, and notification is by phone tree. If you are interested contact Kim Hellman or any ETVC officer.

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COMMENTS FROM A NEWCOMER by Marie

I wonder how many of you reading this have thought of coming to an ETVC activity, but for one reason or another have been holding back? I'm very new to ETVC and public cross-dressing, and so I thought it might help to describe a few of my first impressions while they are still fresh in my mind. Like many, it took me a while to get out of the closet and stop making late night runs in drag to the Post Office. I had been reading the ETVC Newsletter on and off and finally decided to go to one of the monthly Chez Mollet evenings - in my sports jacket and slacks, of course! I figured that if I had risked being mugged in Buenos Aires and Veracruz and nearly cracked up in a plane in the Brazilian forest, I could get to an ETVC social gathering and probably not be any the worse for wear. So, about three months ago, I went.

Inside the front door at Chez Mollet and standing at the bar were four apparent TV's. I was surprised that they spoke in normal men's voices. I don't know what I expected - lots of lisping with limp wrists, possibly. Well, that wasn't the case. The four were very friendly and not at all seductive (which was one of my other fears, among many). They were warmly supportive of my being there, took time out of their conversation to explain a few things and let me go on my way to the back room where the main activity was happening. The non-TV barflies and restaurant patrons seemed to take little notice of the cross-dressers, or if they did notice, were not antagonistic. TV's are simply a part of the way of life at the Chez.

I was greeted by Ginnie, a woman member who seems to devote more time to the organization than any single TV. After collecting my cover charge (they have to pay a fee to rent the back room at the Chez), she turned me over to Lorraine, one of the TV members who chatted with me for most of the time I was there and made every effort to have me be comfortable. Lorraine has since turned out to be a good friend. I was encouraged by her and others to come dressed at some future time, but there were no high pressure tactics.

In coming from the "outside world" for the first time, the dimly lighted back room and the "dressed" TV's collectively rendered a bizarre atmosphere. Many of those present were obviously men wearing women's clothing. With others the question of gender was outwardly less clear, and still others looked and acted like women until they spoke. And then, there's the issue of names! Everyone has a female name. Nancy Ann, a TV, says "Wait until you have to learn all of the male names as well!"

Like I think most of us are, I am still burdened with the attitude that men should not be prancing around in dresses, makeup and wigs, and that attitude stopped me from fully appreciating the harmless and joy-giving activity that was taking place. Since that first time I have come to appreciate that many of the more extroverted members are simply using the opportunities that ETVC provides to enjoy their cross-dressing regardless of how they may appear to others, or what others may think. Several members have emphasized to me repeatedly that ETVC is there to have fun! I have come now to envy the ability of many members to do just that, and in a manner that is seemingly so guilt-free. I can only hope that I will be able to do so as well!

Comments from a Newcomer - to be continued next issue!

TO PASS OR NOT TO PASS. Some Thoughts by JoAnn Roberts

Reprinted from The Opinion Page, Renaissance News, Vol 2, No. 4

I so often hear from TV sisters about how they went out somewhere and "passed". They are so excited that they were able to be out in public and be themselves that I just don't have the heart to tell them the truth. The truth is that very, very few TVs are able to pass. What is happening is that the girls are confusing social tolerance or indifference with being accepted as a female. More often than not, John Q. and Jane Q. Public are too wrapped up in their own worlds to notice us as we "pass" by them. If we had done a good job of makeup and our clothing is appropriate for the time and season, they will assume that we are what we appear to be: women. That, however, is not passing as a female. One slip is all it takes to jar the attention of the casual observer into the realization that something is amiss, and that you ain't a miss.

At the risk of creating unnecessary labels, one can postulate a series of stages which, with a great deal of practice, can lead to passing. The first stage is one which I just described, being casually mistaken as a female. The next stage is when your appearance can withstand close scrutiny, say from within two feet of another person. The third stage is more difficult, but obtainable for many, and that is a brief conversation. If you can reach stage three you're doing great and you probably are one of those people who really can "pass". The next obvious stage is to be able to engage in prolonged conversation and not have your listener "read" you. The last and ultimate stage occurs when you are accepted for a female regardless of your mode of dress.

Now think about this. It takes most transsexuals about two years of living full time as a woman to develop their new personas. They spend 24 hours a day working on their movements, actions, speech patterns, etc., so that they will be able to live and work within our society and be accepted as a female. Isn't it a little presumptuous to assume that a TV who gets out in public once or twice a year, or even once or twice a month, is passing? I have had sisters recount to me their exploits in shopping malls or downtown areas and I tell you they would not fool my three year old niece into thinking they were women.

So what happens? They delude themselves into believing that they can now go anywhere, anytime when crossdressed. And, the next time they get "read", they're crushed.

The goal that both TVs and TSs should be working toward is one of self-confidence and internal validation. I have heard stories about TVs who "look down" upon those who do not appear totally feminine and I have heard stories about TSs who have committed suicide because they could not make the grade as a woman. In both cases these people are overlooking the more important aspect of self worth. Your value as a human being is intrinsic and not in any way related to whether or not you can pass.

Being the best you can be is a laudable goal in any endeavor, but "passing" should not be the end all of your existence. The question to ask is, "Can I pass for a Human Being?" When the answer is "YES", then be proud of yourself!

THE CURRENT PSYCHIATRIC VIEWS OF CROSSDRESSERS

Some of the latest views on transvestism of the psychiatric profession were recently presented at the ETVC meeting place, the Chez Mollet, by Dr. Paul Walker. Dr. Walker, a previous president of the Harry S. Benjamin Society, was the chairman of the committee that developed the Standards of Care.

He said, "Transvestism or crossdressing in of itself is not a mental disorder. It is a disorder if it is causing stress or dysfunction".

Before proceeding, three definitions are needed here to clarify the subject.

Transgenderist (TG) is one who lives in the opposite gender, "as a man or as a woman" depending on your genetic sex, a large part or most of the time.

Fetishism is the fixation or erotic interest on a part of the body or and article of clothing.

Eroticism is the love life in any and all of its physical or mental manifestations.

Dr. Walker said, "almost all men who crossdress are 'regular' transvestites. If it does not turn you on sexually however, you are not a transvestite. If the clothing augments sexual arousal and enjoyment, whether you are wearing them or your partner is wearing them, if the two people are still relating to each other as whole human beings, then there is no mental disorder.

Fetishistic transvestism however, is considered a mental disorder. The rationale is that fetishistic sexual arousal displaces the human being... just takes part of the human being into consideration. People with a foot fetish are only making love to the feet, not the whole person. This is considered in the same ball park as someone who's sexual desires, urges, and arousal are focused on an article of clothing rather than the partner, the clothing displaces the partner.

The psychiatric professionals job is to look at why men are crossdressing and what role does the dressing play for the individual. For example: sexual or recreational is not a "sick" reason; tension reduction is not a "sick" reason; however, displacing other people, avoiding other people, avoiding reality, escaping feelings is "sick". Drinking alcohol or using drugs is not sick in of itself, if you can handle it. But if 3/4 of your income is going to booze or drugs, you have a problem. If your actions are causing you jobs and spouses, you have a problem. Wearing a dress in not sick, but if all the family income is going to your wardrobe there is a problem, if the wardrobe is costing you, your family and friends, there is a problem.

Transsexualism is classified as a disorder, first evident in early childhood and adolescence. It is the persistent desire for 2 years to get rid of ones' genitals. No reference is made here of crossdressing, no reference is made here of being effeminate, no mention of wanting to be a woman, or look like one".

It is clear then that transvestites(TVs) and transsexuals(TSs) are totally different. While a TS may wear womens clothing they are not a transvestite or crossdresser.

Just ask Renee...

Dear Renee: I hate my beard, but I'm frightened of the pits and scars electrolysis seems to cause. I know it's a lengthy, expensive and painful process, but do I have to be ugly to get rid of my beard?

Yours truly,
Hirsute Helen

Dear Hirsute Helen: It's harder finding a good electrologist than a pair of teal snakeskin 10-1/2 pumps, but not impossible! If she leaves you craving morphine after two hours, if she refuses to skip around your face, but wants to clear it like a minefield, if your face stays swollen so long you start telling everyone you have a permanent toothache . . . Beware!

But, if she is gentle, helps allay your particular concerns and exudes a quiet competence, she's worth trying for a few months. No matter how hard she zaps a hair, it will usually grow back, often more than once; too much heat too long burns the skin and warps the follicle. Hair removal takes time and money, but it needn't be more than just uncomfortable, and on no account should it leave craters in your lovely visage!

Dear Renee: I've been dressing in secret all my life, but now I'm in love and want to marry a wonderful woman. Should I tell her? I'm scared she'll flip out - even call the whole thing off! Can I tell the truth?

Closet Chloe

Dear CC: Fear destroys intimacy unless it's shared. Tell her, but kindly, with self-respect. Yes, it's taboo to cross-dress, but is there really anything bad about wanting to look or feel like a woman? No, and it can even become a fun, shared secret between you, trading jewelry and catalogues. If you're ashamed of who you are, Chloe, how can you expect respect from your future wife? She'll probably be relieved that your big secret isn't that you're gay! It really helps too, to introduce her to some other women living with dressers. Once she sees that however strange your dressing is, it's harmless and widespread she will start to rethink her attitude. And, if your gentle revelation really scares her off for good, you're probably better off. . . who wants to live a lie anymore?

Dear Renee: Last Sunday, shopping in the mall, I felt like a best-seller. I got read so often. What should I do when a whole family freezes at one glimpse of me, or a salesgirl is so non-plussed she can't answer my question, or a teenager starts following me around? It's creepy!

Best Seller

Dear Best Seller: Bravo for your courage! It's easy to go out when you pass, but, Honey, it's really butting heads with The Taboo when you don't! Consider yourself a mobile gender education unit, spreading the word in person about the next great myth about to succumb to reality: Anybody can wear anything! And, besides, if you've been to the beach recently, even the so-called normal people can look pretty grotesque! If you're lucky enough to catch the philistine's eye, smile graciously, as if to thank him for his admiration, and know that you've brightened up his day with a wonderful story to tell his wife over pizza.

Send those brief, amusing and thoroughly personal letters to Renee c/o ETVC.

In the News

by Cindy

Our community makes news all the time, though sometimes you have to look a bit to find it. Here are some items from the recent past.

Society: From Herb Caen, April 19 - Lily Street, the stately transvestite who's the newly elected Empress of SF's nether-world, was addressed by a peasant as "Queen." "Empress, oaf," said Lily, camping it up. "In THIS town anybody can be queen."

Sports: Beaumont, Texas - Transsexual Charlotte Ann Wood is one of the nation's top female amateur golfers, but competitors question her eligibility because she was once a man.

In the women's Mid-Amateur last October Wood fought past 60 of the nations top 64 females before loosing in the semi-finals.

Wood, who averages 235 yards on her drives, was the subject of complaints to the USGA but officials refused to "do anything that would embarrass her," said Frank Hannigan, director of the golf organization.

Wood does not play against hackers in local tournaments because of her self-admitted competitive advantage. Last year in a tournament against male golfers, and playing from men's tees, she shot two sub-par 70s and finished in the top 12.

"My own feeling is if I'm going to play at all, I'm only going to play against the very best (women)... because I felt like I don't have an unfair advantage of women in that category."

Literary Note: Writer Vamina Nodule drinks salt water tea, likes to have her hair combed by transsexuals and enjoys touching shiny things in Bloomingdales.

Politics: In Athens, Greece transvestites have announced the founding of the "Panhellenic Nonaligned Movement of Equality," a new political party. Haralambos Tamoutsides, the party's new president, said TVs have been hassled by police ever since the first AIDS case was reported.

Crime: West Palm Beach, Fla. - Detectives in this affluent community cracked a burglary ring that had specialized in the theft of "top of the line" women's clothes by arresting one of them in drag.

The men who were thought to be part of a ring of "ten or 15 men who dress as women and are responsible for thefts of at least \$200,000 in women's clothes," according to Associated Press.

The man in drag who was arrested was wearing "women's black slacks, a black midriff top barely covering a black bra, jewelry and make-up." the wire service said.

NEW SECRETARY FOR ETVC

The Executive Committee of ETVC welcomes with open arms their new Secretary, Donna Freeman, who was approved for the office at the July general business meeting. We know Donna will be an effective Secretary and we are all grateful for her support and commitment to ETVC. Thanks, Donna!

AT THE MALL

Recently, I had an incident at Eastridge Mall. I was refused entry by two mall police. Upset by their words I wrote a letter to Mr. Gary Rinna of the mall's management. I also sent copies to half a dozen of my favorite stores. The following day Mr. Rinna called me with an apologetic explanation, and his formal written reply arrived a few days later. (Copies of these letters follow.)

The gist of it all is that some of the stores feel that men, dressed as women, have been soliciting in the mall, and that if we have any problems while at Eastridge Mall we should contact Mr. Rinna.

My pique has been quenched, and I do plan to return to Eastridge - on impulse or in passing, but well-heelled with information. Kim recommends that we carry TV and TS pamphlet plus, the new ETVC Business Card with us wherever we go. I say include SOS and RGA Flyers plus anything on other nearby groups (Pacific Center, SGA, Tri-Ess, etc., whatever is relevant to your locality). We can give this information to managers, store clerks, or anyone who approaches us with legitimate questions or requests.

LETTER TO MR. GARY RINNA, EASTRIDGE MALL

Dear Sir:

Monday, July 4, 1988, on impulse, I stopped by your mall to do some serious shopping. No sooner had I entered the mall than I was accosted by two security guards. After the first noted my presence (the other had turned away), he drew his partner's attention to my appearance. This second person then asked me to leave! With any proper explanation, you would not be reading this letter. But, the essence of his explanation was that I could not shop at the mall while crossdressed and to take my PLAYING WOMAN elsewhere.

To me crossdressing is no game. I do it to some degree at all times. When fully crossdressed, including makeup, (as I was then), I desire nothing more than to be respected and treated as the lady I am.

I plan on taking further action. This will include a Letter to the Editor of our local paper and articles for gender and gay newsletters. Your apologetic explanatory response may take some of the sting away or even eliminate my follow through.

Regards, D. Martina Bloom

MR. RINNA'S RESPONSE

Dear Ms. Bloom:

I appreciate you taking the time to send me your letter detailing the incident on 7/4/88. It has always been our policy not to discriminate against cross-dressing or Transvestites.

In the recent past, we have had complaints from customers and merchants regarding Transvestites "soliciting" in our mall. I feel this may have been the underlying reason, although not appropriate in this case, for the security officers confronting you.

I have discussed this matter with both officers involved. I have directed them to take the time to study the history and philosophies of cross-dressing. As aspiring Police Officers, I feel this education will benefit us all.

Again, we welcome your patronage at Eastridge and apologize for any inconvenience we have caused you. If you have any problems in the future, please contact me directly.

Sincerely, Gary L. Rinna
Security Director Eastridge Mall



MY WIFE AND I FINALLY GOT OUR LIBRARY CARDS

by Jane

My wife and I finally got our library cards. We had moved from SF to Fremont in December. Getting library cards is usually a priority after a big move, but this time we were so busy that there hadn't been time. When we finally got them it was by chance on the way home from the paint store.

The road curved and a sign swerved into view: LIBRARY. We followed the arrow, parked, and in short order became possessors of brand new, shiny white Alameda County library cards. Naturally, just having a library card is no good. It's like buying a new outfit and just hanging it up. It's only fun when you use it.

So off we went to the card catalogs--which, however, were not cards but continuous roll microfilm projected onto screens. My wife clicked on hers and scanned for her usual interest, scientific literature. I gulped down my paranoia and casually draped an arm and leg over the corners of my screen as I spun to the T's.

Transistors... (Transistors of the world, unite!)...Trans...portation (How to get from here to her?)...Trannnnns-VESTITE. Yeah! Out here in the sticks they listed books on crossdressing. About seven. Pretty good.

But the shelves were a different story. Mother Hubbard. They weren't exactly bare. They just didn't have the titles I wanted! It was the same thing I had found time after time at the SF Main Library. Listings, yes. Books, no.

I know. I could have asked the librarian which books had been checked out or stolen. I could have put my name on the reserve list. But this is the library where I'll take my kids ("Do you boys know that your Daddy was asking questions about transvestite literature?") So, I don't know why; all I know is that the books are never there.

Someone has suggested that we plant ETVC's calling card in library books. But since the appropriate titles are usually missing, perhaps, like a San Jose sister, we should back up a step and leave our card in the card catalog. Of course, it might be stumbled onto by a phobic oaf. On the other hand, there are a lot of people out there (such as I was not too long ago), who think they are alone. They need to know there's an alternative before they think to steal a book. They need to know that there are more and better books available than the public library ever thought of. They need to know that reading isn't half the fun. . .

One thing troubles me. I can't figure how to get an ETVC card into a microfilm catalog. But, hey, I once squeezed my six foot frame into a petite 5. There's got to be a way.

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

We are looking for anyone interested in working on the newsletter for writing, typing, design, layout, and printing. The first meeting will be on Thursday September 15th starting at 7 PM. On October 15th we will be working on the next issue. Call Gloria at (415) [REDACTED] if you're interested.

Deadline for the next newsletter is: September 29th.
Bring your articles, stories, art, poetry, etc. to the Social.



IFGE CONVENTION

The IFGE committee continues the planning for the SF '89 Convention. We have many areas of responsibility for the convention and need as much help as we can get. We need some of you girls to help us with registration, greeting the attendees and registering them for the convention. The daily newsletter needs staff to write, produce and deliver each issue. Hostesses are needed to help others find their way and to keep things running smoothly. Perhaps you would like to be a driver for one of the transportation vans. And of course we need everyone to get involved in the hospitality we want to show our visiting friends. If you want to help us in this spectacular event, please call (415) 664-1499.

IFGE PHOTO SHOOT

Here's your chance to be a model for a day. We are planning a photo shoot on September 10th in San Francisco. We will be taking pictures at several scenic SF sites to be used in the IFGE advertising and pamphlets. If you would be interested in appearing in these shots, please call Suzzane at (408) [REDACTED]

SIGNIFICANT OTHERS SUPPORT GROUP

The Significant Others Support Group will be meeting Thursday September 8th from 8 - 10 PM in San Francisco. The group will be meeting again on Thursday, October 13th in Oakland. Please tell your wives and partners about these meetings where they can express their feelings and receive support from their peers. Call (415) 664-1499 for info.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

As we have started our 6th year it's time again to renew your membership in ETVC. For only \$10 per year you receive our bi-monthly newsletter as well as discount admission to our monthly social events. If you haven't already renewed, please send the membership form below and a check or money order for \$10.00 to ETVC, PO Box 6486, San Francisco, CA. You may also pay your membership fees at any ETVC function. Let's make this our biggest year!

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. The ETVC Newsletter is published in February, April, June, August, October and December. 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. For details about ETVC programs, membership, newsletter subscriptions, and classified ads, please write to: ETVC Secretary, PO Box 6486, San Francisco, CA 94101.

ETVC Membership Application

Please Print
Mailing Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Preferred Name: _____

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

For membership through May 31, 1989 please remit \$10.00 by check or money order to:
ETVC, PO Box 6486, San Francisco, CA 94101



NEW NUMBER



Ginny and Nancy Ann have moved and so, we have a new telephone number for our ETVC Hotline. The number to call is now (415) [REDACTED]. Please make a note of this.

CLOSET SPACE: Clean, responsible, well educated and courteous person looking for a closet to share. A soul-mate. A place to store clothes where there is trust and respect between people. I would seldom be around. If interested, please respond with phone number to: B. Moore, [REDACTED] San Francisco, CA 94102.

FOR RENT: Older Palo Alto home with 3 BR (2 large and 1 small), 1-1/2 baths, separate living room and dining room, fireplace, hardwood floors, washer in the garage and small (but gardenable) yard. \$1300.00 per month. Leave a message at (415) [REDACTED]

J2CP Information Services

Post Office Box 184
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92693-0184
(714)-496-J2CP (714)-496-5227

J2CP Information Services provides information/referral services formerly provided by the Erickson Educational Foundation and JANUS Information Facility. J2CP Information Services is a separate entity and is not affiliated with either of its predecessors.

J2CP Information Services provides an information package consisting of pamphlets and literature concerning gender dysphoria syndrome, transsexualism and transvestism. This information package is available at a cost of \$25.00 to cover research, printing postage and secretarial services. Additionally, J2CP Information Services will attempt to provide referrals to reputable counselors, psycho-therapists, or gender programs, and peer counseling groups near your home.

Certified checks or Money Orders should be made payable to J2CP Information Services. Please specify whether you are male-to-female, female-to-male, or transvestite when writing. If transsexual, please provide your place of birth.

Mary Key

(408) 265-1095

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Call 839-0457

ADVERTISEMENTS

ETVC sells advertising space at the rate of \$10/business card size ad per issue, \$50 for same per year. If you would like to advertise here, just send us your business card or camera ready ad copy, along with a check for the appropriate amount, to: ETVC, PO Box 6486, San Francisco, CA 94101.

Deadlines are the first weekend of the month of publication (June, August, October, December, February, April). Information on rates and terms for larger sized ads is available by writing to the address above.

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 6486, San Francisco, CA 94101.

Deadlines are the first weekend of the month of publication (June, August, October, December, February, April). Information on rates and terms for larger sized ads is available by writing to the address above.