

TGSF & DVG Dine in Style!

The Channel
TGSF
TRANS GENDER SAN FRANCISCO



IN THIS ISSUE!

From the Editor	2
President's Report	3
TGSF ExCom Meeting Minutes	4
He's Just Larry	5
Beauty Boost	5
Calendar of Events	6-7
Commentary	9
November Special Events!	10-11
Coming in December	12
Events Horizon	13
Announcements	14-15
T-News!	16-17
Dude Looks Like A Lady	18
Takin' Care of Biz	19
Each New Day Is One Of Freedom	20
Reviews	22
Gender Stereotypes: Are We	
Becoming Less?	23
Once Brothers, Now Sisters	23
Feeling Wronged, She Opts To Fight	24
What If Boys Want to	
Wear Dresses to School?	24
Araujo Trial Gets New Defense	25



TGSF TransGender San Francisco is a group for all members of the Transgender 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 2004 - 2005 Officers

(Fiscal Year: May 1 - April 30)

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Secretary	Siobhán Ellis
Treasurer	Pamela Gray
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Miss TGSF 2004	Anne Louise Mortenson
Mr. TGSF 2004	Bobbie Cheung
TGSF Outreach Ambassador	Kelly Anne Marsh

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.

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Ad Rates

	Per Issue	Six Months	Per Year
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4x5	\$ 60	\$300	\$ 600
Full Page	\$100	\$500	\$1000

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NEW SITE! GET ONLINE!

Hotline & Voice Mail
415-564-3246

FROM THE EDITOR...



When you're approaching the home stretch on 50, there's nothing like a foot injury to make you feel old. Took a tumble at the Walnut Creek BART one evening, heading home from the cube farm. I had bought myself some new sexy sling pumps while in LA, and I was traipsing along, not really watching what I was doing. Probably fumbling and fishing my car keys out of my purse.

And there, laying in wait for me, was a low, concave rain culvert separating two uneven brick concourses leading to the parking garage. I've negotiated this ankle-buster a thousand times, but this time it got me when I wasn't looking. Stepped down, felt the ankle give, and then it *really* gave out, and down I went skinning a knee and tearing my hose (and you all know how I feel about that!). I don't know what hurt worse - my foot, my pride or the fact I just wasted five bucks on L'Eggs again.

What was gratifying however, was that almost immediately four or five people surrounded me offering assistance. I confess I had to sit there a moment, resisting the impulse to shrug them off and insisting everything was fine (which is what my old self would have done in days gone by). After a moment though I realized the only way I was going to get home was to tough it out, so I got help to my feet and this really nice lady carried my briefcase. And I limped along in my stocking'd feet to the elevator, carrying my spiky-heeled shoes of death meekly in front of me.

Turns out it wasn't the ankle, but the muscle and tendons along the side of the foot that got torqued. Of course this is the area the bears a lot of your weight, and since I'm on my feet all the time, it makes this particular bruising injury a difficult and pesky one to heal. I haven't worn a pair of heels - of any height - in almost two weeks. I've been reduced to wearing tennis shoes in order to maintain a semblance of mobility, because I absolutely refuse to take time off from work just to lay around the house with my foot propped in the air. You know, unless I had a servant or something, then it might be worth considering.

I've suddenly and painfully discovered that tennis shoes do absolutely nothing to compliment my collection of sleek, sophisticated office wear. And I've found it disconcerting to be almost forced to change my "look" because I haven't the pain-free ability to wear the proper footwear. So I've taken to stuffing gel ice packs into my slipper, or lay sprawled out along the couch with an ice bag, and that does seem to make it feel better in the morning. But that icy, achy agony sure brings back memories of when I used to injure my ankle as a kid - and I did it a lot back then. You know rambunctious, obnoxious little boys - always into sports, mischief and other mayhem without regard for life or limb, either their own or someone else's.

Mom would always drag pitiful me crying and moaning into the living room, plunk me in a chair and make me stick my foot into a metal pail filled with ice and water. Oh the horror! I used to dread that conductive tin bucket more than anything else. Mom would make me leave my foot in there no matter how much it hurt - "for your own good ya clumsy oaf!" But at least she let me watch television while all my friends were outside playing on without me.

I think that's when I started noticing the stylized, feminine, glamorous women on television in those days: Grace Kelly, Doris Day, Maureen O'Hara, Lauren Bacall, Vivien Leigh. Watching gloriously leggy women high-kicking up a storm in some musical re-run. The fabulously suggestive costumes. The impossible choreography. The effortless grace and ease.

And I sit here today wondering...how the heck did they do all that wearing those shoes?

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Roxy Carmichael-Hart

Give Thanks

We're in November and that means the Cotillion is about two months away. More on that in a minute. Check out the new hairdo. See picture.

Lots to talk about. First, some unfinished business. Beauty Magic day on September 18 was fabulous. I want to thank Carla, Ann Grogan, Larry Zellers, Marilyn Dahl, and unexpected guest Denae Doyle for do graciously donating their time and efforts on behalf of our community. I learned quite a bit and even made an appointment with Marilyn for some work. I also found all of the tips given by Carla and Larry on makeup and wigs respectively, to be very helpful and I have used some of that information already. And Anne Grogan's models were a delight to watch. I noted a few of our potential Miss TGSF Contestants decided to be brave and step forward as models for Ann - good training for them. Oh, and Ann has generously agreed to be a judge this year.

If it hadn't been for the transgender community, I don't think there would have been anyone at Hayward Pride. I was very disappointed by the lack of a turnout but as usual, the TG population made a difference. Once more, thanks go to Alli and Kara for staffing the booth. At least we had a presence. I counted at least 20 TGs in attendance including Trans Central Station. I was also delighted to see many of our girls attend both events (Beauty Magic and Hayward Pride were on the same day), which demonstrated a commitment to our community. Last month you got to see some pics of our prospective Miss TGSF's - and one has turned in her paperwork already.

Cotillion tickets have really started to sell. I estimate about 40 have been sold thus far, and Jo-An Torres herself has purchased 20. I think there is going to be a record turnout and I would urge you that if you want tickets, especially the lower priced ones, you'd better get going. Even the primo seats in the center section, first three rows, are cheaper than last year. There will be ticket ordering information elsewhere in the Channel and you have likely seen our beautiful postcards, which were designed by Monica LaMarr of Printmasters in Hayward. They have done a lot of work for us and I have been very pleased by not only their professionalism but their courtesy and enthusiasm as well.

As for the show itself, I am slowly getting some volunteers to help with the performances and the show itself. It is coming along very nicely. But again, the deadline to apply as a Mr. or Miss TGSF contestant is **NOVEMBER 7!** You can mail your application to me (write me and I will give you the address), turn it in at any event or bring it to the November 7 ExCom meeting at the San Mateo Marriott. We have about a half dozen potential Miss TGSFs but, **I NEED A MAN!** (I sound like a horny gal, don't I?). But we really want a guy or two or three and I know you are out there. I know Bobby wants to pass along his crown. You have seen what I fine representative of the FTM community he is, and I know that at least one of you would like to continue the work he has started.

Speaking of Miss TGSFs, I was delighted to see Rachel Hill attend RGA on Friday October 1. She brought some clothes and shoes and I know some of the ladies, including me, added to their wardrobe. Now, you have seen Rachel and you are probably wondering how could any of her stuff fit me? You'd be surprised. I got a great black tank top and a couple of shirts, both of which I wore yesterday. It's always good to see Rachel and I am happy to see how well she is doing. Her success, achieved through a lot of adversity, gives hope to many of us.

We had dynamite TGSF Education Seminar/End of Month in September with Dr. Luanna Rogers and electrologist Nora Sherwood, who talked about their professions. Nora also brought along a couple of her associates - Cynthia and Trisha and we all talked about the 80's - and I even got brain lock on who recorded "Don't You Forget About Me", from the movie *The Breakfast Club*. It was Simple Minds. Will you hear this at the Cotillion - you will just have to come and see. Thanks as always to Dawnne for arranging this.



On October 10, I appeared at the Affirmation Conference for Gay and Lesbian Mormons. I was joined by Kara, Dawnne, Alli and Tyler. (There might even be a picture of us someplace in the Channel.) We spoke about our transitions and helped to dispel some myths about TGs. We were there to educate and we were heartened to hear one of the audience refer to us as "real people". Exactly the kind of image we need to project and to get the rest of the world to understand. Thank you, and thank you to Michael Lambert for inviting us.

November is of course, Thanksgiving. We are planning a Thanksgiving at Carla's on November 13 and then a TGSF Day of Thanks at our End of Month on November 18. Everyone who wants will be given one minute to give thanks to someone who has been important to them. And two days later is of course, the Day of Remembrance. I am sure there will be information elsewhere in the Channel.

Finally, thanks to those that wrote me after my unpleasant experience on BART. It could have been a lot worse. I guess I let my guard down. I forgot that all it takes is one son of a bitch to ruin things. Next time, I will scream and make a scene and kick the mf in the balls. I had my awareness button pushed. But I implore you that if you have been a victim of hate or violence, please call the Coalition United Against Violence (CUAV) at 415-777-5500. It is confidential and they need all of the statistics they can get to show that the public war against the transgender community is far from over. We've been on defense too often. Time to play offense. I'll discuss this more in my column.

For now, I am going to enjoy my NFL Sunday Ticket.

Happy Thanksgiving!



Bagdad Café
The Best Café in the Castro

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September 25, 2004

TGSF ExCom MEETING MINUTES

Present: Dawnne Woodie Allison Laureano, Roxy Carmichael-Hart, Laura Marlowe, Pamela Gray, Anne-Louise Mortensen, Siobhán Ellis, Tommi Watson

Not Present: Damon Helton, Kara Flynn

President's Report

Mr & Miss TGSF will attend Folsom & Castro fairs to Meet and Greet people. Kara has set up an official TGSF yahoo group, <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/TransGenderSanFrancisco>. This group is for members of TGSF only.

There was a letter from San Francisco Pride to TGSF:

August 30th 2004

Thank you folks for another fabulous year of impressive floats! Each parade I am overwhelmed by the heights you have gone to, to produce some of the best conceived and executed designs seen in the entire history of this event.

Dave Thomas, our Float Barn captain, has had nothing but compliments for your work and the sense of community he's witnessed firsthand down on Pier 27. Personally, it brings him a great sense of Pride knowing that perhaps you've picked up some tips from his workshops, asked for his help and gone on to create wondrous displays, and the lengths to which you assist each other.

Please find enclosed, with my sincere thanks, a return of your deposit checks, as the area was left sparkling clean – a proud display of our work ethic and a demonstration of our dedication, and hopefully a testament to the Port of San Francisco that we deserve to have this space on a year-round basis.

Keep making art, keep showing your pride!

Sincerely

Marsha H. Levine

SFLGBTPC, Inc. Parade Manager 2004

The Ex-Com pass on their congratulations to the float building team.

Vice President's Report

Most of the VP's activity has been around the 2005 Cotillion. Everything is moving along nicely.

The Cotillion sub-committee would like to place the seating chart on the TGSF web site. An Advertisers packet is created. Silent auction is being organised, Hor's D'ouvres are being organised. There is a new Graphic to be supplied to Siobhán to put on the web site. Post cards for advertising have been printed.

Contestant last entry for the Cotillion is 7th Nov 2004. The Ex-Com/Contestant meeting is slated for December 5th at 1pm at the MCC Church.

Treasurer's Report

We have, approximately, \$5000 in the bank. The Design Center is paid up. The remainder to be paid to Tyler and Susan Laird now means that TGSF is debt free.

We have some advertisers, and Siobhán asked to be informed of advertisers so that she can enter them into the membership database.

Secretary's Report

Siobhán asked the Ex-Com if PayPal was to be acceptable for Membership & Donations. This was approved. The Website to be updated to allow that.

It was noted that the Channel has been going out late recently, and this is particularly obvious as the notification goes out that it is on line. However, the membership is asked to remember that the ExCom is a group of volunteers and that we do our best. However, at times, delays will happen. Having said that, we are going to redouble our efforts to get The Channel out on time.

Siobhán asked Allison, Pamela and Anne-Louise for their profiles.

The new Web site will be up and running next month.

Education

Beauty magic day went well, and the speakers have been thanked. 20 to 25 people attended.

The Ex-Com would like to thank Eve Summers, of Adam to Eve, for helping with the MAC event, which also went well.

MAC has expressed interest in running another event. It was suggested that we run this on the same day as the Bay area Transgendered Holiday Party on December 12th. Allison will help to co-ordinate with Siobhán.

The Transgendered Law Center wishes to run an event with TGSF. The suggestion has been to present at an end of month. However, all the EOM



meetings are booked for the next few months, so it was suggested to do this at a mid-month. We will be looking at a different venue than the Blue Muse.

Outreach

Hayward Pride was not a success. It was not well organised, and there were not very many visitors,

Merritt College had Alli, Dawnne, and Tommi present. It was well received, and they are likely to be asked to do more. More colleges are also asking for informational events.

Discussion was had on what to do for Folsom and Castro Street Fairs.

SF TEAM has asked TGSF to help plan Pride

The Ex-Com discussed the relationship with SF TEAM, and helping to plan Pride is seen as a way to improve relationships and rebuild bridges.

Social

BBQ in the park was considered a success. There were about 25 people in attendance. What was particularly noted was intermingling with other people in the park.

Septembers EOM is to have guest speakers. Luanna Rogers, a therapist, and Nora Sherwood, an electrologist.

Halloween party is to be held at Carla's and is to be called the "Blair Witch Party". This is no longer a shared event with the IRLM, and is TGSF only. Dinner will be provided with \$25 admission fee.

Siobhán is to help Jackie with the Holiday Dinner at the Tarragon, Sunnyvale, on December 12th.

The Diablo Valley Girls annual dinner was mentioned.

Unitarian Church, in Kensington, is interested in holding an event with the Transcendence Gospel Choir (<http://www.tgchoir.org/>). Anne Louise is pursuing.

Once more the ExCom asks members to set up mid-months, but members of the Ex-Com will start them off and try and get guest entertainers, if possible. The idea is the EOM will be in a fixed location, but the mid-months will move.

Old Business

Siobhán raised the issue of the TGSF sub-committee that is to look at the membership. Siobhán felt that TGSF is not living up to its self proclaimed charter, and that the demographics of the membership appear to be mostly over 35, Caucasian, and male to female. A sub-committee should look at how to enable TGSF to appeal to a wider audience, such as younger people and maybe more than MTF people, or the charter of TGSF should change, and be less inclusive, but more accurate. The sub-committee should consist of people with varying viewpoints and should contain members, and non-members.

Siobhán was tasked to draw up a draft survey of questions, and a suggestion of members to be on the sub-committee. Once approved, the sub-committee will convene, and eventually report its findings back to the Ex-Com. The Ex-Com will then vote on which, if any, recommendations are then passed to the membership to vote on.

MID-MONTH SOCIAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

TGSF is looking for some enthusiastic and motivated people to help plan our mid-month socials. TGSF used to hold these events but, due to a lack of staff, has not been able to continue these events. So, since all of our current ExCom members are overwhelmed with other projects, we are asking our members and our community for assistance.

The Mid-Month is a social that is held during the first two weeks of the month at a venue in San Francisco or Berkeley. Previous mid-months were held at the Thirsty Bear, San Francisco Brewing Company, and the Whitehorse Tavern. Unlike the monthly End of Month events, the Mid Months are much more social oriented.

All it takes to plan these events again is for someone to call a venue that is hopefully very TG friendly and see if they would be willing to host our event. Mid-months can expect anywhere from 10-20 people. If you would like to help with these events, please contact [redacted] and she will present it to the Executive Committee for discussion and action. Thank you in advance for your help.

DON'T GIVE HIM ANY LABELS — HE'S JUST LARRY

Marianne Costantinou, SF Chronicle

He's an odd man. Or woman. Take your pick. He has an Adam's apple and a bosom. Both are real. So, too, is the male anatomy he says is tucked under his panty hose. No, he answers patiently, he's not a transsexual. Nope, not transgender. A cross-dresser? Nah.

Though he does like the sound of the word "transvestite." But, he's not that either. Pity. "I envy the transvestites, who get an erotic thrill out of it," he says, referring to their shared fondness for wearing women's clothes. "I wish I got some kind of extra kick out of it."

OK, but he's definitely gay, right? Wrong. Definitely not. He's never been with a man. Though, he sometimes tells strangers that he's gay, just to give them a handy label and stop their questions.

Well, with his long black ponytail tied in a hot pink scrunchy, black pumps and flower embroidered sweater — not to mention his size 38B breasts, a gift from modern medicine — he certainly can't be straight. So, what do we call him?

"Larry," he says.

And as a matter of fact, Larry Gladfelder says, he is straight. Sure, he's off on a right angle somewhere. But he's only interested in the sexual company of women — at least, he adds with a smile, on those rare occasions that he has company. He is drawn to elegant, feminine straight women, but he fares better with bisexuals. If he could have anyone in the world, he says it would be Nicole Kidman.

By his own account, Larry Gladfelder is androgynous. He considers himself feminine and masculine: "Let's go 50-50," he says.

Even in the Bay Area, where sexual identity is anything goes, Gladfelder says he is gawked at. Perhaps it's his age. At 48, he's too old to be yet another kid with an outlandish look. He is tall and slender, with blue eyes and chiseled features. He looks a bit like Ozzy Osbourne, but prettier. He wears only black from head to toe, from his long pitch-black hair to his size 10 women's shoes. In a dress he's a size 12, but he usually sticks to pants. He wears no makeup except for occasional light foundation and pale nail polish. He crosses his legs like a woman and takes small steps with the dignified air of a lady. But he does not hide that he's a man. He speaks in a normal male voice and otherwise acts like a normal guy. Except that he's not.

With his sexuality such a visible part of his identity, one might expect Gladfelder to hang out in sex clubs or bars, or to be active in some sexual rights organization. He doesn't do any of those things. Rather, for the last 23 years, he can be found each and every night, seven nights a week, at Gaylord's, a neighborhood coffee shop in Oakland.

Even with the young tattooed and pierced staff, it doesn't get more mainstream than Gaylord's. One of the few cafes open till midnight, it's on Piedmont Avenue, a popular street with mom and pop shops and a small-town feel. On any given night, it's filled with students, retirees, couples and cops. And sitting on the wooden bench out front is Gladfelder.

He knows all the regulars, though no one is more regular than he is. When he first moved to Oakland in 1981 by way of San Francisco and his hometown of Rockford, Ill., Gaylord's was an ice cream parlor. But within months, it became one of the first places in the neighborhood to get espresso. Gladfelder started coming around 10:30 p.m. to enjoy a cup of regular coffee with his Virginia Slims. And he just stayed.

He says he comes to Gaylord's "because it's here" and because "I enjoy the night. The dark night beckons me." But it's also a place to go, he admits, and feel a part of things. He's made friends at Gaylord's, straight and gay and freaks, he says, though people do move on and no friendships last as long as he has.

By day, Gladfelder works in a pharmaceutical company, doing quality assurance. He's been there eight years. Before that, he worked on the production end at a kids' clothing company. Before that, he says, who knows and who cares? One day, he'd like to move to Hollywood and work as an actor. He's never done any acting, but then, everyday his life is on stage.

He has a 15-year-old son who lives in Chico but whom he has not seen in two years, though he does send monthly child support. His son thinks he is strange, he says, and does not want Gladfelder in his life. His son lived with him and his "quasi-wife" of five years. That was his last long-term relationship with a straight woman.

His home life now is a two-bedroom apartment that he rents around the corner from Gaylord's. It is sparsely decorated, a mix of Macy's and Victorian. In the garage is his 1980s Rolls Royce. He shares his home with his pet tarantula, a female he calls Spider, and "a pet human," a friend who crashed at his place some years ago and has never left. His three sisters and three stepsisters live in California, and he visits with them and their children often.

"My sisters are pretty straight, compared to me," Gladfelder says. "They're all doing the suburban home and kids thing."

He's happy for them. And he says he's happy for himself. He is often lonely, though Gaylord's takes some of the edge off. But he wouldn't want to be any other way, even if he could. "I'm fine with being different," he says. "I'm fine with who I am. Not a lot of people can say that."

Beauty Boost

by Wendy R. Schultz

MOISTURIZERS

All year long, your skin is exposed to the elements. In the summer, it's the sun; in the winter, it's the cold and the wind. Both seasons produce dry skin and undesirable effects that often negatively affect how your cosmetics go on, not to mention how your face feels. Winter is approaching, and you need to think more about keeping your skin hydrated. Moisturizers are now formulated scientifically, so it's easy to find the right one for your particular skin type.

Your skin can become dry for many reasons. Most often dry skin is a result of the sebaceous glands producing less oil. This can be due to weather, hormones, or age. The oil or moisture must come from somewhere, otherwise the skin will appear flaky, dull, cracked, or even painful. Wind-burned skin is not fun, and using a product to soothe and calm the affected area is a must.

Oily and acne-prone skin also needs moisture but may not need as much moisture as dry skin. The oils in oily skin do help to lubricate the skin's surface, but a moisturizer is necessary to keep things in balance. A lighter moisturizer or one labeled oil free is excellent for this type of skin. Normal skin also needs a moisturizer to keep it balanced.

Our skin needs different care according to the season. In winter, our skin may feel dry because of the colder air, and we may need a product that's heavier than usual. In summer, we might need a lighter moisturizer because we perspire more. Often, it's a good idea to use a moisturizer that contains a sunscreen, summer or winter.

How Moisturizers Work

Basically, there are three types of moisturizers — Occlusives, Humectants, and Emollients.

Occlusives are substances that physically block water loss in the skin (think Vaseline). They provide an excellent barrier to keep skin's existing moisture intact and are great for cold weather activity. Skin loses moisture slower, and stays hydrated longer. Occlusives, however limit the skin's ability to breathe. Prolonged usage could create additional skin problems.

Humectants attract water to the skin, thus keeping it moisturized. The water, however, is attracted from other skin cells, and not from the outside.

Emollients work by filling the spaces between skin flakes. They are usually combined with an emulsifier such as Vitamin E, A, D, mineral oil, lanolin, or fatty acids.

Because moisturizers are absorbed into the skin, it's important to remember that some ingredients can be irritating. Remember to look at the product's ingredients to avoid irritation, breakouts, or other adverse reactions. Some ingredients are known to cause reactions in people with sensitive skin, and should be used with care.

Questions? Feedback? Need help finding products? Send me an email - BeautyBoost@hotmail.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.





TGSF Events in November

November 7 / 1:00pm - 4:00pm

TGSF ExCOM MEETING

Also the Deadline for Mr./Miss TGSF Contestants! A busy agenda is planned and volunteers and extra hands are always needed! Please join your ExCom for lunch and help us out! Cotillion Application materials and fees may be brought to the California Grille Restaurant at the San Mateo Marriott, 1770 South Amphlett Blvd., San Mateo between 1-4 PM.

Thursday / November 11 / 7:30pm

TGSF MID-MONTH SOCIAL

Cathedral Hill Hotel in San Francisco. Both CJ Khing and Anne Louise will be performing. CJ plays the guitar and sings and Anne Louise plays the piano and sings. The Cathedral Hill Hotel is located 1101 Van Ness Ave. (Corner of Geary Blvd.) San Francisco CA 94109.

Saturday / November 13 / 4:00pm

THANKSGIVING POTLUCK

At Carla's 4-9 PM. Co-sponsored by TGSF, RGA and DVG. No charge but please bring a dish.

Thursday / November 18 / 7:03pm

TGSF END OF MONTH/DAY OF THANKS

Blue Muse Restaurant, 409 Gough Street. Join us for dinner at 7:30 and the program will begin about 9 PM. Everyone who wants to will be given one minute to thank someone special in their lives.

Saturday / November 20

6TH ANNUAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

See details elsewhere in this issue!

Coming in December

Sunday / December 5 / 1:00pm - 4:00pm

TGSF ExCOM MEETING

Note new location for this month! MCC Church, 150 Eureka, SF. This is the deadline for all contestant technical information and is a mandatory meeting for all contestants.

Sunday / December 12

TGSF MAC EVENT

See ad in this issue for more information or contact Siobhan Ellis.

Sunday / December 12 / 7:00pm

RGA, TGSF & DVG HOLIDAY DINNER

...at the Tarragon Restaurant. See ad elsewhere in this issue for all the details!

Thursday / December 16 / 7:30pm

TGSF HOLIDAY PARTY

Blue Muse Restaurant, 409 Gough Street. Join us for dinner at 7:30 and the program will begin about 9 PM. We'll have a gift exchange and sing holiday carols. Please bring a gift, valued at no more than \$10, if you would like to participate.

Friday / December 17 / 8:00pm

RGA HOLIDAY POTLUCK

New Community Church of Faith, 6350 Rainbow Drive, San Jose. Please bring a dessert or side dish. For more information, please call the RGA Warmline at 408)984-4044

November's Birthdays

11/00	Erin Cadiz	11/20	Lola Hurley
11/03	Tracy Jaquith	11/20	Lynn Heinkel
11/05	Lorri Levy-Conner	11/21	Sheri R.
11/06	Valerie Valeska	11/22	Angela Marie
11/06	Andrea Drane	11/22	Michelle Patrick
11/07	Nina Larouche	11/25	Dale R. Carlson
11/07	Mary Ellen Ratcliff	11/25	Lee Powell
11/11	Ann Grogan	11/25	Gliinda Corner
11/12	Katie Kearney	11/25	Sandy Campbell
11/13	Debbie Cook	11/25	Mikayla Connell
11/15	Marcia Chapdelaine	11/26	Meredith Memaran
11/15	Kari Summers	11/28	Randall Stone
11/16	Ricki Ballen	11/29	Kathryn Ryder
11/19	Leah Christina Segman	11/30	Carol Alexander
		11/30	Ron Bimbaum

Happy Birthday To All!

Cosmetics

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Calendar - November 2004

OTHER BAY AREA GROUPS

Central City Hospitality House (CCHH)

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

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.

I Love It Girl Socials

Every Wednesday night at I Love It Boutique, 45979 Warm Springs Blvd., #7 in Fremont. Call Jo-An at 510- [redacted] for directions and more information.

Mid-Peninsula TG Group (MPTG)

TGSF-sponsored support group for the TG community that meets at 7:00pm, First Wednesday of each month at the San Mateo Marriott Hotel, Nob Hill Room, San Mateo. For more details please contact Roxy at (510) [redacted] Debuts May 5th!

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

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

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.

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- [redacted]

T.R.A.N.S

MTF support groups meet every Wednesday afternoon 2:00 - 3:30pm at 1145 Bush Street in San Francisco.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 5:00 PM CCHH 7:00 PM PISSR General Meeting 8:00 PM DVG	2 7:00 PM SCT	3 2:00 PM T.R.A.N.S 7:00 PM I Love It Social 7:30 PM MPTG	4 7:00 PM DVG RCC	5 8:00 PM PacCtr 8:00 PM RGA	6
7 1:00 PM TGSF-ExCom Meeting 4:00 PM Stars & Stripes Party	8 5:00 PM CCHH	9	10 2:00 PM T.R.A.N.S 7:00 PM I Love It Social	11 7:30 PM TGSF Mid-Month Social	12 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr	13 4:00 PM Thanksgiving @ Carlas 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
14	15 5:00 PM CCHH 8:00 PM DVG	16 7:00 PM SCT	17 11:00 AM DOR @ CCSF 2:00 PM T.R.A.N.S 7:00 PM I Love It Social	18 7:00 PM DVG RCC 7:30 PM TGSF: EOM @ Blue Muse TG Legal Clinic	19 12:00 PM DOR @ UCSF 8:00 PM PacCtr 8:00 PM RGA	20 9:00 AM GenderBlast 5 6:30 PM DOR March & Rally
21	22 5:00 PM CCHH	23 7:30 PM SCOUT	24 2:00 PM T.R.A.N.S 7:00 PM I Love It Social	25 Happy Thanksgiving!	26 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr	27 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
28	29 5:00 PM CCHH	30				

TGSF MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership is billed annually upon enrollment: \$40 Single / \$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

Support Your Organization!

TGSF Sustaining Memberships

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GUARDIAN LEVEL: \$2500

Recognition & Benefits:

Recognition in all TGSF Programs / Channel / Website
Two complimentary tickets to the Cotillion
Framed Recognition Certificate
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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

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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: _____

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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!

STICKS AND STONES

by Roxanne Ross, President '04-'05

Transgender Education Association of Greater Washington, DC

From the October TGEA Transgender Pinnacle

To say that my support group means a lot to me would be a MAJOR understatement! I credit the friends that I have made and the caring shown to me as creating one of the most significant impacts on my life. That is why I am somewhat reluctant to share two things that happened at a meeting that affected me deeply. In the first one, I do not know for certain that what was said was how it was truly meant. In the second, I had an opportunity to follow my own advice. However, I am going to use these experiences to point out a very real issue that our group should take to heart.

In the first instance, I was engaged in conversation with two individuals discussing an aspect of real life that I Sister #1 had done in the past few weeks. Sister #2 was showing great interest in her experience and asking questions. When I happened to comment that this had also been my experience for some months now and even knowing this had never asked or showed an interest in the same way, she made the comment that since my situation did not include future SRS, it was just not the same. Then to my shock, the first sister said in a slightly sarcastic voice, 'Poseur!' I laughed feebly and then walked away. I felt hurt. My own choices and life situation were made to seem of little consequence, even invalid. If I took the word literally, I was a fake, because I did not happen to include surgery in my plans. I truly believe that this was not meant as harsh as it sounded, and that it was an attempt at a jest, but the words stung nonetheless. Frankly, it was more thoughtless than anything else.

The second instance happened almost minutes later. Another sister, who had not been to a meeting in a while, shared a very personal and poignant story of her journey, which had taken some unexpected turns. She was apologetic in that it sounded like her choices may mean some personal changes in her that might make it less likely that she would feel as welcome in the group. Her sorrow was she has made good friends here and did not want to lose them. I told her that whatever it was that made her happy and comfortable with herself was more important than anyone's opinion of how she made those kinds of decisions. I told her that we loved her and wanted her to come and be with us no matter what the outcome of her choices. But as I walked away I wondered how confident I really was in what I was telling her having just been through the first situation.

When we come to a monthly meeting, we have new people coming almost every time. I am sure we all remember the difficulties we faced getting to our first meeting. In addition, we typically do not know all the background of what even regular members have gone through the previous month. Life has dealt many of us difficult blows. Loss of family, ruined marriages, serious health complications, job loss are but a few of the traumas that our members and friends bring weighing them down on entering our meeting place. Although our name, Transgender Education Association sounds very Washington business-like, we are primarily a support group. Emotional support. Friendship. A place to find a sympathetic ear. I have come to meetings with much guilt and sorrow on my mind, but usually have found the community to be uplifting.

Recently however, there have been signs that we may be slightly drifting from this ideal of emotional support. Political movements, whether national politics or transgender organizations lobbying efforts, regularly enter into our discussions. Being respectful and civil to differing opinions is vital to maintain an environment of openness and acceptance. Given the passions we may have about certain issues, that ideal can be difficult to maintain.

The "label" game (like CD, TG, TS, pre-op, post-op, non-op) is also applied casually and sometimes callously, showing a lack of understanding or respect for individuals whose journey does not match our own. "She's only (or just) a (fill-in the blank)." Words that are hurtful and demeaning. Each of us has had to find our way through the very bleak prospect of ever finding a supportive place to be ourselves. If on coming to our first meeting, we had been laughed at, or described with derogatory terms by the very group of people who should be the most empathetic, how would we have felt?

What I ask you to think about is this: consider when you come to a meeting, that in all our efforts to make a fun and friendly evening, your words are often the most important aspect of what will happen that night. Try to be a good listener. Be open to really hear people as to where they are along their journey. Put yourself in their place and draw along side of them, sharing hope and encouragement if you can. Be careful with labels. They often do not fit. Realize that this is a process of self-discovery we are going through. Not everyone is at the same place or following the same road. The old saying about "sticks and stones" may be true, but the hurt caused by careless words is still very real.

We need one another's support more than you realize.

CONFESSIONS OF A DANGEROUS MIND

By Roxy Carmichael-Hart

The Gospel According to Roxy

I was the victim of a hate crime the other day. While I was descending the escalator at Fremont BART, some punk decided he would try to pull my hair off, with the obvious intention of outing me as a transsexual and to humiliate and embarrass me. He didn't get the hair but he turned around and looked at me with a stupid smile. The only retort I had was to call him an asshole. I did report the crime to BART police and to the Coalition United Against Violence (CUAV). If you ever are the victim of violence and/or a hate crime, I implore you to report the incident to CUAV. Their number is (415) 777-5500. They will keep your information confidential. But they need to report statistics and any information they can get will help them go to the authorities and tell them that hate crimes are occurring against the TG population far too often. Recent legislation signed sponsored by Assemblywoman Sheila Kuehl (who used to be on "Dobie Gillis") and signed by Governor Schwarzenegger (thank you!) now includes gender identity under the umbrella of a "hate crime".

Back to my incident. One problem was that I let down my guard. I had become so safe and secure and confident with my appearance and manner that I forgot one cardinal rule which applies to anyone - there are lots of good people out there but it only takes one asshole to ruin things. Remember - it only took 20 people to kill 3,000 on 9/11/01. You can't ever let down your guard. Be conscious of your surroundings and look around like I do now. Instead of nonchalantly down the escalator, I run down the stairs. I look around. I sit with my back to the wall of the car. I quit taking BART for a few days but then I thought "I just moved to a place where I can walk to BART and I'll be goddamned if I am going to let some sonofabitch run my life." So I have started taking BART again. The next time, if there is one, that this happens, I will yell and scream and give the motherfucker a kick in the balls and make sure that I draw attention to the crime. We need to put these fuckers in jail.

As if this were bad enough, earlier that day, I had a run-in with some right-wing Christian with whom I work. To make a long story short, I had to use the rest room very badly. The unisex rooms were in use, so I went to her in an attempt to appeal to her sense of decency as a human being, to see if she minded that I use the women's rest room. Instead of seeing my discomfort, she began lecturing me about what her church says as if I gave a shit (no pun intended). I could see the anger and hate in her eyes. So I just waited for the unisex bathroom to be open.

Why do these things happen? To put it bluntly, we let them. Oh sure we march and protest and write notes to each other on yahoo groups but basically, we don't take a stand. We don't say, "I am as mad as hell and I am not going to take it anymore". I should have said "fuck you" to the old bag and used the woman's rest room. I should have exerted my legal rights. We need to do more than march. We need to take action. We need to send letters to the media and demand that they stop their degrading and dehumanizing stereotypes. We need to insist that positive images of transgenders be portrayed and before any movie which includes transgenders is shown, it should be screened by people in the know, to ensure that it is not demeaning, much as the Africa-American community has done. We need to march right down to Diane Feinstein's and Barbara Boxer's offices and demand support for a national transgender civil rights bill. We need to sit down with Barbara Boxer and have her sponsor legislation to overturn the barbaric Social Security Rule that requires us to be surgically altered before we can legally be considered as our rightful gender. If our leaders wanted to make these things happen, they could. If the politicians in this country really cared as much about people as they claim to, they would tell the Christian wrong to go straight to hell. They need to stand up for basic human dignity and let the chips fall where they may. I guarantee you that they would win more votes that they lost. But the politicians are so afraid of offending any interest group that might have a few votes to help them win, they don't take a stand. To steal from the movie "Dave", they do what is popular, not what is right.

I have been trying to think of why the Christians hate and fear us so much. Why do the Christians think we are mentally ill and should be locked up in an asylum or a concentration camp (believe me there are plenty who would love to exterminate the GLBT population)? I have been wracking my brain and then I realized - we represent what they think of as God's "mistakes". By putting the heart of one gender into the body of another

Continued on Page 21

Special Events in November!

TRANSGENDER AWARENESS DAY AND RESOURCE FAIR

Hosted by student groups at City College SF
Wednesday November 17, 2004
11:00am - 2:00pm

CCSF Student Union, 50 Phelan Avenue, SF

The goal for this event is to provide information, support, and camaraderie to members of Transgender communities on the City College campus and city-wide, as well as to reach out to those who may have less awareness with issues of gender identity and expression.

Featured at the event will be:

- Dynamic speakers program at 12 noon
- Cecelia Chung Commissioner, S.F. Human Rights Commission
- Gwen Smith Founder, Transgender Day of Remembrance,
- Marcus Arana Discrimination Investigator, S.F. Human Rights Commission, CCSF student
- Janetta Louise Johnson Walden House/Transgender Recovery counselor, community activist & CCSF student
- Representatives from CCSF, including TG@CCSF president Kitty Castro
- The unveiling of our Transgender Timeline, a joint project of CCSF Transgender VOICES, Transgender RIGHTS, Graphics Communication Department, and the Office of Mentoring & Service Learning
- Build community "Altar of Empowerment and Remembrance" bring an item for altar
- Gallery of city-wide resources and services, Transgender Law Center, TRANS, Human Rights Commission, Instituto Familiar de la Raza, Filipino Task Force, Walden House, Transgender Life Care, AND MANY OTHERS.
- Beauty and Fashion Consultations offered by Oui, Three Queens

This event is hosted by Transgender VOICES, Transgender RIGHTS, a student-led project of the HIV/STI Education Office of CCSF, and TG@CCSF, student club. Co-sponsors include Project SURVIVE and Project SAFE, the Women's Resource Center, and the Queer Alliance. For more information, please call Joani Marinoff at [REDACTED].

This event has two equally important goals. The first is to provide information, support and camaraderie to members of the campus and citywide transgender communities. The second is to demystify transgender for the City College community and build ties to our potential allies. We feel that this is especially important following the harassment of transgender students on Phelan campus during the past year. The event will feature a speakers program at 12 noon, information tables of local transgender community resources and service providers, building an "Altar of Remembrance" honoring transgender people killed by hate-motivated violence and the unveiling of Transgender VOICES/Transgender RIGHTS "Transgender Time-line." To draw students to the event we'll have free pizza and beverages.

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 TGSP's PO Box, ATTN: Editor. Reach out and come out!

Transcending Transgender

Sponsored by
City of Refuge UCC Outreach Ministries

A support group facilitated by Janetta Johnson and Portia Denard; Where: City of Refuge, United Church of Christ, 1025 Howard Street, San Francisco CA 94103, (415) 861-6130. When: Every Friday, 6 pm to 7:30 pm. Food and snacks will be provided.

November 20th, 2004

6TH ANNUAL

TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

Nineteen people have been reportedly murdered worldwide since late November, 2003, due to anti-transgender violence. Nine of those were in the United States, three were in California, and one was in the San Francisco Bay Area. This level of violence against those viewed as breaking gender norms has remained high for more than a decade.

This year, join others in your community to say "No More" to this sort of violence at a local Transgender Day of Remembrance event.

Events will commence in San Francisco on **Wednesday, November 17th, 2004** at the City College of San Francisco Student Union, 50 Phelan Avenue, San Francisco, from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Speaking will be Cecilia Chung, Commissioner, S.F. Human Rights Commission, Gwen Smith, Founder, Transgender Day of Remembrance, Marcus Arana Discrimination Investigator, S.F. Human Rights Commission and CCSF student, Janetta Louise Johnson Walden House/Transgender Recovery counselor, community activist and CCSF student, and other Representatives from CCSF.

UCSF will commemorate the Day of Remembrance on **Friday, November 19th**, from 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m., in Toland Hall (Room U-142, 533 Parnassus). Featured will be SF's beloved Transcendence Gospel Choir, Sylvia Guerrero, and Gwen Smith. Co-sponsored by UCSF TRANS.

Finally, on the **Transgender Day of Remembrance** itself, **November 20th**, meet up at Harvey Milk Plaza in the Castro (at Castro and Market Streets, near Castro Station and the Castro Street F line stop) at 6:30pm (just after GenderBlast) for a solemn march down Market Street to the LGBT Community Center. At **7:30pm** in the Rainbow Room of the LGBT Center will be the official Day of Remembrance memorial, featuring members of Gwen Araujo's and Toni "Delicious" Green's families, and a performance by the Transcendence Gospel Choir.

This event is sponsored by TransGender San Francisco, the SF LGBT Pride Committee, Transgender Law Project, Female To Male International, SF TEAM, SF LGBT Center, CUAV, TransBay, FTM International Network, Transsexual Menace, the API Wellness Center, Youth Gender Project, and others.

For more information on these and other Day of Remembrance events, see <http://www.rememberingourdead.org/day/>

Remember: in the struggle for our rights, the number one right we need is the right to exist.

Attention All Recruits! — It's Party Time

Deployment Orders For
The Rainbow Room, Hayward, California

You are ordered to report for entertainment, chow, surprises, and tons of fun at the

4th Annual Stars & Stripes Show! Sunday, 7 November 2004 1600 hours

Entertainment: 1700 hours

All recruits and lifers are welcomed to perform!

Special guest MC's!

Special prize for best in uniform!

By order of the Vice Chair of the Board of Directors, Marge Ramirez & the Stars and Stripes Duke, Royal Grand Duke 12 Frank Salerno.

You don't want to be AWOL!

Carolyn C. Kelly, Vocalist / Emcee

Kelly Enterprises, 3056 Castro Valley Blvd #81, Castro Valley, CA 94546 • (415) 845-5499 Cell

Rainbow Room, Sports Bay & Entertainment Lounge:
www.rainbow-room.com

Special Events in November!



Mid-Peninsula Support Group

WEDNESDAY, November 3, 2004

and continuing on the first Wednesday of each month

NEW LOCATION!

Full Circle Books

1538 El Camino Real, Belmont, CA 94002, (650) 508-9546

7:30 - 9:30 P.M.

All welcome regardless of race, age, gender, gender identification, etc.

\$1 donation will be requested but no one will be turned away.

For more details please contact Laura Patterson at [REDACTED]

Please note: This is a support group.

The views expressed in this group are reflective of the attendees and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the ExCom and members of TGSF.

You are encouraged to speak to your personal physician and/or therapist regarding your specific treatment and care.

TGSF wishes You and Yours a

Happy Thanksgiving!

New Vendor in Sacramento!

ANNOUNCING ARIEL'S CLOSET

Ariel's Closet will be a discrete comfortable place in Sacramento where members of the transgender community can go to be themselves. Cross Dressers, Transsexuals, Transvestites and those who care for them can go to Ariel's, especially those who cannot dress at home or who cannot go out in public. You will be able to receive mail, keep your clothing, enjoy social activities like formal teas, get makeovers and use computers at Ariel's. Similar establishments are Carla's in San Jose and I Love It in Fremont. Now there will be one in Sacramento.

No more having to rent a hotel room just to dress for an evening to go out. No more fearing the family or kids will find your clothes, or your boss will see you when you need to be who you are.

We take confidentiality very seriously. All members will be screened. This is a SAFE PLACE. You can join an e-list at no cost and give Ariel's staff input right now on what you need and what you would like to have. Your input is invaluable as this new service is being created. Visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ArielsCloset/>

You can also use a website that is in the process of being created. It will be interactive for the community. There will be a calendar of events, chat rooms, galleries where you can post your pictures, and forums where you can discuss things you chose and decide are important. Free membership to the website keeps out Spam bots and porn spammers. It will be up and running as soon as the domain points to the servers in about 72 hours. Visit <http://www.ArielsCloset.com>.

Youth Gender Project GenderBlast 5

GenderBlast is a conference for transgender, gender-variant and gender questioning (TGQ) youth 25 and under, and our allies of all ages. The conference will be held from **9:00am-5:30pm** on **November 20, 2004**, before the Transgender Day of Remembrance march (6:30pm).

Workshops may include: how to change your name/gender legally; creative writing or art; trans issues and race or ethnicity; safe cruising, passing tips; trans issues for allies 101; know your rights; and many more!

Youth Gender Project, 1800 Market St. #307
San Francisco, CA 94102. Email:
genderblast@youthgenderproject.org. Phone: (415) 865-5625

November 20 / 7:00pm

SAN JOSE'S DUCAL 2004 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN

The MARQUESSA JO-AN ... that's me, aka "MoM" would love to see as many of you as possible at this event. As you know, the IRLM raises \$\$ for charity and our goal this year is \$40,000 ... (information about them can be found at: <http://www.irlm.org/index.shtml>)

The "I Love It Chicks" will be performing ... also, it's so much fun to come dressed "In Theme" ... Pirates, Damsels in Distress, Caribbean, Charro! Carmen Miranda! ... I have every single costume you could imagine!

The Imperial Royal Lion Monarchy Inc of San Jose

The Three Ring Rainbow Court Of Love, Lust And Laughter

With

Grand Duchess Madame Steele

And

Grand Duke "S" Bearina Da Great

Invite You To

The Party of the Year -Ducal Ball 2004

Pirates of the Caribbean

"A DUCAL BIRTHDAY BASH"

Come Celebrate

Madame Steele's 21st Birthday

and

*Bearina's ...well...uh were not sure how old she is?
(and the old broad ain't telling!)*

Fun-Food-Friends & More!

Doors at 7:00pm

Show at 8:00pm

\$10.00 at the door

Odd Felloes Hall, 124 Race Street, San Jose * 408-298-6900

For more information please contact Grand Duchess Madame Steele at [REDACTED], Grand Duke "S" Bearina Da' Great at [REDACTED]. COSTUMES? Call Jo-An at I Love It! 510 [REDACTED]

IRLM of San Jose is a
Non Profit 501c3 Charitable Organization.

Coming in December!

MAC

AT
Bloomingdales
Stanford Mall
Sunday December 12th 2004

Contact:

408 431 6997

BAY AREA AMERICAN INDIAN TWO-SPIRITS

Community Potlucks

Tentative Dates For 2004: **December 3**. Held from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the San Francisco LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market Street at Octavia. Check board upon entering for room number.

Please bring something to share — food, non-alcoholic drinks, song, poem, raffle item. Traditional food is especially welcome. Contact us to confirm each event. BAAITS potlucks are clean and sober. Those under the influence of alcohol or drugs will be asked to leave.

BAAITS has an office at 1800 Market Street #411 in San Francisco, CA 94102. 415-865-5616 / www.baaits.org. BAAITS is a community based volunteer organization creating forums for spiritual, cultural and artistic expression of Two-Spirit people.

TRANS

(Transgender Resource and Neighborhood Space)

TRANS is a program of UCSF, entirely dedicated to the well-being of transgender people, staffed almost entirely by members of the transgender community, providing a community gathering place for MTF, FTM, genderqueer and emerging trans-identified communities.

In our space we provide gender-appropriate and culturally-appropriate workshops, linkage to service providers, case management, support groups, events, guest speakers, substance use/abuse intervention and mental health services to the broad spectrum of transgender and gender variant people in San Francisco. Our workshops and support groups address issues of transgender health and health care policy, HIV awareness and substance use/abuse issues, transitioning and surgical procedures for both FTM and MTF transpeople, identity and self esteem, transgender law, commercial sex work, and general life skills.

Through our workshops, support groups and special events, TRANS hopes to offer the transgender community of the San Francisco Bay Area the means to address concerns both within and outside of our community. Staffed by caring and committed transgender and gender variant people, TRANS provides an informal drop-in center where MTF and FTM transgender people, gender queer and gender variant people can go to relax, socialize, take a shower, and join in the ongoing effort to foster the well-being of our community.

You may view our website at the following URL: <http://www.caps.ucsf.edu/TRANS/>. Please feel free to provide a link to our website if you wish.

RGA, TGFSF, and DVG

Invite You to a

Holiday Dinner

Sunday, December 12, 2004 • 7:00pm

Tarragon Restaurant
140 South Murphy Avenue
Sunnyvale, CA 94086
408-737-8003

Dinner includes a salad, entrée, dessert and coffee

Entrée choices are prime rib, chicken, salmon or vegetarian

\$40.00 per person

Hors d'oeuvres will be served beforehand,
but drinks are on your own

Gift Exchange

Each guest is requested to contribute a gift-wrapped present

Suggested price range: \$5.00 – \$10.00

Reservations Required

Please contact [REDACTED] by December 11

Please indicate how many guests will be attending,
and their dinner choices

Pre-payment preferred, if possible, but cash or check payment acceptable at the restaurant

Miss Rachael Janelle Light
Empress 34 (The Butterfly Empress)

And

Miss Roxy Carmichael-Hart
President of TGFSF and Cookie Princess 003

Cordially invite you to an

After-Party

Sunday, December 12, 2004

Following the TG Holiday Dinner at the Tarragon

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Come enjoy a variety of
sweets, treats, and spirits

Help Decorate the Christmas Tree!

RSVP to Rachael at (408) [REDACTED]

A Hart-Light Production/Hart-Griffin Joint

Events Horizon!

On The Horizon...

IFGE ANNUAL CONVENTION.

The International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE, the publisher of "Tapestry" magazine) will hold its 19th Annual Convention in Austin on **April 26-30, 2005**, at the Red Lion Inn (near 290 and I-35). This is a short cab ride from the Austin Airport.

IFGE is currently soliciting presenters. I am submitting several proposals, and I hope that Christie Lee Littleton and Vanessa Foster and others of my Texas friends will do the same. Deadline for presentation proposals is September 30th. Contact alng@mindspring.com for information on being a presenter.

You are encouraged to mark this date and make plans to attend. For more information, send a request to S. Kristine James, PO Box 61, Easton, PA 18044, phone 610- [REDACTED]

NTAC Sets Lobby Days for May 2005

Transgender activists will converge on Capitol Hill on **May 18 - 20, 2005** to lobby Congress once again for passage of transgender-inclusive hate crimes and employment nondiscrimination legislation. Lobby Days 2005 is sponsored by the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition (NTAC), the country's largest and most active organization advocating for the rights of transgender Americans at federal, state, and local levels.

Participants are expected from all over the country and will likely include victims of anti-transgender hate crimes and those who have personal experience with employment and other types of transgender bias and discrimination. NTAC and the National Center for Transgender Equality will help attendees arrange meetings with their senators and representatives and staff members.

Marisa Richmond, Chair of the NTAC Lobbying Committee, noted that 30 lobbyists from around the country visited 81 Senate offices and 236 House offices in April 2004 to discuss the need for transgender inclusion in pending civil rights legislation. "This effort played an important role in identifying potential supporters of transgender inclusion in ENDA and LLEEA," she said. "This information was vital to the coordinated effort by transactivists in getting HRC to adopt a new trans-inclusive policy towards ENDA. We look forward to maintaining the momentum in 2005."

One major difference in the 2005 lobbying effort is the recent decision of the Human Rights Campaign decision to support only a transgender-inclusive Employment Nondiscrimination Act (ENDA). It is essential to have demonstrably significant numbers of concerned community activists and supporters working together to educate their elected representatives on these vital issues. The need has never been greater, and HRC support can improve our reception in Congress.

"Since 1999, NTAC has been advocating in support of equality for the transgender community," said Vanessa Edwards Foster, chair and co-founder of NTAC. "We may well be on the edge of a new era for our community, an era of unfettered accomplishment in our fight for civil rights. It's essential that NTAC and the transgender community are distinctly visible and a key part of this effort towards our equality."

NTAC will hold a plenary session for training and assignments on May 18th. The plenary will consist of a brief lobbyist training session, review of handouts to be discussed and left at each office visited, and assignments for May 19th and 20th. Participants will have the opportunity to meet and interact with many transgender and trans-supportive activists and representatives from organizations working toward fully inclusive federal hate crimes and civil rights protections and to participate in other Lobby Days events and actions to be announced.

Registration and hotel information will be linked to the NTAC website (<http://www.ntac.org>) when details become available. In the meanwhile, those with questions about joining this grassroots lobbying effort can write to lobbying@ntac.org.

As done in 2004, NTAC and the Transgender American Veterans Association (TAVA) are coordinating dates for their 2005 Washington, DC spring events. The second TAVA national gathering of transgender veterans, some of whom are also NTAC members, is scheduled to begin after NTAC lobbying ends on May 20. The TAVA event will include visits to veterans memorials on the National Mall and in Arlington, VA.

You can make a difference, for yourself, your family, and your community. Join your brother and sister transgender American activists, veterans, family, friends, and supporters in speaking truth to our leaders and working for a truly equal America for us all. Your support, your voice, and your active participation will make a difference.

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 transgender, intersexed, and gender-variant people to live and work without fear of violence or discrimination.

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for the best
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A book and a CD will be published and sold for the benefit of The Renaissance Transgender Association, <http://www.ren.org>

Entries must be recorded on tape or reproducible CD and accompanied by a written text. Please download rules from TGVoices.org

Deadline **June 1, 2005**

'TG Voices in 55 Words or less - 2005'
is a charitable project of Transgendered Voices, Incorporated,
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Announcements!

HELLO ALL:

As the editor of the [FTM] newsletter, I get many letters from people around the world looking for resources. These resources may be simple like, "how do I find a transgender friendly Doctor in San Francisco?" Or they may be difficult like finding a primary care physician in Iran. FTM International realizes that the need for a thorough and comprehensive resource guide is paramount to a strong community. We are from different ethnic, cultural backgrounds, and different countries; what works for the person in Maine may not work for the person in South Africa. So, with this in mind FTM will be updating our Yellow Pages with new resources and greater breadth of coverage. The Yellow Pages will be a compendium of resources from Attorneys to Zen centers, please help us to create a global community resource guide that will have a little something for everyone.

Please copy our questionnaire (link below), pass it on to your friends, acquaintances, etc. who may be able to help others who are in desperate need of this information. Confidentiality will be totally respected and none of the answers contained within this questionnaire will be used without your permission, as well as the permission of the individuals referred to. If you are not comfortable answering any particular question for whatever reason, do not feel obliged to do so. We apologize if the terminology you use to self-refer is not included in this questionnaire; it is not our intention to exclude anyone: please feel free to write in any terms you prefer.

To receive the questionnaire via e-mail, please e-mail me at [REDACTED]

So, please send this questionnaire to anyone who you know who is FTM, and kindly give my contact info to other people who may be able to help with resources for FTMs.

I thank you very much for your help and for helping others.

Martin Rawlings-Fein

Board Member of FTM International

http://ftmi.org/Ftmi/resource_questionnaire.html

Hi EVERYONE,

I've been thinking about starting a Sufi study group for a long time. The time is now and I'd like to invite you all read the following and if you're called to come please let me know.

In addition to reading Sufi poetry once each month I'm also going to host and facilitate a Sufism study group once per month too. Both of these are for the GLBT community. Being transgendered myself I especially encourage others to come. There is no charge for either of these. The only thing you need to bring is your open hearts and beautiful selves. If you'd like to be taken off this list please let me know. Also, if you have anyone you'd like me to add, please let me know that too. So here's the announcement!

The Sufi study group is ready to begin and will be held on the first Wednesday of the month beginning on November 3rd. The group will meet from 7:00 to 8:30. It would be wonderful if you could please RSVP. This will ensure I have enough copies of any reading materials.

The Sufi Poetry readings are on the second Thursday of the month from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. We have been reading the poetry of the 14th century Persian Sufi master Hafiz. He is sweet and beautiful and full of Love and that's how many of us feel after spending an hour or two with his words.

My home is located at [REDACTED] Call 415 [REDACTED]

So What is Sufism Anyway?

Sufism is the ancient mystical study and spiritual practices focused on the transformation of the heart. When our hearts are truly and fully open we feel nothing but love, see nothing but and speak nothing but love. When our hearts are truly and fully opened we come to know and experience that there is no separation between ourselves and the Divine. The greatest evidence of our spiritual attainment is in how we treat and think about all other sentient beings. The Buddhist greeting of namaste with and hands clasped together as if in prayer is saying "the Divine in me recognizes the Divine in you" The Sufi's says the same thing by greeting each other with a hand over the heart and a huge two sided hug. Please join me in an evening of interesting discussions ending with some Sufi spiritual practices for those so inclined.

**Love, Peace and Blessings,
Renee Amina Mayer**

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3989 Howe Street (Mandana House one block from Kaiser off Broadway), in Oakland, CA 94611.

DEAR TGSF:

I am writing on behalf of the Transgender Sexual Violence Project, sponsored by FORGE (For Ourselves: Reworking Gender Expression), to let you know of the work we are doing in the Midwest to raise awareness about sexual violence within the transgender and SOFFA (Significant Other, Friends, Family and Allies) population and to create useful resources for both survivors and professionals.

The survey is open to anyone and the results will be available to anyone. Please feel free to pass this on. We also have packets that can be mailed to anyone who wants them (let us know, if you want to hand them out to groups, about how many to send) that includes business cards, flyers, hard copies of the survey, etc.

I want to let you know that we originally sent out this notice on Friday, 10/1 to a number of transgender and SOFFA (significant others, friends, family, and allies) lists, and already as of Sunday morning have 45 responses. This data is going to be ground-breaking in terms of what it will tell us about what happens to sexual violence survivors who are transgender, and their loved ones.

Take the Survey - Now through November

Spend a few minutes completing a survey focused on personal experience with sexual violence and the services you received (or didn't) following the traumatic event(s). Request a paper copy of the survey by the contacting us (corner box for address) or take the survey online at www.forge-forward.org/transviolence/survey.

See the Results - January 2005+

Your stories and experiences make a difference. Results of the survey and community dialogue will be compiled and analyzed to create a report reviewing the data, as well as creating resources for survivors and guidelines for professionals to serve the transgender community more sensitively and effectively. Results will be available at www.forge-forward.org.

Get Support - LGBTQI+ people anywhere in the world (the list is conducted in English) may sign up for an online support group for primary and secondary victims of sexual violence. To subscribe, send mail to: majordomo@lists.forge-forward.org In the body of the email type: subscribe sv-support For more information, please contact Michael Munson at sv@forge-forward.org or visit www.forge-forward.org/sv/

The Transgender Sexual Violence Project would be grateful if you would participate in these events by completing the survey, attending the movie night, participating in the community dialogue, and/or participating in our support groups. If this information doesn't apply to you and/or you know someone who would be interested in this project, or has a history that includes sexual violence, please pass this information along to them. Anyone can anonymously access the survey and events calendar online at www.forge-forward.org/transviolence/

For more information on the Transgender Sexual Violence Project or request hard copies of events flyers, surveys or other printed materials, please contact us at the address listed below.

Thank you for your support of this project and for passing along the word.

Michael Munson
FORGE - Transgender Sexual Violence Project
PO Box 1272, Milwaukee, WI 53201
sv@forge-forward.org
www.forge-forward.org/transviolence
414-278-6031

More Announcements!

TRANSGENDER VETS TO MARCH AGAIN

After assessing the success of the first Transgender Veterans March to the Wall held last May, the Transgender American Veterans Association (TAVA) is moving once again to gather transgender veterans in Washington, DC.

The First Transgender March to the Wall was for history. The second March to the Wall on May 20, 2005 will be for tradition. With the addition of a tour of the newly opened WWII Memorial, the March will be expanded. As with this year's tour, the 2005 March will also visit the Vietnam Memorial and Iwo Jima Memorial and will experience the very emotional and proud moment of dedicating a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery.

Fifty-five Transgender Veterans and significant others from across the country attended this year's March to the Wall. The emotional event was also supported and witnessed by many others in the GLBTI community from Washington, DC and around the country.

"No one could have anticipated the tremendous success of this year's March to the Wall in bringing together so many Transgender Veterans for the first time," said Angela Brightfeather, event organizer and TAVA Special Projects Chairperson. "Added to that success is the fact that so many other GLBTI people have recognized the importance of this March, not only to the Transgender Veterans, but also to our community in general. By providing the hub for other events to gather around with pride and determination, TAVA has touched on the emotion and great sacrifices made by the GLBTI community in the defense of our nation. By honoring our past, we will be able to more effectively and emotionally gather together to create the motivation that will change our future."

TAVA expects that the success of the first March to the Wall will encourage more Transgender Veterans to attend the May 2005 event. Pictures of this year's March can be viewed at the TAVA web site <www.tavausa.org> under the "Events" link.

"The National Transgender Advocacy Coalition (NTAC) is honored to support this effort to honor transgender veterans and all veterans," said Robyn Walters, NTAC Secretary and TAVA Veterans Affairs Liaison Representative. "NTAC was happy to coordinate its May 18 - 20, 2005 Congressional Lobby Days schedule

GenderQueer, Trans, & Gender Questioning Youth Group

Billy DeFrank LGBT Community Center
www.defrank.org

This youth program will provide space for discussion groups, workshops and activities, specifically for genderqueer youth and their allies. We are excited to be offering this new programming, for an underserved population, even in our own community. This new group is for young people 20 and under, who identify somewhere on the gender non-conforming spectrum, who are questioning their gender identity or who are considering transitioning.

This group will meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month from 5-6pm at the DeFrank Center, which is located at 938 The Alameda, in San Jose. For more information please contact T. Aaron Hans, Program Director at 408.293.3040 ext. 112 or at progdir@defrank.org.

NEW SUPPORT GROUP AT UCSF TRANS!

Calling all FTM's, Transmen, Genderqueers, Gender-Variant and Gender-Fluid folks of all kinds! The UCSF TRANS Program is starting a new support group for all of us, from 5:30-6:30pm on Tuesday nights at 1145 Bush Street at the UCSF TRANS drop-in space. ALL AGES, all backgrounds, all orientations, and all gender expressions are completely welcome.

Discussion topics will be determined by the needs of the group, and are likely to include:

- Testosterone and its various effects
- Sex and communication
- Genderqueer and trans body image
- Dating and casual sex encounters
- Top surgery, and other trans surgeries
- Passing vs. being out
- Relationship issues
- Dealing with body changes and changes in sexual desires
- Discrimination in employment
- Being part of SF gay male culture
- Multiple identities in ethnic and disabled communities
- Class issues
- Harassment and safety concerns
- Accessing social services
- How to talk about our sexual parts
- Activism and social change, and many more!

For info or directions, please contact Sam Davis at (415) [REDACTED]

with the TAVA March dates. Both organizations look forward to the same synergy seen in last year's events."

Karen Rice, TAVA Secretary and partner of Tina Rice, veteran and TAVA Media Director, captured the solemnity of the occasion with these thoughts: "On the first March to the Wall I stood proudly with men and women who served their country in at least four conflicts - WWII, Korea, Vietnam, and Desert Storm. For the first time in their lives they mourned their fallen compatriots [while standing] proudly and openly as themselves. They paid tribute to the many who have served in silence. We know, as some may not, that there are those who serve in silence now. They love their country, and they welcome those who would like to join us and support them."

Please join TAVA and the many transgender veterans as we once again provide a chance for healing from the many wounds of war and of life. Find details and updates via event links at www.tavausa.org. To participate in the March, or for additional information, write to Angela Brightfeather at projects@tavausa.org.

The Transgender American Veterans Association (TAVA) acts proactively with other concerned GLBT organizations to ensure that transsexual and transgendered veterans will receive appropriate care for medical conditions in accordance with the Veterans Health Administration Customer Service Standards promise to "treat you with courtesy and dignity ... as the first class citizen that you are." Further, TAVA will help in educating the VA and the US military on issues regarding a fair and equal treatment of transgendered and transsexual individuals. TAVA will also educate for a change in public law and policy that will help initiate this fair and equal treatment.

NTAC Press Release

Girlie Men, California Hate Crimes Law, and the US House of Representatives

California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger upset many in the GLBT community with his "girlie men" remarks before and during the Republican National Convention. But just when you want to hate the Governor, he turns around and does something right and just for those who are different. In fact, he did two good things for gays and transgenders in September. First, he signed legislation requiring insurance companies to provide coverage for registered domestic partners. Shortly after that, he signed SB 1234, the Omnibus Hate Crimes Act of 2004 into law. This law defines hate crimes and includes offenses based on sexual orientation and gender identity as well as offenses against those who associate with gays or transgenders.

Although upset with the governor over his earlier comments denigrating political opponents as 'girlie men,' the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition (NTAC) applauds his September actions to protect California's gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex citizens from abuse.

Governor Schwarzenegger's performance at the Republican Convention was loudly applauded by conservatives, but they are not applauding his actions to protect California citizens from harassment or worse. For example, Traditional Values Coalition Chairman Louis Sheldon derided the governor's actions, saying, "California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger must not be too troubled by what he's called 'girlie men' because he's just signed a bill into law that maintains 'sex' in California to include drag queens, cross-dressers, and transsexuals."

According to their September 23, 2004 press release, the Traditional Values Coalition fears that "A homosexual person, whose sole intent is to attack Christian organizations for their views, could claim feeling 'threatened' by the views espoused in a Christian Bookstore and attempt to bring the store on hate crime charges." The fears of NTAC and other GLBT supportive organizations and individuals lie much more on the side of harassment, physical injury and murder of gays and of gender-variant people.

"Paranoid fear-mongering," is how NTAC Chair Vanessa Edwards Foster described the TVC claims. "Their fears are baseless, but it won't stop them from trying to create controversy where none exists." NTAC knows of no frivolous suits of the kind mentioned by TVC in any US jurisdiction with hate crimes protections or gays or transgender people.

"Gov. Schwarzenegger was showcased at the August convention as a symbol of considering all Americans as welcomed, and of political moderation," Foster noted. "NTAC applauds the governor's signing of the Hate Crimes Bill and making moderate politics more than just sloganeering."

The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act amendment was approved by a solid two to one bipartisan majority in the Senate. The law would add sexual orientation and gender to those classes protected from hate crimes. On September 28, the US House of Representatives by a bipartisan procedural vote of 213-186 instructed House conference committee members to accept the hate crimes amendment to the Defense Authorization Bill during negotiation with Senate members. Even so, the chances of the hate crimes amendment surviving reconciliation of the House-passed version of the Authorization Bill and the Senate version after the Congressional recess seem slim based on past conference committee decisions.

NTAC's Foster was skeptical that the same moderate opinion by Gov. Schwarzenegger would have much effect on the Capitol Hill conference committee. "It'll be interesting to see how moderate or polarized the House of Representatives is on the Hate Crimes segment of Defense bill.

"On the off-chance of a favorable vote, we're [still] not optimistic," Foster cautioned: "President Bush has consistently opposed Hate Crimes protections - even as governor."

San Francisco May Have Nation's First Transgendered Elected Official

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - A 40-year-old community activist running for a seat on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors stands a chance of becoming the nation's first transgender elected official.

Robert Haaland, who was born a girl and switched his gender identity to male after college, is one of 22 candidates seeking to represent the district that includes Haight Ashbury. A few years ago, he sued the city after he was arrested during a housing protest and alleged police groped him to determine his sex, eventually settling for \$107,500.

Haaland, who sits on the city's Democratic Party Central Committee, has been endorsed by some of the city's most prominent Democrats, including District Attorney Kamala Harris and Supervisor Tom Ammiano, a longtime gay rights activist.

"The institutionalized prejudice and ignorance around the issue make his run very, very significant. A win would be even sweeter," Ammiano said.

Haaland said his campaign office has received a few negative phone calls but that he's met no overt hostility as a candidate. "When you put yourself out there, it's a little nerve-racking. But it's definitely something I'm comfortable with," he said.

Because San Francisco is introducing a new system that allows voters to rank their first three choices in supervisorial races, the election Haaland is competing in has no clear front-runner. Other top contenders include an HIV-positive gay African-American and two Green Party activists.

While Haaland was out campaigning this week, several residents he was wooing said they had no idea the candidate was transgender - and that it would have no effect on whether or not they cast ballots for him.

"Is he a he or she?" asked Justin Miller, a 25-year-old skateboard-toting graphic artist. "It's cool. That's why I moved here from a small town in Indiana."

Singapore's First TS Beauty Pageant!

Singapore's first major transsexual beauty pageant was held over the weekend to raise money for the poor, with the event's organizers hailing it as a groundbreaking, sell-out success.

An audience of 1,350 people watched 13 finalists compete for the title of Miss Tiffany Singapore, based on the famous Thai contest of the same name, at the city-state's biggest in-house restaurant. Thirty-three Singaporean transsexuals originally entered the contest, including one national serviceman, according to the organizer, Mogan Aruban.

Mogan, who is the chairman of non-profit charity organisation Singapore Amalgamated Services Cooperative, told AFP the contest reflected an increasing tolerance in famously conservative Singapore.

"This was a ground-breaking event considering the whole family values thing (of Singaporean society)," Mogan said. "I think it's acceptable now because the Prime Minister has said we have to liberalize and among the younger generation there are so many gays."

Former Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong said last year that gays would be allowed to work in the civil service as part of the Government's loosening of social controls, however homosexual acts are still illegal.

Mogan said he had been staging more traditional fund-raising events, such as dance competitions and functions featuring international celebrities, over the past 15 years but Miss Tiffany was the most successful.

Deep Inside Hollywood Melissa and Demi Change Sexes

Melissa Etheridge is a man. So is Demi Moore. Sissy Spacek, too. Confused? Not them. The trio is changing genders for the upcoming film "Southern Comfort," a narrative feature based on Kate Davis' 2002 documentary about the small-town life of a Southern transgender couple. All three women will play female-to-male transgender men in the film, while actors Henry Thomas ("E.T.") and Alan Cumming will play male-to-female transgender women.

by Romeo San Vicente

Mary Kay Place has also been cast in the film, gender unspecified for the moment. The movie, which begins shooting in January 2005, is being produced by the very queer-friendly Harry Thomason and Linda Bloodworth-Thomason and will be Grammy-winner Etheridge's first major screen role. Meanwhile, Romeo will wait patiently for stories of Demi teaching her female co-stars the head-shaving techniques she learned in "G.I. Jane."

NIP/TUCK'S SEX-CHANGE SHOCKER

by Daniel R. Coleridge

You can try to guess Nip/Tuck's twists in advance, but the FX plastic-surgery drama just keeps augmenting fans' expectations. In this week's jam-packed season finale alone, they had Joan Rivers, that serial stalker The Carver, and an over-the-top revelation: Ava Moore, the sinister sexpot played by X-Men's Famke Janssen, is really a man! Actually, it's more correct to say she's a male-to-female transsexual. Now that we didn't see coming.

"I always had [Ava's gender secret] percolating in the back of my mind," admits series creator Ryan Murphy, who had top-secret meetings with Janssen before proceeding with the story. "It was tricky. It's not every actress that you can [tell], 'By the way, you're a man,' and have them go, 'OK,' and commit."

After some initial concerns, Janssen took the plunge. "She... paused," Murphy recalls. "She just wanted to make sure it was done with grace and as a love story, which we did. She was also concerned about what I was going to show on the operating table [during Ava's genital surgery], and I told her not to worry."

"So after she approved it, I made her do a pact of silence, then I told Dylan Walsh and Julian McMahon, and that was it. The scripts were a big-secret thing. They were numbered and you had to sign for them."

Even guest star Alec Baldwin was kept in the dark until he received the final episode's script. Before that, he'd only been told he was playing Famke's ex-husband, Dr. Barrett Moore. Once he read it, he called Murphy to praise him for the story line's clever takeoff on *Suddenly Last Summer* by Tennessee Williams. "Alec said, 'I have two requests — an ascot and an Indian manservant,'" Murphy laughs. "I bought him the ascot."

You may still be wondering why Murphy chose to give Ava gender issues. "I loved the hypocrisy of a life coach who's transforming other people's lives really being the ultimate creature of transformation [herself]," he says. "She's the villain you love to hate because she was so extraordinary and had so many secrets."

Murphy feels it would've been unoriginal to "just have [Ava] shot between her eyes by her son, Adrian, over the incest thing. I wanted to really humanize her. I cared about her character and I knew that there was something she was running from. Famke played that subtextually from the beginning. Everything [on Nip/Tuck] relates to the world of plastic surgery, so this fit the theme perfectly."

Look for Ava — who fled to Paris after Adrian's suicide — to return in the third season. "If you go to the fan websites, she's an overwhelming favorite," Murphy enthuses. "People are obsessed with how bad she was every week. Famke loved this show so much, she cleared almost an entire year of her schedule and turned down movies to do it! We were quite honored to have her, and she said, 'If you want me back for one or two episodes [next season], I would love to do it.' So I'm sure she'll come back."

Significant Other Support East Bay

Questions or concerns about your partner's crossdressing? Please call Julie at (925) [redacted] e-mail [redacted] or write to: Julie Freeman, PO Box 272885, Concord, CA 94527-2885.

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TRANSGENDER \$25 MILLION LAWSUIT AGAINST SF POLICE KICKS OFF

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In what may be one of the largest sex discrimination cases in U.S. history filed by a transgender person, a \$25 million lawsuit involving members of the San Francisco police department began on Monday in the San Francisco Superior Court.

Jeremy Burke, a transgender female to male, is suing the City and County of San Francisco's Police Department and others. The lawsuit, which comes on the heels of the recent "Fajitagate" scandal involving three off duty officers including the son of then Assistant Chief Alex Fagan, alleges discrimination and excessive use of force.

Burke is seeking \$25 million in damages for discrimination, assault, battery, intentional infliction of emotional distress, and negligent hiring, training and supervision.

"While the transgender community makes up less than five percent of the general population, this lawsuit is meant to send a clear message to governmental police agencies that discrimination in any form, against any citizen, will not be tolerated," said San Francisco civil rights attorney Waukeen Q. McCoy, who represents Burke in the case. "This case will send a wake up call to law enforcement across the country that the use of excessive force will be challenged."

The lawsuit, which was filed in May 2002, names San Francisco's Police Department Officer Anton Collins, Officer Steve Lee and Deputy Sheriff Edson Veloro as the defendants.

According to the suit, Burke was severely beaten while visiting his domestic partner at her apartment at 350 Ellis Street. The suit alleges that police officers barged into the apartment, and took the partner into the hallway where she could not see but could hear the beating.

At the police station, Burke says he was stripped searched by females and not allowed to take off his own clothes. He says that his feet and hands were cuffed, and he was made to lay face down on the floor. The suit contends that the female officers stripped Burke naked and then threw him into an isolation room. When Burke told the officers that he was transgender, one of the officers said reportedly said, "Oh s**t. We f****d up." One officer then threw a blue dress into the room where Burke sat naked. Burke told the officer that he did not wear dresses. The suit contends that the police knew all along that Burke was transgender.

The lawsuit further alleges that one of the female officers told Burke that her superior was "having trouble knowing where to put him" and "we have to see what you have". Burke says he was made to undress, pull his legs apart and told to keep himself spread apart so the female officer could "look at everything". The officer reportedly said "this is the biggest clit I have ever seen".

Burke says he was then placed in a cell, where he was subject to ridicule. His suit also contends that he suffered an infection and began to discharge blood as a result of the police beating. He was taken to San Francisco General Hospital for treatment and could not be arraigned for at least eight days because he was vomiting bile and blood. Burke was not convicted of anything, all charges were dropped. He later filed a complaint with the Office of Citizen's Complaints. Nothing was done.

LUANNA L. RODGERS, MA, MFT

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He's A Lady...

He's A Lady, But Not A Menace To Society On TBS

By Noel Holston
Newsday, a Tribune Co. Newspaper

TBS's He's a Lady, a six-week series in which a bunch of brawny guys subject themselves to leg-waxing, eyebrow-plucking and high-heel drills in order to compete in a drag beauty pageant, came under attack from the morality police well before its premiere last night.

The American Family Association, a media watchdog group that describes itself as "pro-family," thinks the series promotes a transvestite lifestyle. The organization has encouraged concerned parents to contact the series' principal sponsor, SC Johnson & Son Inc., maker of such familiar household products as Windex, Ziploc bags and Drano, and "adamantly but politely request that they pull all their advertising and financial support from this type of programming."

"It's inconceivable that 11 men — acting, dressing and living as women — would be entertainment in our society today," Randy Sharp, the association's special projects director, told reporters for AgapePress, a Christian news service. "What's more shocking is that SC Johnson would throw their money behind the entire production."

Actually, what's truly shocking is that a big company like SC Johnson would let a group of benighted prigs tell it what to do. But that's what it apparently did. The company has been notifying the association's concerned parents that it has decided to pull out of the TBS show.

I take particular offense at the association's numbskull coercion. Apart from being more amusing than other reality competitions in this general vein, He's a Lady made me think of my late father.

No, he wasn't a transvestite. Wasn't gay, either. Far from it. He was a Mississippi farm boy who fought in the Pacific.

Once, when I was about 11, he dressed up in drag. So did the president of the Sunday school at the Baptist church. So did the owner of the grocery, our postman, a plumber and several fellows who punched the clock at the Masonite plant, all of them parents, most of them World War II veterans.

The occasion was something known as a "woman-less wedding." Back then, in the twilight of the Eisenhower administration, they were a popular way to raise money for schools.

I can still remember the plus-size, gold satin gown my dad squeezed into, the white hose he pulled over his hairy legs, the blond wig, the lipstick, the powder that couldn't quite hide his 5 o'clock shadow.

He and the other men thought the mock wedding was a hoot. So did their wives and kids and all the neighbors and friends who paid 50 cents to crowd into the school auditorium to see them be silly.

Although He's a Lady takes the shtick further, the TBS series is clearly part of a long-standing, lighthearted American tradition that includes those woman-less weddings, the play Charley's Aunt, Milton Berle and Flip Wilson's cross-dressing antics, Tootsie, Mrs. Doubtfire, even Bud Lite commercials. It's a lark, harmless fun.

The alarming thing isn't, as the association's Sharp declared, that this could be "entertainment in our society today." It's that we've regressed so badly as a society that humorless prudes actually get listened to.

DUDE LOOKS LIKE A LADY

TBS's reality show He's A Lady will put 11 brawny straight guys in touch with their feminine sides

By Mike Goodridge
From The Advocate



This is a lighthearted show. There is no twist, no mean spirit," says Douglas Ross, one of the executive producers of new TBS reality series He's a Lady. On the heels of Boy Meets Boy, Playing It Straight, and the never-aired Seriously, Dude, I'm Gay, Ross and his fellow executive producer, Tom Campbell, were certainly aware of the potential pitfalls that can hobble even well-meaning reality shows when they set about mounting He's a Lady, in which 11 macho men undergo complete feminine makeovers and compete for \$250,000 by taking on weekly gender-specific challenges.



Anxious not to offend transgendered people, Ross and Campbell consulted with the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation after GLAAD contacted them, having heard about the show from a press release. "We had heard about Seriously, Dude, I'm Gay [in which two straight guys had to convince their best friends and a jury of gay men that they were gay] and how it was controversial," explains Campbell. "We went to GLAAD to get their support and to show that this was a kind show.

Through that meeting, we became more aware of transgender issues and the double standards of beauty." (GLAAD has so far declined to issue any statements about the show.)

In fact, during the course of the series, the contestants became more sensitive to the particular needs of women, according to the executive producers. "The show is first and foremost a fun show," says Campbell, "but the underlying message is that these men become better for having gone through the experience. It changed the way they will deal with women in the future."

The show takes the men away from their wives and girlfriends under the pretense that they are going to be on a reality program called All American Man, competing in punishing physical challenges. But when they arrive in Los Angeles, the contestants are told that they have to become "ladies." Each episode, they deal with the challenges of bras, jewelry, posture, and bridal showers, and one man gets voted off. The finalists must return to their hometowns to take on the tasks—and multitasking—that usually fall to their female partners.

"It's very emotional in parts," says Ross. "In the final episode, when he is explaining what he has learned as a 'lady' about being a man, one contestant breaks down in tears, and his wife is crying, and even our toughest judge, [sports commentator] John Salley, has tears in his eyes."

Another of the men discovers that his women's clothes are considered "plus-size." "As a big man, he was never subject to being evaluated on his looks," says Campbell, "so he really has to deal with the issues of outer beauty versus inner beauty."

Surprisingly, say both Ross and Campbell, the contestants don't equate the change of gender with a change of sexual orientation. "We wondered if they would joke about being gay, but they didn't," says Ross. "We were careful not to use the words 'in drag' and always said 'in character.' We wanted to take them out of their comfort zone, but they all embraced it wholeheartedly."

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Takin' Care of Biz...

TGSF FINANCIAL REPORT

As of October 20, 2004

Assets

Cash	3355.22
Decorations	1000.00
Beverages	200.00
 Total	 4555.22

Liabilities and Equity

Accounts Payable	0.00
Equity	0.00
 Total	 0.00

Statement of TGSF Income

Revenues

Memberships	190.00
Donations	130.80
Advertising	180.00
 Total	 500.80

Expenses

Channel	354.29
Phone	49.50
Misc.	384.50
 Total	 788.29

Net Income (Loss) (287.49)

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EACH NEW DAY IS ONE OF FREEDOM

Hayward woman feels liberated after coming out, being accepted

By Michelle Meyers, STAFF WRITER

HAYWARD — ON SEPT. 20, he was known as Bob McAllister. A day later, she introduced herself publicly as Kari McAllister. And two weeks later, McAllister opened her door and her world to The Daily Review for a glimpse of a typical day in the life of a transgender Hayward community member.

McAllister, 50, is the event coordinator for Chabot College's Performing Arts Center. She graduated from San Leandro High School in 1972 and has since lived in Hayward, where she owns a home. However, for most of her life — whether working as a truck driver, running her own stereo repair shop or performing as lead singer in one of two rock bands — "she" was actually a "he."

McAllister has been dressing in women's clothes behind closed doors for some 20 years. But it wasn't until the early 1990s that "Bob" became "Kari" by night and started to get involved in the local transgender community.

Just 10 months ago, when McAllister started taking hormones, she went from being "transgendered" — an umbrella term for individuals who don't identify with the gender they were born with — to also being "transsexual" — someone who has or is in the process of undergoing a physical gender change.

McAllister was "Kari," in almost all aspects of life, except for work. Then, in one of the most profound events of her life, she came out — via e-mail — to the Chabot College community and started living full time as Kari McAllister. "All of a sudden, this huge weight was lifted. I was finally honest with myself and everyone else," McAllister says. "This is who I am and who I was always meant to be."



Bob McAllister

human kindness has been restored."

Tea and Talk

While her story might seem unconventional, McAllister eases into a Monday — one of her "weekend days" — much like others, with a cup of tea. Moving slowly, however, is a relative term; McAllister pokes fun at her own hyperactivity and loquaciousness.

McAllister is particularly busy because she wears many hats. She's president of Chabot's senate for classified employees; is on several other campus committees; performs as lead singer, songwriter and guitar player in her all-transgender band; and is an activist in the growing Hayward-area transgender support community.

On this particular morning, McAllister helps a fellow transgendered woman whose mother had just attempted suicide after learning of her gender orientation.

McAllister spends the next part of her morning doing something she says comes with the territory — telling her story and answering the two most common questions: "Are you gay?" And, "Are you going to have the operation?"

To the first, her answer is "No, I'm not gay." If anything, she's a lesbian, because, in her mind, she's a woman who is interested in women. But she further clarifies that it's not her sexuality that's at issue. It's her perceived gender. "People confuse sexual orientation with gender identity," McAllister says, in part because transgendered individuals often turn to the gay, lesbian and bisexual communities as a safe haven.

To the second question about the sex-change operation, which would need to happen before she is legally considered a female, McAllister's first response is, "None of your business."

In the interest of encouraging education, however, she adds that surgery is not something she's planning. But she's not ruling it out, even though it can cost \$10,000 to \$40,000. That is in addition to hormone therapy, which runs between \$125 to \$170 a month when not covered by insurance.

Shopping and Lunch

McAllister had no problem going out as a woman in San Francisco, San Jose and other locations around the Bay Area. In fact, it was liberating, she says.

What terrified her were the trips to local establishments where owners and



Kari McAllister puts on makeup Friday afternoon in her Hayward home

employees knew her as "Bob." She recalls a time "Kari" stood paralyzed in her house, unable satisfy her craving for tacos. "I was petrified about what the taco guy would do when he saw me," McAllister says. "That was a small thing, but it was a big day for me."

On this day, however, McAllister teases her hair a little, puts on some fresh lipstick and confidently goes grocery shopping at Trader Joe's. She's big on the sugar snap pea chips. "Have you tried these? They're addictive," she says.

None of the clerks at Trader Joe's in Castro Valley, or even at Southland Mall, are fazed by McAllister. If anything, they are more concerned about the guy with a camera following her around.

She buys some earrings with a credit card at Macy's, and the clerk hardly notices that her identification shows a picture of a man. Same thing at the MAC makeup counter, where McAllister is enthusiastically helped by a saleswoman who picks up on McAllister's affinity for purple.

McAllister quickly has started to meet stereotypes of her new gender — she loves to shop, tries to match nail polish to her clothing and declares that "it's all about the accessories."

She symbolically moved all the "Bob" clothes into a spare closet with the intention of someday giving them away, she says. She doesn't wear anything too flashy, except for when it comes to band performance clothes.

McAllister chooses to lunch in downtown Hayward at Buon Appetito, where the manager knows her. She often sits alone with a book. But on this day she has company. She recommends a meal-size chicken salad.

In conversation she shows breadth and depth of knowledge about Hayward, giving her inside take on political leaders, the long-debated Foothill Freeway and the many attempts at redeveloping downtown.

McAllister tells a joke that pokes fun at the many vacant buildings around town: A man and woman meet at a bar. The woman is from Hayward. The man asks, "What's your sign?" She replies, "For lease."

Up Close and Personal

McAllister goes back home for a little down time before an afternoon band practice. She continues to talk of her personal journey, recognizing that it has only just begun.

One thing she's had to give up, for a while anyway, is her active search for love, she says. She wants it, but doesn't feel comfortable putting anyone through the changes she anticipates. "I'm not going to be the aggressor," she says, adding that her preference is a woman but love matters most.

McAllister was married once before but never had children. McAllister and her ex-wife married after dating for 12 years. They divorced three years later, she says. The ex-wife knows about McAllister's preference for dressing as a woman but doesn't yet know that she has come out full time as a woman, McAllister says.

The eldest of four, McAllister was reared by a strict father, one whom she says made his gender expectations for his son well known. Even as she tried to meet those expectations through wrestling and basketball, McAllister says she always found it easier to identify with the girls. McAllister's parents divorced when she was 13, and she ended up somewhat of a delinquent, she says.

"Let's just say I don't ever remember a guidance counselor talking to me about jobs or college," McAllister says. "I've carried anger for 50 years. This is the first time in my life that I haven't had that."

McAllister drove trucks for about eight years, started her own publication, Bay Band Calendar, and dreamed about her rock band, Trend, making it big. Trend opened for big names such as The Tubes and Flock of Seagulls, made a video in 1991 and eventually disbanded in 1993.

The video features McAllister as a macho Robert Palmer-type character donning a black fringe leather jacket and swarmed by sexy women with bedroom eyes. That image is in sharp contrast to one of McAllister in high-heels practicing a ballad this afternoon with three members of the transgendered band Trans Central Station.

McAllister doesn't feel a need to purge her past. "I don't have this thing that some have where I hate Bob," she says. "I don't hate my past. I just need a new future."



Kari McAllister (center) practices with her bandmates, Arianna on keyboards and Kelly Marsh on bass at McAllister's Hayward home



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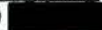
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Confessions of a Dangerous Mind...

Continued from Page 9

gender, God goofed. And we all know God is totally perfect. But if God were perfect, why does He create babies without fingers or eyes or with CP or MD? Certainly a baby is not a sinner. To me, it isn't God making a mistake - it is God testing us. He gives us the tools and we have to use them properly. And that is how He judges us. And lest we forget that God, not Jimmy Swaggart or Jim Bakker or Fred Phelps, is the one who ultimately decides our fate. Because God believes that He did not create sinners. He created good people. Some make wrong decisions (see Adam and Eve) but the man He created was good.

Wouldn't it be nice if we could sit down with some rational Christians (I know that there are some) and try to get them to see things from a different point of view? Wouldn't it be nice if those people could spread the gospel according to Roxy and tell someone "you know, those transgendered people aren't so bad. They are hardworking and industrious and intelligent", And then they told two friends and so on and so on....Of course, when I hear statements such as the one I heard the other day from what I thought was a fairly educated person ("he's rather articulate for a black man"), I realized that our mountain to climb is very, very steep. But we won't get there if we don't take the first step.

When I started writing this column (on the second anniversary of Gwen's death), I was very angry and I wanted to start a holy war against the evangelicals. I realized that there is more to gain by positive action. This war won't be won today, tomorrow, in my lifetime or in yours or your children's. But every day you can get a small victory. Every "Good morning miss" is a victory. Every "May I help you ma'am?" is a victory. Every use of the women's (or men's as the case may be) is a victory. Every one of us that goes to our jobs in our intended gender is a victory.

As an aside, let me tell you a little story. After the mistrial of the bastards who murdered Gwen, I was interviewed by Sharon Katsuda of Channel 11. One of the questions she asked me was "shouldn't she have been honest with her partner?" I answered that honesty had nothing to do with it but here is what I should have said. "Sharon, suppose you went out one day in a tank top and short shorts and you were raped. At the trial, the accused perpetrator said "Well, she turned me on with that outfit she was wearing. If she didn't want to be raped, she shouldn't have dressed that way". In other words, it was the victim's fault. If Gwen hadn't dressed like a female or she had told people she was transgendered, she wouldn't have been murdered. I don't need to preach to the choir but there is absolutely nothing that excuses or condones or justifies murder, so it was a rather stupid comment for Ms. Katsuda to make.

When we get rid of the hate that condones violence and discrimination and prejudice against transgenders, when we rid ourselves of the demeaning stereotype, when we win the right to work and play and love and exist as who we want, that will be the ultimate victory.

Shit, I'm angry again...but...

The other day, Channel 2 had their "person on the street" interviews about high gas prices. One person interviewed was transgendered. When the interview was over, several of those at the anchor desk chose to make snide comments and laugh. I called Channel 2 and voiced my concerns. The Executive Producer called me back to apologize and said she too, had been outraged and that the station had received several calls as well. And one of the anchors phoned me as well. He also apologized and we had a good discussion. He knew immediately that what was said was inappropriate. We had a good discussion. He learned something about transgendered people and I learned that not every misstep is intentional. Sometimes, people make honest mistakes, which are largely the result of lack of education about who we are. That is where our energies must be. When we spread the word and it is understood that we are like everyone else, then, we can say as my stepbrother Stewie says "Victory is Mine".



Affirmation Conference for Gay and Lesbian Mormons

Billy Crudup goes girly in the witty world of Stage Beauty

GENDER PRETENDER

By Gregory Weinkauf, westword.com

Let's just get the term out of the way up front: It's "fag hag" — and a thousand pardons, sensitive readers, but there is no PC equivalent. The new film *Stage Beauty* is an absolute fag-hag fiesta. Beneath its historical leanings and classic veneer, it's utterly gaga for girls who love boys who love boys. However, it's also marvelous entertainment, witty, wry, insightful and universal — like *Shakespeare in Love*, but with more voguing and buttocks-clenching.



Boys will be girls: Billy Crudup and Claire Danes share the stages of life in *Stage Beauty*.

Billy Crudup, among the finest contemporary American screen actors, here leaps several bounds beyond his many variations on "the lost, troubled, wandering guy" (*World Traveler*, *Big Fish*, etc.) and becomes Edward "Ned" Kynaston, a seventeenth-century Shakespearean actor whose specialty — whose life, really — is playing women. When we first meet him, he's a pretty one indeed, all tarted up to play Desdemona in *Othello*, with nary a campy drag cliché in sight. Still, it's merely a day's work for the transgender star. "Same old things," he mutters to his dutiful dresser, Maria (Claire Danes), "but fortunately they keep giving us new audiences."

Novel Explores A Teenager's Crisis Of Gender

'LUNA'

Author: Julie Anne Peters

Publisher: Megan Tingley Books — Little, Brown & Company, 2004
Recommended reading level: Young adult

The author of "Luna" is nothing if not intrepid.

Her first chapter introduces two teenage girls: one is woken late on a moonlit night by her older sister, who demands an opinion on her new dress — and her new name.

Exhausted and annoyed, the younger girl mutters, "You're such a freakshow."

"Her hair splayed across my pillow, tickling my face. 'I know,' she murmured in my ear. 'But you love me, don't you?'"

"A sigh escaped my lips. Yeah, I loved her. I couldn't help it. She was my brother."

Whooosh! That last line is the literary equivalent of a drop down an elevator shaft.

Freefall characterizes most of the story that follows, narrated by Regan, a shy, awkward high school student. She needs affection, she needs appreciation, and she needs family — but all she has left is her handsome and brilliant older brother Liam (alias Luna) who attracts girls but would far rather be one.

Regan recalls an earlier decade, when her father had a good job and the family seemed happier. Even then, though, she recognizes anomalies, such as Liam's determination to play dolls and always "be the mommy."

In the present, their father, "excessed" from Sears Roebuck, turns his energies to forcing Liam to engage in school sports while their mother has become a pretentious, resentful, drug-addicted workaholic.

Novels about transgender teens are rare, and this particular one is told with a blend of sensitivity and tough realism that could only be accomplished through the choice of Regan as narrator. As Liam enters the frustrating and terrifying year of his "emergence," Regan witnesses his elation and shame and shares his awful rejection.

Ultimately, the two of them take their first tentative steps toward their own visions of freedom.

Before I encountered "Luna," I'd never given much attention to transgender issues. Whatever my gut reaction may have been, this thoughtful and powerful story kept me reading and reflecting on how it feels to be born into a body that you know is not your own.

Kynaston's fame and his very identity are about to meet challenges that would make RuPaul tremble. As the score by brilliant, prolific composer George Fenton whips into what sounds like *Dead Can Dance* playing a hoedown, the actor locks horns — well, horn, anyway — with ardent admirers and royalty like he's anybody's gal. Meanwhile, Maria obviously sustains a major crush on him, but also serves her own muse, hustling off to a tatty underground theater to perform as part of a clandestine arts rebellion — a verboten career move under Restoration laws, because women are firmly banned from the stage. As this fictionalized history unfurls, Charles II (Rupert Everett, *The Next Best Thing*) repeals the ban, and suddenly Maria is a viable (if severely and humorously challenged) theatrical presence. Kynaston, meanwhile, in the manner of any good cinematic hero, hits the skids, a girly man rendered obsolete by the emergence of actual girly women.

Screenwriter Jeffrey Hatcher, who has adapted his own play, *Compleat Female Stage Beauty*, has done a splendid job of re-creating an entire world from historical fragments — mostly from journal jottings by Samuel Pepys (played with zeal by Hugh Bonneville), who called the enigmatic real-life Kynaston "the prettiest woman in the whole house." Hatcher peppers his dramedy with plenty of fanciful characters, from Kynaston's saucy lover, the Duke of Buckingham (Ben Chaplin), to nervous theater owner Tom Wilkinson (echoes of *Shakespeare in Love*) to an outrageous and spiteful patron named Sir Charles Sedley (Richard Griffiths, Uncle Vernon in the Harry Potter films, who here closely resembles a powdered-sugar doughnut). Hatcher and Griffiths bestow upon Sir Charles a wonderfully Wildean wit; even when someone marvels at his immediate conjuring of boot-black for a pallid Othello, he quips, "A scuff is a dreadful thing."

Of course, wall-to-wall repartee might please some (my hand is up), but the love story is the central matter here, and it's so manipulative and implausible that one can only shrug and go along with it. Danes seems determined to corner the Paltrow market on cutesy faux-British accents, and her character's tireless support of the liability that is Kynaston feels more than a little forced. We're meant to celebrate her slow commitment to womanhood (she furtively bares a boob for a portrait) while accepting Kynaston's stumbles toward masculinity, but their shared dynamic feels strangely like a PSA for how not to be gay. This may offend many or none (the survey is still out among fag-hag circles), but it definitely clatters in an otherwise harmonious narrative.

Crudup, meanwhile, gives *Stage Beauty* his all, meaning not only sensational androgyny, but a depth of melancholy that recalls his fine work in the moving *Waking the Dead*, amplified by greasepaint, wigs and petticoats. Apparently the real Kynaston did go straight (and have six kids), but here it's the character's crisis of identity — not his sexuality — that becomes art. If this film is successful — and it deserves to be — perhaps similarly themed if more challenging fare, such as Belgian director Gérard Corbiau's *Le Roi Danse* (*The King Is Dancing*, his followup to the hit castrati film *Farinelli*), may finally find a distributor in the U.S. That would be just.

Until then, we have this engaging potpourri of royal court intrigues, backstage backstabbing and smoldering Shakespeare, a welcome treat on the big screen. The design is gorgeous, the dialogue delicious, and even the supporting characters prove resonant. Playing a pushy mistress, the self-admitted offspring of a whore and a sailor, bright newcomer Zoë Tapper offers, "A man isn't 'ow 'e walks or 'ow 'e speaks — it's what 'e does!" Sage advice for any fellow, in or out of cosret.



TGSF members at Hayward Pridel

Gender Non-Specific Are We Becoming Less Of What Our Gender Stereotypes Demand?

By Deepa Alexander

Online edition of India's National Newspaper

*Masculine women, feminine men,
which is the rooster, which is the hen?
It's hard to tell 'em apart today!*

*Sister is busy learning to shave, brother just got a permanent wave,
girls were girls and boys were boys when I was a tot,
Now we don't know who's who, even what's what!*

*Knickers and trousers, baggy and wide,
nobody knows who's walking inside,
those masculine women and feminine men!*

THESE lyrics are not part of a crazy dream. It's part of a nightmare, actually, where all the women turned into men and all the men turned into women but here's the really scary part - they didn't turn completely into the opposite sex, only partially. It was like a melding of both sexes. Like a screwy experiment gone wrong conducted by a mad scientist - think Frankenstein.

Now here's the scariest part, you wake up and realise that it is really happening. Little by little the traditional traits we have come to associate with one sex or the other are disappearing. Men are becoming more feminine and women are becoming more masculine. Says Dr. Sudhakar Krishnamurthy, andrologist and WHO impotence expert. "Alteration in mindsets and prototypes are responsible for this change. Self-confidence has made women mentally aggressive something that was the prerogative of the male. And the predictable anti-thesis is the mentally emasculated male. He is no longer the macho cave man earning the bread. In an attitudinal reversal of social ergonomics, only maternity is a fact while paternity is merely a conception." "Our language reflects society's desire to do away with the male/female distinctions. It is politically incorrect to use nouns like chairman or steward. Gender neutral labels such as chairperson and flight attendants have taken their place," says Sarita a teacher and a mother of teenagers. "The feminist movement has attempted to make women more masculine, not more feminine. Women are dressing, talking and walking like men. They've been wearing sneakers and pants for so long that they have forgotten how to walk in high heels or sit like a lady."

Call Of The Androgynous

Our gender roles affect almost every aspect of our lives. If a man cries is he less masculine? If a woman tries to assert herself, is she less feminine? In India there is a consensus on the stereotyped roles for the average man or woman. Men are seen as having the competence traits, while women are seen as more expressive.

"The androgynous person has both masculine and feminine traits. They can be aggressive or yielding, as the particular situation requires. For example, when subjected to group pressure, androgynous women are more assertive and independent than feminine women. Likewise, androgynous men are more nurturing than masculine men. Stereotyped masculine men are typically unresponsive in situations that require sympathy. They believe that expressing feminine traits will make them seem like sissies or negate their macho image," says Teresa, a counsellor.

Men wearing ponytails and earrings are so commonplace as to be almost unnoticeable. Men are spending more time on their cosmetic appearance than ever before. Male body hair once acknowledged, as a desirable masculine trait is now considered ugly and unwanted. What used to be acceptable male pastimes; smoking, drinking, hunting, and going to war, are clearly out of favour in today's world. Now a guy jogs down to the local Coffee Day for a cafe latte. Adds Dr. Krishnamurthy, "Media casts these men with borderline syndromes as metrosexual males. It's one way to make money by making this condition a fashion fad."

Girls are encouraged to get into competitive sports much more than in the past. The ideal female body has changed from the soft curvaceous Marilyn Monroe archetype to a hard-bodied sinewy model with muscles a.k.a. the younger Ms. Williams. Prof. S. Bakhtiar Choudary senior consultant in sports medicine says, "Strength training for women initiates testosterone. Fall in levels in male teenagers coupled with obesity leads to gynaecomastia. Most women athletes end with up with facial hair and it's sad that some have to even resort to shaving."

Everyday clothing is pretty much the same for both sexes - jeans, T-shirts and tank tops. Men haven't yet started wearing lipstick and eye shadow in any great numbers (rock musicians don't count). Women haven't yet started wearing moustaches and beards. These things, too, shall come to pass.

ONCE BROTHERS, NOW SISTERS ...AND WINNERS!

By AsiaOne, Singapore
Contributed by Cecelia Barzyk

WHEN Singaporean Angel Hutchison turned 18 and started wearing bras and dresses, her parents got angry and objected strongly. This is because Angel (blond in picture, right, with sister Jesse), now 29, was born a boy. When her younger sibling, Jesse, followed suit five years later, it dealt them another blow. Years later, their mother reconciled herself with the inevitable - two of her sons have become daughters.

Jesse told The New Paper this morning: 'At first, she wasn't okay about it, but she slowly started to accept us.' Their parents have since divorced. Jesse said she has lost touch with their father. Now, their mother tells them that she prefers them as women. She says that they used to be mischievous but have since become more sensible.

The sisters have an 18-year-old brother, a polytechnic student, who is supportive of their decisions. The pair of Eurasian brothers-turned-sisters, recently found fame in Singapore's first-ever beauty pageant for transsexuals and transvestites.

Jesse, 28, a fashion design student, won the Miss Tiffany Singapore 2004 title while Angel, a volunteer worker, was the second runner-up.

Angel told Lianhe Wanbao: 'I started taking female hormones when I was 18. I had to wear a bra as my chest grew bigger. 'I didn't care what other people thought. I just aimed for what I wanted.'

It was a struggle for their mother. Jesse said: 'When Angel started dressing like a woman in 1993, society was still very conservative and people would give her curious looks.' Now they are closer than when they were brothers. They've moved out of their family home and are sharing a place.

Jesse added: 'We are getting ready to go to Bangkok for a sex-change operation next year, to become real women.'



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Fab write up in Florida paper on Transgender Candidate!

FEELING WRONGED, SHE OPTS TO FIGHT

By Ernest Hooper, Times Columnist

When Jean Batronie announced her candidacy for the County Commission District 4 seat currently held by Ronda Storms, she made it clear she was transgender, a man who had surgery to become a woman.

Batronie, who has no party affiliation, didn't want anyone to use that fact against her. Her campaign for the seat, which covers most of East Hillsborough including Brandon and Plant City, is about more than the 2002 surgery. Over seafood at Red Lobster, we talked about her motivation, her four children and 11 grandchildren and being trapped in a man's body.

Pull up a chair and join us.

ERNEST: What inspired you to get in this race?

JEAN: First of all, I never really imagined I would be taking this path. I always thought my direction was going to be someplace else. I was working at public access. I had my own television show, and yes, one of them was controversial. It was an adult-content show. It was an educational show about a different culture. After Ronda Storms and the county got on a tangent about White Chocolate, their whole idea was to get rid of anything out of the ordinary. I'm the type that I see if I'm being wronged, I'm going to fight for it. I fought it. I fought a year-long suspension (of my show) and it was parlayed into a five-year suspension. I went to the County Commission and took all the steps to fight the suspension and it fell on deaf ears. That was when I made the decision that this is nothing but corruption.

I'm told the show was about bondage.

It was the BDSM (Bondage, Discipline, Sadomasochism) culture. It's just a different culture. It's just something to enhance an interpersonal relationship. It's a very monogamous culture, but some people didn't understand it. I presented it in a positive way on the show because there were a lot of people who were interested in it. In fact, it turned out we were the most watched show on public access. I would go down to Home Depot and have older couples come up to me and tell me how much they enjoyed the show.

So your challenge to the suspension didn't work out. That's your motivation?

It was basically the spark that lit the fire, the pilot light. As I got into it, I saw what was going on. I've lived in Brandon for 20 years and I've seen how Brandon and our whole community has completely gone out of control with everything. Whenever I went to the County Commission, it fell on deaf ears. They didn't care what the community thought. I figured I want to make a difference in society, especially in our community because as far as I'm concerned, our community is being prostituted out to the highest bidder, and the highest bidders are all developers.

My new house sits on an old orange grove, so I'm part of that. But I would like to see growth managed better. The growth and the out-of-control building is what I term a domino effect. It's affecting everything else. The school system can't keep up with all the kids coming in. Law enforcement cannot keep up with maintaining law and order because they're so undermanned. Our road system is completely out of date. As soon as they finish building a road, it's obsolete. If I have a five-pound bag of sugar and I try to put 10 pounds of sugar in it, it's going to break at the seams. That's what's happening to our community right now. Growth is important, but responsible growth using common sense; not building one subdivision on top of another and having no foresight for the roads.

Tell me about your family.

I've been married 36 years. I have four children, 11 grandchildren and all of my children live in Hillsborough County. My son who lives furthest away is in Lutz. I'm a hypnotist and I have been for 32 years.

For clinical purposes?

I help people in problem areas, weight-loss, smoking. I help people with stress management, relaxation. I help people feel better about themselves with more self-image and a positive attitude, which is very lacking in today's society. Nobody knows where they're going. So many of us are like ships without rudders.

Hypnosis is considered out of the ordinary, and it seems like you're not afraid to do things out of the ordinary. My principles and my convictions are very strong. I don't know how to do anything else but to support what I believe in.

You're transgender. Tell me about that conviction, that desire.

It's not a desire. You have to understand, I knew it was going to be brought up. In fact, I actually went to the County Commission and made the announcement at the BOCC meeting back in April when I first decided to run. I knew that some people would use that to try and throw mud on me. So I figured I would use it before they got a chance to get started. I'm not ashamed of it, it's a condition I was born with. This isn't something that anybody born this way chose.

When did you realize there were other people like you?

My mother took me to see The Christine Jorgensen Story. She was a man back in the early '50s who went to Sweden to have the transgender surgery, but that was a very expensive proposition.

WHAT IF BOYS WANT TO WEAR DRESSES TO SCHOOL?

**By Susan Jones
CNSNews.com Morning Editor**

(CNSNews.com) - A dozen school-related organizations, led by the National School Boards Association, have issued some "practical" guidelines to help school officials deal with legal issues involving students' sexual orientation and gender identity.

The guide, aimed at school policy-makers and administrators, "is intended to answer questions about students' civil rights which regularly arise in public schools," the National School Boards Association (NSBA) said in a press release.

Using a Q&A format, the guide addresses questions involving student organizations and clubs; dress codes; curriculum; student involvement in school events; and harassment.

Answering a question about homosexual clubs, the documents say, "A school cannot refuse to allow a group like a gay-straight alliance to meet because other students, teachers, administrators, parents, or community members object to formation of the club. The unpopularity of particular expression has been rejected as a justification for preventing student speech."

On a question about cross-dressing, the guide says, "a restriction on boys' wearing dresses to school would be appropriate in communities where such attire on males would result in substantial disruption of the learning process, but in other locales, cross dressing might actually be more socially acceptable and cause minimal disruption in school, making such a restriction less legally justifiable."

The guide says school officials should consider the setting and the age of the student in making a decision on cross-dressing:

"Schools with sex-specific dress codes could consider making a narrow exception for transgender students-students who are biologically of one gender, but psychologically identify with the opposite gender," the guide says.

Julie Underwood, NSBA general counsel and the main author of the publication, says there is a "good deal of misinformation and concern" surrounding LGBT issues in the nation's schools.

"By providing clear information on schools' legal rights and responsibilities, we want to help educators respond to questions that may arise. Most important, we hope to help improve the educational climate for all students."

The guide, "Dealing with Legal Matters Surrounding Students' Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity," is being released in October, because October is "Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender History Month," the press release said.

Other organizations participating in the release of the guide include the American Association of School Administrators, American Federation of Teachers, American School Counselor Association, Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, National Association of Elementary School Principals, National Association of Independent Schools, National Association of School Psychologists, National Association of Secondary School Principals, National Education Association, National Student Assistance Association, School Social Work Association of America, and United Church of Christ Justice & Witness Ministries.

How was it telling your children?

None of my children knew until I started making the transition, and then I dealt with each child separately. One of the things that's always been important in our lives is family. My whole existence revolves around my family. We did everything as a family. We raised our children and we were the parents, but we were young and we grew up with them. It's gratifying now. My oldest daughter is 35 and my youngest son is 25 and all they talk about is, Remember when we did this, remember when we did that.

I can tell in your voice you're very proud of your children.

If God appeared to me today and said Jean, I'm going to let you go back to when you were born and you're going to be a woman and start Day 1 as a woman, I would have to say no.

You wouldn't do it?

If I did that, I would have never had my wife, I would have never had my children. There's no way I can do that. Understand, from a child all the way up until I finally made the decision to make the transition, not a night went by that I didn't pray that I would wake up as who I was supposed to be. My wife (Batronie is still married) and my children are my life, and in a sense that's part of why I'm running, too. We are the caretakers of our community for our children.



Remember Gwen Araujo!



Gwen Amber Rose Araujo (1985 - 2002)

...A transgender teenager from Newark, CA was murdered at a party by a group of men upon discovery of her transgender status. Twenty months after Gwen Araujo's death the jury deadlocked on whether her attackers were guilty of first or second-degree murder. According to Alameda County District Attorney's Office, none of the jurors were willing to settle for the lesser offense of manslaughter — despite efforts by defense attorneys in the case to argue that Gwen's killers were somehow justified because she did not disclose her transgender identity to them. The prosecutor already has stated that he will re-try the three defendants, Michael Magidson, Jose Merel, and Jason Cazares, for murder.

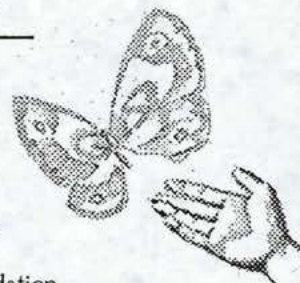


Make Your Money Count!

To contribute to Gwen's family directly: **Gwen Araujo Memorial Fund**, Bank Of America, Any BofA branch location, Acct# 10598-05854

To support transgender education work: **Gwen Araujo Transgender Education Fund** c/o Horizons Foundation, 870 Market St. Suite, 728 San Francisco, CA 94102 (415) 398 - 2333 / www.horizonsfoundation.org

Thank you!



ARAUJO TRIAL GETS NEW DEFENSE

By Ivan Delventhal, STAFF WRITER

HAYWARD — William H. Du Bois, a veteran Oakland criminal defense attorney, was formally approved by a judge Friday to represent one of three men charged with murdering a transgender Newark teenager two years ago. Du Bois, who was privately retained by the family of defendant Jose Merel, said Friday that he would bring "enthusiasm, initiative and inventiveness" to Merel's defense at his retrial.

Michael Magidson, 24, of Newark, and Jose Merel and Jason Cazares, both 24 and of Fremont, are charged with murder and a hate-crime enhancement in the killing of the teen — who was born Eddie Araujo but had been living as a woman named Gwen — on Oct. 4, 2002.

While reluctant to discuss what his defense strategy might be, Du Bois said the killing clearly did not amount to murder as it relates to his client. "This is, at worst, in the case of Mr. Merel, a manslaughter," Du Bois said. Magidson's attorney argued at trial that the killing occurred in a heat of passion and therefore amounted to manslaughter.

"I'm impressed with Mr. Merel as a person; I'm sorry for him as a man who was clearly swept along in a terrible chain of events which occurred in the form of this case," Du Bois said. "We intend to take a real active role in proving what happened to him in this case and precisely what the degree of his involvement or lack of involvement was," he added.

HEY EVERYONE!

Sylvia Guerrero, the mother of Gwen Araujo, was awarded a Leadership Award by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. As most of you know, Sylvia has been very outspoken about the horrific murder that ended her daughter's life in 2002. What some of you may not know is that she is currently collaborating with Gay-Straight Alliance Network, Gay, Lesbian, Straight Educators Network, Community United Against Violence, and the Horizons Foundation to make presentations to schools and other organizations around the Bay Area and the state about what happened to her family and the need to overcome violence and discrimination against transgender people.

Willy Wilkinson, a long-time Bay Area LGBT activist, also received a second place award in the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association's Excellence in Journalism Awards in their Opinion/Editorial category, for his Op-Ed in the SF Chronicle earlier this year. In addition to recently completing, with Prado Gomez, a needs assessment of female-to-male transgender people of color and their partners (www.ftmi.org <<http://www.ftmi.org/>>), Willy is the manager of TLC's Health Care Access Project.

Congratulations to both of these important local activists!

Christopher Daley, Esq.
Transgender Law Center
(415) 865-0176

According to the case presented by the prosecutor, Merel and Magidson had sexual contact with Araujo, while believing the teen to be an attractive 19-year-old woman named Lida. The men beat and strangled Araujo after discovering that the teen was biologically male, according to testimony. They later buried the body in the Sierra foothills.

The trial of the three men ended in a mistrial in June when a jury announced that it was hopelessly deadlocked on all charges. A new trial date is set for May 2005, and a prosecutor has said the men once again will be tried for murder.

After earning his law degree from Hastings College of the Law in San Francisco in 1969, Du Bois worked from 1970 to 1976 as a deputy district attorney in Alameda County.

Du Bois, 61, has been in private practice since then, and, according to his Web site, has handled more than 100 serious felony trials since 1987 and overturned three murder convictions during the past four years.

Unlike his court-appointed predecessor, attorney Jack Noonan of Pleasanton, Du Bois was retained privately by Merel's family. Noonan withdrew from the case in July, citing other commitments.

While Merel is technically indigent and thus qualifies for free legal services, Du Bois suggested that Merel's family may have opted to hire him because of what they perceived as a somewhat "passive" defense mounted by Noonan at the first trial.

"It won't be passive this time," Du Bois said.

He said there probably would be additional witnesses called by Merel at his retrial and definitely will be an opening statement, an opportunity Noonan passed on to the surprise of many courtroom observers.

Du Bois was allowed to come in to the case even though he met with Magidson at Santa Rita county jail in Dublin two years ago when Magidson's family was vetting lawyers. Du Bois said the two never discussed the facts of the case, and Du Bois has filed a declaration with the court stating that the short "introductory interview" does not raise a conflict.

Du Bois said that he intends to ask a judge to set bail for his client, who along with Magidson remains jailed without bail. Cazares was freed on \$1 million bail Aug. 2, three days after a judge set bail.

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