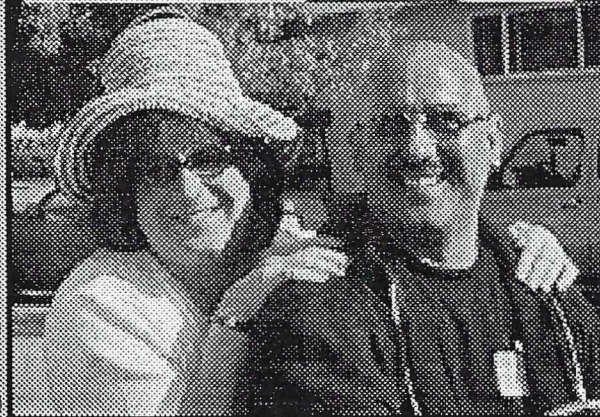


# TGSF Summer BBQ Fun!

The Channel



TGSF TransGender San Francisco is a group for all members of the Transgendered Community. Transgender is used as an umbrella term that includes female and male cross dressers, transvestites, drag queens or kings, female or male impersonators, intersexed individuals, pre-operative, post-operative and non-operative transsexuals, masculine females, feminine males, all persons whose perceived gender or anatomical sex may be incongruent with their gender expression, and all persons exhibiting gender characteristics and identities which are perceived to be androgynous.



# The Channel

TGSF (TransGender San Francisco, a California non-profit corporation), is a non-sexual, membership based organization serving the educational, social, and recreational needs of gender-gifted people, their spouses, significant others, family members, friends, and professionals in the helping services. For details about TGSF programs, membership, article submission guidelines and classified ads, please write to TGSF Secretary, PO Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486.

## ExCom 2003 - 2004 Officers

(Fiscal Year: May 1 - April 30)

President .....	Roxy Carmichael-Hart
Vice President .....	Susan Laird
Secretary .....	Rys McCusker
Treasurer .....	Brooke Jansen
Education .....	Kara Flynn & Kelly Anne Marsh
Outreach .....	Kalani Makanani & Marla Selby
Social .....	Aiyana Eveningstar & Roxanne Taylor
Miss TGSF 2003-04 .....	Rachel Hill
Mr. TGSF 2003-04 .....	Tyler Fong

## Fine Print

TGSF (TransGender San Francisco) is a CA non-profit corporation. Donations to TGSF are TAX DEDUCTIBLE on both Federal and California income tax returns. Talk to your tax advisor for details.

The Channel, the TGSF Newsletter, is published monthly. Submissions should arrive at TGSF by the 15th day of the month preceding publication. Contents reflect the opinions of the contributors and are not necessarily those of TGSF. Other organizations may reprint or reproduce uncopyrighted portions of the newsletter for their members, provided TGSF is acknowledged as the source of the material. Copyrighted materials may be reproduced only with written permission from TGSF.

## Newsletter Staff

Editor ..... Ayme Michelle Kantz  
 Advertising ..... Inquiries to TGSF Excom  
 Contributing Photographers, this Issue: ..... Roxy Carmichael-Hart  
 and Rachael Janelle Light

## Ad Rates

	Per Issue	Six Months	Per Year
<b>Business Card</b> (3-1/2 x 2)	\$ 25	\$125	\$ 250
<b>4x5</b>	\$ 60	\$300	\$ 600
<b>Full Page</b>	\$100	\$500	\$1000

Personal ads from TGSF members: \$10 for up to 40 words per issue. We will not accept ads with a sexual objective. Ad deadlines are the 15th of every month. Send ad copy and check or money order to TGSF, Advertising Dept., PO Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486. **Please support our advertisers, and tell them you saw their ad in The Channel!**

**WWW.TGSF.ORG**  
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## FROM THE EDITOR...



There's been a lot of discussion on some of the online mailing lists I belong to, surrounding definitions and labels, as well as rather pointed (but civilized) arguments about the current political climate we - as "gender gifted" or "gender mixed" people - find ourselves in at the moment. More specifically, the political and/or social agendas of transsexuals versus transgenderists in general. Whereas the former have a more definitive roadmap to follow in terms of medical care, and the challenges faced with doing that "real life test" thang, with (hopefully) as little fuss as possible. And the latter advocating a more generalized feel-good mantra of unity, very vocal and out

about equal civil rights and protections for the good of the community, leaving both sides on opposite sides of the same fence.

Well, what community? From what I'm hearing and observing, there's a lot divisiveness going on right now in our so-called community made up of gender variant humans. It's a pretty wide swath we're trying to carve between the rigidly entrenched bipolar designations of male and female. Society in general says there's nothing in between. And there are quite a lot of us out there saying otherwise. And what do we give society? Something nice and clean, right down the middle so that both sides could agree to meet half way and agree that, ok maybe there is a third gender? Nooooo...we gotta give them this huge gray area made up of drag queens and cross dressers at one end, and pre-post- and non-op transsexuals at the other. And let's not forget the intersexed, shall we? For confusion's sake, we also toss in a little sexual orientation caveat that says all of this is reversible and fluid depending on which gender you were bom with, which gender you identify with at the current moment, which gender you hope to attain at the end of your "transition," (should you be undergoing one), and the gender of the person you're having sex with, or used to have sex with, or may have sex with in the future.

So we've got the male-to-females subconsciously exerting male privilege and then groveling submissively when called on the carpet for it. And we've got the female-to-males kinda ticked off because the first thing most people think of when they hear the word "transgender" is the 'ol guy in a dress syndrome. The automatic emphasis on the MTF perspective leaves them totally out of the equation, virtually invisible. So this is what it means to be an inclusive community?

Yet gender is trendy now. Lots of media attention. Ever typed "transsexual" in a search engine and see what you get? Porn! Lots and lots of porn - practically all of it made up of young, gorgeous, silicone shaped, Frederick's clad, throbbing and blatantly erect MTFs. Are the actresses and models in those videos and magazines part of our community too? After all, they make up the majority. They belong under the umbrella, too, don'tcha think? You ever been in the Tenderloin on a Friday or Saturday night lately? Any of "those girls" friends of yours? How do you feel about those girls getting all the attention? You might shrug and scoff, "Yeah, but they don't represent MY community." C'mon, sure they do! It's so prevalent, all of you must be the same way, right?

It's not all sexual though, political maneuverings are afoot. Lots of bills moving across Senate and House floors in several states. Elizabeth Birch of the HRC finally understands what ENDA should do, and will fail to do in its present form, and it's about freekin' time girl. You think you could now help Barney Frank and Ted Kennedy get a clue? And there's no way around it - Mark Leno is God, and I want to have his chil...ummm, never mind. Don't go there. And to top it all off for us locally in the Bay Area, lurking in the background lazily like a great white shark, hunting, biding its time, ready to devour us all with a flick of its tail, is the Gwen Araujo murder trial.

So how do we bring about all these swirling factions and audiences and agendas and orientations and ages and colors, so that any one of us can say "I'm TG" (or whatever) and have it actually mean something? It feels like the T-community is on the verge of it's own civil war. The stealth babies must be smirking in their caves right about now.

Someone on the list said, "...education happens best through friendly interaction, not by trying to live up to some arbitrary inclusion ideal." And I've advocated in this space before about education as a key to stopping violence and hate. Sounds like it's time to bring the boys and the girls together. But think about this for a minute. This is going to be far more complicated than it seems at first glance.

Boys and girls together? OK, sock hop! No...we want them to interact socially, yes, but on a more esoteric plane - to satisfy the theorists, you see. How about bowling? A little friendly competition, maybe miniature golf? No, that would seem too much like dating for chrissakes! And don't even think about movies! Ach, the next thing you know they'll be watching something labeled "XXX" and chatting up the merits of silicone insertables and, God forbid, actually arranging hands-on demonstrations!

No, perhaps what we need is something like a monthly book club. Yes, a well-behaved, briskly moderated discussion group of peers, male and female alike (and everything in between of course), set in comfortable but non-threatening surroundings, talking about a good book. Building character, fostering awareness and inclusion, their discussion leading them to insightful awareness, and everyone will go home after a couple of hours feeling a general well-being. All infused with purpose, joy and happiness with their part in humanity, life, the world, the universe and everything.

We'll serve tea.





**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**  
**By Roxy Carmichael-Hart**  
**On the Go!**

I'm off on vacation for some much needed R and R after I write this and e-mail it to Ayme. It's been a busy month! More on that in a minute.

Before I go further, I want to thank Ayme for her kind words in last month's *Channel*. It wasn't so much the praise I appreciated (ok, I loved the praise) but it was Ayme's sense of community that impressed

me. Having read many of Ayme's past columns - including those from before I arrived on the scene - I can tell you that she is not afraid to speak her mind and tell you what she thinks. I appreciate her willingness to stand up and say what she feels this organization needs. I know that she will tell me - and you - when I screw up. She talked about appreciation for hard work. I don't know how many of you understand and appreciate the job she does every month to put together this publication. It must be a labor of love for her since we pay her a pittance each month to undertake this difficult task. She is responsible for our lifeline and our conduit to our community and is probably the most valuable player of TGSF. Thank you Ayme for all of your work and I sincerely appreciate the responsibility you have undertaken.

As I settle into the job of President, I become more in awe of Rachael Janelle. How she managed to find time to attend events, run an organization and still be able outreach to our sisters just amazes me. I am firmly convinced that she was, in actuality, three people. She had to have been. I am also learning of the incredible diversity of our group and I recognize that not all of us have the same goals, so I will try to be more sensitive and understanding of our differences.

Last month was Pride month of course. San Francisco Pride will be finished by the time you read this. I want to again thank Susan Laird and Rachel Hill for their hard work as well as all those who helped in the float building effort. Rachel, I especially want to thank you for your efforts to increase the visibility and acceptance of TGSF and to make the world know that we are an important part of the community. I also want to express my sincere thanks to all of those who stepped up and acted as safety monitors. This was a very important task. I know you would much rather have been riding on the float (as I would have). Thanks for volunteering. There will be a full report on Pride in next month's *Channel*.

The lovely Miss Hill and the dashing Mr. TGSF, Tyler Fong, led our contingent for San Jose Pride, which included Tommie, Roxanne, Kara, and Terri. I was very pleased with the turnout. In honor of the occasion, I wore my new rainbow-colored outfit, which was a gift from my big sis Rachael Janelle. Thanks also to Jeff Tucker, Steve and Dan for providing the convertible; preparing the banners and making our float stand out. Again, this is an example of people outside of our organization who are willing to help us, proof of how strong our community is becoming.

I had one of the most moving experiences of my life on Sunday June 1 as I participated in "Until There's a Cure Day" at Pacific Bell Park. Walking arm in arm into the park with my sisters Rachael Janelle, Stephanie Ann Blythe and Kara Flynn, I felt a deep sense of pride and humility in the hope that I, in some way, was helping to increase the awareness of AIDS amid the realization that the work is not finished until there IS a cure. By the way, thanks to Rachael for the Krispy Kremes!

I attended the BBQ at Rachael's house on Memorial Day weekend and was impressed by the huge turnout, indicative of the respect she has garnered in this community. It was great to see so many friends and to meet some new friends. There is always a great spirit of community and family at Rachael's. I always enjoy functions at her home because it is filled with so much love. We passed the hat around to compensate her for feeding over a hundred people. In typical Rachael fashion, she turned around and donated the money back to TGSF. Not only did she add a little extra to the till but she made the donation in the name of our hostess, Roxanne Taylor. I guess I should never be surprised at the extent of her generosity.

In this same vein, you might recall that last month's channel included some information on the Transgender Pride Awards sponsored by the TG Steering Committee. I am very delighted to announce that one of the winners was Rachael Janelle. As I told the Steering Committee in my nomination, Rachael best embodies the spirit of what that award represents - namely someone who gives back to the community time and again and makes the road easier for her sisters. I can't think of a more deserving recipient.

One of our most fun times out was on May 10 when a group of us went to see "La Cage aux Folles" which featured, among others, our very own Kara Flynn. I want to congratulate Kara and the cast for putting on such an enjoyable show. I also want to thank Jo-An Torres for arranging the carpool. One of

our group had her first night on the town and she did, I am happy to say, marvelous.

Another former male bastion came tumbling down when I attended my first San Francisco Giants game as Roxy, with a group from RGA. We had a great dinner at Momo's beforehand. I want to thank Gelsey Wong for making all of the arrangements. I rode up with Gelsey and some others on Caltrain and that was my first trip on Caltrain in any mode. One of our party left her purse on Caltrain so the rest of the group chipped in and bought her dinner, and contributed to help her get home. The true spirit of sisterhood! Aiyanna had such a great night at the game that she wants to plan TGSF night at the ballgame! Go for it, girl, I'm in! Since Until There's a Cure Day came two days after this, I attended two games in 3 days as a girl, after not ever having done it. Have I come far or what?

As if to be reminded that it is not all frivolity, I attended the opening of the Transgender Law Center, of which TGSF acted as a co-sponsor. It is a shame that in 2003, we even need a legal organization to protect our rights but until we obtain our full civil rights and the right to be recognized as who we are, we must support the work of this organization.

I am attending all of these functions because I feel it is necessary to increase the visibility of TGSF in this community and to announce that we are a major player. It is only by doing so that we can make progress in the areas of TG rights and awareness. We have a long way to go but little by little, the barriers are breaking down.

Another important reason to attend these events is outreach. You may recall that in my last report, I noted that Kelly and I had done some outreach at the Veronica Vera event. As it turns out, one of those to whom we talked called me a few days later. I invited her to RGA and she attended, then later went out dancing with Jackie, Tommie, Ari, Jo-An and some others. She also showed up at Rachael's BBQ. Thank you all for helping another sister find her path. As I have been saying outreach, outreach, outreach...

Unfortunately, I can't be everywhere so I have had to miss some worthy events like the mid-month at the Whitehorse and the Tranny picnic and some DVG socials. My lack of attendance at these events by no means diminishes their importance to me. However, when my therapist asks me when I am getting sleep, I don't want to tell her "at work". So, is it any wonder I need a vacation?

I turned one last month. I am pretty talkative for an infant, aren't I? Elsewhere in this *Channel*, you can read a reflection of my first year as the person I am. Suffice to say that this has been the best year of my life and to all of my sisters who helped make it possible, thank you again and I love you all very much.

On the business front, we now have a one-page flier that contains membership information and our giving plan. We can pass this out at our events. It's not that I don't like carrying around the *Channel* but it is a lot easier to carry around 50 copies of a flier, especially for those of us who can't use hormones as a reason for our lack of strength. I want to thank my secretary at work, Andrea, for her help in retyping the membership form in a Word document. With Pride over and done, we are focusing on the preparations for the 2004 Cotillion. I hope to be able to report some details in the next *Channel*, and as always we will need lots of help. I anticipate that the ExCom will look at the formation of a planning committee next month.

When I return from vacation, I plan to file my name change paperwork so that I can be legal when I transition in September. I found out that in Alameda County, the filing fee is \$231.50, plus another hundred or so to run the required classified ad. It's not cheap being a girl!!

Until next time.....

PS: my name does not imply endorsement of any particular clothing line.

**Wendell Debele** M.S. (T.C.M.) Dipl. L.Ac.



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May 30, 2003

## TGSF ExCOM MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 4:10pm. Present Roxy Carmichael-Hart, Susan Laird, Aiyanna Eveningstar, Kara Flynn, Brooke Jansen. Guests: Anne Louise.

### President's Report

The minutes from April were approved. A discussion of TGSF being a co-sponsor was presented to the group. It was determined that a proposal was needed before the name could be provided. Roxy's supply of flyers is out. She has put info from the website and the membership application on the form, including the different levels of giving. Susan said she was interested in putting that info on the web. The BBQ at Rachel's raised about \$500, and was donated back to TGSF. The raffle at the end of month social also raised money. Volunteers for Until There's a Cure Day will participate June 1. Aiyanna is going to work with Carla on a Halloween Party. Roxy is also asking people to work on different activities to help take the load off the ExCom and to assist with activities. For the San Jose Pride, participants will meet and walk while Ms TGSF 2003 will ride in a convertible.



### Vice President's Report

It was decided previously before the meeting that Bank of America would not be a sponsor for SF Pride due to the dispute at the End of Month social. Susan is working on the float design and says that a small group is getting together at Rachel's to work on the float. Prototypes of the butterflies, mechanics of the items, and power issues were discussed. Aiyanna will coordinate booth activities. Cotillion planning included discussion of the future budget, the proposal by the San Mateo Marriott, and advertising were discussed. The proposal was read thru in detail. Final costs and agreements need to be discussed before the ExCom can approve the new location. A producer/director and advertising coordinator are needed for the Cotillion. Ads and sponsorship are needed, even if members decide that they don't like it.

### Treasurer

TGSF has roughly \$4400 in cash, with almost an equal amount of debt. There was \$1000 in membership renewals. Brooke provided the status of advertising and who has paid their bills. She will be contacting those that have not paid and will follow up with Stephanie Anne on past issues. The repayment plan continues.

### Secretary's Report

Rys was not present, but Roxy updated a few items. Letters to members who have not renewed is being sent out with the June Channel. Marla will be the ExCom profile for July. It was proposed to have all the new ExCom profiles first before continuing with incumbent member profiles.

### Education

There are no current activities planned, but Kara will review the list of ideas from last meeting since she was not present at that one. Kelly was not present because of personal reasons. Kara mentioned Kelly was working on a SF Police seminar in the format of a meet and greet. Kara mentioned her potential hormone seminar as well as Dr. O/Dr. Brink possibilities. Kara is to contact Gwen Smith on this year's Day of Remembrance proposal.

### Outreach

Roxy has trouble with the time commitments of the hotline and calendar. Kara volunteered for the hotline on a temporary basis. No other information was available.

### Social

Aiyanna has scheduled a talent show for the mid-month activity in August at Marlana's. July's social may include a dance, and September may involve a baseball game. There is no June EOM because of the Pride activities.

### New Business

Aiyanna also mentioned that an ID Card could be used for certain situations when TG identification might be necessary. Beth is interested in doing a TG family portrait. Anyone interested should contact her.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30pm. The next meeting will be at Aiyanna Eveningstar's residence at [redacted] in San Francisco.

## IMPORTANT WEBSITE UPDATE!

If you want an ID/Password to access the new Member's area on the TGSF website, send an email request to Susan Laird: [redacted]@hairzapper.com.

# Heart To Heart

## SOMETIMES YOU HEAR THE BULLET

By Roxy Carmichael-Hart

Last month marked one year since I first stepped out of the shadows and into the light as Roxy, and began my journey to the person I was meant to be. I thought that now would be a good time to reflect upon what TGSF has meant to me and what I feel it needs to be, in order to help others in the same ways in which it has helped me.

A lot has happened in this first year. I rode on the Pride parade float, walked as a debutante, became an officer in, and subsequently president of, TGSF. I joined RGA and DVG, met Carla and Jo-An, and said Thanksgiving grace at Rachael Janelle's. I discovered some wonderful restaurants, made lots of friends and saw Barry Bonds' 600<sup>th</sup> home run with the RGA ladies. I have done more than I have dreamed possible, accomplished more than I ever thought I could, and found talents I never knew I had.

So much has changed since my first day. Lydia's, the salon in Sherman Oaks where I had my first makeover, has changed owners. The Venture Inn in Studio City, where I had my first dinner and was bought my first drink, has also changed owners and is no longer TG friendly. The Queen Mary Show Lounge, where I had my first night out, has closed. A year is a long time. But then again, on a journey that will last me the rest of my life, it is not much time at all. And in that time, I have observed and participated and learned and have developed my own sense of what TGSF is and should be, and how it can help all of us.

*"Where are you going now my love, where will you be tomorrow? Will you bring me happiness, will you bring me sorrow...?"*

First and foremost, we must be an organization that welcomes and accepts all, especially newcomers. We must live up to the mission as stated on the front page of this Channel. We must be a place that all can come to where they are loved unconditionally. Second, we must be a place where we can be ourselves - where we can socialize, discuss and learn from one another - in person. Yes, the Internet and e-mail have made communications easier but they have also made them much more impersonal. While it is fun to converse via e-mail with a sister you have never met, nothing beats the thrill of seeing her in person. Third, we must be a place where we can get resources to help us on our journey towards who we want to be. Fourth, we must be that voice on the other end of the hotline that gives our sisters hope and in some cases, a reason for living. We must guide those who want to come out into the light but who are too afraid or confused to do so. Fifth - we must be the place where we can join together to fight for our civil rights. We must not lose sight of the goal of many of our members, which is to be able to live and work and play as ourselves in an environment that is free from threats and intimidation and violence. We must hold our elected officials accountable for protecting our rights. We are citizens and we are voters. If we do not see our needs being met, then we must speak out.

Continued on Page 5



# Heart To Hart

I look at a lot of the new people that have come to TGSF in recent months, some of whom, including your president, are members of this ExCom. I talk to them on the phone or at events; I converse with them via e-mail. I have been impressed with each of them. Many are moving forward, tentatively, taking their baby steps, trying to figure out where they fit in, as I did about a year ago. When I started this journey, I did not know where I wanted this to lead. Now I know that I want to be a full time female and plan to do just that later this year. I want to learn about the people and the resources that will help me achieve my goal. And the feedback that I receive from many echoes the same dream. As I learn about this process, I feel it is my duty and obligation as a sister to pass on what I have learned to those who are following me, much as was done for me.

I realize that many of our sisters have moved beyond this stage. Many have mainstreamed and I applaud them for taking those steps and admire them for being successful. It has been noted that TGSF has changed from what it once was. I am not sure if this is true, but I do know that more and more girls are coming out. They are being bolder and are becoming less afraid because they know the support mechanism is there for them. Many of you once walked in our shoes and you have gotten to where many of us want to be. You can teach and pass along so much to the newcomers. Wouldn't it give you a sense of pride, knowing that you made a difference in someone's life? Wouldn't you feel a wonderful sense of community spirit because you helped someone to be themselves? I'd bet it would.

*"...Questions of a million dreams, what you are and what you see..."*

There is absolutely nothing wrong with wanting to get dressed up, looking pretty and going out to a nice dinner and chatting with your girlfriends. But we can and we must be much more than that to those who are counting on us. And to be these things I have outlined it takes money, it takes (wo)manpower, it takes time. All of these things are in very short supply. We are blessed to have many members who have unselfishly given their time and resources - to you. Because they believe in you and in this organization.

I am proud to be a part of this TGSF and of this ExCom. I believe very strongly in what we are doing which is why I chose to run for president. Rachael Janelle was right. I didn't want to be president - no one wants to be president if the job is to be done correctly. It takes hours of selfless, dedicated, sacrifice. Rachel Hill was right. I would rather have had the chance to compete for Miss TGSF. Sometimes, though, you get a higher calling. Sometimes, you see that the universe is a lot bigger than you are. Sometimes, you realize your purpose in this life. Sometimes, you hear the bullet. If you hear it before it hits you, you can take action. I heard the bullet come and so I acted.

I realize that my journey may never end. I may never find that "purpose of meaning" as Roxxanne calls it (at first I thought she was being coy, then I realized she was being profound.) I know the journey will sometimes be one step forward, two steps back. I don't know what the end looks like. Through TGSF, I have a vehicle to find that purpose. I will never stop trying. Today is the first day of the rest of my life.

*"Lover can you talk...to me."*

*(Lyrics courtesy of "Carry On" by Crosby Stills Nash and Young. The title of this article courtesy of the TV series "M\*A\*S\*H".)*

## ExCom Profile:

### MARLA GENEVIEVE SELBY

It is 4:00 AM as I am writing this. I am very sorry for not having it for last month's issue, but life ain't perfect and neither am I.

It seems like light years away since I picked up the phone in December of 2000 and called the hotline to join TGSF. It was in February of 2001 when I attended my first EOM at the Blue Muse. I arrived a little early, and the first person I encountered was my good friend Jamie Fenton. She was sitting at the bar as I ordered up my first martini and we quickly became acquainted. I then picked up my drink and walked over to a table to order dinner. It was at this time that Rachel Janelle, who has also become a dear friend, walked up, sat down and said "Hey girl, how ya doin'?" At this time, I had been an occasional CD since Pride Day of 1999, and still very unseasoned. Little did I know that I would end up where I am today, that is on the road to becoming the female that I always should have been. I have TGSF and many good friends therein to thank for their encouragement, as well as my loving, supportive wife Judy, whom I had the good sense to marry on 14 February 2002.

It was in May of 1999, when I was sitting around my former sublet at 951 O' Farrell, talking with my gay lover and a few of our friends when I said; "I think I'll go to Pride in drag this year." It was then that my buddy Sebastian said; "you don't have the guts". I replied that I would bet him \$40.00 and to meet me at City Hall stage and; "Bring my money big mouth". On the morning of Pride Day, I shaved off my beard, mustache and body hair and with a little help from my sister, did my makeup for the very first time. I looked in the mirror and about died, for looking back at me was the face of my lovely daughter Michelle, who will be 28 on 6 June. It was then that I knew I had to get serious about this, and the rest they say is history, "from Macho Marine to Sissy Drag Queen" was how I put it.

Moving right along, it was in May 2001 when I told Judy that I wanted to try hormone therapy and possibly become a woman. I offered to break our engagement and let her keep the ring but she would, Thank God not hear of it. Her exact words were: "I love you, and changing your gender will not change the wonderful person I fell in love with." I couldn't believe my ears! It was 2 weeks after that that I went to the Waddell Clinic and the shrink agreed that I was gender dysphoric and gave me the OK to proceed. My labs came back not so good, mainly high cholesterol to blame and it was on 30 October that I finally was given Premerin and Spironolactin. It was on Thanksgiving of '01 that I first noticed the beginning changes. In July of last year, I discovered St. James Infirmary and got them to put me on 40 mg Dalestrogen IM every 2 weeks, and the results are wonderful.

I began to live full time this past Thanksgiving and am now officially Marla Genevieve Selby, your newly elected Outreach Co- Chair. I am a very blessed woman indeed. I have my wife, my musical career, have not lost any friends, have the support of the family members that count, and even that lousy job driving a hack that I've done intermittently since 1983. In fact I've gained a lot of new friends, including all my lovely friends in this great organization called TGSF. Stepping up to the Ex-Comm is my way of giving back to a group that has given me my new life, so that I can have a hand in helping those who are coming up behind us. "United we stand, divided we fall."

We've come a long way babies, but there are miles to go before we sleep, Let's GO GIRLS! Thank God we live in San Francisco! As I approach my 50th birthday on 3 August, all I have to say is: "What a long, strange trip it's been."

**Your sister, Marla**

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**Sunday / July 6 / 4:00pm**

**TGSF ExCOM MEETING**

The Next ExCom meeting will be held on Sunday July 6 at 4 PM at the office of Aiyanna Eveningstar [redacted] San Francisco.

Cotillion planning will be discussed and this will be a very important meeting as we will be asked to approve a contract, a budget and form a planning committee for the 2004 Cotillion.

**Saturday / July 12 / 6:00pm**

**GAPA RUNWAY 15**

Mr & Miss GAPA Pageant, Herbst Theater, 401 Van Ness Ave (SF Civic Center), doors open 6pm, show starts 7pm. For more details, see page 8!

**Saturday / July 12 / 6:00pm**

**CARLA'S HOEDOWN!**

...at her place (Carla's), 124 Race in SJ.

**SATURDAY / JULY 19 / 1:00PM**

**GLBT HISTORICAL SOCIETY:  
TGSF HISTORY PROJECT**

The GLBT Historical Society will be conducting a training session on how to take oral histories on Saturday, July 19, 1 - 4 PM. With just a few volunteers we'll be able to take oral histories from the founders of ETVC, which is what TGSF was originally called. See announcement printed elsewhere in this issue for more details.

**Sunday / July 20**

**SF AIDS WALK**

If you wish to join TGSF in this annual fundraiser, please call the hotline. Remember when Nancy Ann would walk the entire route in strappy 4" spike heels? We all thought she was crazy, but she did it every year and raised a hell of a lot of money that way.

**Thursday / July 31 / 7:30pm**

**TGSF END OF MONTH EVENT**

The Blue Muse 409 Gough Street, San Francisco. For more information contact the hotline or Roxy Carmichael-Hart via email.

*July's Birthdays*

7/00	Laura Davidson	7/17	Ms.Bob
7/00	Mahrie Luuz	7/17	Juliette Holiday
7/03	Rachael Collins	7/18	Carmen Gomez
7/04	Gail Owens	7/19	Michelle Cole
7/08	Jessica Ames	7/19	Katherine Schroeder
7/08	Le Chara Johnson	7/21	Paula Chapman
7/09	Leslie Ann Bailey	7/21	Carla M.
7/09	Teri Pack	7/22	Gwen Smith
7/09	Ayme Kantz	7/23	Marianne Tai
7/10	Rikki Cohen	7/23	Felicia A. Elizondo
7/10	Lorraine Hall	7/24	Roshelle Cunning
7/11	Jasmine	7/24	Nicole Harris
7/11	Daniella Sea Warrior	7/24	Kelli Wellington
7/15	Chamelle Metzger	7/25	Michelle Hofmann
7/16	Marsha Lowry	7/27	CJ Wick
7/16	Lauren White	7/28	Donna Stickey
7/16	Marie Kochaver	7/29	Kelly Love
7/17	Joanne Wilson	7/31	Erin Souza

**Many Happy Returns of the Day!**



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**The Current Location of the  
TGSF Library!!**

Cosmetics    Fem Fashions    Shoes



# Calendar of Events - July 2003

## OTHER BAY AREA GROUPS

### Pacific Ctr for Human Growth (PacCtr)

A counseling oriented growth center sponsors all-inclusive gender support groups on every Friday at 8:00pm, 2712 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley. 510-548-8283

### Rainbow Gender Association (RGA)

Meets 1st and 3rd Friday of the month 8:00pm at the New Community of Faith Church, 6350 Rainbow Drive, San Jose. Mail: PO Box 700730, San Jose, CA 95170 or call 408-984-4044.

### Sacramento Gender Association (SGA)

Blue Rose Chapter meets 8:00pm the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month in Sacramento. Write PO Box 162907, Sacramento, CA 95816 or call 916-364-7212 for meeting locations. Website: www.transgender.org/sga; email: sga@transgender.org

### Diablo Valley Girls (DVG)

Meets 1st and 3rd Monday of every month. 8:00pm at Club 1220, 1220 Pine Street in Walnut Creek. Write to DVG, PO Box 272885, Concord, CA 94527-2885 or call 925-937-8432.

### DVG Rap Group (RCC)

Meets 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month, 7:00pm at Rainbow Community Center, 2118 Willow Pass Road, Suite 500 in Concord. For more information call 925-937-8432.

### FTM International

A support group for Female-to-Male CDs and TSs; Holds open Informational Meetings and closed Support Meetings. Write FTM International, Inc., 160 14th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103 or call 415-553-5987.

### TGIF

A social group for transgenders. Meets one Saturday each month at a private home in Santa Rosa for a potluck social from 4:00pm until early evening. Space is limited - Reservations Recommended! Call Diane or Anne at 707-███-███

### Silicon Valley Gender Association (SVGA)

A new transgender support group meets at the Billy De Frank Community Center in San Jose on the 2nd and 4th Friday of every month from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. For more information, call 408-293-2429.

### Santa Cruz Trans (SCT)

Bi-weekly social/support group for gender-gifted persons serving Santa Cruz and Central Coast. 1st and 3rd Tuesdays every month at The Diversity Center, 177 Walnut Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95060; (831) 425-5422; 7:00pm

### SCOUT (SCOUT)

Santa Cruz Organization for Uniting Transmen, meets on the 4th Tuesday of every month at the Diversity Center (listed above); 7:30pm

### The Mid-Peninsula Transgender Group (MPTG)

A support group for the LGBT community that meets at 7:30 pm on the first Wednesday of each month at the Women's Health Boutique, 1115 South B Street, San Mateo - (408) 619-2908.

### Central City Hospitality House (CCHH)

288 Turk Street, SF. 415-749-2167. Facilitated TG discussion group every Monday, 5:00pm - 6:30pm.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7:00 PM SCT	2 7:30 PM MPTG	3 7:00 PM DVG RCC	4 8:00 PM PacCtr 8:00 PM RGA	5
6 4:00 PM TGFSF: ExCom Meeting	7 5:00 PM CCHH 7:00 PM PISSR General Meeting 8:00 PM DVG	8	9	10	11 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr	12 6:00 PM Carla's Hoedown 6:00 PM GAPA Runway 15 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
13	14 5:00 PM CCHH	15 7:00 PM SCT	16	17 7:00 PM DVG RCC	18 8:00 PM PacCtr 8:00 PM RGA	19 1:00 PM TGFSF History Project
20 10:00 AM SF AIDS Walk	21 5:00 PM CCHH 8:00 PM DVG	22 7:30 PM SCOUT	23	24	25 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr	26 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
27	28 5:00 PM CCHH	29	30	31 7:30 PM TGFSF: EOM @ Blue Muse		

## TGSF MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership Year is May 1 to April 30 / \$40 Single Membership; \$45 Family.

Special \$35 Single Membership w/ Email-Only\* Delivery of CHANNEL

Please Print / Check all that apply:

New Member |  Renewal  Member #: \_\_\_\_\_ | with  Family Member | What Year did you first join TGSF? \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate (Month/Day): \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

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

Family Member's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate (Month/Day): \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Optional:  Telephone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ What Name should we ask for if we need to call you? \_\_\_\_\_

\*Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Website URL: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like a link from the TGSF Website to your URL?  Yes  No

Send Check or Money Order to: TGSF, PO Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486, or hand to any Board Member at a TGSF Social.

May we use photos of you taken at TGSF events in our newsletter or website?  Yes  No



# Special Events!

*Gay Asian Pacific Alliance*  
presents

**The 15th Annual  
Mister & Miss GAPA Pageant**

## **RUNWAY 15**

Saturday, July 12th, 2003  
Herbst Theater, 401 Van Ness Ave  
San Francisco's Civic Center  
Doors open 6pm, show starts 7pm

Advance reserved seating for  
members/supporters/students  
\$15 Rear Orchestra, \$25 Front Orchestra

At the door:  
\$20 Rear Orchestra, \$30 Front Orchestra, \$50 Box

Tickets Available through City Box office, 180 Redwood, Charge by  
phone or information: 415.392.4400, or online at:  
[www.cityboxoffice.com](http://www.cityboxoffice.com)



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Runway 15 is especially proud to announce  
the support of our Sponsors  
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**July 19<sup>th</sup>!**

### **TGSF ORAL HISTORY**

There's another oral history training coming up, so I'm trying to raise a group. Jamie Fay Fenton was the only person who was interested last time. But she and I can get the project started.

Here's the description from the last message with new dates:

I'm sending this to anyone I can think of who may have be interested in the history of TGSF and ETVC. As many of you know I'm a member of long, in-active standing. As many of you also know, I am on the board of the GLBT Historical Society.

The GLBT Historical Society will be conducting a training session on how to take oral histories on **Saturday, July 19, 1 - 4 PM**. With just a few volunteers we'll be able to take oral histories from the founders of ETVC, which is what TGSF was originally called. GLBTHS provides the recording equipment, transcribes the interviews and archives them. Of course copies are available.

If you are interested, please, contact Martin Meeker at 415.777.5455 x-4# or <[redacted]@yahoo.com>. Reservations are required, since space is very limited. The training will be held at:

**GLBT Historical Society  
657 Mission St. #300 (near Third Street)  
San Francisco, CA 94105**

Hope to see some of you there! Thank you!

**Ms. Bob**

### **AIDS WALK Q&A**

**July 20**

**Q: When and where is AIDS Walk San Francisco?**

A: The AIDS Walk takes place on Sunday, July 20th, 2003 in Sharon Meadow. Located in beautiful Golden Gate Park, Sharon Meadow is at the eastern end of the Park near the intersection of Kennedy and Kezar Drives. Nearby landmarks in the Park include the carousel, the tennis courts and the children's playground.

**Q: What is the schedule for the day of the AIDS Walk?**

A: Sign-in opens at 9:00 am. There is an Aerobic Warm-up starting at 9:30 am, followed by the Opening Ceremony at 9:45 am. The Walk begins at 10:30 am. There is a post-Walk concert at 12:30pm and the announcement of funds raised takes place at approximately 2:45pm.

**Q: How long is the AIDS Walk?**

A: The AIDS Walk is 10 kilometers (6.2 miles) and takes roughly 2-3 hours to complete.



# Special Announcement!

## TGSF Sustaining Memberships

### FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

#### Designated Sustaining Membership Giving Levels & Recognition

##### **GUARDIAN LEVEL: \$2500**

###### Recognition & Benefits:

Recognition in all TGSF Programs / Channel / Website  
Two complimentary tickets to the Cotillion  
Framed Recognition Certificate  
Original Signed Photo of Ms / Mr TGSF  
Ride on the Pride Day Parade Float  
Paid Annual Membership in TGSF

##### **PATRON LEVEL: \$1000**

###### Recognition & Benefits:

Recognition in all TGSF Programs / Channel / Website  
Two complimentary tickets to the Cotillion  
Framed Recognition Certificate  
Ride on the Pride Day Parade Float  
Paid Annual Membership in TGSF

##### **ANGEL LEVEL: \$500**

###### Recognition & Benefits:

Recognition in Cotillion Program  
One complimentary ticket to the Cotillion  
Framed Recognition Certificate  
Paid Annual Membership in TGSF

##### **CENTURY LEVEL: \$250**


###### Recognition & Benefits:

Recognition in Cotillion Program  
Framed Recognition Certificate

##### **MERIT LEVEL: \$100**

###### Recognition & Benefits:

Recognition in Cotillion Program  
Recognition Certificate

 *Clip & Mail Today!*

### **Make your CONTRIBUTION to TGSF Today!**

Your Sustaining Membership contribution will be used to support the educational and social activities for TGSF.  
Please make your contribution now!

Please indicate your level of giving:

Guardian - \$2500     Patron - \$1000     Angel - \$500     Century - \$250     Merit - \$100

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Check if you DO NOT want TGSF to acknowledge you as a Sustaining Member

Please mail this Tax Deductible Sustaining Membership Contribution Form along with your Check payable to TGSF to:

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

**Thank you for your support of TGSF!**



# Readers Respond

## THE TRANS PROJECT

If you identify as transgendered, you have a sibling who does not identify as transgendered, and you and your sibling are 18 or over, you can help bring the voices and experiences of trans people into psychology.

My name is Rhonda Factor/RJ and I am a doctoral student in psychology at the University of Vermont. My doctoral dissertation is designed to illustrate the various ways we experience and express our gender identities. While as a group, there are many differences among us; we also share the experience of not identifying fully with the sex/gender to which we were assigned at birth. Our experiences are also similar to and different from individuals who do identify fully with the sex/gender to which they were assigned at birth. This project is also designed to explore these similarities and differences by comparing your experiences with those of your "conventionally gendered" siblings. The surveys administered to your siblings will simply be entitled "The Family Project" and will not focus on gender identity. In fact, that survey only asks about sex in the conventional way. Therefore, individuals will not be "outed" by sending a survey to their siblings. It is my hope that this project will contribute to a culture that understands, supports, and celebrates the varieties of our gender experiences.

*Trans research should be community-based because of our specific sensitivities, understanding, experience, and consciousness.*

Leslie Feinberg

This project was designed in collaboration with trans communities and trans researchers. Questions in areas of research important to trans people were developed through attendance at trans conferences, exploration of trans listservs, and consultation with trans individuals, mental health providers, and researchers. Interviews were conducted and questions based on the responses were incorporated into the questionnaire. Drafts of the questionnaire were shown to consultants and feedback was incorporated.

### To participate:

Please email me the following information so I can mail the surveys to you and your sibling. If you would rather have your sibling's survey sent to you and then forward it yourself, let me know. In that case, I'll send you both surveys.

- I. Your Name, Your Address, Your Email, (Name your sibling knows you by if different from "your name" above)
- II. Your Sibling's Name (If more than one, the one most likely to respond. If more than one likely to respond, the one closest in age.); Your Sibling's Address and Your Sibling's Email
- III. (If there is another sibling I can contact if the first one does not respond.); Other Sibling's Name, Other Sibling's Address and Other Sibling's Email

Thanks again for helping to create a more trans-affirming culture. Please feel free to contact me if you have any more questions.

Warmly,

**Rhonda J. Factor/RJ**  
**The Trans Project**

**[redacted]@uvm.edu**  
**Psychology Department, University of Vermont**  
**John Dewey Hall, 2 Colchester Avenue**  
**Burlington, VT 05405-0134 / (802) [redacted]**

## THE FIGGETER'S WOMANIFESTO

The back room of the Blue Muse has an architectural limitation that is having an effect on TGSF activities and morale. This is because the logical place to lead a meeting is near the piano, in front of the door to the restrooms and blocking the exit to the bar.

This means when someone is leading a meeting, they have a captive audience. Unless someone is bold enough to barge through in front of the leaders, they feel compelled to sit there and wait out whatever activity is going on in front.

This was not that much of a problem until this last year, when it was decided to have extended programs. It got worse during the May Social, when they held an open-ended discussion about corporate sponsorship of the Pride Parade float. There was no agenda, time limit, or rules of order. We went down a lot of rat holes.

People who attend TGSF affairs know that I am as fidgety and bold as a human can be. I think having programs at socials is a good idea, but until we find a venue that lets people make a discrete exit when nature or boredom calls, please keep them mercifully short. Like 5 minutes max.

— **Jamie Faye Fenton**

## NEW TG GROUP FOR MOTORCYCLE ENTHUSIASTS

*Hello Everyone,*

My girlfriend, Michele, and I have started a group for TG motorcycle enthusiasts.

You will need a complete profile WITH Please come check us out: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/TGirlzonBikes/> and hopefully a bike so you can join us on rides. In fact, Michele and I are riding this Saturday morning to Alice's Restaurant on Skyline in Woodside. If you want to come you must let either of us know.

This is NOT a sex club. We simply both LOVE to ride and want more TG sisters to ride with us. I hope to be chatting and meeting more of you.

**Blessings,  
Candace**

**PAULA-JO HUSACK, MA, LMFT, CGP**  
**LIC. #MFC27864**

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by Wendy R. Schultz

## ALIVE WITH COLOR!

Ever notice how everything is brighter and more colorful during the summer? Colors take on a different meaning this time of year. Color is about having some fun and adding light, and now is the time to try something different and daring. If you're still wearing the same colors from winter or want to update your look, now's the time to see what's new for summer. Chances are, you'll find some new favorites to wear with your favorite products. Many cosmetic companies now have a summer line of eye shadows, blushes, lipsticks, and nail colors all ready to go.

### Understanding Color

Color has three basic characteristics: hue, lightness, and value. Hue is the actual color. Lightness or shade is the amount of white or black mixed with the hue. Value is the intensity of the color. Color can be warm or cool. Warm colors such as red, orange, and yellow, are colors of energy. Cool colors such as blue, green and purple, are calming. Any of these colors can be made warm or cool when blended with other colors. For example, purple can be warmed up with the addition of red, or cooled down with the addition of blue.

### The Psychology of Color and Mood

Psychologists say that people's preferences for color and color mixes have deep psychological affects on moods and feelings. Research suggests that color can affect one's being and that color choices and color combinations are significant to present moods. In addition, color preferences are not the same every day, and will vary within a given day depending on mood. Sometimes a change of color can lighten your mood and perk you right up.

### Ever Had Your Colors Done?

Everyone belongs to a "season". If you're drawn to certain colors and they always look stunning on you, it's possible that you know your season. Having colors done is a good investment because the process will serve as a guide to which colors to stick with, and which colors to avoid. It will also assist you in building a wardrobe.

### Shimmer or Shine?

Summery and shimmery eye shadows and all-over colors are now available at your local makeup counter. They contain micro-fine light-reflecting particles and pigments that add a nice shimmer. If shimmer is not your style, then check out products that add shine to the face, eyes, or lips. Whichever way you go, summer is about sheer makeup and playing with light.

### Product Review

This month's stellar product is High Beam by BeneFit Cosmetics. High Beam is an ultra light pink lotion that adds a soft natural shimmer to the skin, and can be worn alone or under makeup day or night. It's available at Sephora.com.

Questions and feedback are always welcome. My email address is BeautyBoost@msn.com.

*Although I'm a licensed Esthetician, I'm not a healthcare professional. As such, please consult with your doctor prior to beginning any new skin care regimen.*

## IMPORTANT WEBSITE UPDATE!

If you want an ID/Password to access the new **Member's area** on the TGSF website, send an email request to Susan Laird: [\\_\\_\\_\\_\\_@hairzapper.com](mailto:_____@hairzapper.com).

# Mr. TGSF 2003

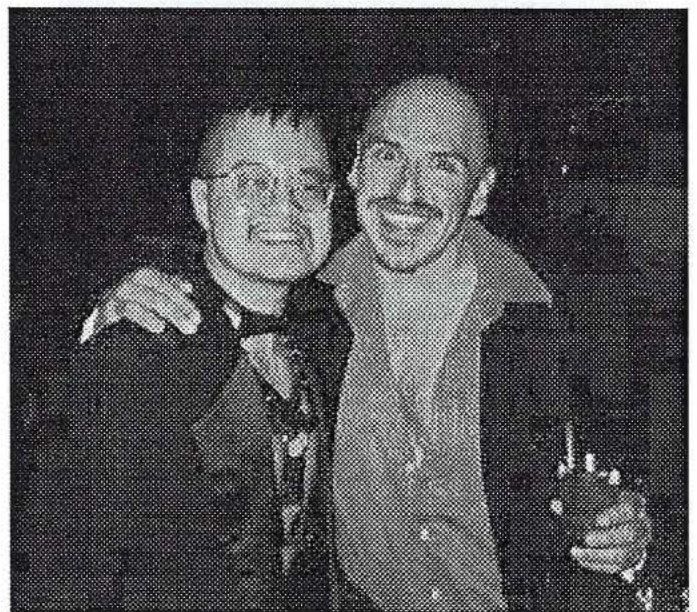
## FROM THE DESK OF MR. TGSF:

**Tyler Fong**

I find myself pondering the phrase "The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence." This seems to be the case at work. Busy is good for job security, but taxing on the individuals who actually show up to work every day. I think of my trip to Paris, France that flies me out of SFO on Tuesday. It is now Sunday. I have just returned from a fund raiser at the Eagle Tavern and life as a whole is quite good in so many more respects than I can count.

I have my health and can offer my knowledge of fitness to yet another individual who has donated funds to today's charity so as to spend time in the gym with me as their training partner. I am a trans man who wants to visit the dungeon (BDSM space) in Paris, France and am reassured by a seasoned veteran, Peter Fiske, that I have played at the 15 Association parties with no problem and that my identification documents indicate male so there is little to worry about. After being pinned Mama's TGSF boy by Sandy "Mama" Reinhardt, a leather title holder asks, "What's TGSF? I know it's your title, but what does it stand for?" He has no hesitation to ask and finds the answer acceptable; that is, he does not respond in a negative way physically or verbally. I am greeted regularly with a kiss from those in the gay community. The straight community smiles as our paths cross. I elicit smiles from those I greet at work and play. Words of kindness, helpfulness, gentleness and freedom from pain are often expressed during my work hours. Society has not equated the male gender with such traits as often as they have with the female gender. I am an educator in addition to health provider.

I have to remind myself to look at the numerous little things of life (the green grass on this side of the fence). In church celebration today, the message highlighted Father's Day, but also focused on each of us as an individual. God wants us just as we are. He does not expect us to be a great prophet or profound intellectual or super-human. If the Almighty loves me as I am, why can't I love myself the same way? So what little things in life make you who you are? Try to list them and you may be surprised. Winning the Nobel Peace Prize is a big deal, but putting a smile on someone's face can be just as profound.





# Announcements!

## PISSR:

### The Moment We've All Been Waiting For!

Okay, so it still has a long way to go to get filled up with information, but... PISSR.org is online! Woo hoo!

Please go check it out <http://www.pissr.org> and email me with all of the magnificent information that I know you would all love to see on the site.

I'll update the site as time permits. Thanks to Sarah for the wonderful design! Also, if you don't like what text is up there currently, or if the mission statement is an old one, please feel free to suggest other options. This site belongs to all of us and we want input from as many people as possible.

**Big hugs everyone,  
Teresa**

## DEAR TGSF:

As the Acting President of the new national organization, **Transgender American Veterans Association (TAVA)**, I am posting this appeal for people to join. We have recently approved our By-Laws and we are in the process of selecting Officers and Board members. This is a wonderful opportunity to get in on the ground floor of a new organization and have your input help shape the direction the group will go.

TAVA came into existence because it was felt that transgender veterans were receiving unfair and unequal treatment with the VA. We also felt that those currently serving in the military needed a friendly voice to turn to, if for nothing else, to at least have someone to talk to who understands. It is our hope that we will be able to intervene whenever a TG service member experiences problems with their command.

TAVA is an open group, so you don't have to be a veteran or even a trans person to join. We have gay and lesbian non-trans members who are there because they feel that they can contribute to helping with the issues transgender veterans and active duty service members face. The desire to help is all one needs to join. At this point in time, the membership is free, but that will change as soon as we begin to grow.

To join, either go to the Yahoo Groups site of: [TAVA@yahoogroups.com](mailto:TAVA@yahoogroups.com) or write to me at [monicahelms@prodigy.net](mailto:monicahelms@prodigy.net) and I will add you directly. (The last part of my E-mail address is "prodigy.net") You can also visit our web site at [www.tavausa.org](http://www.tavausa.org) Thank you.

**Monica Helms**

## HEY!

### **\$10 Bucks Per Issue Gets You An Ad Like This...!**

Tall, feminine, graceful closet CD seeks Big Sister to help with shopping and makeup tips. I live alone so it's helpful if you can come here, but I can certainly travel. SF Area. Call (415) 000-0000.

Up to 40 words only \$10.00. Send text of ad and Check or Money Order to TGSF's PO Box, ATTN: Editor. Reach out and come out!

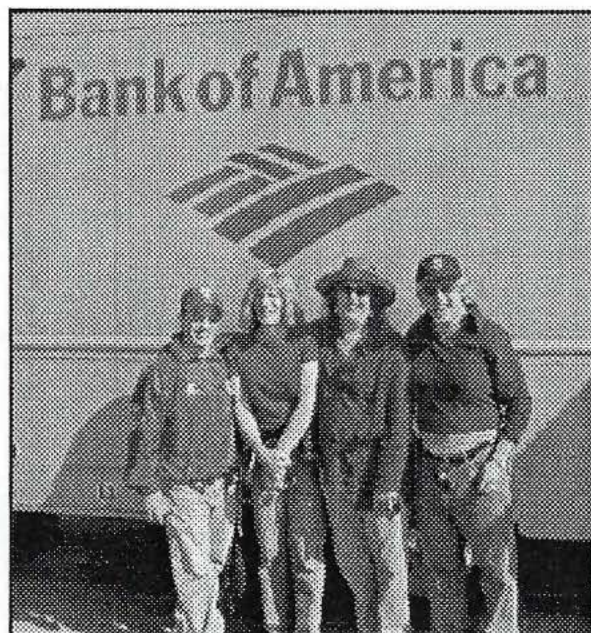
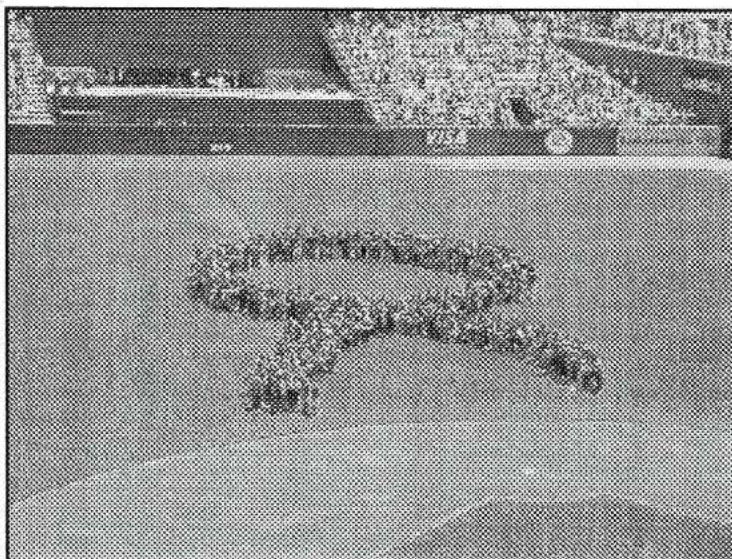
## ONLINE SO LIST!

New online mailing list for wives and SOs of crossdressers and men who consider themselves to be transgendered; no topic off limits. Attitudes range from complete acceptance to really struggling. Open to women only - no crossdressers please! Women need a place where they can feel safe to discuss these issues. Write to Cheryl at [\\_\\_\\_\\_\\_@yahoo.com](mailto:_____@yahoo.com) and explain a little about your situation.

## ANNEMARIE ST. JOHN

Annemarie St. John is pleased and proud to announce the opening of **St. John Studios** in Belmont. Annemarie is offering personal, private, and secure photographic services to the transgender and related communities. Her services include portraits, candids, and boudoir, in the studio, on location, or in your home. Annemarie is working closely with Denae and Carla, so you can get a makeover or go on a shopping spree and have your beautiful self beautifully photographed.

For services, pricing, location and contact information, go to [www.stjohnstudios.com/genderphotos](http://www.stjohnstudios.com/genderphotos).



*A Tongue-In-Cheek TGSF Contingent  
at Until There's A Cure Day, Pac Bell Park, SF*



# Takin' Care of Biz...

## STATEMENT OF TGSF ASSETS, LIABILITIES, AND EQUITY

as of 15 June 2003

### Assets

Cash .....	\$3,967.93
Event Equipment	
Decorations .....	\$1,000.00
Food Service .....	\$200.00
Office Supplies .....	\$50.00
<b>Total Assets .....</b>	<b>\$5,217.93</b>

### Liabilities and Equity

Accounts Payable .....	\$3,836.50
Equity .....	\$1,381.43

**Total Liabilities and Equity .....** \$5,217.93

## Statement of TGSF Income

### Revenue

Memberships .....	\$150.00
Donations .....	\$180.00
Advertising .....	\$145.83
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$475.83</b>

### Expenses

Cotillion .....	\$500.00
Newsletter .....	\$317.80
Operations .....	\$48.46
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$866.26</b>

**Net Income .....** (\$390.43)

## TGSF DONATIONS

*Our Friends Who Give  
as of June 15, 2003*

<b>Roxxanne Taylor .....</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>
<i>(qualifies at Angel level)</i>	
<b>Robert Clemons .....</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>
<i>(qualifies at Merit Level)</i>	

**Bless You and Thank You for Caring!**

## CONTACT TGSF!

### 2003-04 Executive Committee

#### President

Roxy Carmichael-Hart ..... [redacted]@aol.com

#### Vice President

Susan Laird ..... [redacted]@141.com

#### Secretary

Rys McCusker ..... [redacted]@treedragon.com

#### Treasurer

Brooke Jansen ..... [redacted]@yahoo.com

#### Education

KaraFlynn ..... [redacted]@aol.com

Kelly Anne Marsh ..... tbd

#### Outreach

Kalani Makanani ..... [redacted]@tgforum.com

Marla Selby ..... [redacted]@aol.com

#### Social

Aiyana Eveningstar ..... tbd

Roxxanne Taylor ..... [redacted]@aol.com

### Other Email Addresses

#### Editor, The Channel

Ayme Kantz ..... [redacted]@aol.com

#### Miss TGSF 2003

Rachel Hill ..... MissTGSF2003@aol.com

#### Mr. TGSF 2003

Tyler Fong ..... MrTGSF2003@aol.com

#### Webmistress

Susan Laird ..... [redacted]@141.com

**Calendar .....** **www.tgsf.org**

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## TRANSGENDER SUPPORT GROUP

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## CA: Gender Nondiscrimination Bill Passes Senate Judiciary Committee

SACRAMENTO - The Judiciary Committee of the California State Senate today passed a historic civil rights measure that would prohibit housing and workplace discrimination based on gender characteristics. The bill, Assembly Bill (AB) 196, is authored by Assemblymember Mark Leno (D-San Francisco), and sponsored by the nonprofit advocacy organization Equality California. The committee's vote was 5-2.

Gender-based discrimination is a serious, well-documented problem in the state of California. AB 196 will provide long overdue protections for those who are fired, evicted, or harassed because of their non-conformity with gender stereotypes," stated Geoffrey Kors, Executive Director of Equality California.

The measure clarifies that the state's prohibition of sex discrimination also prohibits discrimination based on gender-related characteristics, including transgender status. AB 196 is supported by a broad coalition of over 50 business, civil rights, and religious organizations, including the California Labor Federation, Anti-Defamation League, California Church IMPACT, the California Commission on the Status of Women, the Greater San Diego Business Association and the California Apartment Association.

Senator Sheila Kuehl (D-Santa Monica), a co-author of the bill, sits on the Judiciary Committee, and spoke in strong support of the bill during today's hearing. Kors commented, "We applaud Assemblymember Leno and Senator Kuehl for their efforts today, and for their longstanding commitment to the issue of transgender civil rights. With the help of such experienced advocates in the Legislature, we are very hopeful that AB 196 will make it through the next stages of the process without difficulty, and land on the Governor's desk within a matter of weeks."

AB 196 passed the full Assembly in April. The bill now goes to the Senate Appropriations Committee. The votes on AB 196 today were as follows: 5 Ayes (all Democrats): Cedillo, Ducheny, Escutia, Kuehl, and Sher; 2 Noes (both Republicans): Ackerman and Morrow

Founded in 1998, Equality California (formerly CAPE) is a nonprofit, non-partisan, grassroots-based, statewide advocacy organization whose mission is to ensure the dignity, safety, equality and civil rights of all lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) Californians. Equality California is one of the largest and fastest growing statewide LGBT organizations in the country. We can be contacted through our website at [www.eqca.org](http://www.eqca.org).

## Rock Band's Transgender 'Joke' Backfires

by Gay.com / PlanetOut.com Network

The rock band Toto apologized on Saturday for a message on its Web site that falsely announced a member's sex reassignment surgery this summer.

The band's guitarist and founder Steve Lukather said in a June 10 online message that keyboard player and vocalist David Paich would miss the group's summer tour due to the surgery.

"His dreams of becoming who he really is, a woman, need to be realized," Lukather said. "The lie he has been living has been difficult for his family and for us as a band."

Several media outlets reported the announcement last week before the band admitted that it was not true.

"As most of the fans have realized immediately, the last band statement regarding David Paich's absence of the summer tour was a joke and just partially true," the band's Saturday statement read. "It is correct that David won't be able to do the summer shows, however the band wanted to bring a lighter and more funny note to this sad news!"

Paich will not tour this summer because a close family member is very ill, according to the band.

"The band apologizes if this joke has offended any one," the statement continued, ending with a quote from Lukather: "One look at Dave and you would see it's an impossible story."

Like other leaders in the transgender community, Gwen Smith, board member of Gender Education and Advocacy, Inc., was not amused by the band's hoax.

"If anything, the band's attempt at humor is poor," Smith told the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com Network, "and their 'it was just a joke' retraction is worse — not only were they transphobic, but engaged in 'lookism' by declaring that it would be 'impossible' for Paich to be a woman."

Toto emerged on the pop music scene in 1978 with the song, "Hold the Line." The group's hits during the 1980s included "Rosanna" and "Africa."

## COLLEGE OFFERS TG HOUSING

by 365Gay.com Newscenter Staff

(Middletown, Connecticut) This fall Wesleyan University will become the first American college to offer transgender students specialized housing. A number of universities already have gay and lesbian housing, but it is believed this is the first time transgender students will be given their own space.

Transgender students in the freshman class will have the option of living in the new "gender-blind" facility, one floor of a dormitory for students who don't want to be categorized as one gender or another. The university has adopted a new mission statement says freshmen who choose to live in the gender-blind area "will be assigned a roommate without the consideration of gender."

Mike Whaley, dean of student services, said the move came at the urging of students who feel the university needed to do more to accommodate the living needs of transgender students.

Whaley estimates there are 12 to 15 transgender students on campus. He said in the past some students who are transitioning have been placed with roommates that resulted in "uncomfortable situations" for the TG student. Capacity of the gender-blind hall was kept to 12 because there's no way to tell how many students are going to opt for it. Whaley said it would be expanded as the need arose.

Wesleyan has a reputation for liberal attitudes in both the way it treats its students and the courses it offers. It annually holds a gay prom and its syllabus offers a course on pornography.

## EU Legal Expert Backs Transsexual Marriage Rights

Queery.com

LUXEMBOURG (AP) — Campaigners for transsexuals' rights received a boost Tuesday when a leading European legal expert said British laws that restrict their marriage and pension rights infringe European Union law.

National rules which, by not allowing transsexuals to marry, deny them entitlement to a widow's or widower's pension are contrary to (European) community law," said Damaso Ruiz-Jarabo, advocate-general at the European Court of Justice.

Ruiz-Jarabo's opinion relates to a case brought by a British woman, identified only as K.B. Under British law, her partner, a female-to-male transsexual, would not be able to receive a widower's pension because they are unable to marry legally.

K.B. claimed that the law amounts to discrimination, since she has contributed for 20 years to a pension program as a worker for Britain's National Health Service.

British legal authorities referred the case to the European Union high court, which is expected to give a final ruling later this year. Although Ruiz-Jarabo's opinion is not binding on the court, it conforms to the advocate-general's advice in 80 percent of cases.

Ruiz-Jarabo said that "the right of a transsexual to marry a person of the same biological sex is incorporated into the laws of the majority of (EU) member states and the European Convention on Human Rights."

He said EU nations were free to set legal requirements for marriage, but not where they "impose a condition contrary to fundamental rights where enjoyment of an economic right (is) protected" by the EU's founding treaty.

Britain's highest court, The House of Lords, has already noted that British law is incompatible with the European human rights convention and urged the government to resolve the problem.

Pending a change in the law, Ruiz-Jarabo said, the national court should seek to ensure transsexuals can benefit from pension rights without discrimination.

## Significant Other Support - East Bay

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## DRAG BALL QUEEN

### PEPPER LABEIJ, DIES AT 53

by Gay.com / PlanetOut.com Network

Pepper LaBeija, a queen of Harlem drag balls and a subject of the documentary "Paris Is Burning," died on May 14 in Manhattan at the age of 53. The cause of death was a heart attack, the New York Times reported.

LaBeija, whose given name was William Jackson, appeared at the balls in glamorous fashions and presided for more than 30 years over the House of LaBeija, a group of drag performers who used the surname LaBeija.

"A house is a family for those who don't have a family," she said in "Paris Is Burning."

Pepper LaBeija was the last of the four major Harlem drag ball queens. The others, Angie Xtravaganza, Dorian Corey and Avis Pendavis, died in recent years.

LaBeija supported herself by producing the balls and teaching modeling, the Times reported.

Chronicled in "Paris Is Burning," the balls are performance extravaganzas that blur gender boundaries and feature contests to see which performers can look and act most like a certain archetype, for instance a fashion model. The Harlem ball scene also innovated the stylized dance form known as "voguing."

LaBeija was sidelined in recent years by diabetes and had both of her feet amputated because of the disease. She last performed at a ball in 2001, according to the Times.

## LAW WOULD

### RECOGNIZE JAPANESE

### TRANSGENDERED

by Peter Hacker  
365Gay.com Newscenter  
Asia Bureau Chief



(Tokyo) Japanese transgendered men and women may soon be allowed to correct their gender on official documents. A group of ruling coalition lawmakers is preparing legislation that would allow the transgendered to make the change on their family register after having sex-reassignment surgery.

Under the bill, being prepared by members of the Liberal Democratic Party, New Komeito and the New Conservative Party the transgendered could apply to family courts to have their gender registration changed.

For years, transsexuals who underwent sex-change surgery have sought court approval to change their registered sex. They have also submitted numerous joint petitions to politicians and health ministry officials, seeking legal action to facilitate their quest.

"The bill is a long-cherished dream of GID patients," said Chieko Noono, a member of the committee examining the legislation. "Although relatively conservative on family issues, the public finally appears to be aware of the problems haunting such people. The legislation is essential to reduce their anxiety in daily life and to help them fully participate in society."

Currently the Family Registration Law stipulates a register can be corrected only when "mistakes" are found, and family courts have repeatedly rejected petitions from transsexuals to switch their gender registration. Recently, Aya Kamikawa had to seek federal government approval to seek election. Kamikawa who was born male but is in the process of gender reassignment wanted to run as a woman for Tokyo council. She was eventually granted the right, and won, although after her victory she was registered under her male name.

Many transsexuals opt to work as part-timers so that they do not have to show prospective employers their identity papers. As a result many transgendered are among the country's poorest people. Another major problem is that the current system effectively bars transsexuals from marrying.

The lawmakers are trying to get the bill submitted to the Diet, Japan's Parliament, by the scheduled June 18 close of the current session.

## PA: Newspaper: State Paying for Inmate's Hormones

PITTSBURGH (AP) — A transsexual imprisoned for raping a child is getting free female-hormone therapy from the state as a result of a settlement with state prison officials, a newspaper reported.

The Pennsylvania Department of Corrections is paying for hormones for James Elliot Wolfe, who legally changed her name to Jessica Elaine Wolfe in 1996, the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review reported Sunday. Wolfe, 39, a Pittsburgh native, is serving a 5- to 15-year sentence at a state prison at Graterford, near Philadelphia, for raping an 8-year-old girl in 1995.

Prison spokeswoman Susan McNaughton confirmed that a state prison inmate is receiving hormone treatment but declined to identify the inmate, citing privacy and medical confidentiality rules. McNaughton said the inmate is taking Premarin, an estrogen replacement drug, which costs about \$240 a year. In an interview with the newspaper, Wolfe said she is also receiving shots of Lupron Depot, which decreases testosterone levels and can cost as much as \$7,000 a year.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled more than 20 years ago that transgender inmates must receive some form of medical care but left it up to prison officials to determine treatment on a case-by-case basis.

"It's basically humanitarian medical considerations," said Shannon Minter, legal director for the National Center for Lesbian Rights. "They should be punished, and the punishment is incarceration, but the punishment is not withholding medically necessary treatment."

According to legal and medical experts and advocates for the transgendered, most prisons continue treatment for transgendered inmates, although the level of treatment can vary from counseling to sex-change operations. Although legally obligated to provide Wolfe with some sort of care, some said the state had gone too far.

"This is bizarre beyond belief. It really begins to test violating the taxpayer," said Jake Haulk, head of the Allegheny Institute for Public Policy, a conservative think tank.

Wolfe was taking female hormones to prepare for sex-change surgery when she was arrested. Prison officials later stopped the hormone treatment and Wolfe sued, claiming stopping the treatment "cruel and unusual punishment." According to the lawsuit, after officials stopped Wolfe's hormone prescriptions in August 1996, Wolfe had withdrawal symptoms similar to menopause, went bald and fell into a severe depression.

The case was scheduled to go to trial but was settled in 2001. As part of the settlement, prison officials agreed to resume Wolfe's therapy and paid an undisclosed award. Prison officials declined to discuss the settlement.

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## TV TELLS OUR STORIES: PART 1

Jamison Green offers a man's POV on life in the trans lane. Opinion, advice and information from an internationally respected leader of the FTM community.



No, not transvestites; television — the traditional usage of “TV.” Sorry for any confusion. Transvestites and transsexuals are indeed back in the media in a number of ways these days. In California, the progress of assembly bill 196 (freshman legislator Mark Leno’s move to add transpeople to the list of people against whom it is unlawful to discriminate in employment and housing across the state) has alarmed conservative commentators and those who would object to us on religious grounds. As a result, we’ve been the subject of numerous radio programs and some national television, like Fox News’ “O’Reilly Factor.” Most of the objections concern the notion of men in dresses. FTMs aren’t even on the radar.

The last time similar legislation moved toward him through the state houses, he pitted it against the expansion of domestic partner rights and said he would only sign “one gay bill” that year. Nonetheless, the bill moves forward, and this year we hope Governor Davis will sign it.

[This month] Oprah Winfrey broke new ground in two full back-to-back shows about people who change their sex. Three MTFs appeared as guests, but she also used clips from the documentary film “Just Call Me Kade” about a young person considering becoming FTM.

Unfortunately, Oprah devoted her time to the issue of transsexuals welching on the deal. That is, the main point used to connect our collective story to her audience was the idea that families, especially wives (remember, she’s talking MTFs here) are the ones most affected when transsexual people focus on themselves. “You say you knew you felt this way since you were three years old. Why would you get married — and bring children into the marriage — when you knew you were going to do this?” she asked. “Don’t you think that’s selfish?”

Jennifer Boylan, a Colby College English professor and author of the upcoming book, “She’s Not There,” was the guest on May 6. She agreed that sex change is very hard on spouses, and she’s sorry about that. But one of the reasons she got married was the idea that “doing the right thing” as a man would help stop her feelings and prevent her from doing the thing she feared: changing her sex. She thought love would save her, but it didn’t.

Two other transwoman guests the next day, May 7, indicated the same thing. One of the wives defended her decision to stay with her husband of 20 years — because they were best friends, and to honor the family they had created together. She likened the situation to one in which a horrible accident renders one’s partner incapable of having sex and changes his appearance dramatically (think of Christopher Reeve, the former “Superman” actor who is now paraplegic because of a horse-riding accident). “I’m not attracted to women, so I can’t have relations with him,” she said, “but I love him. You don’t leave somebody just because an accident happens.”

Noelle Howey, the 30-year-old daughter of a transsexual father, documented her own coming of age as a woman alongside her father’s transition to female in her book, “Dress Codes.” On the show, she also defended her father’s transition by pointing out how much nicer she is now, how much happier. Noelle doesn’t have a father in the same physical way that she did before, but she still has a loving parent of whom she is very proud.

Oprah also showcased clips from the wonderful short documentary “No Dumb Questions,” which premiered this past June on Cinemax. It’s about three young girls whose uncle is becoming their aunt, and the ideas they have versus the reality they encounter when their aunt comes for a visit. I highly recommend it.

“Just Call Me Kade” is about a 14-year-old female-bodied individual who begins the transition to male. It’s also an excellent film, if you get a chance to see it (check for it on your local LGBT film festival program, or ask any queer-friendly festival or event manager to book it through Frameline). Kade is now 16. Oprah, whose producers interviewed him by phone prior to the show, announced that Kade has decided not to have sex-reassignment surgery, although he has had a mastectomy. Oprah said this in such a moralizing way that I was immediately angry. Sure, Kade may have decided not to have genital reconstruction, but that could be for a variety of reasons! The audience could have interpreted Oprah’s statement as a reason not to allow young people access to transformative medical technologies: “They are too young to know what they want. Kade probably thinks ‘she’ made a mistake.”

What if Kade was choosing to delay genital reconstruction because he is hoping for improvements to current procedures? No one was there to explain why waiting for science might be desirable. What if Kade is choosing to live in between genders? No one was there to talk rationally about what that means. People were just left to think that sex change is a horrid process that causes great upheaval for these unfortunate people and their families — or, worse, that these people are simply deranged and can’t accept themselves. How pathetic.

Nope, no one was there who could anticipate the ramifications of various statements and address them in the moment — though it is very difficult to really engage in dialogue of much conceptual depth on these kinds of talk shows. The producers always seem to need to cut to a commercial, or the moderator changes the subject before you get to speak. Even worse, Kade wasn’t there to speak for himself. I don’t think Oprah’s ever come closer, though, to having an FTM on her show.

All in all, the shows were positive, and the guests all acquitted themselves well. But her representation of the trans experience on television still leaves much to be desired. You’d think the only people who are gender variant, or who change their sex, are white and middle class. No one addresses that issue, and that pisses me off. You’d also think the only people who are affected are male-bodied and changing from male to female. That pisses me off, too. Except for Kade, you’d think that the only people who change their sex are in their 40s or 50s, after having been married for a decade or two and shamefully dressing up in women’s clothes in secret since childhood. That pisses me off as well. There’s never any discussion of how gender — and our misconceptions about it — affect us all, whether we are trans or not. That pisses me off most of all.

## TV Tells Our Stories - Part 2

Transpeople usually have something to complain about when we are represented in The Media. When Amy Bloom’s latest book, “Normal,” was released in 2002, many of those profiled in her chapter, “Conservative Men in Conservative Dresses: Heterosexual Crossdressers,” were deeply offended to see themselves represented as she saw them. That’s the risk we take when we offer to let outsiders in.

When Oprah had three transsexual women on her show May 6 and 7, 2003, FTMs complained they didn’t exist (until very close to the end of the program on May 7, when Oprah showed clips of a great documentary about a young FTM, “Just Call Me Kade”). The idea that transsexual people are only white, middle class, middle-aged men is pretty much the media stereotype, unless you consider all the cop shows in which transpeople are sex workers, victims of crime and demented murderers. No one has yet captured all the diversity in the real trans community, though Rosa Von Praunheim’s 1996 film “Transsexual Menace” comes the closest of any film I’ve seen so far.

Not to be confused with Amy Bloom’s book, a made-for-television film also called “Normal” was broadcast March 16, 2003 on HBO. Jessica Lange was wonderful as the “wronged spouse” who ultimately elects to stay with her former husband, a factory worker, as he transitions from male to female in their small Midwestern town. Tom Wilkinson was extremely convincing as a big, masculine man who hid his gender identity as long as he possibly could, trying to avoid facing it and all its inherent difficulties. He’s much like similarly situated older transwomen I’ve met around the world: tentative, awkward, sincere, hopeful, frightened, committed to finding themselves in their own female expression.

The triumph in this film is the couple’s commitment to their marriage — though it is certainly strained by this new wrinkle. Some critics called the scenario implausible and unrealistic, but every second of this film rang true to me, right down to the couple’s preadolescent tomboy daughter, who was totally cool with the whole transition business.

The latest entry in the mainstream field comes from Film Garden Entertainment, which recently produced two documentaries for the Discovery Channel: “Changing Sexes — Male-to-Female” premiered November 24, 2002, and “Changing Sexes — Female-to-Male” premiered May 11, 2003. Some identical footage was used in both films, which I found distracting, but on the whole I thought the producers did a credible job presenting the stories of transpeople who seemed fairly typical to me. I do get angry about people’s insistence on calling us “transsexual women who live as men,” or “transsexual men who want to be women,” though. To me, this is a clear refusal to understand how our experience of life differs from that of those who observe or analyze us.

Focusing on the FTM side, an interesting twist was the twins, Rachael/Ryan and Renae, which allowed for some deeper-than-usual discussion of possible bio/social origins of transsexuality. Out in the Midwest, Dirk, his partner Heidi and her son struggle with some very real issues. The security and love within their nuclear family and the satisfaction Dirk experiences as he begins his transition contrasts strongly with the family and neighbors who shun them. Another FTM, Scott, expresses the frustration many transmen feel with the limitations of the phalloplasty procedure. He was fortunate that his insurance company would cover most of the cost, and he’s satisfied with the result — though it was a painful, traumatic process to endure.

Continued on Page 17



## PRIDE BELONGS TO TRANSGENDER PEOPLE, TOO

OPINION | PlantOut Open Forum  
by Gwendolyn Ann Smith



At least once a year, an article comes out arguing against transgender inclusion in the larger gay rights movement. While I am not sure there is a correlation, most of these pieces tend to coincide with Pride events, when our community is focused on being one big happy family. When I see such articles, I cannot help asking myself: Where do transgender people really fit within the Pride framework?

You might expect this to be a dead issue by now. Individuals we would today call “transgendered” were present at the Stonewall rebellion that led to the modern community. And with the increasing prominence of transgender people and issues over the last decade, the answer seems easy.

While we are clear partners in this thing we call “GLBT Pride” in many ways, there is still a long and difficult road to travel before we can see a completely unified picture.

We’ve certainly come a long way from the rift of the 1970s, when transgender expression in all its forms was “purged” from the movement amid fears it would somehow damage attempts to gain rights for a supposed majority. Then, transgenderism was seen as too “out there,” too different for comfort — and hard to fit into the view of the overall community.

Today, even organizations like the Human Rights Campaign — long foes of transgender inclusion — are turning the corner on the issue, actively pursuing changes to federal law to allow for expanded rights covering sexual orientation and gender identity, including the long-embattled Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA).

Nevertheless, many of the old views remain. For example, issues over New York’s Sexual Orientation Non-Discrimination Act (SONDA) and the struggle for transgender inclusion in same highlighted a common occurrence among high-profile rights battles: When the going gets tough, make sure that transgender-inclusive language is not present in your bill.

I would love to have the luxury of picking and choosing who is too queer for comfort. Unfortunately, it turns out that I’m often the one. I end up there simply by living my life: Being an extremist can be as simple as walking down the street.

The fact of the matter is that our battles are often linked. The religious right and their ilk don’t bother to make a distinction between a transgender issue and a gay one.

Furthermore, many young gays and lesbians are singled out for hatred not so much for the people they’re attracted to, but for actions not considered “appropriate” for their gender. It’s the same thing I faced as a young transwoman — I was called a “faggot” just as quickly as any young gay male in my school.

The minds of those who hate us make no distinction: It is only ourselves who seem intent on trying to find out which of us is easiest to toss over the side. And it is often the transgendered.

The irony is that our issues are more closely linked than many want to realize. Stereotypes of effeminate gay men and “mannish” lesbians aside, the very concept of loving one of your own sex is a transgender act. After all, a “real man” would not love another man, nor would a “good woman” be party to same-sex love. Never mind that this “good woman” happens to prefer the arms of another like her.

So does transgender fit into this concept of “Pride?” Yes and no. We’re closer, but there is still much work to be done. It’s hard to feel pride when one is the “red-headed stepchild” of the movement.

In many circles, transgender people are still treated as a matter of convenience rather than being placed on an equal footing with the rest of the community. We’re included when it’s handy, or when transgender voices become too loud to ignore. Those voices are becoming deafening.

The move is now on to correct the omission of gender identity or expression from current versions of ENDA and the Law Enforcement Enhancement Act (hate crimes bill), both attempts to get federal-level rights. Both remain active bills designed without transgender protections in mind, but both are unlikely to pass in the current Congress — and stand poised to be so revised.

Make no mistake: We’re here, we may well be queerer — but we belong.

Gwen Smith ([www.gwensmith.com](http://www.gwensmith.com)) is a San Francisco-based transgender activist, writer and designer, though not necessarily in that order.

## Visible Man...

Continued from Page 16

Many “experts” are quoted. Thomas Wise, a psychiatrist from Johns Hopkins Medical Center, and Ken Zucker, from what was once the Clark Institute in Toronto (now called the Child and Adolescent Gender Identity Clinic) speak out against what they perceive as a current trend toward easing access to gender-confirmation procedures. Wise equates transsexualism to anorexia, a “strongly convicted belief that the person is fat” despite clearly being skinny, as he describes it. He believes it should not be accommodated with surgery, but treated as the mental disorder it so obviously is (according to him). Zucker also strongly implies that psychotherapy ought to be the remedy of choice, as opposed to hormones and surgery.

Dr. Nancy Segal discusses studies of twins, with the implication that there must always be some kind of environmental stimulus that invokes what appear to be dramatic character differences between twins — possibly dating back to when the twins were still in utero, or to differences in how they were treated in childhood, or a combination of both.

According to the documentary, there are six known cases of identical twins in which one was transsexual. Psychotherapist Lin Fraser and plastic surgeon Michael Brownstein round out the field of experts, with cameo appearances by Dirk’s endocrinologist and neuroscientist Dick Swaab from the Netherlands Institute for Brain Research, who discusses research showing that transsexual women have certain physical brain characteristics that are more like nontrans women than nontrans men. Doctors Wise and Zucker scoff at such notions.

I think viewers are left with the idea that transsexualism is still strange — and hotly debated in professional circles. But the evidence of the transmen themselves, about the reality of their lives and their convictions about who they are, has to count for something. Documentaries like this have their impact only with visibility. Rebroadcast and showings at festivals are the hallmarks of a documentary’s success in giving audiences a concentrated, balanced look at the topic — and a thoughtful atmosphere in which viewers can examine their own opinions.

Talk shows like Oprah’s are good for selling products (like books) and for generating enthusiasm and feel-good buzz. Just as in a documentary film production, the subject has no control of the context — but while talk shows have immediacy, documentaries have greater potential long-term effects. In either environment, as long as we are subjects, we will have to try to get our message out despite hosts’ and producers’ agendas.

Media exposure does have a cumulative effect, though the specific details of each transperson’s presentation are usually lost on those not close to the issue. When one is feeling “used” or directly exploited by the media, it seems much larger and more lasting and important than it really may be. Transpeople have to avoid getting sucked into the ups and downs of specific popular-media moments, while cooperating with television or radio to help us make the political and social gains we need.

The quality of our collective ability to present ourselves — and make social progress for the whole range of transpeople — is increasing exponentially. We are living our lives for the long term, one hopes. While Oprah has media presence and the power to generalize about us, our collective ability to connect with members of her audience and move their thinking increases with each individual exposure.

Damn right, we need to feature people with more political consciousness, more awareness of the range and depth of who we are collectively. I’d love to see Marcus Van perform on Oprah’s set. I’d love to watch Lorraine Sade Baskerville — who is right there in Chicago, working on HIV prevention, particularly among trans sisters and brothers — render Oprah speechless. But Oprah and her producers will choose products and emotional hooks for their concept of her target audience before they choose to showcase the real lives of transpeople — because, though she certainly is capable of shaping public opinion, her format is ultimately not about education.

Meanwhile, I’d like to commend Kade, Jenny Boylan, Noelle Howey and her father, and all the others who appeared on Oprah last month for taking their part in helping to chip away at monolithic notions of transpeople as sex workers or demented homophobic gay men and crossdressers. It really does help, one synapse-pop of general collective consciousness at a time. If you can, buy Boylan and Howey’s books, and ask exhibitors to show these films, to demonstrate to publishers and producers that there is interest in this topic. That will help move the issue forward, too.



## A Book Review by Pauline Park, Ph.D. *The Man Who Would Be Queen: The Science of Gender-Bending and Transsexualism*

Book by J. Michael Bailey, Joseph Henry Press

What is the most horrifying outcome one can imagine from the story of a feminine boy who loves everything girlish? That he should grow up to identify as a transgendered woman? Clearly, this is the fear that animates J. Michael Bailey in his latest book, *The Man Who Would Be Queen: The Science of Gender-Bending and Transsexualism*.

Bailey, a professor of psychology at Northwestern University with a Ph.D. from the University of Texas, has been published widely in academic journals and is most famous for his studies of sexual orientation in twins. His new book, released in mid-March, has already created a stir, which may be exactly what Bailey intended.

A primary aim of Bailey's book is to challenge the distinction between sexual orientation and gender identity and expression that has become commonplace in the LGBT community. "The standard lecture is that sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender role behavior are separate, independent psychological traits; a feminine man is as likely to be straight as gay," Bailey writes. "But the standard lecture is wrong. It was written with good, but mistaken, intentions: to save gay men from the stigma of femininity. The problem is that most gay men are feminine, or at least they are feminine in certain ways."

Bailey goes so far as to assert that "the causes of homosexual transsexualism are largely the causes of homosexuality." But Bailey's challenge is to explain why some male-to-female transsexuals are attracted to women—heterosexual pre-op and lesbian-identified post-op; in the end, he simply discounts them as pathologically narcissistic, deriding them as having "a very unusual sexual orientation (towards oneself as a woman)." (In this book at least, Bailey ignores masculine women and female-to-male transsexuals altogether.)

Bailey's notion that sexual orientation and gender identity are rooted in the same "cause" is closely related to his view of the "nature vs. nurture" debate about homosexuality. He weighs in decisively in favor of essentialism—the contention that there is a phenomenon that we call homosexuality that is cross-culturally consistent in its fundamental characteristics and probably rooted in biology—and against social constructionism—the view that notions of sexuality and gender are relatively arbitrary and culturally specific and defined.

"I call the idea that men and women (and gay and straight men) have cross-culturally consistent (and probably innate) differences in interests the 'psychological' hypothesis," Bailey writes. "This is because it suggests that the sexes, and the sexual orientations, are really psychologically different. The competing idea, that these differences are largely arbitrary, is known as the 'sociological' hypothesis. This hypothesis implies that men and women, or gay and straight men, are the same psychologically, and that behavioral differences between them reflect sociological factors such as group identity."

In short, there is, in Bailey's view, a consistent psychological difference between gay men and straight men, and, unfortunately, it's just a short leap from there to the conclusion that pathology lies on one side of that divide. Bailey not only seems to lack command of the most basic tenets of social constructionism—he claims, for example, that its proponents argue that all men are innately bisexual, when of course constructionism rejects the very notion of culturally transcendent identities based on innate characteristics—but, more importantly, he fails to acknowledge some of its most important insights.

Social constructionists point to the cultural imposition of a rigid sex/gender binary as the source of homophobia and transgenderphobia in society, but Bailey cannot fathom how such pressure—not to mention the resulting internalized homophobia and transphobia—can create ambivalence in a boy about his femininity or in a girl about her masculinity.

Bailey opens and closes the book with the story of Danny Ryan, a boy who just can't help trying on his mother's clothes, and the author clearly sees this gender non-conforming behavior as pathological. "It is difficult to see a boy like Danny Ryan without wondering why he exists," Bailey muses. "He is so unusual, and there is no obvious explanation."

Passages like this, sprinkled throughout the book, make clear that Bailey views masculinity in men as being unambiguously good and femininity in men as bad, or at least profoundly problematic. The title of the book—*The Man Who Would Be Queen*—suggests that Bailey views males who cross-dress or who express their femininity as faintly ridiculous or even pathetic figures. Despite a sympathetic tone, Bailey never questions the assumption that femininity in boys is a form of "deviance" to be explained. This bias is clearest in his defense of the diagnosis of "gender identity disorder" (GID), still listed in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) published by the American Psychiatric Association.

GID is perhaps the single most controversial issue within the transgender community, with some passionately defending its use and others calling for its

"reform" or even removal from the DSM. Some transsexuals believe that gender dysphoria is a real mental illness for which hormone replacement therapy (HRT) and sex reassignment surgery (SRS) are the appropriate treatment. Others justify retaining GID on the pragmatic grounds that it offers access to HRT and SRS, especially given that SRS is still considered "experimental" by the medical establishment. But as the number of transsexuals able to get private health insurance to pay for SRS dwindles, consensus in the transgender community is moving toward some sort of "reform" that would recast gender dysphoria as a medical condition rather than a psychopathology.

Bailey does not seem to recognize the extent to which GID pathologizes not only transsexuals but all gender-variant people as mentally ill. In fact, some proponents of GID, such as George Rekers—a fundamentalist Christian psychiatrist at the University of South Carolina medical school—explicitly advocate the use of GID as a tool to "prevent" homosexuality in "genderqueer" youth. Few LGBT people realize that a GID diagnosis can be—and is—used by homophobic parents to institutionalize gender-different youth in order to "cure" them. Most youth who face such treatment grow up identifying not as transgendered, but rather lesbian, gay, or bisexual. It is not just transsexuals whose lives are affected by a diagnosis of GID.

Bailey rejects Rekers' approach to GID as "unscientific" and "punitive," based on overtly religious "arguments for the superiority of heterosexuality," but he dismisses the challenge to GID as "ideological grandstanding at the expense of feminine boys" by those he calls "left-wing" critics whose real agenda is social change. By creating a left/right binary, Bailey is able to insert himself in the debate as a "moderate" concerned for the welfare of feminine boys. For Bailey, the task of the psychiatrist is not to question rigid notions of gender but rather to attempt to "treat" gender "dysphoria" in those unwilling to conform. The end game is avoiding what Bailey considers the ultimate disaster—the male who seeks sex reassignment surgery.

But Bailey never questions the real source of the "unhappiness" of feminine boys—the abuse and violence directed against them by a homophobic and transphobic society. In response to critics of GID, Bailey asks rhetorically, "Who can really hope to change society?" He seems unaware of the extent to which the transgender movement has begun to bring about just that kind of social change. Last year, 14 jurisdictions adopted transgender rights laws, including New York City, Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago, and Dallas. And public opinion surveys have shown increasing acceptance of transgendered people as they have of gays and lesbians.

Despite the book's subtitle—*The Science of Gender-Bending and Transsexualism*—what is most striking about this book is how little it is informed by empirical research. Bailey presents no original research of his own in this book, and rests his conclusions largely on a superficial reading of a number of studies, including one conducted nearly 20 years ago by Richard Green of UCLA and published in 1987 in *The Sissy Boy Syndrome and the Development of Homosexuality*. Green's sample size was simply too small to provide the basis for firm conclusions about anything, his methodology was questionable at best, and his work is now woefully out-of-date. Instead of original research, Bailey offers a series of personal stories of boys who became gay men or transsexual women.

One has the impression of Bailey reaching to his bookshelf for some second-hand research and hastily throwing together a book in order to cash in on the vogue for anything about transgender. Bailey himself recently referred to the book as "scandalous," suggesting that its sensationalism is part of a conscious attempt to provoke controversy. Some controversies are productive; others just sell books.

Pauline Park (p.park@ix.netcom.com) is co-chair of the New York Association for Gender Rights Advocacy and has a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Illinois. This article is a joint project of Gay City News and the Pride Senior Network, in whose newsletter, *The Networker*, it also appears.



### **Transcending Transgender**

**Sponsored by  
City of Refuge UCC Outreach Ministries**

A support group facilitated by Janetta Johnson and Portia Denard;  
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San Francisco CA 94103, (415) 861-6130. When: Every Friday, 6 pm  
to 7:30 pm. Food and snacks will be provided.



## CONTROVERSY ERUPTS OVER GAY AND TRANSSEXUAL BOOK

### NTAC Urges NAS Review, Independent Research

The gloves have come off, and a scientific brouhaha has developed over J. Michael Bailey's book, *The Man Who Would be Queen*, published by Joseph Henry Press, imprint for the National Academies, including the National Academy of Science. Respected members of the medical and scientific world as well as transgender activists have decried as worse than junk science a publication that is long on intuition and devoid of original research data.

Such well known and respected transsexual women as Professor Lynn Conway, University of Michigan; Professor Joan Roughgarden; Stanford University Biology Department, Dr. Becky Allison, MD; and Christine Burns, Vice President of Britain's Press for Change organization, decry the simplistic Blanchard theory posited as truth by Bailey based largely on his observations of transsexual prostitutes and others who frequent gay bars in Chicago. They have expressed concern over the treatment transsexuals could expect if the Blanchard-Bailey position were taught as fact. Conway, Roughgarden and Burns have called on the National Academy of Science to investigate Bailey's work and to remove the book from under the imprimatur of the national Academies.

The National Transgender Advocacy Coalition (NTAC) supports this action and calls for independent research into other potential transsexual taxonomies. Many educated, intelligent, and successful transsexuals disagree that 'two sizes fit all.' The categories of homosexual and autogynephile do not capture these individuals' experience and ignore their self-description and understanding. Bailey's limited definitions turn all other opinions into 'self-deception,' which strains credibility.

Even Anjelica Kielytyka, portrayed as 'Cher,' a major character in Bailey's chapters on autogynephilia has disavowed Bailey and Blanchard's all-inclusive categorizations. She has been quoted as writing, "It is most unfortunate that he [Bailey] used me and my case history as the 'poster child for autogynephilia'... using all of my case study (under the pseudonym of "Cher") to support his chapters on 'autogynephiliacs.' Unfortunate because here was an opportunity to break away from, rather than [sic] give further support to a dead 'Freudian' mixture of onanism, narcissism and paraphilic transvestite fetishism. I refused to join this bandwagon of Bailey, Blanchard and Lawrence, to which I would also add Zucker and Bradley of the Clarke Institute."

In a May 3, 2003 letter to the presidents of the National Academy of Science and the National Institute of Medicine, Dr. Joan Roughgarden, Stanford University Professor of Population Biology, states the following: "Many are claiming that the Academy has become complicit in publishing junk science... The situation is actually worse however. Junk science at least goes through the motions of science. Junk-science books include references, footnotes, data tables, and statistics to create the semblance of science. Only by tracking down the references can junk science be refuted. Bailey, on the other hand, has written a thin book without references, a book that nonetheless makes exceptionally broad and dubious claims in the name of science, and draws legitimacy from appearing under the Academy's imprint and on the Academy's website. The situation is remarkable. There's nothing in Bailey's book to refute other than hot air - no data tables, no statistics, no knowledge of the principles of classification, no experiments, no controls, no out-groups, nothing."

Three primary reasons for the opposition of successful transsexual scientists and educators to Bailey's book include a near complete lack of research details or reference; the apparent omission of transsexuals from other than the gay bar, sex worker, and erotic sex scenes; and the insistence that those transsexuals who strongly disavow being homosexual or autogynephilic are simply in a state of self-deception or are lying. In placing all MTF transsexuals in one of two narrowly defined categories that don't match the reported feelings of many transsexuals, Bailey is deemed guilty of faulty research, faulty conclusions, sensationalism, and perhaps, of promoting a homophobic and transphobic approach to treatment. Bailey, Blanchard and Lawrence contend that transsexuals coming from a heterosexual life who deny eroticism as the primary reason for their transition are not being truthful. Since they consider the feelings of such transsexuals to be false by presumption, then all such transsexuals must be autogynephilic. QED. No need for further research.

Bailey, an Associate Professor of Psychology at Northwestern University, contends that early onset MTFs - those who have known since childhood that they are 'women trapped in a man's body' - are extremely feminine homosexual men. He identifies only one other classification of MTF transsexuals: autogynephilics. These, he contends, are men who are so erotically obsessed with the image of themselves as women that they live as women, undergoing sex reassignment surgery, if possible. Thus, Bailey reiterates the 20 year-old conclusions of Ray Blanchard at the Clarke Institute in Toronto, who first de-

veloped the model of autogynephilia to explain transsexuals who transition later in life, often following a long-term and successful male role. Blanchard's theory on autogynephilia and his categorization of only two types of transsexual received little lasting notice until resurrected by several articles written by Dr. Anne Lawrence, MD and Ph.D., of Seattle a few years ago.

On page 146 of his book, Bailey writes, "The two types of transsexuals who begin life as males are called homosexual and autogynephilic. Once understood, these names are appropriate. Succinctly put, homosexual male-to-female transsexuals are extremely feminine gay men, and autogynephilic transsexuals are men erotically obsessed with the image of themselves as women."

In a recent note to an autogynephilia discussion list, however, Bailey said, "I have never written that transsexuals who transition from men to women are still men. Nor has Ray Blanchard. Nor has Anne Lawrence. The phrase 'men trapped in men's bodies,' which applies to autogynephilic transsexuals, means simply that they are not naturally feminine in the way that homosexual m-f transsexuals are. It doesn't mean that they do not achieve femininity, and regardless of how feminine they are, once they decide to become women and enter that role (regardless of genital status), they are women, in my opinion."

Bailey posits that transsexuals who lived in the role of straight men suffer from sexual aberrations (paraphilias) rather than from the more commonly accepted mismatch between body and the brain's gender identity. Bailey, Blanchard, and Lawrence seem to discount the role of gender in Gender Identity Disorder (GID), assigning the role instead to either homosexuality or sexual obsession. Bailey states (page 176), "With luck, the next revision of the DSM [Diagnostic and Statistical Manual for Mental Disorders] will distinguish 'homosexual' from 'autogynephilic' transsexualism." Outspoken critics hope not. A Pacific Northwest gender counselor and a post-operative medical doctor recently stated - in private - words to the effect that "this bad idea will die off as it deserves to do if we just don't make a big deal of it."

Dr. Ben Barres, MD, Ph.D., professor of Neurobiology and Developmental Biology at Stanford University and a female to male transsexual puts it this way. "Bailey truly doesn't get the gender identity dissonance that transsexuals experience - it really is hard for people to understand what they haven't experienced themselves. I have talked with many MtFs who have contacted me and have listened to the feelings they have gone through their whole lives and it is always an exact mirror of what I have experienced as an FtM. These MtFs have no reason to lie to me, as I have no power over what treatment they receive. For Bailey to say that most MtFs are primarily doing the gender change because of a fetish rather than a true gender identity issue just doesn't ring true to me or to many other people that have worked in clinics taking care of many MtFs."

The danger of teaching incomplete results as fact can be seen in Bailey's own comments (page 206).

"They [my undergraduate students] are especially hesitant to support [sex reassignment] surgery for nonhomosexual transsexuals, once they learn about autogynephilia. ... When I press them, they say something like the following: 'But they don't have the wrong body; they are mentally ill.'" Bailey notes that Paul McHugh, then Chairman of the Department of Psychiatry at Johns Hopkins used a version of that argument to close the John Hopkins gender identity clinic many years ago.

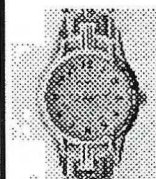
Thus, Bailey seems to realize that - despite his avowed support of transsexuals and of gay men - he is developing a generation of potential gender counselors, legislators, and doctors who will see sex reassignment as a bad solution to a sexual aberration rather than as an effective 'cure' for matching body and the brain's gender identity.

Dr. Sarah Fox, who attended graduate school with Bailey at the University of Texas and was briefly a teaching assistant under one of Bailey's most influential professors says that Bailey's apparent lack of concern comes as little surprise to her. Says Fox, "[The professor under whom she and Bailey studied] was a noted authority on supposed intelligence differences between the races

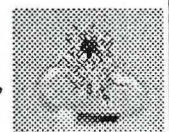
Continued on Page 21

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Reprinted in the Vancouver "Sun"  
from the Victoria "Colonist"

Jody Paterson  
CanWest News Service

ESQUIMALT — When Frances Smith sprints across her kitchen to get a scale model of a schooner she once built, you can't help but think that she runs like a girl.

She'd like to hear that. Two years into a new life as a female, the 84-year-old retired sawmill worker says she watches herself in the mirror at the end of the hall whenever she's walking that way, just to make sure she's walking like a woman. She still catches too much swagger in her step sometimes or sits with her legs too wide apart.

Her name used to be Arnell Smith, and the cheerful little sign outside the Esquimalt trailer where she lives with her wife Grace still welcomes visitors to the home of Arnell and Grace. Grace calls Frances by that name, too, a habit too hard to break after 61 years of marriage.

Victoria-born Grace knew early on that Arnell was different, and not only because he impressed her with a stylish one-and-a-half axel when they first met at a Victoria skating rink in 1942. They hadn't even been married five years when Grace began noticing that the armholes of a lot of her blouses and dresses were inexplicably baggy, and the seams split. Then she started finding stashes of women's clothing around the house and accused Arnell of having an affair. "She thought there was another woman. I told her that the other woman was me," recalls Frances.

Grace wasn't happy, but she didn't leave him. Arnell, who had been born in Britain, had enlisted in the Royal Air Force shortly after their marriage, and the couple was by then living in England and raising two children. Not long after, Grace let Arnell put on one of her stretchier dresses and the two of them went outside for an evening walk amid the wail of air-raid sirens. And "Frances" was born, although it would be 41 years before anyone but Grace would know that. Arnell knew early on. "It came to me when I was five years old. I didn't want to play with the boys. I thought I'd do the manly thing and marry, join the RAF. But the woman feelings would always come back."

One night during the Second World War, when Corporal Arnell Smith and the 12 men he was supervising were bedded down for the night in a nissan hut (a light, prefab structure the British originally developed during the First World War), the familiar urge to put on women's clothing got so intense that the young corporal finally had to dig out the stash that he always carried at the very bottom of his kit bag and get dressed. He leaped back into bed, praying there wouldn't be an air raid. There was, but he scrambled into his overcoat so fast that no one saw. "I was lucky that way — I never really got caught."

Through the years, Grace and Frances kept their secret. The couple moved back to Victoria in 1948, where Arnell was a Fuller Brush salesman and a sawmill worker. He dressed in women's clothes only when he was certain that nobody but Grace would see. The Smiths' children were adult before they were told about their father. The daughter "accepted it immediately," says Frances, but it would be several years before the couple's son would understand.

Frances assumed for much of her life that she was some kind of freak, alone in the world. But then she bought a computer 15 years ago, and learned for the first time online that there was a name for this thing: transgenderism. And there were many, many people just like her. She eventually started her own Web site, and figures it's probably helped several thousand people around the world.

Frances started on hormones 15 years ago, buying them on the black market initially and then finally growing brave enough to ask her doctor for them. The effect of the estrogen has been slow but steady; Frances pats her substantial bosom fondly and notes, "It took me 15 years to grow these."

She emerged publicly as a woman in increments, first to her motorcycle buddies in the mid-1990s and, eventually, to the residents of the trailer park — she delivered notes to everyone explaining her situation — where she and Grace have lived for 31 years. "They were going to be seeing a woman that they didn't know coming and going from our house, so I thought I might as well tell them," says Frances.

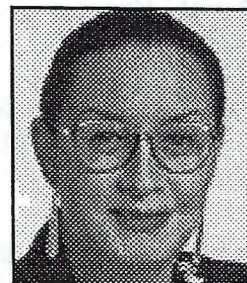
The couple's marriage hasn't turned out quite the way that Grace had imagined, concedes Frances. Grace shrugs and says it doesn't trouble her. "As far as I'm concerned, it's just a mere detail," says the 83-year-old. "It's no big deal. It's just who the person is."

The couple have 10 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren, some of whom still call Frances "grandpa" while others call her Frances or Auntie Frances.

Frances would have preferred genital surgery for a complete transition, but her doctor advised her against it, given her age and history of heart problems. It means she can't apply for a change of sex on her birth certificate, which in turn means she's stuck with an M on her driver's license. But that's tolerable, she says: At least she'll be able to get her photo changed next year when her license expires.

## HEY THERE, "GEORGIE GIRL"

PlanetOut  
by Christine Champagne



Former prostitute-turned-politician Georgina Beyer made headlines worldwide when she was elected to New Zealand's Parliament in 1999 — the first transsexual in the world to be voted into national office. The vibrant history maker's dramatic ascent in politics, as well as her life story, is told in "Georgie Girl." The documentary series "P.O.V." will give the film its U.S. broadcast premiere on PBS stations nationwide last month.

The film's co-directors, Annie Goldson and Peter Wells, were fortunate to have an amazing and cooperative subject. Beyer, who is interviewed at length in "Georgie Girl," is an articulate, honest person with a great sense of humor. Actually, this charmer may be the only politician in the world who could stand up before her Parliamentary peers and get away with sharing tales of her days as a sex worker. We see that in the documentary.

In addition to witnessing Beyer's daily life as a politician (which involves everything from meeting with constituents to overseeing public events such as a sheep-riding contest for kids), we also go on a thorough journey through her complicated past. A native Maori, she was born and raised on a farm, as George Bertrand. Growing up, she faced anti-indigenous prejudice, yet she also felt estranged from Maori culture. In the late 1970s, she came out as a gay man; in the years that followed, she did everything from work as a prostitute to sing cabaret to act in television.

Beyer underwent a sex-change operation in 1984. A few years later, she moved to the small town of Carterton. It was there that she first got into politics, at the urging of her friends and neighbors. At first glance, this self-described outcast may not have seemed a viable political candidate. But the people around Beyer saw her potential — and, amazingly, so did the mainly white, conservative, rural constituency that ultimately elected her to Parliament. We hear some of these seemingly unlikely supporters speak of their admiration for Beyer in the film.

Of course, not everyone is a fan; we also hear from a few of Beyer's political foes. They appear cautious with their criticism, aiming to discredit her because of her lack of political experience.

Aside from some enlightening interviews, the filmmakers also dig up some great footage from Beyer's days on the cabaret stage (she was a knockout with a smooth voice), as well as some interview clips in which Beyer is asked all sorts of inappropriate questions. Case in point: A reporter from "60 Minutes," charged with the task of doing a piece on Beyer's run for a Parliament seat, actually asked her what it was like to have sex after she got her sex-change operation. Unbelievable.

Watching "Georgie Girl," my one criticism was that we didn't see more of Beyer's personal life. Toward the end of the film, Beyer finally addressed the subject. Turns out that while her tale is an inspiring one, her journey through life has also been lonely. Discussing her lack of a partner, Beyer admitted that she denied herself the joys of having a relationship, not wanting to force another person to endure the scrutiny she did. Despite all Beyer's accomplishments, it is strikingly sad to see that she had to sacrifice a personal life in order to achieve her goals.

### Gender/Sexuality/Sexual Pleasure Counseling



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Considered the "granny" of the local transgendered community, Frances regularly attends support sessions and social gatherings with some of the group's 100 members.



**PERSPECTIVE ON ENDA & HRC**

**Phyllis Randolph Frye**  
<http://transgenderlegal.com>

I was overjoyed, and remain so, about the printed HRC Op-Ed from Elizabeth Birch last week where HRC took such a FIRM stand for a new and inclusive ENDA bill.

For those of you who sent your concerns to me, let me remind you, that I am looking through a nine-year perspective. Back in the mid-1990's when we were giving HRC pure hell on the non-inclusive ENDA introduced in 1994, they offered to us a dual track strategy with another bill. Back then, they had the President who would sign and a Congress that "might" pass their non-inclusive ENDA. And back then HRC was not on record with bylaws and mission statement changes for TG inclusion.

Back then we saw a dual bill strategy as an opportunity for HRC to back off of our bill, watch it go down in flames and then say "told you so." And we said NO to the dual track "trickery."

But this is a different time. HRC has grown up and is fully on board for full LGBT inclusion in its bylaws and website and mission and with last weeks Birch Op-Ed. And with the current, election-stealing, prez and the hateful congressional majority leaders, there is no way any ENDA will pass.

So, let us get working on the new and inclusive ENDA bill that everyone, including Birch's Op-Ed of last week, is proclaiming.

I know that Barney Frank and Ted Kennedy will try to shove the old ENDA onto us and their Members in the next few weeks. HRC may even back it, but if HRC dies back it, after the recent Birch Op-Ed, HRC will look "dumber than dirt" for sure.

I know that PFLAG and the NGLTF Task Force and the AFL-CIO and the long list of others supporting the new and inclusive ENDA will simply yawn when Frank and Kennedy introduce the old ENDA. We should too. YAWN to the old ENDA!

We should encourage all of our community media to also let out the big yawn when Frank and Kennedy put forward the old ENDA that nobody (except the "me first" stingiest) wants anymore. And if HRC uses the old ENDA for fundraising, we should return its letters with a big "YAWN!" written boldly across the form. Don't fuss at them, just sent them a YAWN on the old ENDA.

We should now — each person of you — write to our two Senators and to our Member of Congress asking for a new and inclusive ENDA and that they should get OFF OF THE LIST OF SPONSORING THE OLD ENDA that nobody wants. Tell them to tell Frank and Kennedy to wake up to the united and inclusive LGBT community needs. Their old ENDA just doesn't make the cut anymore. YAWN!

Having said all of that, and knowing that Frank and Kennedy will push the old ENDA bill out there anyway, and that HRC will use it for fundraising anyway, and that some media will still tout the old bill anyway — let us be pleased with the following:

- that HRC has taken such a huge and public step,
- that PFLAG and the NGLTF Task Force and the AFL-CIO and the long list of others supporting the new and inclusive ENDA (list printed below) will take a big YAWN at the old bill's introduction, and
- that work is underway for the new and inclusive ENDA.

I say that the new and inclusive ENDA should be ready for the next 2004 session of Congress. Let us not be distracted by the old ENDA (yawn). We can all get behind the new and inclusive ENDA in 2004. For now let us all work together to get Frank and Kennedy and the other old ENDA sponsors to listen to us.

**"WE WANT A NEW AND INCLUSIVE ENDA!"**

**Controversy Erupts Over Book...**

*Continued from Page 19*

and sexes. Irrespective of whether such differences may exist, I was very uncomfortable with how his teachings might be used and/or abused by those with social and political agendas. I discussed my apprehensions with him on at least two occasions. He stood firm that a scientist's job is to do the research and that it is up to others to sort out the ramifications. Bailey seems like a chip off the old block."

In her opinion concerning Bailey's book, Dr. Julie Maverick, NTAC Vice-Chair, said, "This book is supported chiefly through 'proof by blatant assertion.' The lack of scholarship and unwillingness to discuss opposing views strongly diminishes the scientific credibility of this book immediately. I rather doubt it would have passed rigorous peer review." Dr. Maverick noted, for example, the lack of credence afforded by Prof. Bailey to valid, peer-reviewed papers published in the 1990s that showed gay men and male-to-female transsexuals to have different brain chemistries and structures from each other (e.g., Zhou, et al., 1995, Nature). Those studies showed that the brain chemistry and structure of the transsexuals studied were much more like those of women than those of gay men.

Dr. Maverick also noted that studies of intersex biology and behavior clearly demonstrate a wide range of physiological and psychological conditions within a transgender framework that do not fit the Prof. Bailey's scheme.

Dr. Robyn Walters, NTAC Media Director notes that, following a half dozen or more email exchanges in recent weeks on an international autogynephilia news list that counts Anne Lawrence and Michael Bailey as members, she has yet to receive an answer to the question of why many supporters of Blanchard's theory and Bailey's book are adamantly opposed to even the possibility that there could be another theory. A more comprehensive theory might include gender identity as well as autogynephilia and homosexuality as special cases. This would be akin to the General Theory of Relativity including the Special Theory of Relativity. "Responses to this line of questioning have merely repeated the mantra that there are only two types of MTF transsexual and that those who consider other explanations are self-deceptive liars," Walters reported. "Relying solely on an unproven presumption of massive self-deception does not appear to be good science."

NTAC considers the National Academies' imprimatur assigned this book to be misplaced and ultimately harmful. Reliance on Bailey's work will likely hurt our community in terms of health care and in terms of legal, medical, and societal acceptance. NTAC considers that questionable science — potentially incomplete science — cannot remain unchallenged and must not alone form the basis on which future generations of transsexuals will be judged and treated. Therefore, NTAC urges the National Academies to review the research credibility behind The Man Who Would Be Queen. In addition, NTAC urges the National Academies and such organizations as the Gill Foundation, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Rikki Swinn Institute, Human Rights Campaign, and others to join forces in organizing and funding an independent study to analyze and categorize transsexuals who disavow a history of homosexuality and who disavow eroticism as the reason for making their bodies anatomically congruent with their sense of gender identity. The results of such a study, coupled with the theory of Ray Blanchard and the anecdotes of Michael Bailey, could well lead to a 'Unified Theory of Transsexualism' and better represent and serve the diversity of our community.

Founded in 1999, NTAC - the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition - is a §501(c)(4) civil rights organization working to establish and maintain the right of all transgendered, intersexed, and gender-variant people to live and work without fear of violence or discrimination.

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# Remember Gwen Araujo!



**February 24, 1985 — October 3, 2002**

[Editor's Note: I found the following while snooping around the net for local news - a snippet from Ms. Garchik's locally published column that included a review of the recent GLADD Awards Ceremony here in SF. Sylvia is obviously working very hard, trying to keep everyone from forgetting about Gwen, until her murder trial finally gets under way. We should support Sylvia as best we can. It's why I have this section in The Channel.]

## THE WEEKEND THAT WAS

**Leah Garchik**

[The] Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Discrimination gave out its annual awards at the St. Francis hotel, an event where most of the Gingers were with Gingers, and Freds with Freds.

Pamela Anderson, a presenter at the event, showed up with her pal and frequent escort, Dan Matthews of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. Matthews told TIC that Anderson was extremely touched when **Sylvia Guerrero**, mother of slain transgender teenager **Gwen Araujo**, approached her table, introduced herself, and said that in pre-operation talks with her surgeon, Araujo told him her goal as a woman was to look like Anderson.

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## PLEASE HELP SYLVIA!

Eddie Araujo, Jr. Memorial Fund [Checks made payable to the "Gwen Araujo Fund" or "Araujo Family Fund" are equally and as gratefully accepted.]

San Benito Bank, 300 Tres Pinos Road, Hollister, CA 95023-5578. Account number [REDACTED]



The Golden State Gay Rodeo Association's "Best Buck in the Bay" - 12th Annual San Francisco Bay Area Gay Rodeo & Festival, held last month opened with a "riderless horse" ceremony that **Sylvia Guerrero** participated in. This ceremony was held to honor the memory of her daughter, **Gwen Araujo**.



## NOT IN NEWARK

A group of concerned individuals met at the Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church in Newark on Thursday, June 19th to form NIN: "Not in Newark."

They hope to form an umbrella coalition of groups who work to ensure that nothing like the recent murder of Gwen Araujo ever happens again. The met to discuss what measures the city and school board could take to help assure GLBTQ kids and adults are safe in Newark. They also talked about what measures we could take as a community to improve the safety of GLBTQ kids.

Everyone, especially residents of Newark/Fremont, is encouraged to join this important coalition. For more information, please contact the PFLAG Chapter of Fremont / East Bay, P.O. Box 754, Fremont, CA 94537-6816 / (510) 226-6816 / pflagfremontinfo@aol.com

## "ISN'T IT OBVIOUS?"

a Film by Shelly Prevost

**Next Showing in Los Angeles, July 19th!  
Village Theater (as part of OutFest 2003)**

**Synopsis:** At a party in Newark CA, a blue collar suburb of Gay friendly San Francisco, a seventeen year old youth named Gwen Araujo, was confronted by four angry men. They demanded to know if she was a man or a woman. How could she explain about herself in terms they would understand? She replied "Isn't It Obvious?" They allegedly beat her, dragged her into a garage, and strangled her, before disposing of her body in a remote location 150 miles away. This movie shows her family's pain as her mother gives an impassioned plea for acceptance of gender different people. It shows the community's anger and grief as they participate in the funeral and marches. A brief glimpse is given of Gwen life as she grows into self-acceptance.

**Directors Statement:** Every year in November, I help organize the Day of Remembrance for Transgender hate crime victims in San Jose. This is just one of the many locations, including San Francisco, that honor this day. The purpose of the event is to help raise awareness about transgender hate crime victims. Gwen Araujo was one of 27 victims that died last year. Can you name any of the other 26? For more information on this case and how to make donations to the family see the web site: ReelFreedom.com

This movie is a gift to the family and friends of Gwen Araujo. May she rest in peace.



## STRADDLING SEXES

### Young lesbians transitioning into men are shaking the foundation of the lesbian-feminist world

By Louise Rafkin

SF Chronicle Magazine, Sunday, June 22, 2003

Rocco Kaisaris has agreed to meet me at a Mission Street cafe. Kaisaris is 23 years old, a hip-hop musician and an FTM - a female-to-male transgendered person. Born female, for the last two years he has been injecting male hormones (although unlike in the evolution of a transsexual, his gender change will not include genital reconstruction). I've yet to meet Kaisaris, so each time someone pushes through the door I make an assessment. Male? Female? Kaisaris?

After only 20 minutes, it becomes clear why the notion of two genders has become so limited: I can hardly tell who is what, or was born which way. The sinewy, bald African American athlete settled in with a newspaper looks female, but under those sweatpants could just as easily be male. Over in the corner, the chubby white person in a baseball hat hunched over a laptop playing solitaire seems male - but with a second glance I get she is female. I simply can't tell about two Latino youths at the next table - tattooed, pierced and (mostly) beardless.

Kaisaris arrives wearing a trucker's cap, retro cowboy shirt and baggy jeans. He looks like a cute teenaged boy. It's easy to see why a group of sorority girls at a Midwestern university where Kaisaris recently performed were freaked out to find out he was born female. They found him cute, too. Kaisaris (whose male name was chosen by his Greek-Italian parents) began his journey toward manhood four years ago, though he had always felt male, and had never felt comfortable thinking of himself as female. At first he figured he would enter into what is being called the realm of "gender queer," or third sex: someone neither male nor female. "At the beginning, I was a dyke that wanted sideburns," he says.

Now, he finds himself less and less identified with the lesbian community, and more and more walking through the world as a man. He is often called sir, or buddy, or son. Kaisaris, as a feminist, says the entry into the society of men makes him somewhat uncomfortable. Though he is now afforded certain male privileges, he finds himself in the quirky position of becoming a man-hating man. "It's like being inducted in an underground society," he says with due seriousness. "My responsibility is to become a decent man."

A boom in the number of people transitioning from female to male (referred to as FTMs) has been stirring up controversy, even within the lesbian community. There are those who are feeling curiously uncomfortable standing by as friends morph into men. Sometimes there is a generational flavor to this discomfort; many in the over-40 crowd feel particular unease. Having lived through the fiery feminist years, when challenging male power was central to a particular agenda, some lesbians have gone so far as to say they feel betrayed by those "transitioning" - the street parlance for crossing genders. Twenty years ago life as a butch lesbian seemed the obvious path for a masculine-identified gay female. Now, young lesbians immediately enter a community in which the option to change genders is readily available - an option that some say they might be taking up too lightly, injecting their bodies with testosterone and having radical breast-reduction surgery before they've had time to explore who they might be as adults. (Very few FTMs undergo genital reconstruction: The operations are costly, painful and have yet to produce a fully functional penis.)

Within the gay community, discussion about the FTM trend has been conducted mostly in private. Critics of the movement fear being accused of narrow-mindedness; most gay people understand the strain of living without social acceptance, and have suffered the effects of legal and political prejudice.

But in whispers, questions abound, none of which can be answered simply. Most FTMs say they feel no connection to their female bodies, and have always wanted to be, or already feel male inside. But in a culture where men have more freedom than women, how many young girls have not dreamed of being boys? If all women who ever felt alienated from their feminine bodies became male, would that leave many out? Even a supportive therapist who works with transitioning FTMs (and who insisted on anonymity) voiced concerns about what she sees as an idealization of the teenage boy body in the FTM community. "It's a Peter Pan syndrome," she says, "many of these young people are not that different from their anorexic sisters - the thought of growing into an adult woman's body seems terrifying."

The fear of deconstructing these issues publicly is so huge that many asked to comment for this article refused to be named. And many who did comment voiced their opinions in "off the record" asides. Off the record there is discomfort about the growing numbers of FTMs. Off the record, there are those who acknowledge the stresses of being FTM - the probable loss of family, friends and the serious issue of being misunderstood by most everyone - are problems mitigated by the curious pleasures and privileges of living as a man. "I could sit in a sports bar smoking a cigar, having a drink," I was told by one FTM, "and I felt safe. No one was wondering if I was available, to anyone, for anything."

The number of FTMs now in the Bay Area is impossible to figure; speculation runs from the mid-hundreds into the thousands. The first Bay Area FTM newsletter was published in 1986, and the third inaugural meeting called a year later brought out 10 FTMs at various stages of transition. By 1995, nearly 400 FTMs attended a public conference. Support groups have now been outnumbered by Internet chat groups offering community as well as practical information about hormones, doctors and legal issues, but make it difficult to take a head count.

Despite anecdotal evidence and a buzz that has terms like "T" - street shorthand for testosterone - popping up in daily conversations, numbers are also elusive because definitions are hazy. Though most FTMs do take hormones, some don't, and choose instead to cross dress or bind their breasts to create their identity. And though many FTMs remain visible and active in the urban lesbian community, others disappear into the suburbs. The sexual orientation of FTMs runs the spectrum, from those who identify as heterosexual and pair with straight women, to those who are attracted to men and identify as gay - and, of course, all possibilities in between.

Jameson Green, now 54, is a highly respected leader in the FTM movement. Green, bearded and balding, is attractive, the kind of man most women would want to see more of: kind and open, a good listener. A lesbian for 22 years, Green began his transition in 1988. As an educator who speaks widely on transgender issues, and author of a forthcoming book called "Becoming a Visible Man," Green says the concerns now being raised about FTMs are not new. In the early '90s, he says, transsexuals sometimes thought that butch lesbians were in denial, while it was common for FTMs to be rejected by the lesbian community. Green says he sees the current wave of young FTMs as positive. Access to Internet communities, therapy and self-confident role models can only help alleviate the difficulties felt by those who transitioned in earlier times with relatively little support, he notes. As for any concern that young people may be transitioning recklessly, Green says what's needed is tolerance, not judgment.

"Whether we are deliberately experimenting with our gender/body relationship, or whether we are trying to address a painful lack of gender/body alignment, everyone should have the right to express themselves honestly and wholly," he says. "Not having our experience does not give others the right to judge us, but because others cannot relate to us, they often assume that right. We owe it to the younger generation to use gender less oppressively."

Dr. Deborah Brown, a physician at Dimensions, a clinic geared toward treating FTM youth, concurs with Green. "Society had to be ready to receive these young people," she says, noting that the FTM movement has been growing steadily for years. Brown sees some patients in their early teens, some who come from as far away as the deep South. (Underage FTMs must be accompanied by their parents for treatment.) "Transitioning is much easier here than it is where they come from," she says.

Medical treatment begins with counseling. After three months of "gender reassignment therapy," a prescription for testosterone is written to treat the diagnosis of "gender identity disorder." At that point, testosterone is the marker by which the commitment to living as a transgender person becomes visible. The drug is injected on a biweekly cycle, and within weeks brings on a variety of effects including increased body and facial hair, a deeper voice, an enlarged clitoris (often paired with an increased sex drive), a growth in muscle density, changes in fat distribution (fat moves to the stomach area, off the hips), the cessation of menstruation, and a thickening of the facial bone structure, particularly the jaw and eyebrow ledge.

Despite concerns, long-term health implications of the hormone seem slight, though there have been few serious studies. Generally FTMs are at risk for the same potential problems faced by biological men, namely the risk of high cholesterol and heart disease. If the desired goal is to pass as male, starting hormones young is advantageous: if the T takes effect before the growth of breasts, hips and other obviously female attributes, there are fewer physical counteractions to battle. If T injections are stopped, physical changes do not reverse. Still, says Brown, most young FTMs start T on a very low dose and those who change their minds about transitioning, do so fairly quickly.

Historically, it's been butch lesbians who have been the most angered about what sex crusader Susie Bright has gone as far as calling "butch flight." In 1984, Bright's magazine, *On Our Backs*, featured her butch lover, Honey Lee Cottrell, in the debut centerfold. In an era when butch-femme identity was just re-emerging in the lesbian community, it was a daring act of butch appreciation.

Cottrell, a photographer, now 57 with a shock of white hair, says her gut feeling is that those who are transitioning leave her alone in her battle for acceptance as a masculine lesbian. "What happened to cross dressing and taking on masculine drag? I fought very hard for butchness to be viewed as a badge of honor," she says, "and I feel as though there are less people now to fight the fight." Still, as someone who has fought for freedom in both sexual and gender expression, Cottrell says she is extremely aware of the divisiveness of her viewpoint. "At one time in history I was accused by the lesbian community of betrayal because of being butch. I'm certainly not out to disrespect anyone else."

Others freer with their disapproval are less free with their identity. "M" is a 40-something butch dyke - "10 on the scale of butchness," she claims. With a buzz cut and in a motorcycle jacket and leather chaps, M pretty much appears male - unless ones take notice of her ample chest. M, too, is uncomfortable with being targeted as anti-FTM. Still, she's concerned about what she calls misogyny within the FTM community. "How is leaving femaleness behind supportive of female power?" she asks. M claims a hierarchical view of masculinity has developed in the lesbian community; she's heard young butches say that if they don't transition, they fear they won't get dates. A recent controversy at a woman-only sex club at which FTMs wanted to participate in the group left M fuming.

"They can't have it both ways," she says. "They can't support women and women-only communities and then, as males, demand to be included." (An ongoing struggle at the Michigan Womyn's Festival for trans inclusion cuts to this core issue: The festival, which operates under a "woman-born woman" policy, is being increasingly and vigorously challenged. Where does one draw a gender line if there is no clear line?) Yet in a moment of raw honesty, M admits that if

Continued on Page 24



she were suddenly 20 years old again, she might be lured by T, and perhaps even by top surgery. "In this climate, it would be hard for me to come into my power as a butch woman," she says. "I'd also be tempted by a working penis if such a thing were available," she says with a laugh.

In the '90s, Harry Dodge ran the Bearded Lady Cafe, a notorious Mission District stomping ground for edgy performance artists and musicians. Now living in Los Angeles, Dodge recently acted and produced a feature film in which she plays a female who lives as a guy but who is still obviously female. In work clothes and with a scraggly goatee, outward appearances faintly suggest that Dodge is male. "Some days I'm a guy, some days I'm not," she says, easily and without irony. "I'm not quite willing to say I'm a woman, but I do want to be in the practice of redefining the word." Dodge recently met a 23-year-old lesbian with a mustache who had been called a wuss for not taking hormones.

"Maybe we didn't do a very good job as butch dykes to be role models to the younger crowd," Dodge sadly muses. "Maybe we didn't do enough to make our butch lives attractive." Still, she says, although she's not interested in transitioning, she thinks the current climate might help gender definitions become more flexible. "Why don't we stop the unqualified use of masculine and feminine?" she says. "As long as we keep using these words the word woman will never be big enough to include all of us." Dodge, like every person interviewed, is genuinely sensitive to seeming critical. "The main thrust of my life is to support people in exploring themselves," she says, "even if that seems extreme."

Since 1995, Karlyn Lotney has been teaching sex education classes and hosting a popular monthly cabaret as her alter ego, Fairy Butch. A recent Fairy Butch event brought hundreds to a trendy Mission club: a young, enthusiastic crowd happy to dance, drink, ogle the strippers (both female, butch and trans) and enjoy Lotney's clever banter. Sans the blatant sexual references and colorful sex-toy raffle prizes, Lotney's sassy shtick could easily entertain audiences in the Poconos.

Lotney, heavyset and handsome, appears as male in her black jeans and T-shirt. She - her pronoun choice - has always felt bigendered, and emphasizes the importance of being authentic to one's sometimes complicated gender identity. Identifying both as a butch dyke and trans, Lotney recognizes the paradox in claiming two identities, but says her gender never fit readily into the structure of male or female. Several years ago, as part of a campaign to stop procrastinating about bettering her life - "fix teeth, lose weight, bring ideal of physical and sexual body in line with internal vision" - she began injecting T. Her breasts shrunk, her voice dropped and although she's been off T for some months now (she was concerned about hair loss, among other reasons) after T she has been generally treated as a male.

"I was a very butch dyke with 46D breasts," she says, noting that before her transition she felt harassment on a daily basis, the effects of which took a toll on her mental health. Still, she makes it clear that how she is treated now as male - generally better than before - was never the goal in making her change. "I did not take T so I could pass as male and have an easier time in public," she says. "People bend over backwards to call me sir now, whereas before I made them think outside the traditional gender norm. But by no means do I think all of us freaks should change - people's behavior should change."

About a third of Lotney's audience could be transgender, and as an obvious role model to this community, Lotney is careful to emphasize that the decision to transition should be made consciously. She does see a FTM movement in the younger queer community, and she sees it as a positive move toward widening the confines of gender. "Trends are exciting; they present new ideas and information," she says. Besides, she notes that most effects of transitioning can be undone if someone changes their mind. "Even a mustache can be removed with electrolysis."

But for some the faster a transition can occur the better. Out in the Oakland 'burbs Jay Steinberg, a technical writer, 36, is healing from his recent breast reduction surgery and watching T take effect. His decision to transition was made last fall, and after only a few months on T, Steinberg's demeanor has dramatically changed. Physically, his neck has widened, his hips have narrowed, and his face is noticeably coarser. The anxiety he exuded before his transition is almost gone; his self-deprecating Jewish humor is lighter, more ironic. He says he's pleased with the way things are going. Recently he posted himself on a "Hot or Not" Web site, and eagerly tracked his approval rating - 9.3 of a possible 10. "Apparently I'm a hot man," he says, with a Jay Leno smirk.

Steinberg is one person not afraid to admit that passing for male has its upside. "Even store clerks are more cordial," he says. "The benefits of being male are real, and anybody who doesn't admit it is kidding themselves. Of course there's also the downside - I might well go bald."

Lest anyone think losing one's hair is the only drawback to the going FTM, Dylan Vade, a lawyer and co-director of the Transgender Law Center (TLC), is ready to set them - well, not exactly straight. Vade, 34, identifies as queer or as a "tranny-fag" (his attraction is to other FTMs and to gay men). He's slim, and in cool pants, a bright shirt and a buzz cut, looks like a trendy gay teen. As a member of the TLC, Vade offers free legal advice and law workshops for transgendered people, advocates for public policy in areas of employment, housing and health, conducts training for professionals dealing with transgendered clients and works to fight discrimination in schools. (Mark Leno recently pushed through a bill that, if passed, will clarify the illegality of discriminating against

transgenderers in employment and housing.) TLC also tracks legal struggles: Two cases in California have ex-spouses of FTMs challenge the legality of their marriages in order to sever the parental rights of their FTM co-parents.

Vade is also active in a campaign to promote gender-neutral toilets in public spaces; FTMs often face embarrassment - and worse - when entering single-sex bathrooms where they are told they don't belong. Vade also says the legal system - jails, passport offices, even the DMV - can snare those who don't land within simplified gender definitions. There is a high incidence of hate crimes against transgendered persons, Vade says.

A letter published on a popular FTM Web site lists further downsides of transitioning: "never having a 'normal' body"; "the emergency room can become a nightmare"; "educating people about transgender issues will be a part-time job - it can be boring and wearing and exhausting"; "people will ask you rude questions about your genitalia for the rest of your life."

Like Vade, Mateo Cruz, 24, is transgender activist. A coordinator at the Pacific Center, an East Bay resource providing support services for transgendered youth, Cruz first worked for lesbian rights before transitioning and speaking out as an FTM. Lecturing at a local private high school last month, Cruz, 24, tells the audience of teens that his religious parents nearly stopped talking to him when he came out as a lesbian. He thinks a recent letter explaining his transition may end his relationship with them for good. The teens are clearly charmed by the flamboyant, articulate Cruz.

Specific issues affect minority FTMs, Cruz says. "Different elements in a culture define masculinity and can make it harder to transition." Macho men are the standard in the Latino culture, though Cruz himself is the furthest thing from uber-masculine. For him, transitioning was only possible after becoming comfortable with the idea of transitioning into an effeminate man. The teens ask respectful questions. After his presentation, a gaggle of girls approach hesitantly to say how sorry they are about the situation with his family. He smiles; they giggle. The interaction falls squarely under the umbrella of flirting.

While Cruz was able to reconcile his cultural issues, if not his family, with his gender change, African American Renata Razza, 30, has concerns. The self-identified gender-queer has considered T mainly because she, too, feels a masculine body would more accurately reflect her internal experience. "Although it's a biological fact, I don't feel an identification with being a woman," she explains, "but am I ready to walk through the world as a black man in America? Not now."

Razza cites the possibility of police harassment and high level of general discrimination as a few of the harsh realities behind her hesitation to join ranks with African American men. "Transitioning for white people and people of color is different," she says. As a small person, (she is 5 feet, 1 inch), a gender change would greatly affect the ways Razza relates to men of both races. "As tough as I try to be, I just don't have the skills to face off with other men," she says.

Perched in an especially curious position in the FTM movement are the lesbian partners of those in transition. Queer-identified writer Michelle Tea (author of "Valencia") has been partnered with Kaisaris, the hip-hop musician, for four years. Lately they have been wrestling with the changes resulting from Kaisaris' gender transition. Tea, whose self-definition has always been outspokenly queer, now finds herself faced with the odd reality of being read as heterosexual. "I'm this big lesbian writer who now has this boyfriend," she says. Although she has always felt bisexual, Tea finds it difficult to come to terms with being in relationship with a man. However, she says, not doing so undermines the reality of Kaisaris being male. "Men are such a part of the ruling class," she says. "I have so much resentment about their privilege and the way the world works for them." Tea soothes her discomfort with a hopeful long-term view. "The more people deconstruct gender, the more we all will benefit."

Certainly the FTM movement challenges us all to examine gender differences, while providing curious insight into sexism on an individual basis. Perhaps the growing ranks of FTMs will eventually serve to bust open a binary gender system that, but no longer - or perhaps has ever - accommodated the true range of gender expression.

It seems much too soon to answer these questions, and the myriad of others that arise when the itch of the FTM issue is scratched. What seems most true is that individually everyone wants everyone to be happy - and that sometimes happiness comes to some through changes unfamiliar to others. In 10 years, will Tea and Kaisaris be quietly living in the suburbs, for all practical purposes a married heterosexual couple? Hard to say, says Tea. Kaisaris, for his part, is just ready to get on with his life. He says he simply feels "magical."

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