

June is (lgb) T-PRIDE Month!

The Channel
TGSF
TransGender San Francisco
(formerly ETVC)



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

The Channel

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

ExCom 2002 - 2003 Officers

(Fiscal Year: May 1 - April 30)

President Rachael Janelle
 Vice President Karen Andrews
 Secretary Susan Laird
 Treasurer Stephanie Ann Blythe
 Education Ally Grillo and Kara Flynn
 Outreach Kalani Makaanani and Rachael Hill
 Social Aiyana Eveningstar and Gia Luisa

Membership Report

Final 2001-2002 Membership as of:

May 24, 2002 230

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

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

Newsletter Staff

Editor Ayme Michelle Kantz
 Advertising Inquiries to TGSF Excom
 Contributing Photographers, this Issue: Telzey Adams,
 Rachael Janelle and Kris Davidson

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

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

WWW.TGSF.ORG
NEW SITE! GET ONLINE!

Hotline & Voice Mail
415-564-3246

FROM THE EDITOR...



Before I say anything else, I want to begin by personally thanking a couple people. First, **Chris Austin**, and everyone else who's made a contribution to TGSF, be it their time or their money. If you want to know why I'm singling out Chris, check out our Donations box on page 11. Then you'll want to personally thank Chris too. As you should. Chris is one of those unsung hero(ine)s amongst our

membership, one of the quiet ones you never hear about, but one who should receive far more accolades and recognition than were handed out a couple months ago at our year-end awards night. So Chris, if you're reading this, you are a Star and you shine brightly. On behalf of the ExCom and all of TGSF, thank you thank you thank you!

And second, I want to thank **Rachael Janelle** for taking on the helm of ExCom. This is a woman so organized she's almost possessed! Whether it's throwing a BBQ or planning the Cotillion, she brings an incredible, focused and positive energy to all that she does, and she does it with style and personable grace. I just want to thank her for her vision, and for being an inspiration to us all.

On to the Meat of the Matter...

I want to talk about anger.

For the most part, it's a tiresome and wearying affliction. Poet one, though. As motivators go, it packs a wallop. But there are all kinds of anger, aren't there? Do you get angry? I do. Happens all the time. So how do you express that anger? Or do you? Some people yell and scream and throw things a lot, others break down and cry. Some people drink when they're angry. Some people eat. Others will starve themselves. There are those that get violent and lash out, wreak havoc, destroy. And then there are those that will remain stoic and calm, internalizing and rationalizing their anger.

There are varying degrees of anger too. Little anger would be something like when I get a run in my pantyhose. Pisses me off! Damn things cost me five dollars! Hmph!

And then there are those guys in their fancy schmancy SUV's who cut you off on the freeway. When they start messing with my health and safety, yeah I get angry. Wanna just get back in his face and run him off the road, dontcha! At least flip him the finger, right? That's about a medium angry, maybe.

And Big time angry? Well, haven't you ever been so furiously angry, so out of control, that your rational mind surrenders to the adrenaline or the instinct or whatever, and it may even realize what's going on, but your body so help you is acting on it's own? And even if you know what you're doing is gonna harm you or somebody else as well as cost you a gazillion times over in the long run, you find yourself doing it anyway? That's big time angry.

People will judge you by how well you deal with anger (and doesn't that make you angry?). Do you react to anger, or do you respond to it? Do you get it all out at once, or do you let it stew and fester inside? And how about the other guy? How do you deal with their anger, particularly if it's directed at you?

I used to be an angry young man, upset and frustrated a lot. Oft times it was the littlest or stupidest things that set me off. In hindsight, I can see now that being taught and raised as a boy when all I ever wanted was to be a girl, would certainly give rise to anger. But in the twelve years I've been living as a woman, I'd have to honestly say I deal with my anger a lot better than I used to.

And why is that, I wonder? Is it because women aren't as demonstrable in their anger as men are? I dunno...I've seen angry women in my lifetime, some of them even angry with me. And believe me, I wouldn't want to run into them alone in a dark alley when they got that look in their eye. Yet, purportedly, women are supposed to be more at ease in acknowledging and expressing their emotions. But you also don't hear a lot about female serial killers, either. For the most part, it's the men who can't deal with their

Continued on Page 3

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Rachael Janelle

Caution! We Are Under Construction!

We made it through our first Ex-Com meeting and I am still waiting to see who is left. There is something about that first Ex-Com meeting that makes it very eventful. Overall we have a lot of great things in the works and are still working through some issues that have been around for while. We need to be finished so we can move on.

One of the issues the Ex-Com is working on from the past is \$1600 that was solicited for TGSF Education Grants or Education programs. It was set aside two years ago by the Ex-Com. If you ever look at the TGSF balance sheet it shows under "Liabilities-Educational fund" \$1600. TGSF did receive this \$1600 mainly from three people to be used for Education grants or education. Unfortunately, the \$1600 was used in the past to cover the expenses from the Cotillions - which lost money and operating cost to keep the group going.

We have money now, and some Ex-Com members want the money to be immediately put in the education fund. Some of the new Ex-Com members had only been in their new roles 10 minutes before making the decision regarding the education fund. However, it was passed that we will remove the liability of the educational fund and leave the \$1600 in the general fund.

There is a point I'm going to make soon. Yes, the \$1600 will be used for TGSF Education Grants or something regarding Transgender Educational programs. What I'm asking the TGSF Ex-Com and members to do is to please be patient with us. We are only volunteers doing the best we can for TGSF.

We have a lot of things we are working on: A new TGSF web site, more educational events, TGSF's 20th Birthday Party; the 20th Annual Cotillion - which will be profitable and a great event. We are looking at many things, but we need to take time to develop and see if it works for everyone.

The Pride Weekend - don't miss it. It's a super weekend, so come out and enjoy the event. Help us with building the float at Fisherman's Wharf on Saturday or Sunday, and march in the parade. The week prior we will have a picnic in San Mateo at Central Park (call me for details!).

Lots of things going on and we hope to see you at some of the events!

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.

Barbara J. Anderson

Ph.D., L.C.S.W.
Clinical Sexologist

Certified Sex Therapist

1537 Franklin St., Suite 104
San Francisco, CA 94109

Ph (415) 776-0139
Fax (415) 441-0936

From the Editor...

Continued from Page 2

anger and go on a rampage. Can it be boiled down to "Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus"? I don't think it's that obvious.

What causes anger? Well, geez, you tell me! Could be anything. A lot of anger might come from stress; stress from work, from your home life, your marriage or your kids or your car. I think anger is caused by whatever makes you unhappy. But the lowest common denominator for the cause of anger is plain and simple fear. What breeds fear? Ignorance. But that's another column.

Is There a "Cure" for Anger?

You crossdressers out there - a lot of you may rationalize that you ease your stress by donning a dress (and nowadays the PhD's and MD's will back you up, whether that rhymes or not). But as a male-to-female transsexual (albeit one who's content to not pursue genital surgery), I find myself dealing with stress and anger in conflicting ways. The residual male programmed side of me wants to break out like it used to. The new woman in me is a lot more subdued and restrained. Us full-timers have to relearn how to do a lot of things, but ignorance, fear and anger will have us reverting to our Neanderthal beginnings faster than Imelda Marcos can say "charge it" at Nordstrom's.

As a transsexual woman, I am striving every day to live up to another standard, one completely foreign and opposite to the one I used to abide by. Even after 12 years, I have those days, those moments even, when all I have accomplished and all I have learned, crumble to dust and ash in a blinding flash. It gets to you sometimes. Wears you down. I'll be standing on BART on a busy train home, hanging on to the overhead railing like anyone else, and out of the corner of my eye I'll see a father lean over to his son and point at me, whispering quietly in the boy's ear God knows what. But man, that really makes me angry. Being judged like that really hurts, but I also know it's not their fault. They're just ignorant. But I have neither the time nor the inclination to give them a Tranny 101 lecture and help them see the error of their ways.

So I shrug it off, knowing I'll never see them again, and take that hurt and anger home. I'm lucky. I have someone I can share that anger with, to drag it kicking and screaming into the light so it can be seen objectively for what it is, so that it can be processed and cleansed and healed. What's the cure for anger? For me, it's love, of course...the love of my SO, the love of my family, the love of my friends. Even the love of God, or Nature, or the Force, or whatever corporeal being or existential deity you care to believe in.

Even if it's just you on your own, if you can look yourself in the eye (use a mirror for this...really, it helps), and say "I love you. I value you," then it's possible to dissipate that anger into nothingness. You'll then realize that you're not truly alone. If you're reading this it's because you're part of a special community. There are others like you and me out there, and thankfully TGSF provides us with the ways and means to gather together. I may not even know the name of the person sitting across the room from me, but I know that we each accept the other and possess a fundamental understanding of belonging. We can express a positive love for each other and not even be aware of it. It may be a cliché, but "We are family!" can pump through the speakers and we'll all get up and dance and have a good time and smile and know *exactly* what it means to each and every person in the room.

It's righteously good. And guess what? Suddenly you realize you're not angry anymore. Nice how that works out, eh?

Significant Other Support - East Bay

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

May 2002

TGSF ExCom MEETING MINUTES

Meeting held at Aiyana's House, San Francisco. Members in Attendance: Rachael Janelle, President; Karen Andrews, Vice President; Susan Laird, Secretary; Stephanie Ann Blythe, Treasurer; Allison Grillo, Education Co-chair; Kara Flynn, Education Co-chair; Rachel Hill, Outreach chair; Aiyana Eveningstar, Social Co-chair; Gia Luisa, Social Co-chair; Absent — Kalani. Also in attendance were: Kris Davidson, Photographer and Anne Mortenson

Meeting Called to Order at 4:30 p.m. Motion to approve the minutes for the last month. Motion seconded. Motion carried by voice vote. By-laws copied by Rachael Janelle distributed and Agenda sheets noted.

Outgoing President's address:

Statement by Aiyana that \$100 late fee as well as \$60 fee for the Gay Pride Float must be paid. Application for entry was late resulting in \$100 penalty. Approved by Rachael Janelle. Aiyana to discuss the money owned to the Educational grant fund Rachael asked her to postpone that to later so the new member get a chance to review their TGSF by-laws and the Educational Grant Fund is on her Agenda. Official Tally of the vote for ExCom needs to be presented to the Channel for publication.

Welcome and introduction by Rachael Janelle; Introduction of all ExCom members

Folders with each officer's duties are distributed Information sheets with contact information for all ExCom members noted. Changes to contact information made by verbal communication to all members. General overview and discussion of communications between members of ExCom. Note: Members of ExCom to use TGSF/ExCom in subject line of all e-mails to eliminate confusion with general e-mail and spam.

Proposal by Secretary that e-mail list be used for announcements and bulletins. Discussion of dissemination of incoming snail mail. Treasury to obtain mail, remove any checks or financial instruments before forwarding to the Secretary.

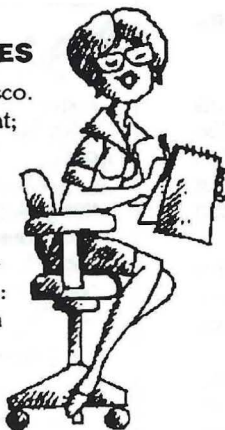
Explanation of TGSF Hot line offered by Rachel Janelle. Discussion of Hot Line features and future configuration. Proposal that Hot Line be moved to PacBell voice mail. This prevents difficulties during brown outs/black outs. This also allows multiple ways to check on messages left on voice mail. Secretary given priority to check voice mails. Telzey Adams will still answer calls between 7-10 p.m.

Distribution of TGSF By Laws and official duties (3 Copies). Letter read by Treasurer explaining the receipt of money by TGSF from Human Rights Commission. Thank You letter to be drafted by secretary to party in human rights action. Motion proposed by invite person to Cotillion as part of appreciation.

Proposal of profile of each member of ExCom offered by Rachel Janelle in each month of the "Channel". This is to be a biographical sketch and photo. Selection of members for upcoming issues of Channel is made. Discussion of deadlines for materials to be submitted to the Channel. Items to be printed in any month must be due before the 15th of the previous month.

Membership database given to the Secretary. Outline of reporting from Education and Social Chairpersons to the Secretary. End of month meeting proposed as date for guest speakers. Mid-month proposed to be smaller casual meeting.

Discussion of arrangements for retrieving new printings of The Channel. Emphasis re-iterated for meeting the deadline of 15th of the previous month for any announcements to be in the following month. Discussion concerning the continuing problem



of getting printed materials from San Francisco to Secretary and President's homes. Discussion of production of welcome package to new members which would include ExCom members and copies of The Channel.

Discussion of Gay Pride Weekend. Proposal that Friday night, Saturday be used for float building. Discussion of truck/trailer for TGSF Float. Also discussion offered on the format to be used for this year/next year selection of riders on the float. Overall presentation formats are also discussed. Proposal by Rachelle Janelle that 20th anniversary be emphasized. Theme is to be "Be Yourself-Change The World". Discussion to talk to Telzey about setting up the information booth at Gay Pride. Discussion on other 20th anniversary events. Discussion about the upcoming Cotillion.

Proposal of changes to TGSF By-laws by Rachael Janelle. Education Grant Fund previously set up is discussed. Further definition of concerning Grant/Program is offered. Proposal made by Rachelle that money from the TGSF General Fund should NOT be given in to the Education grant Fund, but kept in the general Fund.

Proposal by Aiyana Eveningstar that Grant format should likewise be discontinued, but that money should still be given to the Education/Outreach departments without specified form or usage.

Proposal made by Rachelle Janelle that most money utilized by the General Fund is often used for Education and Outreach. Aiyana states that money donated to TGSF should be given to Education and Outreach departments. Rachael again points out that nearly all activity by TGSF is Education and Outreach and that the intent is not to withhold money, but rather that it should not be in a grant form without accountability.

Question from Allison Grillo concerning ExCom's right to rescind this section of the by-laws. Rachael Janelle states that the TGSF Education Grant part of the By-laws was in fact, written into the by-laws without the consent of the general membership, and that power to rescind it lies within ExCom. Discussion about what constitutes education and what does not. Kara Flynn asks for clarification that funds would still be used for education and outreach.

Rachael Janelle asks for vote to remove the TGSF Education Grant and that the funds be placed in the general fund. A vote is rendered: 5 in favor and 4 opposed. Motion is carried. Further discussion that money has been borrowed for the general fund from education grants. Also clarification that money will always be made available from the general fund for education and outreach.

Rachelle Janelle proposes that LGBT Center, San Francisco should be contacted as a possible site for TG library and outreach center.

Note given that the next meeting will be held at the Secretary's (Susan Laird) house in Santa Clara. Susan Laird asks the committee for recommendation to move the TGSF website to another web host. Discussion as to why the move should be made. The costs to be approximately 10-30 dollars per month. Proposal made

Continued on Page 5

Wendell Debele M.S. (T.C.M.) Dipl. L.Ac.
(aka Aiyanna Eveningstar)



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VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello, everybody! My name is **Karen Andrews**. I am the newly elected vice-president of TGSF and I would like to thank all of you who gave me your vote of confidence. This is going to be a very productive year. We have a new energetic Executive Committee. Our future is beginning to look bright and we have the confidence to make a difference for our TG community. Our

focus this year will be more outward in scope. We plan on engaging the media and other sources for educating the general public on the transgendered experience. I, for one, will welcome any opportunity to speak before governmental, business, or educational groups. The time is now for us to be steadfast in this endeavor.

The means to achieve this is the support of our members and friends. Not only monetarily, but with time as well. We are primarily a group of volunteers so we are only effective as our membership allows us to be. Participation in our activities is crucial to our success. I am not only speaking of social events but others as well. We want the public to observe us and recognize the positive image we can have on society through our transgendered, compassionate and loving hearts. So, no longer inward will we be, but outward and onward to bigger and better successes toward achieving our goals of obtaining equal rights in those areas where we are currently denied access. I urge you to contribute your money, your time and your energy to help us in unity and with purpose reach these lofty goals.

I wish to thank Rachael for her willingness to take the reins of TGSF as president this year. She has been a wonderful vice-president and she did a fantastic job as director of this year's Cotillion. My congratulations are extended to Kalani for being crowned Miss TGSF 2002. I am grateful for the opportunity of being a contestant and for being selected as First Runner-Up. I had a great time in the pageant. I hope some of you are already considering the possibility of being a contestant in next year's Cotillion.

This month is the Gay Pride Parade. Aiyana is making preparations for the activities surrounding the event. We will need several more monitors so I would like to see a few people come forward to take on this charge. The title of this year's parade is Be Yourself, Change the World. I have called our float, Show Your Colors & Be Yourself. The theme of our float is Hawaiian in connection to Kalani's reign as Miss TGSF. I ask that all participants walking in this event with us dress in colorful Hawaiian or Polynesian clothing as a way of showing our colors. We are in this event to have fun but to also show the public who we are. Let us use decorum and grace in our behavior to provide a positive image as we continue to focus on outreach and education.

NEW ONLINE SO LIST!

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

Meeting Minutes...

Continued from Page 4

that a letter be drafted to TG Forum requesting their permission for the move. Rachelle Janelle calls for a vote. Motion carried by a show of hands. Unanimous.

Treasurer's Report by Stephanie Ann Blythe: Balance in the General Fund is \$5,598.21 including deposit of funds from Human Right's Commission. Fiscal year is to be May 1st to April 30th. Statement to be prepared for the next Channel.

Allison states that Carol Friedenberg should be asked to do presentation. She proposes that Brian from San Jose be sent a \$100 honorarium for his beauty seminar. Motioned seconded. Vote is called. Passed.

Allison states concern that vote for the dissolution of the Education Grant portion of the TGSF By-laws is in error and may not be correct. Discussion of procedures and the matter is dismissed. Announcement of picnic party on June 22nd.

Call for Old Business. None offered Kris is nominated for official TGSF photographer. Discussions is brief and vote is taken. Kris is the official TGSF photographer.

Call for New Business. None is offered. Call for adjournment. Meeting closed at 6:05 p.m.



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JUNE 28 - 30, 2002
Pride Weekend!

TGSF Needs Your Help with

- Float Building on 6/28 6pm To 10pm Location — TBA
- Float Building on 6/29 12pm To 8pm Location — TBA
- Marchers on 6/30 San Francisco Market Street
- Couple of girls to help set-up our Booth on 6/30 8am
- 8 Girls To Take Contingent Monitor Orientation Class. This class is 1 hour long and will be held at 8 different locations around the Bay Area.

Some of us will be staying at The Ramada Hotel
1231 Market Street — San Francisco — 415 626 8000
Room Rates If Available — \$139

For More Information
Contact Rachael Janelle 408 [redacted]
or Email [redacted]@Hotmail.Com

Sunday / June 2 / 4:00pm

TGSF ExCOM MEETING

June's meeting will be held at our new Secretary's house, Susan Laird, residing at [REDACTED] in Santa Clara. Her number is 408-[REDACTED]. We got the Parade to Plan, so make an effort to be there and lend a hand!

Saturday / June 8 / 3:00pm to 5:00pm

LANA LA DUCA "CERTIFIED CLINICAL AESTHETICIAN"

16 years experience in aesthetics! Topics Lana will cover - facial treatments - facial camouflage- Eyebrow arching-waxing - plus more! Location: Women Health Boutique, 1115 South B Street, San Mateo. Lana's Phone Number 650-[REDACTED]

Wednesday / June 12 / 7:30pm

TGSF MID-MONTH EVENT

It's cocktails, appetizers and fun. Come out of hibernation for a night out with the girls at the **Thirsty Bear**, located at 661 Howard Street between 2nd and 3rd Streets in San Francisco. Good food and beverages in a large room with a friendly staff.

Saturday / June 22 / 11:00am - 4:00pm

TG PICNIC AT CENTRAL PARK

Nestled in San Mateo, Central park is located At El Camino and 5th Street. Please bring something to share with others. Our area will have heart balloons.

Thursday / June 27 / 7:30pm

TGSF END OF MONTH EVENT

Pre-Pride parade gathering at the **Blue Muse** 409 Gough Street in San Francisco. The theme of the parade this year is "Be yourself and change the world." This will be the theme for this event that night, so either come in the clothes you first came out in, or dressed as the person you changed into - and be prepared to talk about it if you would like.

Sunday / June 30 / 10:00am - ?

LGBT PRIDE PARADE

This is the one party of the year you don't want to miss! Forget about the Cotillion for a moment - this is huge! Beyond stupendous! At press time there was no word available as to what position our float will be in the parade lineup (last year, we were early at number 10!). So watch for announcements on the TGSF e-list, or call the hotline or one of the Officers for the latest information. But figure on heading downtown SF early, wear comfortable shoes, lots of sunscreen, and party on dudette! (Note: On Friday and Saturday, there will be lots to do: got a float to build!)

HEY!

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

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

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

June's Birthdays

| | | | |
|------|----------------------|------|-----------------------|
| 6/1 | Diane Shepard | 6/16 | Sherilyn Connelly |
| 6/2 | Nancy Cupps | 6/17 | Lynnea Stuart |
| 6/3 | Constance Stardragon | 6/18 | Catherine Rose Lurton |
| 6/5 | Lisa Lynn Ferguson | 6/19 | June Martin |
| 6/5 | Rachel Miller | 6/20 | Rose Cox |
| 6/8 | Vikki Freitas | 6/21 | Anne Mortenson |
| 6/8 | Jenny Marshall | 6/22 | Jaimee Adele Bodeen |
| 6/9 | Jubilee Gee | 6/23 | Hiromi Nakanishi |
| 6/11 | Kaycee Cole | 6/23 | Joanne Handa |
| 6/11 | Karen Andrews | 6/27 | Melissa Robinson |
| 6/12 | Ti Connelly | 6/28 | Stephanie Ann Blythe |
| 6/13 | Janessa Headers | 6/28 | Teri Lee |
| 6/15 | Lin Fraser | 6/28 | Rose Ann Cain |

Many Happy Returns of the Day!

Coming Up in July and August!

Saturday / July 13, 2002 / 3:00pm To 5:00pm

Doll Seminar—Two Very Enthusiastic Doll Collectors Will Share Some Of Their Collections With Us And Talk About The Doll World. The Women's Health Boutique - 650 357 9236, 1115 South B. Street — San Mateo

Saturday / July 13 2002 / 7pm

Runway 2002 Mr. and Mrs. GAPA Pageant, Herbst Theater 401 Van Ness Ave San Francisco. For More Info Call 415 430 2196 Ext. 1230 or Runway@Onebox.Com

Friday August 9, 2002

RGA - SF Giants Baseball Game (Giants vs. Pirates). Ticket Cost \$17.00 / Call RGA Hotline for more info at 408 984 4044

Also In The Works!

We are planning a private event at Bloomingdales in Palo Alto, with the MAC makeover specialist, not to mention the larger sizes shoes also available from Bloomingdales. More details to come! For more information about any of the above items, contact Rachael at 408-[REDACTED] or e-mail [REDACTED]@hotmail.com

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Calendar of Events - June 2002

OTHER BAY AREA GROUPS

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Pacific Center 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.sga-tg.org; email: sga@transgender.org

Diablo Valley Girls (DVG)

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

DVG Rap Group (RCC)

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

FTM

A support group for Female-to-Male CDs and TSs; Holds open Informational Meetings and closed Support Meetings. Write FTM International, Inc., 1360 Mission Street, Suite 200, San Francisco, CA 94103 or call 415-553-5987.

TGIF

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

Silicon Valley Gender Association (SVGA)

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

Far West Women (FWW)

A support group for TGs affiliated with the GLBT Alliance in Humboldt County. Meets every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month at 8:00pm in the GLBTA Center at Fourth and "D" Streets in Eureka. For information call the Center at 707-445-9760.

Santa Cruz Trans (SCT)

Bi-weekly social/support group for gender-gifted persons serving Santa Cruz and Central Coast. 1st and 3rd Thursdays every month at The Diversity Center, 1328 Commerce Lane, Santa Cruz, CA 95060; (831) 425-5422; 7:00pm

The Mid-Peninsula Transgender Group (MPTG)

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

Central City Hospitality House (CCHH)

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

| | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|----|--|--|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 7:00 PM TGSF ExCom Meeting | 3 5:00 PM CCHH 8:00 PM DVG | 4 | 5 7:30 PM MPTG | 6 7:00 PM DVG (RCC) 7:00 PM SCT | 7 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap 8:00 PM RGA | 8 3:00 PM TGSF Education Seminar 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA | |
| 9 | 10 5:00 PM CCHH | 11 | 12 7:00 PM TransBay 7:30 PM TGSF: Mid-Month Event | 13 | 14 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap | 15 | |
| 16 | 17 5:00 PM CCHH 8:00 PM DVG | 18 | 19 | 20 7:00 PM DVG (RCC) 7:00 PM SCT | 21 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap 8:00 PM RGA | 22 11:00 AM TG Picnic - Central Park 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA | |
| 23 | 24 5:00 PM CCHH | 25 | 26 | 27 7:00 PM TGSF: EOM @ Cliff House 8:00 PM TGSF: Election Night! | 28 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap | 29 | |
| 30 10:00 AM LGBT Pride Parade & Festival! | | | | | | | |

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

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? _____

Your Email address: _____ Website URL: _____

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

May we use photos of you taken at TGSF events in our newsletter or website? 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.

Our Readers Respond

In The Interest Of TG History...

DEAR FRIENDS AT TGSF,

We seek your help as a supporters of the transgender community. The GLBT Historical Society has a time-sensitive opportunity to acquire the private collection of Dr. Ari Kane: a treasure-trove of rare and valuable books, magazines, newsletters, and one-of-a-kind records amassed during Dr. Kane's many years of leadership at the Outreach Gender Institute and Fantasia Fair.

It is not our policy to purchase archival collections. However, given Dr. Kane's many years of generous service to the community, the unique scope of his materials, and his financial need to sell the collections rather than donate them to an institution, we have agreed in this one instance to try to raise the funds necessary to compensate Dr. Kane for placing this amazing collection of transgender historical material in a publicly accessible archives.

The GLBT Historical Society is a community-based organization that believes a community should be responsible for keeping its own history. We have a seventeen-year track record of providing free public access to a vast array of materials about the history of sexual diversity; our archives contain more than 25,000 cubic feet of material and our professionally-staffed reading room is open to researchers five days a week. We have always been committed to the collection and preservation of transgender history. Lou Sullivan, the gay identified FTM transsexual who founded FTM International, was also a founder of the GLBT Historical Society. FTM anthropologist Jeff Dickeman is a former member of the Board of Directors, as is current Executive Director and MTF scholar Susan Stryker. Important transgender holdings in our archives include the Lou Sullivan Collection; the Francine Logandice Collection of rare books and periodicals; the personal papers of Imperial Court System founder Jose Sarria; and personal papers of cross-dresser Nancy Ann Martine and his wife Ginny Knuth, a winner of IFGE's Trinity Award. We also house dozens of important transgender publications like Drag Magazine, Lady Like, Metamorphosis, FTM News-

letter, Gendertrash, Female Mimics, and Transsexual News Telegraph. Dr. Ari Kane's private collection of books, magazines, newsletters and other materials from the Outreach Institute and Fantasia Fair, acquired over a thirty-year period, would make a marvelous addition to our already-substantial transgender holdings.

The precise value of the Kane Collection is being appraised by Bolerium Books, an internationally recognized authority on rare sexuality-related materials, but it is estimated to be worth roughly \$5,000 on the collector's market. An additional \$3,000 will be needed for shipping, archival processing, and proper storage containers. Dr. Kane needs to vacate the storage facility where these materials are currently stored during the summer of 2002, possibly as early as June, and may be forced to sell off the collection piecemeal if a suitable archival home is not found almost immediately. Time is of the essence if we want to keep the Kane Collection intact for posterity.

Please help us raise \$8,000 to take advantage of this remarkable opportunity. We ask that you make a generous tax-deductible contribution of \$1000 or more to the GLBT Historical Society to help cover the cost of purchasing and preserving this important body of transgender historical materials. If we acquire the collection this summer, we can include a list of its contents in the online database of GLBT publications, funded by a major grant from the California State Library, that we will launch by October 2002. This database will list all GLBT publication held in the nearly 20 libraries participating in the project.

Your help in acquiring Dr. Kane's collection will make an important contribution to transgender culture, activism, and research. Please make the check out to the GLBT Historical Society and note that the gift is for the Kane Collection. Feel free to contact either of us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Ms. Bob Davis, Member, Board of Directors,

<[redacted]@tgforum.com> or (510) [redacted]

Dr. Susan Stryker, Executive Director,

<susan@glbthistory.org> or (415) [redacted]

**GLBT HISTORICAL SOCIETY, 973 Market St. #400,
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ON THE TOWN

by Alyana Evoningtar

This is a restart of a column that was in *The Channel* when I first joined TGSF four years ago. The places of interest that will be covered are restaurants, dance clubs, and theatre. A couple of times a month some girlfriends and myself will choose some venues to check out. Some places will be old tranny hangouts, while others will be new. This column will then report on the atmosphere, tolerance, service, prices, danceability, or content (in the case of theatre). The idea being to find places that would feel comfortable to anyone in our group.

This month I will cover the restaurant that was our May mid-month event, Blowfish Sushi. Although a first look at the menu makes one think overpriced, it is a menu worth exploring. Words don't do some of this gourmet sushi justice. My suggestion would be to look around the room and see what catches your eye, then get the person who waits your table to tell you what it is. The lighting and the decor are subdued so the Japanese cartoons that are being projected on the wall are what catches the eye. The service was friendly and responsive. Overall it was a good time and I think all of us who were there enjoyed it.

Special Events This Month!

TGSP Needs You!

PARADE MONITORS WANTED!

Show your pride, help the group and exercise some authority! Eight to ten contingent monitors needed for our float and the pride parade. It takes only one hour of your time! Help us out and have some fun!

VOLUNTEER!

Any Questions, need a ride, etc. call Aiyana at 415-
 [REDACTED] Here is a schedule of the Parade Monitor Workshops - go to one and then show up early at the float! Thank you!

One Hour Training Workshops

June 15 / Saturday / 5:00 p.m.

Billy DeFrank Community Center, 938 Alameda, San Jose

June 16 / Sunday / Noon

The Eagle, 398 12th and Harrison, San Francisco

June 18 / Tuesday / 7:00 p.m.

White Horse, 6551 Telegraph (at 66th), Oakland

June 19 / TBA

June 20 / Thursday / 7:00 p.m.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 290 Dolores St and 16th, San Francisco.

June 21 / Friday / TBA

June 22 / Saturday / 1:00 p.m.

Metropolitan Community Church of SF, 150 Eureka, SF

June 23 / Sunday / 1:00 p.m.

Women's Building, 3542 18th Street, SF

Additional Monitor Training information is available on the Net at www.sfpride.org.

June 1, 2002

SAN FRANCISCO

GLADD MEDIA AWARDS - FEATURING SANDRA BERNHARD

Celebrities scheduled to appear at this year's SF GLAAD MEDIA AWARDS include:

- The Inimitable Sandra Bernhard
- Stephen Weber From "Jeffrey" And "Wings"
- Pretty Baby Brooke Shields
- And From Queer As Folk: Peter Paige
- ...And Many, Many Others.

The Thirteenth Annual GLAAD Media Awards, presented by ABSOLUT Vodka, will take place Saturday June 1, 2002 at the Westin St. Francis Hotel in Union Square in San Francisco. If you attended last year's event, you know what a terrific celebration it was - and this year will be bigger and better than ever. Be there as we honor this year's outstanding and inclusive representations of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community in film, television, print and online.

New FTM Group Forming

SOUTH BAY TRANSMEN

Come and hang out with other FTM/questioning guys at our social and support group. We meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:30-9:00pm at the Billy DeFrank Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 938 the Alameda, in San Jose.

For more info: Contact Marianne at (408) 293-3040 ext. 116 or supportedu@defrank.org, — or Lance at [\[REDACTED\]@onebox.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@onebox.com).

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READ THIS ARTICLE!

By Alyana Eveningstar

If I had written this article four months ago I would of titled it "This is a Waste of my Time." Now my attitude has changed and I no longer feel that way, but what has changed my mind?

In my occupation as physician and a healer I am licensed to practice traditional Chinese medicine. In Chinese medicine the mind, body, and spirit are one not separate entities. Trying to bring these elements together in harmony is the work that I do. When I first joined TGSF I could see that there was much disharmony among us. Our spirit was gone, our body broken, and our minds in conflict. If I wasn't a healer my first reaction would of been to back away.

A physician's primary goal is to bring the patient to an understanding of what is wrong and then lead them to a remedy for it. I took this on by joining the executive committee even though as a person newly out of the closet I felt I wasn't ready. Looking at the situation I could see I was needed because at the time there was no one else. I gravitated to the presidency as a peacemaker because if I didn't take on that role it seemed we were going to break apart. My agenda was simple, some might say nonexistent, we would have to heal before we could find the direction that we needed to go.

I wrote some articles in the Channel containing these themes. I would like to see this organization head in a direction where we are useful to our community and as a non-profit organization, receive funding from other sources. Next I wrote about attending a non-profit seminar where I discovered it is possible to find money if an organization can be presented in a business-like way and show it has pertinent use. The three aspects of our group that I thought were useful to our community were education, outreach, and our newsletter. After thinking about it long and hard I could add social outreach to that list too.

Then I wrote about the only way to get power is to stand together and quit breaking ourselves down into divisive categories. It's time to start looking for our common links. In that way we could gain the power to truly come out of the closet. Next I talked about unconditional love because if we can't give this love to ourselves and quit fighting how can we expect the rest of the world to love us unconditionally.

The last article I wrote was about freedom. By that time I was beginning to wonder if any of us really remembered what that was anymore. We were spending our time complaining about everyone else or their work rather than remembering that they are giving us the gift of their time to work for freedom for us all. The only way to be free is to be united and look out for each other.

After a while though my spirit became low because it didn't seem like the remedy I was using was working. Our membership still seemed to be negative and cynical about everything, especially about the Cotillion, which I believe is the lynchpin of our organization that gives us a venue to greet people, show them they're not alone, and that there is a community to support them. With the work that has been done in the last few years we have a blueprint on how to make the Cotillion profitable like it was this past year.

We have the opportunity now to show that when we are given money we can use it properly. With all this disharmony I started to feel overwhelmed and I had to pull back before what I was feeling destroyed my outlook of life. As it was I was greatly diminished and affected. I almost lost it. I couldn't see the point of continuing. Why should I keep boring everyone by writing about remedies when no one is listening. I thought we had gotten so use to looking at negative things we've forgotten that clouds can contain a silver lining if we only look to see it.

BORN AS A MALE

By Katie

(The First in a 3-Part Series)

Born as a male on June 11, 1947 in Oakland, California of working middle class parents, Katie, spent the first 50 years of her life trying to accommodate her physical form by trying to present herself as a man. She lived an uneventful childhood in San Lorenzo, south of Oakland in the east bay. Outside of an occasional crossdressing activity in a locked bathroom, no one was ever aware of the gender dysphoria that consumed her during those years. She attended Catholic schools for 12 years playing baseball and basketball; served four years in the army and is a Vietnam veteran; married a childhood acquaintance from grammar school hoping this would take away her thoughts of gender dysphoria; attended San Jose State University and graduated with honors in Political Science, with a Business minor; she and her spouse have one child, 24, and are still married celebrating 31 years in July.

Katie first introduction into the transgendered community was through the Internet in 1997 when she moved to Santa Rosa, after living 11 years in Scotts Valley near Santa Cruz. After searching the word "transvestite" she came upon a wealth of information. Her initial search was to find a cure for her difficulties. She came across a chatroom and began chatting with others similar to herself. Having often thought she was alone with this dilemma she realized there were possibilities, after all, in finding whom you are.

Katie thought she was a crossdresser for many years. A person in denial is how it is often put, because she had the desires to be a woman and many times as a child prayed to God to let her wake up in the morning a girl. In September of 1997 she called and talked to someone and told that person she was a crossdresser, who, in turn, replied, "Are you so sure?" Katie still laughs about that moment. Little did she know about herself, at that time. Her first purchase ever of women's clothing was a pair of black pumps at Payless Shoe Source that following Halloween. Funny thing, two other men were buying women's shoes at the same time. She purchased a few other garments shortly thereafter, including bra, skirt, and blouse.

What came from this was guilt. All the previous 26 years of her marriage she never spent anything on herself for this purpose. She had always worn her spouse's clothes whether they truly fit or not. She began feeling guilty and when included with stress and anxiety to dress she was having difficulty sleeping. In addition, the intensities of the desires were beginning to overwhelm her. Up until this time she had never dressed completely with makeup and never owned a wig and therefore had never been out as Katie either. So whenever she looked into the mirror she looked like a man in a dress. This was always troubling for her and she wondered if a miracle would ever happen.

(Part 2 will continue in the July issue of The Channel)

So what has changed my mind about who we are and can be? I've seen some new inspiration within us these last few weeks. I find that contiguous and I hope you will too. Let's put the past behind us and go forward into the future. Our time is coming we need to be prepared to make the most of it by being together on common ground. Let's open our minds so our hearts can follow to take us somewhere. To a place where we can be a light for so many of us who still need to find a way out of darkness now and in the future.

Takin' Care of Biz...

TGSF BALANCE SHEET

(May 1, 2002 through May 21, 2002)

Assets

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Cash | \$6,101.73 |
| Event Equipment | |
| Decorations | \$1,000.00 |
| Food Service | \$200.00 |
| Office Supplies | \$50.00 |
| Total Assets | \$7,351.73 |

Liabilities

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Accounts Payable | \$0.00 |
| Educational Fund | \$0.00 |
| Taxes | \$0.00 |
| Insurance | \$0.00 |
| Utilities | \$0.00 |
| Operations | \$0.00 |
| Total Liabilities | \$0.00 |
| Equity | \$7,351.73 |
| Total Liabilities & Equity | \$7,351.73 |

Monthly Income Statement

Revenue

| | |
|--------------------------|------------|
| Membership | \$687.96 |
| Advertising | \$0.00 |
| Cotillion | \$65.00 |
| Donations Received | \$2,590.00 |
| Social | \$0.00 |
| Education | \$21.00 |
| Outreach | \$45.00 |
| Total Revenue | \$3,408.96 |

Expenses

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Cotillion | \$0.00 |
| Halloween Party | \$0.00 |
| Big Shew | \$0.00 |
| Pride Parade | \$0.00 |
| Social | \$0.00 |
| Education | \$10.00 |
| Outreach | \$0.00 |
| Newsletter | \$178.48 |
| Operations | \$216.62 |
| Donations Paid | \$0.00 |
| Total Expenses | \$405.10 |
| Net Income | \$3,003.86 |

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| Amanda Gonzalez | \$20.00 |
| Millicent | \$20.00 |
| Marsha Lowry | \$10.00 |
| Nancy Cupps | \$20.00 |
| Sheila Faulkner | \$40.00 |

Bless You and Thank You!

CONTACT TGSF!

ExCom Members

President

Rachael Janelle @hotmail.com

Vice President

Karen Andrews @hotmail.com

Secretary

Susan Laird @hairzapper.com

Treasurer

Stephanie Ann Blythe @tgforum.com

Education

Aily Grillo @msn.com

Kara Flynn @aol.com

Outreach

Kalani Makanani @tgforum.com

Rachel Hill @aol.com

Social

Aiyana Eveningstar @earthlink.net

Gia Luisa @pacbell.net

Other Email Addresses

Editor, *The Channel*

Ayme Kantz @aol.com

Or tgsfeditor@yahoo.com

Webmistress

Susan Laird @hairzapper.com

Comments and suggestions concerning the
TGSF web site www.tgsf.org

Information

Rachael Janelle @hotmail.com

..... or 408-.....

Requests for information concerning TGSF and
upcoming events

Calendar www.tgsf.org

Submissions can be made online directly. Cancel-
ling mistakes or for other problems, please contact
the Webmistress.

THE POLITICS OF PASSING

By Jamison Green

Transgender Tapestry Magazine, published quarterly by the International Foundation for Gender Education, has instituted a new feature over the past year or so called "The Journal." Editor Ms. Dallas Denny solicits topical essays and then asks other writers to respond to the ideas in a subsequent issue. The format has yielded some very thought-provoking content. In Issue #95, Fall 2001, the topic was Passing, and the invited contributors were Holly Boswell and Jessica Xavier, two longtime trans activists with very different personal and political styles. I admire and respect them both. They use divergent entry points on the concept of passing, but both lead to acknowledging the harm that is couched within the seductive lure of passing and the emptiness of the privilege with which passing tempts us. Here is my own response to some of the issues they raised.

Ms. Boswell quotes Leslie Feinberg: "It is passing that's historically new. Passing means hiding. Passing means invisibility. Transgendered people should be able to live and express their gender without criticism or threats of violence. ..." I must disagree with the premise that passing is historically new. This is an unprovable statement, and there is considerable anthropological and historical evidence to the contrary. Feinberg's statement is a rhetorical device intended to invoke compassion for those who cannot or do not "pass," and to challenge those transpeople who do pass to step out of the closet; it is not a statement of absolute truth. Passing does not unequivocally mean hiding or invisibility. Everyone has some aspect of their life that is hidden, one perhaps for which they might fear vilification if it were common knowledge in certain circles. This situation is not unique to gender-variant or sexual minority people. Further, I understand that many trans people are terrified of not passing, and that this is a horrible fear to live with. What we need to be working toward, on the political as well as the social front, is freedom to realize "a greater sense of congruity between our inner and outer being" (which is what Holly advocates beyond passing) regardless of what this looks like to others!

I don't agree, either, with Holly's statement that "Passing inevitably reinforces sex-role stereotyping, sexism, and gender duality." Why is this inevitable? Women who pass as women have been quite successful at breaking down sex stereotyping, sexism and gender duality in the feminist movement. Men who pass as men can do the same thing with respect to breaking down sex-role stereotypes, and some have been working hard to do just that. You don't have to look gender-queer or even be gender-variant to understand and speak up for freedom of gender expression. Holly's right, though, that many transpeople "who pass report new forms of disconnection," and we have to work to ameliorate that situation. Our ability to hide and assimilate is not new, though, and it is not difficult to understand why, facing the reactions of those who oppose and ridicule us, so few transpeople "out" themselves or demand dignity and equality in spite of our difference.

Ms. Xavier's piece discusses how passing privilege for gay men, lesbians, and bisexual people has "dumbed down" the identity politics of the GLB movement, reducing it to the "we're just like you, we just do something different in the privacy of our own bedrooms" argument, and perhaps passing transpeople have fallen prey to the same rhetoric, trying hard to believe that the privacy of their genital difference should be glossed over politically and they should have equal rights, too, just leave their bodies covered, thank you. I have long agreed with Jessica that this line isn't going to work for transpeople. Our collective variance is much greater than that, and if we are truly to achieve social justice, we cannot fight only for the ones who look "nice." We have to fight for everyone, because our issues are more pervasive throughout our lives than just who we have sex with in private. And many GLB people have the same social issues as we do, even if they don't regard themselves as trans, and whether they pass or not.

I am grateful for Jessica's observation that (she estimates) "90% of transsexual men eventually gain passing privilege [but that] spending half their lives developing queer consciousness within their lesbian communities, many transsexual men are not only aware of but also ambivalent about their passing privilege." However, though I don't think she meant this exactly, I feel compelled to point out that there is no statistical proof that a majority of transmen have prior lesbian experience. Ms. Xavier's text also implies that most FTMs are straight (attracted to women post-transition); this is also not statistically verifiable. My exposure to transmen causes me to estimate that only 60% have had any lesbian experience or connection to queer culture, and that roughly 30% of FTMs identify as gay men, whether they had exposure to queer culture prior to transition or not.

I would not generalize that exposure to queer culture prior to transition predisposes one's posttransition sexual orientation toward homosexuality. I would generalize that most of the few transmen who are politically active and most willing to be publicly "out" have been through the political mill in queer culture, have had their consciousness raised, and bring to their trans-activism considerable organizing experience. Some of us, though we may be new to the trans scene, have been doing political activism around sexism, racism and homophobia for decades. If we are the only transmen that are visible, it is not surprising that Jessica and others would draw conclusions like these, but I assure you that transmen are more diverse than that. We have our sexist pigs, homophobes and transphobes, too.

Jessica points out something else I've often said: "We will never be nontranssexual" (or nontransgendered), whether we pass or not. When our sense of congruity between our inner and outer being is stronger and we feel more at home in our bodies, regardless of the shape or sex of those bodies, and we no longer have to fear having our difference discovered, then we can rest. Until then, whether we talk about passing as if it's either "important/necessary to pass" or "politically incorrect to pass because it's bad to look good," all that does is continue to make everyone feel bad.

We need to be talking about passing as if it doesn't matter, as if it is not what is important. Because what is important is that for all of us the goal is freedom to be who we are, regardless of our difference or variance, regardless of what we look like or what gender we identify with for what part of the day, so long as we are not harming another person. What our genitals look like, or whom we love, or how we need to change our bodies (or not change them) should not matter with respect to our ability to live safe, productive, rewarding lives as full members of society. To that end, I think invisibility is more dangerous than passing per se. It's one thing to be invisible and have people react in shock, shame, intolerance and hatred when your difference is exposed, whether or not that exposure happens against your will; it's another thing to pass and have your difference understood and respected even if it is not exposed all the time.



ARE YOU A VETERAN?

Are you aware that there is a gender discussion group every Monday afternoon at the Ft. Miley Veteran's Center in San Francisco? The group is open to all TS, TV, and TG's who are qualified veterans. If you are interested and wish further information, contact Lorraine Hall at: [redacted]@aol.com or call 510 [redacted]

Shirley Faire

AMBITION

My friend Kathryn has a philosophy: "People sit up too much," she says. "It isn't natural and it isn't good for you. I am buying a princess chair, which I will plant on my deck on Sundays, and where I will read, and when I am not reading, I will sleep. I will get up as infrequently as possible either to go to the bathroom or to fix a salad. I will make a concession to eat sitting up because food should not have to walk to your stomach; but once it's there, it, too, needs a rest. Anything else? Let me think...no, nothing."

That is so alien to me. My aim in life is to sit up straighter and more often, to finish all my work before I allow myself to relax and enjoy myself. It is the religion in which I was raised, the one that comes before the phrase "work ethic." (Should "work ethic" be capitalized? Silly question. "WORK ETHIC.")

"You ain't got no ambition," my stepfather used to say, taunting me. I was eight years old. Ambition, I thought, what's ambition? In time, I learned that it was get-up-and-go, spunk, roll up your sleeves and get to work. ACCOMPLISH something. Anything. And I didn't have it, and wondered when I might get it.

Julius Caesar didn't get it until he was 35. Then he turned into Capt. Conquest. When I learned this at 21, I felt as if I had been given a 14-year reprieve. In my somewhat desultory research I also learned Caesar was both conqueror and orator, whose most famous ambitious utterance was "*Veni, Vidi, Vici*, or, "When it's windy I'm with you," which is just a fancy way of saying "Count on me, fellas."

Not everybody thought Caesar's ambition was a good thing. Brutus, his friend (along with a dozen or so other unambitious friends), ambushed and stabbed him to death because of it. "*Et tu, Brute*," or, "Have you had lunch yet, Brutus?" were Caesar's last words, perhaps out of concern that Brutus actions were motivated by hypoglycemia, and you know how crazy that can make a person. His other friend, Cassius, was said to have a "lean and hungry look." So maybe they were sharing a diet and just took it too far. History raises at least as many questions as it answers.

I thought that by the time I was 35 I would start conquering the world, but by the time I was 45 I had to admit that I was no Julius Caesar. By the time I was 55, I was glad I wasn't, because although I had not conquered all of the known world, neither had I been assassinated by anybody, and I still had a full head of hair (Caesar had to do a comb-over, front to back; it didn't look bad, but I'd rather have the hair). Besides, by then I was the wrong gender.

Perhaps Caesar's problem was that he was Roman. Now, Romans, as we all know, are Roman Catholics, who, although they work, do not subscribe to a Catholic Work Ethic, though some subscribe to "Catholic Worker." I want to go out on a limb here and suggest that if Caesar had had the opportunity to be a Presbyterian, everybody would have understood and accepted his ambition, even Brutus. "Ah, Protestant Work Ethic has got him, poor chap." (Although, if he really was hypoglycemic, maybe not.)

That's all too late to worry about now. Caesar is dead and reports about Brutus are not encouraging. Here's the point: I'd be ambitious to embrace my friend's sedate Epicurianism if only I could shake my ambition to live up to the potential my step-father kept reminding me I didn't have. I know I can do it. I'll get to work on it. Soon. I promise.

You, there. Yes, you! Don't just sit there. Get off your butt and email Shirley at [redacted]@aol.com. Then you can relax.

More Biz...

TGSF

FISCAL YEAR END BALANCE SHEET

(May 1, 2001 through April 30, 2002)

Assets

| | |
|-----------------------|------------|
| Cash | \$3,097.87 |
| Event Equipment | |
| Decorations | \$1,000.00 |
| Food Service | \$200.00 |
| Office Supplies | \$50.00 |
| Total Assets | \$4,347.87 |

Liabilities

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| Accounts Payable | \$0.00 |
| Educational Fund | \$1,600.00 |
| Taxes | \$0.00 |
| Insurance | \$0.00 |
| Utilities | \$0.00 |
| Operations | \$0.00 |
| Total Liabilities | \$1,600.00 |
| Equity | \$2,747.87 |
| Total Liabilities & Equity | \$4,347.87 |

Year End Annual Income Statement

Revenue

| | |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Membership | \$6,021.93 |
| Cotillion | \$13,840.12 |
| Advertising | \$2,795.00 |
| Donations | \$2,588.57 |
| Social | \$916.52 |
| Education | \$612.00 |
| Outreach | \$285.00 |
| Total Revenue | \$27,059.14 |

Expenses

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Cotillion | \$15,506.32 |
| Newsletter | \$4,591.63 |
| Halloween Party | \$0.00 |
| Pride Parade | \$576.50 |
| Big Shew | \$0.00 |
| Social | \$242.64 |
| Education | \$585.00 |
| Outreach | \$0.00 |
| Operations | \$2,598.80 |
| Donations | \$1,400.00 |
| Total Expenses | \$25,500.89 |

Net Income \$1,558.25

SEEKING ROOMMATE

Passable crossdresser, soon to relocate to San Francisco, looking for passable CD/TS for roommate. Will share with expenses. Will need help on where to go and shop, being new to the area. Write: Gail, PO Box 4463, Columbus, GA 31904. Photo would be nice.

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RESTROOMS BRING TRANSGENDER RIGHTS TO THE FOREFRONT

Perhaps the most visceral issue concerning the transgendered community is the bathroom. Indeed, recent arrests, and both current and pending lawsuits concerning restroom usage, have brought the issue of transgenderism to the public fore. This, the most unlikely and private of places, has become the battleground between transgenders and the law. Recent cases in New York and in Minnesota, illustrate the point.

Dean Spade, a female to male transsexual, was arrested in early February and held for 23 hours for using the men's room in New York City's Grand Central Station. Police followed him into the men's room, then physically dragged him out in handcuffs as bystanders watched. When the case appeared in court, the judge dismissed all charges. It seems there is no New York law defining who may and may not use which restroom.

In a pending discrimination suit filed before the New York State Supreme Court by the ACLU, New York City's Hispanic AIDS Forum charges that it was forced to leave its location after their landlord of 10 years began eviction proceedings for 'improper' restroom use by its transgendered clients. The location in the Jackson Heights section of Queens was in the epicenter of the New York's GLBT Latino community, and critical to the agency's efficacy. Latinos account for 31% of all AIDS cases in New York City.

The landlord was allegedly unwilling to discuss ways to accommodate transgendered people following complaints from other tenants that the agency's transgendered clients were using 'wrong' restrooms and, instead, began eviction proceedings. As a result, the agency was forced to move to a location further away from the clientele it serves.

Decisions on restroom usage have serious implications for transgenders. The most crucial effects are loss of career and inability to work. Minnesota has two current cases that point in opposite directions.

On the state level, the Minnesota Supreme Court decision in *Goins v. West Group* ruled that employers may decide which restrooms transsexual employees are allowed to use. When female employees at the workplace expressed displeasure with Goins using the women's room adjacent to her workspace, the company insisted she use a specially assigned restroom further away. The Supreme Court's opinion concurred with that approach, overturning a lower court's ruling.

However, a federal court in Minnesota ruled that a transsexual may use the restroom appropriate to the new gender. Minneapolis high school teacher Carla Cruzan complained that allowing school librarian Debra Davis to use the women's bathroom violated Cruzan's religious freedom and created a hostile workplace.

In this case, none of the other co-workers had problems with Davis. The school decided to provide the complainant, Cruzan, with access to several other women's bathrooms, including single-person facilities, and the federal court agreed. Apparently Cruzan sought separate facilities for transgenders only, but found those same facilities unfair for herself. Cruzan is currently appealing the decision to the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals in St. Louis.

Currently, the American public restroom is a confusing scene. Although women feel protected in their ladies room sanctuaries, not all jurisdictions have specific laws regarding who may use which restroom. Still, the cry, "There's a man in the ladies room," is likely to elicit a response from security guards or police, whether legally warranted or not. Yet a bearded man in a dress in the men's restroom risks physical assault.

Continued Bottom of Page 15

FTM RESTROOM SITUATION UNDERSCORES NEED FOR TOLERANCE

While reports of controversy over transgendered restroom rights often involve male-to-female transsexuals, female-to-male transsexual restroom problems may prove even harder to solve. A recent situation in Pennsylvania's Lehigh Valley is a typical example.

Last month, Victaulic Company of America, a worldwide developer and manufacturer of pipe, coupling, and fire protection products, advised James Halleman that he may not use the men's locker and washing facilities until he physically resembles a biological male in all respects.

Halleman, a 36 year-old laborer, has worked for the company since 1999 at its Alburts facility, near Allentown, PA. From all outward signs — the voice, the appearance, the mannerisms and male exuberance — James Halleman is a typical male steelworker. Despite having been on a male hormone regimen for about 15 months, and having advised his Human Relations Director of his transition to male over a year ago, Halleman has been asked not to use the men's facilities. The company revealed that the local union also recommended denial of Halleman's request.

Marta Ames, the Executive Director of Pride at Work, the AFL-CIO GLBT Diversity organization, has been working with James on this matter over the past months. In a March 8, 2002 letter to Victaulic, the United Steelworkers of America Local 2599-27 "made clear to the company that they would not be comfortable permitting male bargaining unit employees to share locker and washing facilities with James Halleman until such time as James physically resembled a male."

"Accordingly," the letter continues, "Victaulic and Local 2599-27 concluded it would be in the best interests of all represented employees to continue to ask James Halleman to use the facilities reserved for women until such time as James fully resembled a male...."

Halleman has not yet undergone sex reassignment surgery or changed his name legally, but he has plans to do both. Although the question of genital surgery is as yet unresolved, he says, "I do not want to be forced to use the female locker rooms and bathrooms." He goes on to note that neither the men nor the women want him to use their facilities.

Sex reassignment procedures vary greatly between male and female surgeries. In addition to hysterectomy and chest surgery, procedures for corrective sexual surgery on female-to-male transsexuals are more numerous, invasive, and have an inherently higher risk factor for complications. With costs on the latter procedure alone beginning at \$25,000 and running as high as \$100,000 for a result that will not produce any sensory benefit, most female-to-male transsexuals choose to opt out of having surgery.

Despite offers from several organizations, including the HRC, NGLTF, and PFLAG, to provide transgender education support, the company and the union arrived at their own joint decision to deny Halleman locker and washing rights in his target gender.

Halleman felt that neither his union nor his employer was providing him any support beyond the use of his male name, albeit, he says, with female pronouns. He was concerned that there might be a hostile workplace environment. "I was warned," he said, "that once I enter the [men's] locker room, the trouble would begin. What that is, I do not know." Nor was he looking to find out. However, Halleman remained persistent and optimistic ... and to wonderful results.

Continued Top of Page 15

WORKPLACE FOLLIES:

AN INTERVIEW WITH JULI GOINS

It is Monday morning, and several new employees are learning their way around the goals, ethics, culture, and admin-trivia of a large company. The Human Resources representative leading the orientation session calls for a break. "Let's all be back in fifteen minutes," he says.

Jim and Sally hang back to ask a question as their new colleagues quickly head out the conference room door. Having received their answer, they walk to the corridor and look for the rest rooms.

Jim, a short, stocky young man with sideburns and goatee, walks into the restroom and is greeted by shrieks. "Get out of here! This is the ladies room."

Sally, a tall, willowy blonde, rates a few appreciative stares and a snicker or two before someone speaks up and says, "Sorry, miss, but this is the men's room. Or couldn't you tell?"

Question: In what state is this company located?

While you are pondering the answer, consider just how appropriate and how safe it would be for a bearded man to walk into a public ladies room or for a woman to dally in a men's room. Might you expect a call to security or the police or a complaint to Human Resources?

The answer, according to the Minnesota Supreme Court, is that employers may require certain men to use the ladies room and certain women to use the men's room or, alternatively, a unisex restroom.

In a recent decision concerning *Goins vs. West Group*, the Minnesota Supreme Court held that "An employer's designation of employee restroom use based on biological gender is not sexual orientation discrimination in violation of the Minnesota Human Rights Act (MHRA)."

Plaintiff Juli Goins is a transsexual. Born Justin Travis Goins in Houston, Texas, she has taken female hormones and lived as a woman since 1994. She was hired as Juli by a New York office of West Group in 1997 and transferred to their Eagan, Minnesota office, later that year. Troubles in Minnesota began immediately because some other women employees objected to sharing the ladies room with her.

When the male head of Human Resources at the Minnesota facility advised Goins that she must use a unisex facility in another part of the building rather than the ladies room near her desk, she countered with a recommendation that the company provide diversity training for its employees. Her suggestion was turned down, and she was threatened with disciplinary action should she continue to use the nearby women's room. She did use the prohibited restroom, but resigned her position with the company before disciplinary action was taken. She then filed a discrimination suit against West Group under Minnesota Human Rights Act (MHRA.)

The MHRA, touted by many as a leading example of transgender inclusion, prohibits sexual orientation discrimination in the workplace. Its definition of sexual orientation includes "having or being perceived as having a self-image or identity not traditionally associated with one's biological maleness or femaleness." Apparently, the court does not consider a transsexual woman's use of the women's restroom a protected action under a 'self-image or identity not traditionally associated with her biological birth marker.' Although the court decision does not require transsexual women or men to use their birth gender restrooms, it does give each employer the right to decide — and enforce — what it considers allowable for transsexual employees (and, presumably, clients) whether they have had sex reassignment surgery or not.

Juli Goins did not willingly reveal her surgical status during the legal proceedings against West Group. "My philosophy on the matter of whether someone's pink bits have been hacked, reshaped, or modified," she says, "is [that it's] information that absolutely no

Need for Tolerance...

Continued from Page 14

Recently, Halleman won an important concession from Victaulic with the support of his union. In a decision on April 4th, both the company and the union decided that he will no longer be required to use the women's room. In a partial victory for Halleman, the company has agreed to provide him access to a unisex restroom. According to Marta Ames, a calm and consistent Halleman rebutted the company position that he must use the women's facilities. Eventually, the company's Human Resources Director acquiesced to the proposal for a unisex facility.

The company fully agreed to adopt zero-tolerance of harassment, and recognized the need for further education on the issue of transgenders in the workplace. Following the difficult but successful meeting, Halleman stated, "This proposal allowed everyone in the negotiation to retain their dignity. For now, it's a win-win situation. And I'm going to continue to educate the company on behalf of all [transgendered] and lesbian, gay and bisexual workers."

Education and fruitful negotiations were key to Halleman's success at Victaulic. "I really don't feel transpeople should have to move

elsewhere to have an acceptable quality of life [that] many people take for granted," he said. "My intention [is] that the next transperson have it easier, and [be] dealt with more fairly than I have."

This case hasn't reached the courts. Perhaps, now, it won't have to. The company and the union have made progress in understanding and acceptance. It remains to be seen what will transpire when the company is presented with such documentation as a male driver's license, a male passport, or a surgeon's letter stating that Halleman has undergone female-to-male sex reassignment surgery.

The immediate question, though — where does James Halleman turn when nature calls? — has been answered in a spirit of compromise.

Restrooms & TG Rights...

Continued from Page 14

Furthermore, what happens when the transgendered person is disabled or wheelchair-bound? "Many may rely on catheters and adult diapers to minimize the need to use a public restroom, but eventually catheters have to be emptied," said Rachel Newstead, a member of the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition (NTAC), "and there's no safe place to go to take care of that." Newstead, who has cerebral palsy, added that "a male-to-female transgender with a disability, forced to use a men's restroom, is in even more danger of being harmed than an able-bodied transgender."

Thus, the question begs: where does one go when nature calls?

Where should American society draw the line? Might the spread of transgender rights lead America to the multi-stall unisex restrooms of Europe and the Ally McBeal show? Or will legislators continue running ever faster away from the problems that arise, in order to spare themselves the controversy of the issue?

Meanwhile, as America draws lines, and crosses lines, and erases lines between gender and conformity ... someone waits patiently for the next available stall.

Continued on Page 17

NTAC Press Release

HOMELESS TRANSEXUAL KEEPS VIGIL IN THE NATION'S CAPITOL

A homeless transgender activist is keeping a one-woman vigil in front of the nation's capitol in an effort to draw attention to the need for employment among transgenders. As Danielle Clarke began her vigil this past Saturday, the U. S. Senate continued deliberating the Employment Non Discrimination Act (ENDA) which will extend protections based on sexual orientation — but will not cover transgenders.

The conspicuous action is exemplary of the Transgender Community's frustrations. Transsexuals are disproportionately locked out of the workplace, and Clarke is indeed one of the chronically unemployed.

"When I realized I was nearly broke, I decided to come down here," said Clarke in a phone conversation from her tent pitched on the Washington Mall. "I could've gone back to the VA Hospital — three hots and a cot" and lived off of public funds, she said.

"Instead I decided to do this."

She hopes that by keeping her vigil in the shadows of the Capitol Rotunda, she will draw needed attention to the plight of transgender unemployment. It's obviously an issue that hits close to home for Clarke, a member of the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition (NTAC) who has participated in lobbying and other activism efforts on behalf of the group.

"No one's going to hire me. I don't have anywhere to live," she answered, when asked why she was undertaking this effort. She did this to make a statement "to help break the system that keeps our people — transgenders — unemployed, or suicidal, or in the bondage of sexual slavery...."

During the day, Clarke keeps herself busy creating display signs and observing everyday life on the Washington Mall, across the reflecting pool from the Capitol Building. Curious onlookers have been gracious to her: the Democratic National Committee gave her a hat to block the sun from her head, another donor bringing a fruit basket. One Frenchman offered her \$10 after reading one of her display signs — a timeline of civil rights enactment.

A large portion of Clarke's effort is rooted in doing something beneficial for the transgender community. However, the underpinnings of her efforts are an attempt to stave off depression by keeping busy and trying to do something positive.

"Unemployment can gradually deconstruct anyone's psyche and self-worth; and for transsexuals, it can be utterly devastating," said Vanessa Edwards Foster, Board Vice Chair of NTAC. "Bankruptcy, homelessness, depression, desperation, prostitution and substance abuse — these are scenarios replayed far too often in this community."

"The lion's share of these conditions can be tied initially to chronic joblessness."

Danielle Clarke has certainly had her share of long-term joblessness and its effects. Though she sees virtually no hope in sight on the employment front, she wishes to remain focused on the positive.

That is not an easy task when one is living in a pup tent on the Washington Mall.

If you wish to help with her vigil, Danielle's requests are simple: bring any nonperishable food you can spare, something to drink, some sunscreen, and perhaps an occasional ride to and from some place to shower and wash her clothes. And keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

Phyllabuster

JEWISH WOMEN'S MAGAZINE RUNS FOUR ARTICLES ON BEING TGV & JEWISH

I just received a copy of "Lilith" the Independent Jewish Women's Magazine, Volume 27, Number 1, Spring 2002. In it are the following:

- "What Do We Learn From Transgender Jews?"
- Some TGV life stories and why the Jewish community is interested
- "On Gender in Eden"
- Rituals and Politics of Transgendered Jews
- Responses to the Question: "How Can Our Synagogues Become More Comfortable Spaces for a Transperson Like Me?" (Go to www.lilithmag.com).

This is very relevant to our struggle. Both Littleton and Gardiner were religious based decisions and the so-called Christian reasoning is based in scripture that have been wrongly interpreted from early Jewish text or from ignored Jewish text.

An example is found in the latest law review article published by Alyson Meiselman, me and Katrina C. Rose, entitled, "Slavery, Sex and Gender and the Ancient Doctrine of State Decisis: A Re-examination of the Doctrine in Light of Time-Influenced Legal Reasoning and the Current State of Transgender Legal Issues." Found in Volume 2 of Georgetown Journal of Gender and the Law, beginning on page 735 (2001).

In footnote 55, we wrote:

We use this term to mean that 'religion' (in the form of Christianity) was often used to support a belief, such as slavery, and thereafter social separation of the races. "Almighty God created the races white, black, yellow, malay and red, and he placed them on separate continents. And but for the interference with his arrangement there would be no cause for such marriages. The fact that he separated the races shows that he did not intend for the races to mix." *Loving v. Virginia*, 388 U.S. 1, 3 (1967) (quoting the state trial court's opinion). This was so even though many other less populous religions did not adhere to such dogma. For example, approximately 1500 years prior to birth of Jesus, Jewish law provided protections for and regulations of hermaphrodites or persons of indeterminate sex (now known as "intersexed"). See TRACTATE BIKKURIM ET. AL, THE MISHNAHS, TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH WITH NOTES, GLOSSARY AND INDICIES, Vol. 2, 66a (1982).

It is indeed refreshing to find that some within Christianity have taken a fresh and positive look at this issue. See generally Virginia Ramey Mollenkott, Gender Diversity and Christian Community, in *THE OTHER SIDE*, 24-27 (2001). I hope that you will go to a local law school and order this law review article.

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

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Interview with Juli Goins...

Continued from Page 15

one has the right to ask for or know — the sole exceptions being your general practitioners and sex partner.”

Juli is concerned that many in the transsexual community have been too open with their history, causing the public to feel no compunction against invading their privacy. “See, we live in a culture where it’s perfectly appropriate for a relative stranger to ask a tranny about the operation,” Goins remarks. “And yet, this same culture universally frowns upon the premise of walking up to a guy and asking whether he’s been circumcised, or asking a woman whether she’s menstruating. In both of those circumstances, you’re likely to be beaten to a pulp by the person you’ve just offended.”

The question, it seems, is what is appropriate for a transsexual who identifies and presents as male (or as female)? What is appropriate for those who object to the transsexual’s presence on moral or religious grounds or due to just plain fear? Where is the common ground? Is the offer or requirement for a transsexual to use a unisex restroom an acceptable compromise?

Goins has a very strong opinion on the matter of requiring use of a unisex restroom.

“6,000 other people in the West campus only had to amble over to the nearest washroom,” she says, “usually no more than fifteen seconds away from their desk or work area. Meanwhile, I could either walk five minutes over to our main building’s lobby washrooms and down a floor, or else I could have walked almost the same distance, through a skyway to another building and down a floor, into a really unkempt janitor’s water closet, all because I looked ‘different’ to a queerphobic, fundamentalist woman.”

In Goins’ view, “A person’s dignity is not compromised when they can either choose to share a multi-stall washroom with a person whose appearance they don’t like or walk to the next nearest facility. However, a person’s dignity is compromised when they are expressly forbidden from using a washroom based solely on the perception of being (or just looking) genderqueer.”

Meanwhile, a Federal Court in Minnesota has ruled that a local high school did not discriminate against a biological woman (Carla Cruzan) when they put the onus on her to avoid the ladies room used by a transsexual woman employee (Debra Davis). Quite the opposite decision from the Minnesota State Supreme Court.

Goins notes that she has not garnered a great deal of notoriety due to her case and that many people confuse her story with that of Cruzan vs. Davis. She did mention a roundtable discussion of her case held by Outfront Minnesota following the December 2001 court decision. The meeting was attended predominantly by genderqueer youth, with only a smattering of gays, lesbians and transsexuals bothering to show. Those whose birth gender or gender expression match their restroom choice well seemed to have little interest in the case. “The people who really needed to pay attention to the case — the whole queer community — generally didn’t,” she said.

In Goins’ opinion, the Minnesota Supreme Court ignored the word and spirit of the Minnesota Human Rights Act. She is angry that the justices ignored the amicus brief by the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association that addressed the medical science causes of a disconnect between brain and genitals. She is angrier, still, that the court decision ignored legal, anecdotal, and social data showing that Julianne Goins, the transsexual plaintiff in this case, is and has been consistently and legally female, right down to her Texas birth certificate. Unfortunately, the Minnesota court appeared to fixate on the Texas court’s birth certificate choice of words: reassigned female. The Minnesota Supreme Court’s reliance on the undefined term “biological gender” seems to argue that the gender noted in the birth record following the attending physician’s cursory examination of genitals is inviolable regardless of what medical science says otherwise.

Goins indicates that the books are closed on her case, and it will go no farther in the courts. “I suspect,” she says, “that future legislation in support of gender-different people will have to one-

AN APOLOGY...

This is to let the membership know that the new executive committee is aware that several members have donated money to make sure that we had the funds to get into LGBT community center. Rachael Janelle has indicated that will be a priority project for this committee.

I apologize that I did not oversee this project properly to ensure that it was carried out. Other officers were delegated to carry this project to completion. If the building had opened on time - as it was it opened over a year late. These officers would have completed the project. Unfortunately the officer in charge just before applications started to be accepted was Janis. When she passed away, in the confusion of events that followed, I let this project slip through the cracks. Even though we were to share office space with another organization, it is important that we are part of the center as it shows an involvement and legitimacy in the community. Thus it would be another asset for us to have when we approach corporations and organizations for sponsorship and funding. For this oversight, to all members I express my sincere regrets.

In the period from September 2001 to April 2002, anyone who donated gifts that were not acknowledged in the Channel please contact me in care of the TGSF post box, and I will see that your gift is acknowledged. The same goes for anyone who did not receive their Channel for during that time period, and I will mail them the issues that were missed.

Thank you for your understanding and patience in these matters,

Alyana

up the Goins decision with even smarter language than that offered by or modeled after the MHRA.”

Since the Minnesota law includes the transgendered in terms of sexual orientation, this may mean that, for anti-discrimination laws to be fully effective, the definition of “transgender” has to stand alone and in terms not likely to change from year to year.

One indication that legislative change is needed lies in the fact that Goins vs. West Group is not the only lawsuit that has grappled with the definition of what makes a person male or female. Decisions related to such issues as bathroom use, marriage, and child custody have already occurred, and increasingly present themselves in courts all across the nation. At the heart of each case is the question — can a person change sex? If the decision as to who is male and who is female is different from state to state, it seems that a federal decision cannot be long withheld. For how long can we tolerate a legally married couple from State A being arrested for sodomy in State B because the states disagree on the sexes of the couple and whether or not they are married in the first place? For how long can a man be arrested in one jurisdiction for using the men’s room and in a neighboring jurisdiction for using the ladies room?

In reviewing the history leading to passage of the Minnesota Human Rights Act in 1993, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force’s handbook, *Transgender Equality*, quotes transgender activist Susan Kimberly as saying, “... the bill [MHRA] had to be inclusive [of transgendered] or I would do something foolish and handcuff myself to a urinal in the state capital.” Thoughts of a similar protest have garnered some attention following the Goins vs. West decision. In one scenario, bearded female to male transsexuals would line up and enter the ladies room in a very public Minnesota government building, while nicely dressed male to female transsexuals would do the same in the men’s room.

Goins’ opinion of such an attention-getter? “That would so rock!” she said. “After all, I haven’t seen a men’s room since I was a boy; so it would be a nostalgic field trip for me. But I’d probably get kicked out for harassing [the men] and subsequently be forced to use the women’s room, instead.”

Another viable alternative may be to amend the Harry Benjamin Standards of Care to require bladder-expansion surgery as a prerequisite to the Real Life Experience.

Anyone for a potty break?

NTAC Announcement

AN OPEN CALL FOR ASSISTANCE....

Hello! It's your friendly national activist writing to y'all to get you back in the spirit of lobbying again. This is an open call for assistance. This time, there's not excuses for not lobbying because it's all going to be localized (relatively speaking). We're not going to DC this year ... we're doing this in the home districts. Yes, right in your own backyards!

The reason we're doing it in this fashion is two-fold: First, there's nothing much we can do about the current legislation pending votes in committee, or waiting for the chance to hit the Senate or House floor.

Secondly, we want to approach this differently this time. Congress almost expects that if they see us, it'll be on Capitol Hill. After the anthrax scare last fall, we realized that we needed to reassess our sole reliance on that strategy. Additionally, upon closer inspection, it makes more sense to take this approach. They expect us on Capitol Hill, but easily brush us off as "someone else's problem." Now is the time we show them that it is indeed "their problem." Let them see that they have constituents that this affects — and that y'all do pay attention, and that y'all also vote!

That's why we're sending it around to NTAC members and non-members alike. If you're not a member, so what? The work still needs to be done! We'll just deputize y'all for the summer months to visit on our behalf, and Email some material to take along. Or just visit them individually, and let us know. Whatever....

We want to see every House district in the nation have at least one visit paid on their home offices this summer (after Memorial Day break). Multiples of visits paid to each Senator's office. If there's four of you who want to visit, visit individually if you feel comfortable doing so — otherwise, set four appointments for each of you and all four visit each time. They count the number of constituents, but they also log in the number of visits and subject per visit as well. So have one set one appointment, the other set another — and both of you can go both times.

By all means, press them that you really wish to speak with the Rep / Senator personally, even if for a minute or two. It can work, you just have to be insistent. If worse comes to worse, tell them you also wanted to have a photo of you with the Rep or Senator. Believe it or not, that works as well! They have to be there for the photo ... then afterwards, launch into your spiel and educate!

If the local receptionists are real snoots, then tell them that you wish to discuss your concerns with: Senate Bill 625 (S-625) - the LLEEA (Legal Law Enforcement Enhancement Act) Senate Bill 1284 (S-1284) - ENDA (Employment Non-Discrimination Act of 2001) House Bill 2692 (HR-2692) - ENDA (Employment Non-Discrimination Act of 2001). We'll supply info to take with you.

LLEEA: (giving stronger penalties for those committing bias-related violence/intimidation.). We're needing names of transgendered Hate Crimes victims to be read into the Congressional Record. We want to try to and keep this localized, thus the individuals who were killed in that state will be brought to that state's Reps / Senators for the entering into the congressional record. (The one exception would be Oregonians who visit Sen. Gordon Smith ... we want him to have a copy of all of the Hate Crime victims replete with details ... he has taken to reading one hate crime per week into the Senate's Congressional Record.)

ENDA: We also want to impress upon the Senators and Reps that employment is the top issue in our community, by and large. **BUT DO NOT TELL THEM TO OPPOSE OR KILL THE BILL.** Truth be told, it isn't passing both Houses of Congress anyway, but our opposition will paint us as denying others their rights. I don't care if HRC or whoever denies us ours ... we don't want to lower ourselves to that level. We respectfully request that all of us maintain the moral high ground.

DO bring any anecdotal information about what occurred to you in your job search, or job loss (esp. those of you who have transitioned). Those who are crossdressers, stress that you fear

CHECK OUT TRANSADVOCATE.ORG

Two post operative transsexual women have started a new TS/TGV advocacy site on the web. TransAdvocate.org (<http://www.transadvocate.org/>) is a group focusing on issues that concern transsexual health and human rights. Their current projects include environmental effects of chemicals on transsexuals. Their future plans are to launch a new International theme to their site.

Currently, readers can find a cut-and-paste letter to send to their elected officials, stating the need for Congress to take a serious look at the environmental issues affecting TGV people, as well as bring to their attention the need for SANE legal decisions and EQUAL rights for TS/TGV people in the US.

TransAdvocate.org publishes articles on TGV concerns, and also seek submission of articles from readers for publication as well. In addition to the publishing of articles, you can also find links of interest to the TS/TGV population, and copies of both the GAIN newsletter and the "Phyllabuster" from Phyllis Randolph Frye of <http://transgenderlegal.com/>

You'll also find useful links to other web sites, and the staff's own "HotLinks" section of links that they feel should warrant immediate attention from readers.

The staff of TransAdvocate.org is asking for people to join them in their efforts through volunteering to work on the TransAdvocate.org web site and by submitting content and ideas.

everyday that discovery could happen (cite Peter Oiler, the fired CD truck driver in New Orleans), and that could mean the loss of career, livelihood, and possible devastation of your family unit.

And point out that more than 10% of the nation's population lives in jurisdictions that have nondiscrimination laws that protect transgressors, and more are enacting such protections on a local basis every year. It's true. (We'll have a handout on this). Also mention anecdotal study information ... such as HRC's study in North Carolina which found 68% opposed to discrimination based on gender identity ... or People for a Fair Houston Committee's study which found that 52% opposed discrimination against gender identity in the city of Houston. Point out that Dallas just enacted nondiscrimination legislation that protects sexual orientation AND gender identity.

And if you feel its safe enough, tell them if you're currently working on any ordinance passage right now! But leave it at that ... again, don't ask them to oppose ENDA. Just give them the information to change their minds more subtly.

Lastly ... and I'm sorry to be blunt here: **DRESS PROFESSIONALLY** for these appointments. I know a lot of folks are proud of and identify with their grunge-wear, or skank-wear or whatever. **DON'T** wear that up there, please. It's a good way to have your visit cut short by the Reps or whomever, and leave a lasting impression — though not necessarily a good one. Make a good first impression, and defy their stereotypes of what many of them think we are. If they're looking for freaks, give them Wall St. Board Room. OK, enough about fashion stuff....

For now ... we need y'all to set appointments with your two senators, and your local US Rep for your "photo ops!" and visits. And go ahead and take a camera ... get a few pictures while you're there; and if you have any good ones, forward them to us, and we'll stick them up on the NTAC website. If there's any really good, breaking news, or interesting anecdotes, forward that for press release stuff, as well as photos.

It's very low cost, and anyone can do this. Get back with me and let me know which appointments you set, and for when. We can make it happen folks ... we just need to get together and do it! Let's roll!

Vanessa Edwards Foster
Lobbying Chair, NTAC