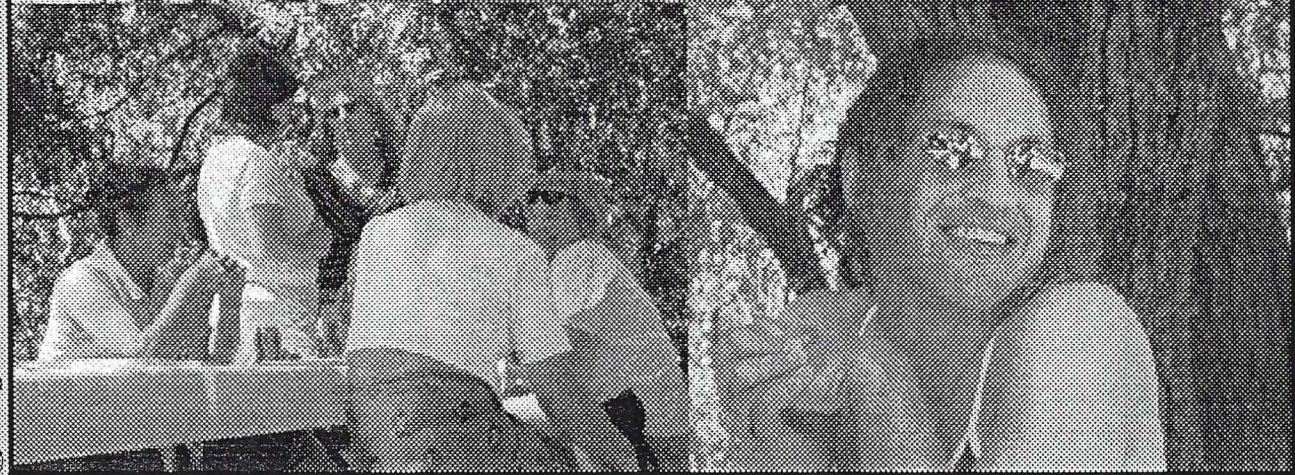
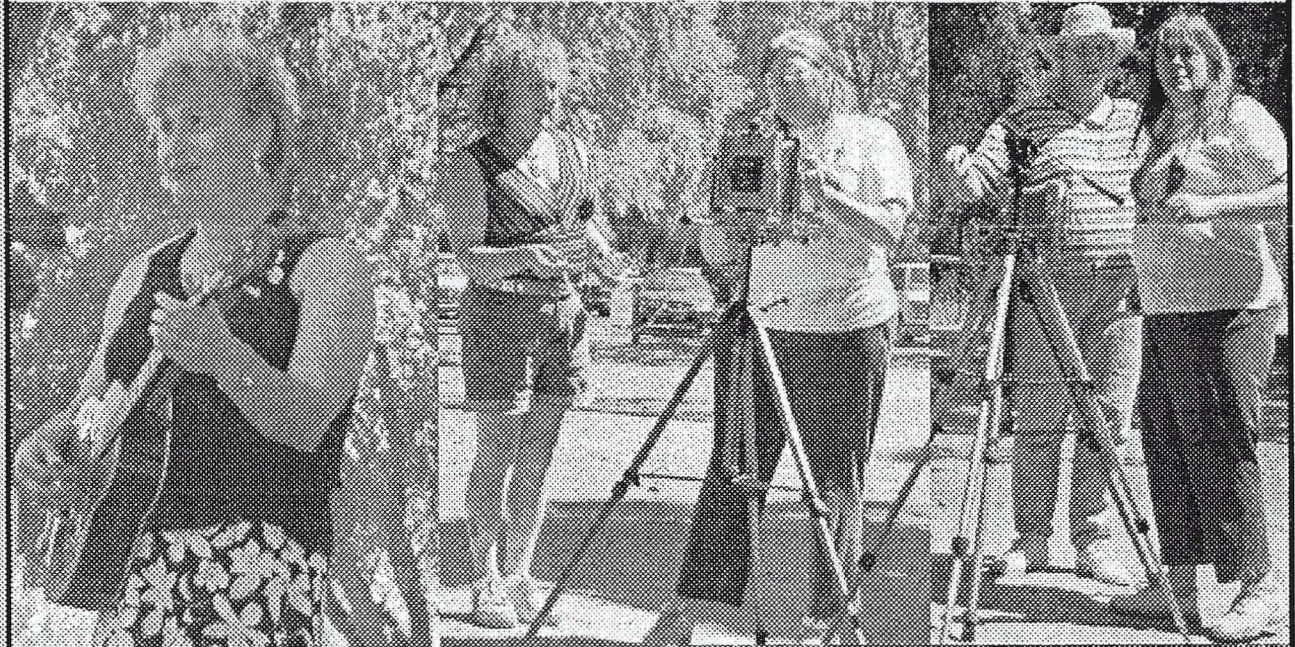
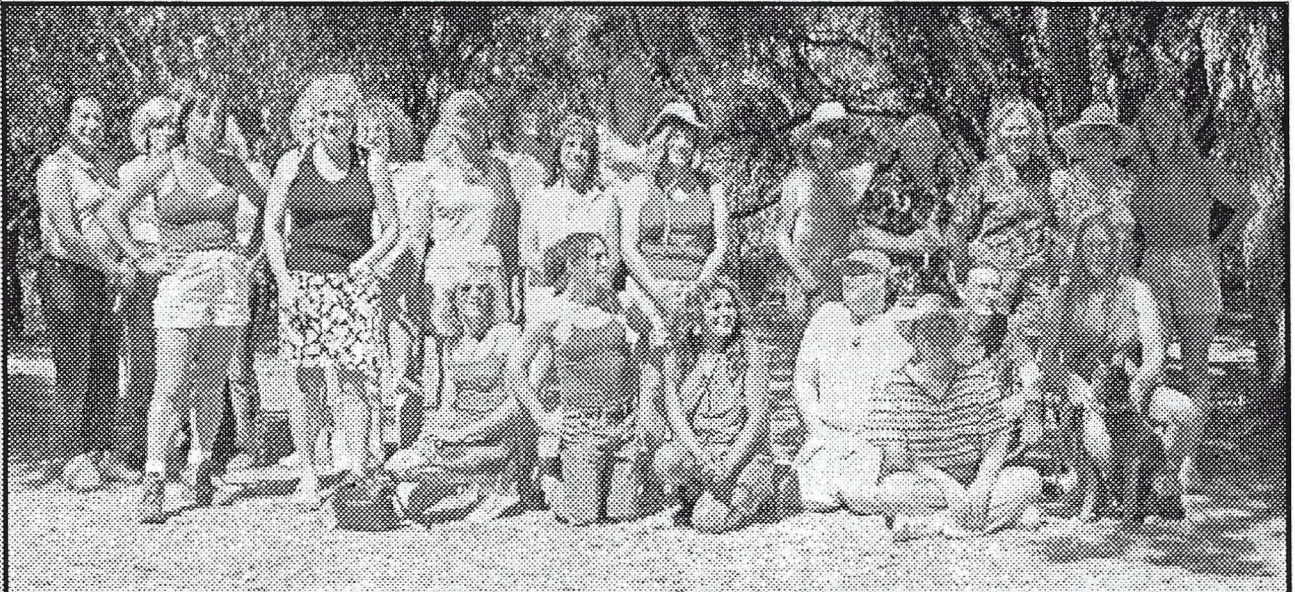


Picnic the Tranny Way!

The Channel
TGSF TransGender San Francisco



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

The Channel

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

ExCom 2003 - 2004 Officers

(Fiscal Year: May 1 - April 30)

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

Fine Print

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

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

Newsletter Staff

Editor Ayme Michelle Kantz
 Advertising Inquiries to TGSF Excom
 Contributing Photographers, this Issue: Jamie Faye Fenton, Susan Laird and Roxy Carmichael-Hart

Ad Rates

	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...



Well my dears, they keep killing us at record rates. Five TS women shot in the nation's Capital within the last twelve months. One of them may have a chance to live (at this writing, she was listed in critical condition), but the other four were blown away. Brutally, as they say. The gruesome pattern continues, as if the perps want to obliterate all traces of us.

Despite our leader's lamentations, the noble attempts at education, and empowering legislation, the violence continues - generated for the most part by the blind rage of a fundamental, time-tested DNA-embedded horror called the hetero male ego.

Two of those DC women were the young teenagers gunned down last year while sitting in their car. Their case is still unsolved. Still, we do get justice from time to time. Two lesbian crackheads in Australia were convicted of killing one of us. The victim's family finally got "closure," whatever that means. Sure, the authorities in this case locked the killers away, but justice? Is that all Sylvia Guerrero has to look forward to? Closure? She just wants her daughter back and another chance. But that's not going to happen, is it.

More names to be read at this year's Day of Remembrance (see event notice on Page 22). More intoning bells to be rung. More tears. More pain. Waves of ignorance pound over us, hypocritical pontifications on morality from the pulpits of patriarch-based religions continue to demonize us, but we're still standing, still growing stronger, becoming more visible...a little more understood. But God the cost is so high.

Despite being the laughingstock of the country with our recall she-nigans, I'm proud to be a native Californian. (Note to Gary Coleman: you must be at least this tall to run for Governor). Marc Leno has come through on his campaign promises for the TG community just like he said he would. The respect I've earned and the latitude I enjoy at work has always been based on merit and attitude, not on my appearance. I've been quite fortunate in that regard. But now I've got the law on my side in case I run across that one pig-headed manager that can't deal with my reality. So major and minor triumphs abound and we still have reasons to hope. We still can find joy, and peace, and sometimes love - not to mention decent housing and meaningful employment.

If you have the time, I highly recommend the rather lengthy, but immeasurably fascinating article on the testing of gender in the sports world, beginning on Page 11. It seems that, despite struggling for decades, sports science is still trying to define what constitutes male or female, and coming up with still more enigmas. And as usual, male privilege continues to exert its insidious influence on all facets of our lives, giving genetic and transgendered women in particular the shaft.

Boot to the Head...

With perseverance, courage and faith in countries like Canada and the Netherlands, and now in states like California, New Mexico, Rhode Island and Minnesota (Pennsylvania not far behind), and with the tenacious activism in cities like San Diego, clearly the floodwaters are now noticeably breaking through the dam of ignorance. Great gouts are gushing where the fingers of ultra-conservatives cannot reach, and the dyke is obviously going to break up. There's no telling when the torrent of reason will be released, but everyone can see it coming. Why do you think they're scrambling around right now, pissing their pants in frantic terror, trying to amend the Constitution?

Defense of marriage...what a crock. The hets have abused their privilege over the years, now blithely marrying and divorcing each other at will, all legally recognized across the country, until the running joke now is that all hetero newlyweds get a kit containing a marriage license, a restraining order and divorce papers. And they won't even let us marry once!

When you read the reasonable article Leonard Pitts wrote, reprinted on Page 21, (and I wish I was clever enough to write something like it myself), you wonder what it's going to take to get through to the imbeciles in power, and the sheep that meekly follow them.

Perhaps a little Cast-Iron Therapy is in order. Remember the cartoon character, Quick Draw McGraw? When all else failed, he used his guitar to whack villains over the head and save the day. But I think a heavy skillet would be much more effective.

Kabong!



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Roxy Carmichael-Hart

As Summer Turns to Fall...

Is it September already? Where did the year go? It seems as if I have barely settled into my job, and half the term is over. And, there is so much more to do.

It has been a memorable summer so far. As you know, I am legally Roxy and by the time you read this, I will have transitioned at work. I'll talk more about that in my "Hart to Heart" columns.

And we have witnessed history, with the enactment of the Transgender Civil Rights law. We can now walk into the workplace, heads held high, as we take our rightful position in society. We can now buy a home or rent an apartment without fear of being rejected simply because of the way we dress. Our humblest thanks must go to Assembly member Mark Leno, for standing up on our behalf. And, regardless of what you think of him, thank you Governor Davis for doing the right thing. I read with dismay that some are thinking of challenging this new law in court. A word of warning to those that would deny us our civil rights – we know who you are, we will fight you and will demonstrate our anger with our pocketbooks. You won't get a dime of our money.

But, as we head into fall, celebration time is here. Lots of fun activities are coming up. On September 13, we have two activities. First, our lovely newsletter editor Ayme and her s/o Sappho will be hosting a barbeque at their home in Walnut Creek. You can read the details inside. Also on that day is Hayward Pride. I am particularly proud of this event, since I work for the City of Hayward, and they have been wholeheartedly supportive of my transition. For baseball fans (like me), Aiyanna Eveningstar is arranging a trip to Momo's and Pac Bell Park on September 12 to watch the National League West-leading San Francisco Giants face the Milwaukee Brewers. The last game I attended was a blast and this one should also be lots of fun. RSVP to Aiyanna (415) [REDACTED]

On Saturday, October 25, it will be Halloween at Carla's, 124 Race Street in San Jose. Our Social co-chairs Aiyanna and the newly appointed Tommie Watson are working on this event. Details will be announced soon, but get your costumes ready!

In December, we will have Christmas at the Tarragon in Sunnyvale, as we did last year. You'll recall how I used this event to demonstrate that the gender community can come together for the benefit of all of us. My lovely big sister Jackie, Vice-President of RGA, is coordinating this effort. As we were last year, TGFSF will be a co-sponsor.

That brings us to the Cotillion on January 24, 2004. Our staff is already working very hard on the planning for this event. We had our first "unofficial" planning meeting at the last ExCom and we will have the next meeting September 3 at the San Mateo Marriott. The Cotillion is starting to take shape. We have lots of the key players already secured and I guarantee you that you will see some familiar faces and some new ones as well. We could also use some contestants for both Mr. and Miss TGFSF. I hope that in the next month we can begin selling tickets and like I said, since we are already marketing heavily, I don't expect there to be many last minutes tickets available.

We have already started to raise money. Kalani and Tyler are working on program ad sales and we have received some commitments. We are also in the process of getting contributions for a silent auction.

I have also started contacting corporate sponsors – focusing on those which have been supportive of my transition and/or have been sponsors of San Francisco Pride. Without belaboring the point, I need to stress that we will need money from outside sources in order to have a successful Cotillion. We can do so without compromising our integrity or our values. Face the facts, we can't keep tapping the same well. It is rapidly drying up. Two of our past supporters – Eddie's Theatrical and the Women's Health Boutique are gone. Other small businesses are hurting. The same tactics that worked in the past won't work in 2003. We must think outside the box. I think that that my transition process has, thus far, demonstrated a growing acceptance of the transgender community. After all, we are consumers, aren't we? We've got money to spend. A company would be totally stupid to not treat us with the same courtesy as any other customer. We can increase the awareness of the community and at the same time; raise badly needed funds by pursuing sponsors and advertisers other than those we have previously sought. I will close this paragraph (which I heavily edited from my handwritten draft), by commending our Vice-President Susan Laird for having the courage to state, in the last newsletter, that those who accused us of "selling out" when we pursued Bank of America sponsorship for the Pride float don't really understand what it takes to make this organization worthwhile and effective for all of us. If you want to be enlightened, attend an ExCom meeting or better yet, run for office.

Speaking of ExCom, we are in great need of support staff. All of our members are working very hard but we need help with the website, getting and opening mail and keeping the database organized and current. If you would like to contribute and help us out, please drop me an e-mail. I would appreciate it.

I didn't get a chance to report on this event last time, but I attended the GAPA Runway 15 event in July. It is their equivalent of our Cotillion but is a pretty wild and crazy event. There was a very large TGFSF presence at the event, including myself, Rachael Janelle, Rachel Hill, Kara Flynn, Roxanne Taylor, Angela Acosta and Kalani. Tyler Fong was one of the judges. Both Rachel and Kalani were recognized during the event and the TGFSF presence was acknowledged. I think it is pretty special when our organization is singled out. I scouted some talent for our Cotillion and found a few possibilities. GAPA has been a strong supporter of TGFSF and I was happy we could reciprocate the support. Personally, it took me several days to recover from seeing Pussycat Walk, Miss GAPA 2003. She still makes my heart race. And thank you Rachael Janelle, for allowing me to be your guest at this event and for treating us all to dinner and for my late dessert/early breakfast at the Grubb Steak.

At the last End of Month, I began a new tradition called "Roxy's Snap Jar". Each month I will recognize one member of the audience who has done something especially nice for TGFSF and will present them with a little gift. The first award went to Sara Roberts, who has helped organize the monthly raffles and developed our giving plan. Snaps for Sara!

A couple of personal notes. I had the opportunity to meet Amanda Brown, author of "Legally Blonde". As you know, one of my heroes is Elle Woods (Jo-An is making a pink suit for me such as the one Elle wears in "Legally Blonde 2"). Amanda is a really sweet lady and noted that I look good in pink. I am also trying to kick start my screenwriting efforts again by attending an Expo in Los Angeles in October. I have submitted a script for their competition. I don't have any great new ideas but if you happen to see a movie by Roxy Carmichael-Hart, you can say you knew her when!!

Until I see you next month,

**SWAK,
Roxy**

August 3, 2003

TGSF ExCom MEETING MINUTES

Present: President Roxy Carmichael-Hart, Vice President Susan Laird, Secretary Anne Louise Mortenson, Education Co-Chair Kara Flynn, Education Co-Chair Kelly Anne March, Social Co-Chair Aiyanna Eveningstar, Social Co-Chair Tommie Watson, Outreach Co-Chair Kalani, Mr. TGSF Tyler Fong. Absent: Treasurer Brooke Jansen, Outreach Co-Chair Marla Selby. At Susan Laird's home on August 3, 2003

Using the Prerogative of President according to the by-laws of TGSF, Roxy appointed Tommie Watson, Social Co-Chair of TGSF. Approval was unanimous by the members present. Roxy declared a quorum. Minutes were approved.

President's Report

Upcoming Events are for Mr./Miss TGSF. Barbecue at Ayme's on September 13th, possibly Hayward Pride parade on the same date, October 11th, Diablo Valley Girls annual dinner. Raffle Items for July End of Month - thank you to Tyler for the Boom Box and everyone who contributed. Christmas Party at Tarragon in Sunnyvale hasn't been scheduled yet - TGSF will participate. Probably will donate \$100.

AB 196 on Transgender rights. has been passed and signed by the Governor. It was suggested that the text of the bill be put in the Channel so everyone understands the meaning of the bill. Not a law until January 1, 2004.

Roxy noted ExCom's approval of expenditure of \$300.00 for expenses for the float to go to Rachel Hill.

Cotillion - Brooke has signed the contract with the Marriott. Roxy put together some staffing ideas. Roxy asked Laura to put together some designs for the Cotillion. We need this done by next meeting so we can start promotion.

Roxy has a projected budget. Many charges were not recorded last year, so all the expenses may not be there. Roxy asked if there are any expenses that we don't have accounted for. More money will be need for decoration. Roxy has projected an \$8000 dollar profit. The idea is to take whatever profit we make and plow it back into the community. We have to provide our own lights and sound equipment. We will need to do some decoration of the stage. Aiyanna has all the parts for a black fabric dressing room - so that doesn't need to be budgeted for. Tyler will pass his crown down. The projected budget was passed on to the Planning Committee.

Planning Committee Meeting - Wednesday, September 3, 2003, 7 o'clock at the San Mateo Marriott.

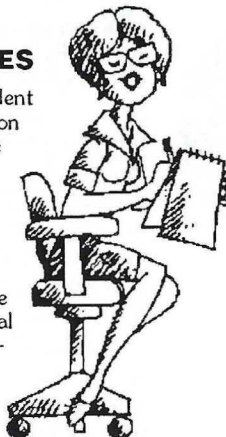
Vice President's Report

We're planning to begin scheduling the Cotillion with the month of August. By the time we get to New Year's, everything else will be done except for the show, we will know who the cast are, we will know who the members are, everybody will know what they're going to do. In January, we start ongoing rehearsals, people get their talent acts up to speed, and all the parts are there. We will just need to put them together. We will have most of the scripting work done at the end of August and part of September. The judging for all the contestants will probably be in the month of October. We need to get the word out to all of the contestants that they will need to apply early this year. We will talk to Jo-an Torres about costuming. We want to get done as much as we can from August till December.

We can get together in planning and have everything cued. We can then do rehearsals where ever we want so that when we come to dress rehearsals things will go smoothly. We want there to be no dull moments. We won't have long drawn out award segments but important awards will be given like the Joanna Caron Award. We want to be able to control the pace. We don't plan to hire talent, so we will need to find talent in the community who will donate their act.

Planning committee needs to form and meet next month. Jamie McConnell will be directing, Susan Laird will be technical producer. Suggestions were given for who people would like for the next MC. People like Lenny. Tyler endorses Lenny because he is strong advocate of the community. Tiffany and Rachel Hill were also brought up. Lenny and Tiffany together might be an excellent combination. Susan suggested that there could be many people doing the announcing to lessen the load on Lenny or whoever is the MC. Tyler is very concerned with getting in contact with all the previous contestants especially the F2M members.

Planning committee will include director, producer and staff. Jamie McConnell will be directing, Susan Laird will be technical producer and Roxy executive producer. Wendy Schultz will help us do catering. Tyler



would like to get program advertising and raffle items. We need a Publicist, possibly Laura Fidler.

Anne Louise went over the printing prices that Kevin Anderson had sent. Aiyanna wants all our vendors to have the Cotillion postcards as early as possible. We need to get a package together of all our printing needs and get a price.

How many seats? 700 chairs could fit in the hall. We might be able to get 600 with tables for judges. Susan suggests no reserved seating. A price of \$60 was suggested by Roxy. We need to announce early in case there is a sell out and people miss the opportunity to buy tickets. We need to set up a way to charge Mastercard and Visa Card on line. This will help to sell tickets. We need to find someone who is knowledgeable about this kind of operation.

Treasurer's Report

Balance of \$4000.

Secretary's Report

There is a question of whether we want to let other non-profit's use the Channel for fundraising. There should be some exceptions, such as for Sylvia Guerrero. We also want to support the event advertising from other community groups such as GAPA. This doubles as an announcement for them in our paper.

Susan gets a lot of newsletters from other groups and they never get looked at. We could scan these in and put them on the Member's page. The problem is if it's downloaded through a 56k modem it's very hard to download. We could exchange pdfs with other groups but they are less organized than we are. Aiyanna suggests we bring them to the End of the Month.

The next Ex-Com profile will be by Tyler Fong. Although he's not an Ex-Com member he is a representative of TGSF.

Education

Chris Daly Event is next in line. It will be scheduled in September at LGBT Center. Tentative date is Saturday, September 20th, 1pm to 3pm.

TGSF library is at the LGBT Center. The info on Carla's ad needs to be changed because it is no longer at Carla's. There is other material at Susan's, duplicate books, video tapes, pamphlets that need to be gone through.

LGBT is getting ready to have work shops. Colleges and places known to have employed transgendered people are going to head a workshop on employment. They are also planning a carwash in September.

Outreach

Kalani is following up with contacts to places that Nichole and Debbie used to go to speak. She is also working on the letter for the fall semester for teachers. Kalani is going to use the tax identification number so it will make it easy to give payment as an honorarium. We are also a member of United Way so people can indicate they wish to contribute to TGSF when they make a contribution.

Social

We collected \$50 from the Dance for the Divas. Aiyanna wants to be sure that we do something different every month so people know that there are places for transgendered people to go to have fun. This mid-month is Jezabel's and we may go somewhere afterwards.

Next Events: EOM August - Nicky Stars may do makeovers, September - Roxy will try to get Mark Leno or someone from his office to come, October - Leather and Lace. The mid-month events: August - Jezabel's, September - Giants game with Milwaukee, Sept 12, BBQ at Ayme's, Sept 13. October - Halloween party at Carla's Oct. 25.

Halloween, we have Carla's. Tommie will be in contact with Carla. We only need to give Carla \$100 for the room and we have to plan for food and entertainment. Ayme will be the person to contact for the BBQ.

New Business

Next meeting - September 7, 2003 at Susan's 4 PM.

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!

ExCom Profile:

TYLER FONG, MR. TGSF 2003

What do college, music, French horn, veterinary medicine, human medicine, the gym, animals and BDSM (bondage, discipline, sadomasochism) have in common? The answer is your Mr. TGSF 2003, Tyler! These are what I'm about each and every day. Each piece has forged a little nook in my life that I call upon to communicate and interact with the folks I encounter at work and play. Diversity sure is the spice of my life!

Coming out as a transgendered male was the best thing in my life and helped me go forward and live a truly "full" life. I cannot fathom what I'd be like or doing if I had NOT come out. I praise technology for all its wonders and what it has allowed me to do with my life. I am thankful that I am an American and have the ability to make choices, pursue the ones I want and to hold off on those I feel are not necessary. I am blessed to have the friends I've made in college as well as those friendships from the LGBT and leather communities.

So what is it about this list that makes me "who" I am? Well, a growing mind is never a thing to waste and it must be fed often. Knowledge truly is power. In it I can have a greater appreciation for the creations of the past and input to the creations of the future. I can converse intelligently to a vast number of people of various levels and get even the most technical of points across to the most basically educated.

Engaging in conversation is an art in itself and my bedside manner has benefited greatly from it as noted by the numerous comments regarding how well I explained an x-ray exam to a patient. Finding that common ground in music concerts or veterinary stories helps to ease a patient's anxiety or to put a smile on a person's face as they wait for the bus or BART to arrive. Coworkers have the opportunity to learn a little about my life outside the office and to share their own experiences.

I utilize my extracurricular activities to express my emotions. Music is powerful, yet quietly thought provoking. It can make me very winded as I try to project my sound to the farthest corners of the concert hall. Regular visits to the gym allow me to blow off steam and vent my frustrations from the day. I can stretch and meditate as thoughts randomly flash before my eyes.

I have several disciplines upon which to forge a new scene or fantasy. This adds variety to my playtime as well as put a little spice into my partner's. I can integrate music, animals and/or plain science. Music sets a mood in the room, role-play can be based on various animals i.e. puppy and the release of endorphins can be described by human physiology as it relates to touch and various types of stimulation. BDSM allows the wild side to come out and play as well as the playful side. I am excited and I want my partner to be just as excited or more. I provide a visual as well as tactile prompt for their participation. Life is grand when you can share it with friends!

I share a bit of me in hopes that you will look further into your self. Start small and build up and outward. Maybe start a diary or just a list of what's going on, where you've been, who you've encountered or a funny joke you just heard. Make your life a happy one that includes friends and folks you can hang out with and just be "you". All those little things in life will add up to something wonderful. Maybe counting the number of smiles in a day could get you started. They are rather contagious, you know! Did you finish a little "project" at home? Well, write it down and keep adding to that list! Did someone give you a compliment? Write it down! Did someone stay on the telephone after you answered and not hang up? Write it down! Did you make it down the steps without tripping? Write it down! Life is good..... Write it down!

Challenge yourself to short term goals, write them down and build up to long term goals. When that "Happy Bug" bites you really hard, submit an article to the Channel and see how far it travels. I'll venture to say probably further than you thought. I'll see you at the Cotillion in 2004 and you can share a little bit with me then, OK!?

Mr. TGSF 2003

FROM THE DESK OF MR. TGSF

By Tyler Fong



As a young child I lived in a house with a back yard and small porch with a sliding glass window. I could see out into the garden we so fondly called "the jungle" as it has almost every inch covered in fruit trees, flowering plants, vines or grass. Sometimes birds would fly into the window with a thud and immediately fly away. One day a bird hit and actually landed on the porch. It must have been quite a blow, as it did not fly right away. A very observant cat noticed the bird and soon had a "treat" to take home. I was deeply saddened by that incident and vowed to "help" the helpless animals of the world when I grew up.

After I graduated from high school, I landed a job cleaning kennels for a local veterinarian. I had the shining recommendation from my first grade teacher. (I would visit her each year on her birthday through my high school years to check in with her about my life and my family) I was still interested in vet med as I pursued a college degree in an animal related field. UC

Davis was the local university that had a veterinary school, so I got my prerequisite coursework out of the way before I transferred to UC Davis. I chose Animal Science (Large animal husbandry - feeding, housing, etc., of animals for their meat, wool, milk, etc.) since I already had experience with small animals. I soon found out what university life was like and how challenging/competitive of a field it was. I enjoyed my academic studies, but had changed my goals from a doctorate to a technical one. I was quite comfortable as a member of the health team. I found myself leaning towards radiography as I could work more independently.

My desire to pursue my music grew strong, as I became frustrated with the management of the vet practice. My patients were wonderful, but finances were tight and I had to move on.

Being a professional student has its moments, but alas, bills started to pile up and I had to find a good source of income. I then applied for the Diagnostic Imaging program offered through Kaiser Permanente to its employees and others. My application was declined on the basis that I lacked "human" x-ray experience. My 10 years in the veterinary field were deemed useless. I then applied and was accepted that spring at City College in San Francisco. I had a temporary job with the Osteoporosis Centers of America for a couple of months, transferred to Radiology at my facility and two months later had a benefited position in the Radiology dept at Kaiser Walnut Creek.

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Wednesday, September 3 / 7:00pm

TGSF COTILLION PLANNING MEETING

Will be held at the host hotel, the San Mateo Marriott. Please volunteer - we need your help!

Sunday / September 7 / 4:00pm

TGSF ExCOM MEETING

The Next ExCom meeting will be held on Sunday August 3 at 4 PM at the home of our Vice President, Susan Laird, at [REDACTED] San Francisco. A busy agenda is planned and volunteers are welcome! Please participate in YOUR organization!

Friday / September 12 / 5:00pm

TGSF: LET'S GO TO THE BALL GAME!

San Francisco Giants vs. Milwaukee Brewers. Meet at Momo's at 760 2nd Street at the corner of King at 5:00pm. Call Aiyanna at (415) [REDACTED] for information and reservations.

Saturday / Sept 13 / 12:00pm till?

TGSF BACK TO SCHOOL BBQ

Pot-Luck BBQ hosted by Ayme Kantz (Editor of The Channel) and her partner, Sappho Calfas, at their beautiful home located at 141 Springside Road in the hills above Walnut Creek. For reservations, food sign-ups and directions email [REDACTED]@aol.com, or call 925-[REDACTED]. Bring your bathing suits (and a towel!), and try out the new hot tub!

Saturday, September 13 / 6pm to 11pm

HAYWARD PRIDE

Northern California's only NIGHT TIME PRIDE CELEBRATION! Join us on Main Street in Hayward, between A & B Streets (two blocks from Hayward BART). Blockparty! Tented Dance Area! Family-zone! Entertainment!

Saturday / September 20

SF DUCAL CORONATION

SF Ramada Plaza Hotel on Market and 8th St, time TBA, price TBA.

Sunday / September 21 / 1:00pm

LEATHERWALK

At Daddy's bar in SF's Castro District. See www.mamasfamily.org for details.

September's Birthdays

9/00	Nikki Lynxx	9/17	Lisa Gray
9/01	Tina Louise Vincent	9/17	Michelle Gordon
9/02	Lauren Olsen	9/19	Barbie Cebrian-Paskel
9/03	Carla Cabana	9/22	Liana Kastina
9/03	Terri Turner	9/22	Sabrina
9/05	Betty Byrne	9/23	Sandy
9/07	Luccia	9/23	Francis Frinak
9/08	Melanie Hildebrand	9/24	Milton Miskel
9/09	Jerry Smessaert	9/24	Juana Smith
9/12	Jennifer Antoinette	9/30	Jennifer Anderson
9/13	Julia Debeque	9/30	Sylvia Hakansson
9/14	Jenny Lou Cotton	9/30	Misty Ford

Many Happy Returns of the Day!

Thursday / September 25 / 7:30pm

TGSF END OF MONTH EVENT

The Blue Muse 409 Gough Street, San Francisco. We hope to have Marc Leno visit us for a chat (or at least someone from his office). For more information contact the hotline or Roxy Carmichael-Hart via email.

Saturday / September 27 / 1:00pm - 3:00pm

TGSF EDUCATION SEMINAR: TG LEGAL ISSUES

Dylan Wade from the Transgender Law Center will be discussing legal issues pertinent to being transgender. He will discuss the legal protection that AB196 will provide in employment and housing. Dylan will also talk about the options — legal, administrative, and otherwise that a person has when experiencing discrimination and/or harassment. He will also be available to discuss the legal aspects associated with transition and beyond.

The LGBT Center is located at 1800 Market Street in SF, in an area with limited parking so public transit is highly recommended. The seminar is free, but a donation of \$3 for members, and \$5 for non-members is suggested. If you have further questions, please contact Kelly at [REDACTED]@hotmail.com or Kara at [REDACTED]@aol.com.

Sunday / September 28 / 11:00am - 6:00pm

FOLSOM STREET FAIR

The Granddaddy of Perversity! On Folsom Street, between 7th and 12th Streets. See www.folsomstreetfair.com for all the details.

Coming in October!

Saturday / October 11 / 6:30pm

DIABLO VALLEY GIRLS (SVG) 2003 FALL DINNER

See notice elsewhere in this issue for more information!

Saturday / October 25 / Time TBA

TGSF ANNUAL HALLOWEEN PARTY

Will be held at Carla's in San Jose.



Skin Enhancements

Miyrna Taiariol
Licensed Esthetician
Certified Massage Therapist

(925) 258-8111
www.skinenhancements.com

One Camino Sobrante, Suite 10 • Orinda, CA 94563

Calendar - September 2003

OTHER BAY AREA GROUPS

Pacific Ctr for Human Growth (PacCtr)

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

Rainbow Gender Association (RGA)

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

Sacramento Gender Association (SGA)

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

Diablo Valley Girls (DVG)

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

DVG Rap Group (RCC)

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

FTM International

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

TGIF

A social group for transgenders. Meets one Saturday each month at a private home in Santa Rosa for a potluck social from 4:00pm until early evening. Space is limited - Reservations Recommended! Call Diane or Anne at 707-539-1111

Silicon Valley Gender Association (SVGA)

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

Santa Cruz Trans (SCT)

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

SCOUT (SCOUT)

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

The Mid-Peninsula Transgender Group (MPTG)

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

Central City Hospitality House (CCHH)

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 5:00 PM CCHH 7:00 PM PISSR General Meeting 8:00 PM DVG LABOR DAY	2 7:00 PM SCT	3 7:30 PM MPTG	4 7:00 PM DVG RCC	5 8:00 PM PacCtr 8:00 PM RGA	6
7 4:00 PM TGFSF: ExCom Meeting	8 5:00 PM CCHH	9	10	11	12 5:00 PM TGFSF: Giants vs Brewers! 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr	13 12:00 PM TGFSF: BBQ @ Ayme's! 6:00 PM Hayward Pride! 8:00 PM FWV 8:00 PM SGA
14	15 5:00 PM CCHH 8:00 PM DVG	16 7:00 PM SCT	17	18 7:00 PM DVG RCC	19 8:00 PM PacCtr 8:00 PM RGA	20
21	22 5:00 PM CCHH	23 7:30 PM SCOUT	24	25 7:30 PM TGFSF: EOM @ Blue Muse	26 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr	27 1:00 PM TGFSF: Education Seminar! 8:00 PM FWV 8:00 PM SGA
28 11:00 AM Folsom Street Fair!	29 5:00 PM CCHH	30				

TGSF MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Please Print / Check all that apply:

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

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

Preferred Name: _____ Birthdate (Month/Day): _____ / _____

Mailing Name: _____

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

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Country: _____

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

*Email: _____ Website URL: _____

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

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

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

Special Events!

Coming in October!

DVG 2003 Fall Dinner

Saturday October 11, 2003

Blake's at Boundary Oak
3800 Valley Vista Road, Walnut Creek.

No Host cocktails at 6:30pm, Dinner is at 7:30pm

Roast Prime Rib of Beef - \$40pp
Pacific Salmon Filet - \$40pp
Pasta Primavera - \$35pp

Appropriate evening dress is required.

Please RSVP to Donna at 925-██████████
or return check to DVG, PO Box 272885,
Concord, CA 94527-2885

September 27th, 2003

TGSF EDUCATION SEMINAR TG Legal Issues

Dylan Wade from the Transgender Law Center will be discussing legal issues pertinent to being transgender, beginning at 1:00pm.

He will discuss the legal protection that AB196 will provide in employment and housing. Dylan will also talk about the options — legal, administrative, and otherwise that a person has when experiencing discrimination and/or harassment. He will also be available to discuss the legal aspects associated with transition and beyond.

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If you have further questions, please contact Kelly at ██████████@hotmail.com or Kara at ██████████@aol.com.

Gender Identity Center of Colorado's

Annual Colorado Gold Rush!



The Colorado Gold Rush is an annual conference held every year in beautiful Denver, Colorado! Come for the excitement and leave with something of value.

All are welcome to attend:

- Cross dressers
- Female to male transsexuals
- Male to female transsexuals
- Family, friends and co-workers
- Our significant others
- Those who want to learn more

Workshops include:

- Voice
- Presentation
- Demeanor
- Dressing
- Job/Family issues
- Various surgeries available

Saturday night is our **Mardi-Gras Gala Ball**, so be sure to bring your best evening gown or tux and let the glamorous person in you out to play!

For more information, call 303-202-6466 or our visit website at <http://www.cologoldrush.org>.

Registration begins **September 1st**.

Date: February 26 - 29, 2004

Red Lion Hotel Denver Central,
4040 Quebec St., Denver 80216
303-321-6666

TGSF HALLOWEEN 2003



Coming to Carla's on **October 25th**
128 Race Street, San Jose, CA 95126
See October Channel for details

PISSR

People In Search of Safe Restrooms

PISSR is committed to establishing gender-neutral bathrooms. We believe that all people, regardless of their gender identification or presentation, have the right to access safe and dignified restroom facilities without fear of harassment, judgment, or violence. General meetings are always the first Monday of the month; 7 pm at 870 Market Street (Flood Building), 4th floor in San Francisco.

Support Your Organization!

TGSF Sustaining Memberships

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Designated Sustaining Membership Giving Levels & Recognition

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Recognition & Benefits:

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

PATRON LEVEL: \$1000

Recognition & Benefits:

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

ANGEL LEVEL: \$500

Recognition & Benefits:

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

CENTURY LEVEL: \$250


Recognition & Benefits:

Recognition in Cotillion Program
Framed Recognition Certificate

MERIT LEVEL: \$100

Recognition & Benefits:

Recognition in Cotillion Program
Recognition Certificate

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Please make your contribution now!

Please indicate your level of giving:

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

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

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

Thank you for your support of TGSF!

Heart To Hart with Roxy

WALKING INTO THE LIGHT – PART 1

The Great Beyond

(I chose this subtitle for a reason. Usually, "The Great Beyond" signifies the afterlife. In this instance, it means the death of the old life and the beginning of the new, which is exciting but unknown.)

July 29, 2003. I stood on the steps of the Superior Court of the State of California, Alameda County, Fremont branch, knowing that I had left behind the mask I had worn for the last 50 years, and knowing that my life would never be the same.

I tossed and turned all night, thinking, wondering. Am I doing the right thing? The red suit or the beige suit or the black and white outfit? What the hell am I doing? I thought of what my idol Elle Woods might tell me. "Roxy" she would have said. "You need to do the right thing. You need to listen to your voice." That gave me some confidence. I was up at 5, had breakfast, put on my makeup and dressed. It took 45 minutes (and kind of worked like a dry run for when I get to do this for work). And then I drove to court.

I arrived about a half hour early, sailed through security and found the courtroom, which was locked. So I checked the court calendar. I was third. I paced and paced, and watched all the other people start to arrive. Finally, at 8:30, the courtroom opened and I took a seat on the end in the front row, holding tightly to my purse and briefcase. The bailiff appeared and announced that the commissioner would be out at 9 and that we were to sit tight. I looked at the clock. Time dragged on slowly as if the Transgender Grinch was trying to prevent the 9:00 hour from coming. But it came. It came just the same.

The Commissioner announced he would read the calendar and proceeded. "Case 1, yadda yadda yadda. Case 2, etcetera, etcetera, etcetera, Case 3 has been reissued". My heart began to race. Had they skipped me? He went through the dissolutions, the orders to show cause, the civil harassments. Nothing. Finally, he shuffled his papers and began to smile as if he were finished. Had they forgotten me? Had I screwed up my paperwork? I began to sweat and felt sick. Horrible thoughts raced through my mind. And then he announced "And now I will hear the name changes." I sighed with relief, but I was still shaking for my moment of truth had arrived.

Case 1 came forward and was soon sent home because more information was needed. Case 2 was dismissed. And suddenly! It was my turn. My name was called and I gathered my purse and briefcase and approached the bench. I was sworn in with a soft "I do" and stood at attention (Aside – the last time I said "I do" had dire consequences.). The Commissioner asked me if I had petitioned the court to change my name to Roxy Carmichael-Hart. "Yes", I replied softly. The Commissioner went on and asked for any objections. There were none (I had horrible thoughts that my brother or ex-wife was going to show up and screw up the entire thing). The Commissioner continued. "The notice of hearing has been properly filed. I will grant the petition and I am signing the decree. If you will wait a few minutes we will bring your paperwork out to you." "Thank you", I replied.

And that was it. Done. Like waiting an hour for a two minute roller coaster ride. I sat down, listened to a dissolution and soon one of the clerks brought me four certified copies of the decree. She wished me good luck and as I walked out of the courtroom, I stared at the decree and, of course, cried. I had done it. I had gained my true identity.

I composed myself, found someone who would be willing to take my picture in front of the courthouse and then went to the Social Security office. I walked inside with a great deal of confidence, stood in line to register and sat down. In a few moments, I heard them call "Roxy?" I approached the window, pulled out my paperwork and ID (all they need is your decree and driver's license) and the clerk began to enter the information. I told her I had filled out the form and she smiled. **(Tip #1 – Be Prepared.)** Then she asked "Just sign the form and you'll be done." I hesitated for a moment, then she looked at me. "Roxy", she said, "You need to sign with your legal name." I smiled and scrawled my name (I need to work on my signature!) She noted that the new name would be in the system within 24 hours. I walked out of the office with a smile and a feeling of triumph. I drove home, stopped to give my landlords a copy of the decree, and called three of my dearest friends – Wendy, Rachael and Tiffany – and gave them the complete play by play. Without the help of these three extraordinary ladies, I would not have had the confidence to go through this. In a bit of irony, I had to clean up and change to go to work, and thus wound up legally cross-dressing at work.

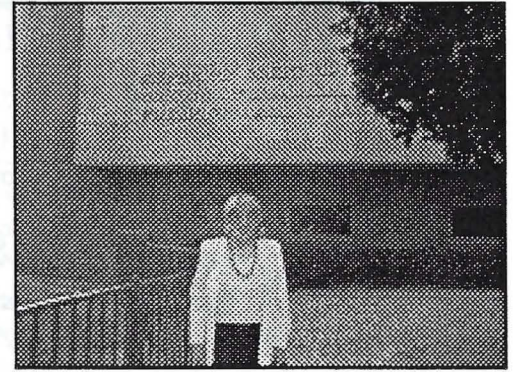
I began to change ID right and left. I made an on-line appointment at DMV. The earliest I could get was for about two and a half weeks out, in Pleasanton **(Tip #2 – courtesy of Tiffany).** **(Tip #3 – make you DMV appointment right after you get your court date and make it for a few days after that date, but more than 24 hours after you go to Social Security, in order to avoid lengthy delays.)** So far, most of the changes have been a snap. PG and E

made the change at 10:00 at night. AAA called me to let me know they made the change and have already sent me my new card. Most places just want some proof of change and that's it. My bank, US Bank, was wonderful. I was treated with a great deal of courtesy and kindness. True to their word, my new checks and check card arrived less than a week after the records have been changed. I have written a few checks but I need to work on my signature! I know that my car documents, like the loan and the insurance will take until I get my new driver's license but that's no big deal.

And that is what I am finding. For the most part, this has been easy – maybe too easy, knock wood. All have been willing to accommodate me as long as I follow their rules. While the only jerks have been the people I have my timeshare with, this has been much smoother than I had imagined. I think I know why. I am still a customer and a consumer. They have nothing to gain by treating me shabbily. Why would they care how I dress? If I am courteous and respectful, they will be as well. **(Tip #4 – keep smiling and don't make waves.)**

I'll close with this note. By the time you read this, I will have presented a paper to the Institute of Transportation Engineers in Seattle. When my name change became official, I e-mailed the organizers to see if I could present under my legal name. They told me I was just in time as the program had not been printed. Several days later I checked the website and the schedule for the session at which I will be presenting. And I saw, representing the City of Hayward, was Roxy Carmichael-Hart!

By next month's issue, I will have transitioned at work. My City has been tremendously supportive and I will report on my first day in part 2 next month.



Roxy Carmichael-Hart on her big day!

Things Change

It is amazing how things can change over the course of just a few months. Some of the events I wrote about in previous columns are not longer true. To wit:

Just last month, in "Expect the Unexpected", I wrote about the acceptance from my brother which I hadn't expected and the rejection from a friend which surprised me. This last week the tables turned. My brother has reverted to his bigoted and judgmental ways (why, I have no idea) and my friend, upon reading a copy of the letter I am sending to my colleagues, told me she understood what I was going through and apologized for being so rash. She wants to meet Roxy in the flesh.

A few months ago, in "Alias", I wrote about my double life and the efforts I took to hide my participation in the End of Month events from my workplace. I no longer do this. For one thing, the wig disaster led to me not wanting to risk this anymore. For another, I got tired of it, and it got to be expensive. And third, I don't need to. I was on vacation during the August End of Month and for September, I will be full time and can go right from work. I've come a long way in a short time.

And several months ago, I wrote about rejection from a dear friend of mine in "Fake Friends". I have since found out that she was under a lot of stress at that time and was going through some difficult personal and emotional times. While this is not resolved, she did explain to me that it was hard for her to deal with me and the other things she was going through. I guess there is an explanation for everything.

So I guess the moral here is. Don't give up. What is true today might not be true tomorrow. Tomorrow is another day.

PS – I saw my namesake in San Francisco when I attended a performance of "Chicago". Roxie rocks!

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello again! Right up against the deadline. It is phenomenal just how quick the month goes by. I want to take some time and talk about my current great obsession. Cotillion, of course. Since last year's Cotillion, I have been asking a lot of questions and I have gotten a lot of answers. It is surprising how varied some of them have been. From all of this, I am supposed to sift out some great nugget or kernel of an idea of what to do for Cotillion 04. I think I have done this. God knows, it is going to be one hell of a show if I have any say in the matter...and I do.

By now, it is common knowledge that we have moved the show to another venue. I firmly believe that this is a good move for several reasons. No debate is going to change the venue now. The theme for this year's show is Come Together and this is an outgrowth from a crying need for several years for a chance for so many of us scattered across the country to re-unite with people we have not seen for so long. I hope to make clear that if a class-reunion chat zone is to your liking, we are rising to the occasion. If an after show party sounds like a good idea, we have that covered, too. And if crawling back to your room on all fours in a drunken stupor is on your agenda, we can provide the crawl-way. In other words, the Cotillion 04 project will provide so much more than previous years.

The show itself is a considerable undertaking. From avant-garde themes, to political satire, to the very heart of the pageant itself, Cotillion 04 WILL be different. Even the actual staging itself has taken a change for the unusual. Many ideas will be implemented to streamline the show without detracting from the quality of the production. We hope to have many new faces and many old friends. We hope to begin something new with Cotillion 04 as well. This event will become the premier West Coast Trans Event. This will be something that all of us work all year long to be there for. If I do my job well, you the audience, and you the participants, will never forget this night.

We will be soon announcing for contestants of course. We will also be searching for individuals whose participation in the show is designed to make you laugh, smile, cheer and worst of all...think. In the meantime, please take a few minutes and ask yourself if you are really prepared...really, really prepared...to Come Together.

**Susan Laird
HBIC Cotillion 04**

File Under Sports And Fitness

THE RISE AND FALL OF GENDER TESTING

by Patricia Nell Warren

In the late '90s, as the Olympic Games finally dropped its long-hated requirement for women's gender testing, the Gay Games stumbled into hot water with its own gender policies. First, the 1998 Amsterdam Games required competitors who had changed their birth gender to the opposite gender to provide medical proof of "completed gender transition." Organizers also decreed that mixed-sex couples (including transgendered persons who couldn't prove "transition" on paper) would not be allowed in the ballroom-dancing event. Then, the 2002 Sydney Games tried a different tack, by dividing competitions into two divisions: "male" or "female." Everybody, including transgendered and intersex athletes, had to choose a category to compete in, based on passport or birth certificate gender.

Writing for Independent Gay Forum, Stephen H. Miller argued: "You'd think this would be a no-brainer. After all, the reason that men compete against men, and women against women, is because the male body is, well, different from the female body, and same-sex competition ensures a level playing field, genderwise." Curiously, this was almost the same language that the International Olympic Committee (IOC) had used to defend its gender testing for nearly four decades. Some GLBT athletes and activists bristled at both Gay Games' rules.

As the Gay Games wrestles with gender policy, the real reason why gender became an issue at the Olympic Games, back in the mid-1900s, is almost forgotten — along with the two Soviet sisters whose "masculine" appearance pushed gender testing into place.

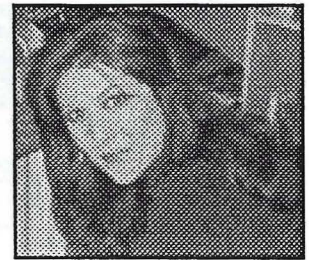
War And Peace

After World War II, as the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics struggled to avoid total war, the two superpowers sought victories away from the battlefield — often achieving their goals by the ruthless use of propaganda. General Eisenhower was still the U.S. president, and Stalin was still the Soviet premier. Which was better, democracy or communism? East or West? Each nation kept its spin-doctors working to prove that it was better, wealthier, more powerful — with nastier weapons and bigger harvests and harder-working, more patriotic citizens. The Soviets extolled their freedom from reli-

Continued on Page 13

Beauty Boost

by Wendy R. Schultz
**Revisiting Laser
Hair Removal**



Last month's column provided information on a range of hair removal methods. This month, we focus mainly on one method, laser hair removal.

How Does Laser Hair Removal Work?

The laser is pulsed for a millisecond and emits a beam of light on to the skin. The light energy then passes harmlessly through the skin, and is absorbed by the pigment in the hair follicle and hair shaft. By absorbing this laser energy, the hair follicles are disabled, impairing their ability to grow.

Are you a candidate?

Laser works best on light skinned patients with dark hair and can be done on any part of the body. Skin color, hair color, and age are all factors in determining the results of treatment.

Prior to Treatment

Before beginning any laser treatment, the part to be treated should not be exposed to prolonged sun exposure. In addition, sunscreen with an SPF 15 or higher should be applied, and it is important to use daily moisturizers and night cream because laser will dry the skin.

What to Expect

While not as painful as electrolysis, the amount of discomfort will be different for each patient. Usually, the upper lip is the most painful because there is very little cushion between the skin and the teeth.

Treatment will cause the skin to redden. During the early stages of treatment, the redness may last a day or so and it is advisable not to use makeup, since the pores have been opened and can become irritated. In later treatments, the redness will be gone by the evening if treatment is done in the morning.

Usually, at least five treatments are advised. After each treatment, some rough skin will begin shedding. This is the new hair pushing the old dead hair out of the follicles. If the old hair has been killed as well, then nothing will grow. Because the effectiveness is not uniform, there may be dark blotches or patches which will diminish as treatments continue.

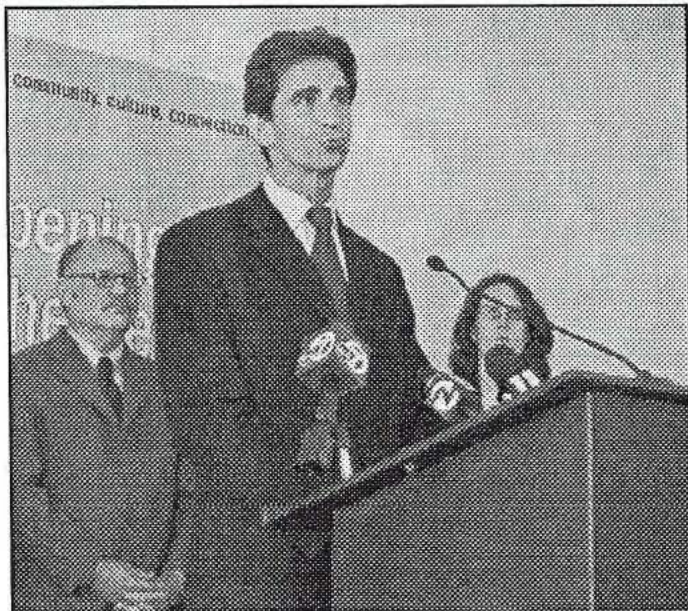
Finding a Clinic

It is advisable to look for a laser clinic that will guarantee their work for two years. The guarantee should include removal of any hair growth during that time, as results will vary from person to person. Beware of clinics that guarantee 100% hair removal or successful treatment with very few visits. If clinics perform less than five visits, this means that they must make the laser more intense to have satisfactory results. This is damaging to the skin, and should be avoided. Since the process is more invasive, it is best to obtain treatment over time. Laser clinics offering package deals by body part are best. The results will be worth it.

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

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

Readers Respond



Marc Leno and supporters at LGBT Center, SF Press Conference announcing signing of AB196

IMPORTANT WEBSITE UPDATE!

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

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MARLA TURNS 50!

By Jamie Faye Fenton



Marla Selby

You can't miss Marla. She is boisterous, blatant, and our Outreach co-char. We hit it off as friends the minute she wandered into the Blue Muse a few years ago. The weekend after our last TGSF social, I made it over to her birthday party at The Wild Side West and entered a musical treasure trove.

The Wild Side West is the Bernal Heights neighborhood lesbian bar. They have a beer garden out back with tables and a couple of gas-grills and that's where the party was.

Marla hired her friend Dave who can play absolutely anything on the piano. Marla has been a union musician since serving both in the Marine and the Army bands, and thought it important to have a real live human play at her party.

It was way more than worth it. Dave is as versatile as he was described to be, and he did not have to play alone. Dee Hensley, who drives taxi with Marla, played trumpet and bass, and Dee's wife Donald, played keyboards and sang. Marla and many of her other friends sat in now and then. It was Jazz in the finest sense from classics to on-the-spot originals. I never stopped dancing.

Marla's party pulled in many of the Wild Side regulars. They know Marla well there, and cherish her for the wild woman that she is. As they say, the whole place was hoppin'.

Joann from TGSF made it out to this one too. We felt like explorers coming upon a secret temple. It is an ancient place, the generative relationship between musicians and dancers, and it is our future too.

Thanks, Marla, for taking me there again. And have a great second half-century!

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.

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gion, while many Americans extolled their belief in God. Naturally, that fierce competition extended into international amateur sport. Each side interpreted the Olympic motto, "citius, altius, fortius," as meaning that its athletes would go "faster, higher, stronger."

Gender testing was a by-product of Cold War propagandism. Based on the discovery of DNA in the early '50s, gene technology came into the sports scene during 40 long years of global jitters, when the world felt it was teetering on the brink of nuclear war. The era also spawned new military technology — the B-52 bomber, the intercontinental ballistic missile, the nuclear submarine, the space race. In the United States, demand for gender testing came out of the same superheated conservative climate that produced the McCarthy hearings, which aimed to root communists and homosexuals out of our society. In many Americans' minds, there was a link between "not being a real American" and "not being a real woman or man."

It wasn't till 1952 that the USSR decided to join in postwar Olympic competition. Still rebuilding out of wartime rubble, the Soviets patched together their first world-class team for the Helsinki Summer Games. Convinced that their athletes must be kept closeted from "decadent Western influences," the USSR — as well as "satellite nations" of the Eastern European communist bloc — drew the Iron Curtain right through the Olympic Village, insisting upon their own separate housing. While many athletes accepted the political rigors of communist life (partly because they believed in communism, partly because sports gave them a life of elitist privilege), some athletes could have been looking at international competition as an opportunity to defect. Communist leaders couldn't risk this — it made them look bad. The KGB (secret police) kept a close watch on their athletes. Over the years, dozens did defect anyway — runners, chess players, figure skaters and others, including our own Martina Navratilova, from Czechoslovakia in 1975.

So fierce was that first clash in Helsinki that more than 100 world records were shattered. The race was on, and both Soviet and U.S. athletes were under agonizing pressure to prove their system's superiority by piling up medals. Right away, the Soviets showed that they had some exceptional female talent, especially in the throwing events. While Americans and Western Europeans dominated the sprints as they usually did, the USSR's Nina Romashkova took gold in the discus, while Galina Zybina won gold in the shot put, setting a world record of 15.28 meters. But the final score on Helsinki gold was United States 40, U.S.S.R 22. Americans rejoiced. Democracy's superiority had been proven — for now, anyway.

At the next Summer Olympics, in Melbourne, the atmosphere was even uglier. Soviet tanks had rolled into satellite Hungary to crush a rebellion against communist rule. The Netherlands, Spain and Switzerland protested by pulling out of the games. Forty percent of the Hungarian team defected to the West rather than go home to territory occupied by Soviet troops. Eager to beat "the reds" again, the United States stayed at the games. This time, the Soviets turned the tables. Final score on golds: USSR 37, United States 32.

Many American athletes and politicians went into shock. Some made excuses. After all, they said, U.S. amateur athletes trained themselves on a shoestring. They couldn't be paid if they wanted to keep their amateur standing. Communism made a mockery of amateurism, they asserted, by bankrolling its athletes — giving them state support and expensive training, making them essentially professionals. Logically, these complaints should have gotten the communists blackballed from Olympic competition. But nobody wanted to push things that far.

In Melbourne, moreover, Soviet women continued their takeover of field events that require sheer strength. How could this be happening? Insisting that the "decadent" West oppressed women, the communist world had liberated women in a way the West still declined to do. Under communism, religion-based law banning divorce, adultery and abortion had vanished. America, where abortion and adultery were still crimes and divorce still difficult, found this shocking. Soviet women were legally equal to men. Many women worked side by side with men in factories, agriculture, medicine, science, government — even the military. Unencumbered by "decadent Western" notions that femininity meant being as beautiful, sexy and soft as a movie star, a Soviet woman could glory in her physical strength, her muscles, her sweat and her manual skills, in a way that many American women were reluctant to do. Most importantly, some Soviet women were "Stakhanovites," the term for superachievers among workers. Like medal-winning athletes, Stakhanovites were held up as heroes of the Soviet Union. The young, female Soviet athletes now showing up at the Olympics had been born into that system. Even though they may secretly have desired more political freedom, their bodies, minds, emotions and spirits had still been formed by that system.

The average American, however, lived in a system where religious beliefs — that "women are weaker," that "women shouldn't do men's work" — still had their own powerful influence. Conservative Americans dismissed Soviet

women as unladylike, ungodly, unglamorous and unappealing. In their view, what the Soviets called "women's freedom" was a sham because it wasn't democratic freedom. U.S. sportswomen were kept painfully on the defensive about proving their femininity. As late as the 1990s, leading American women athletes would still feel compelled to make statements like, "I don't think being an athlete is unfeminine; I think of it as a kind of grace" (Jackie Joyner-Kersey). The word "graceful" became a favorite U.S. buzzword for the feminine stereotype in American sportswomen, from 1930s figure skater Sonja Henie to 1960s runner Wilma Rudolph. The word was even generously applied to the occasional communist female who met American beauty standards! Soviet gold-medal gymnast Olga Korbut, for instance, became a Western celebrity for her amazing "grace."

So, at the dawn of the Cold War, imagine America's dismay when our women athletes started running up against ungraceful communist women who put a fierce Stakhanovite spirit into their efforts. Trackside buzz was loud about how "masculine" some of these Soviet women looked, and what an unfair advantage their muscles gave them. The United States, with its biblical streak, its hard line between masculinity and femininity, was fertile ground for this buzz. Over the years, a few Olympic women with "masculine qualities" had already raised eyebrows. According to SportsJones, one angry fan wrote the IOC to complain about Stella Walsh, a gold-medal sprinter at the 1932 Los Angeles Games. He fumed: "Her deep bass voice, her height and 10-and-a-half-inch shoes surely proclaim her a borderline case, if there ever was one. ... Rules should be made to keep the competitive games for normal feminine girls, and not monstrosities."

Eyebrows were also raised at a few early intersex cases — European athletes who first competed as women, then had reassignment surgery — including two relay runners and one skiing champion. For a long time, rumor also insisted that some countries sent biological men to compete in women's events in disguise. So far, according to SportsJones, "There [had been] been only one documented case. ... In 1936, a German athlete named Hermann Ratjen bound up his genitals and, calling himself 'Dora,' competed in the high jump. He came in fourth, beaten by three actual, uterus-bearing girls." But during the Cold War, the paranoia about men in disguise went into overdrive. Many Americans believed that those super-achieving Soviet women athletes were really males.

The Notorious Sister Act

Enter Tamara Natanovna Press and her sister, Irina. They were Ukrainian Jews born in Kharkov, a region famed for rolling prairies rich in wheat and sugar beets. They and their family were among the few Jews left alive in the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic after the World War II Nazi atrocities. In 1960, the two young women arrived in Rome with 608 other females for the Summer Games. As they marched into the stadium under the red flag, they were the Kremlin's latest Cold War weapons — just as if they were new ballistic missiles being paraded by the Soviet army in Moscow's Red Square. Tamara had already won discus gold and shot put bronze at the 1958 European Championships. She was 23 years old, looking at all the news cameras with a shy expression on her freckled face. Irina was 21.

Despite all the propaganda clank at the games, vast changes loomed across the world. In the United States, Eisenhower conservatism was waning, and a liberal Catholic Democrat named John F. Kennedy was about to be elected president. The '60s would shortly explode into freedom seeking and authority flouting on every front, with students and ethnic minorities rioting in practically every Western country. Racial freedom, sexual freedom, freedom of speech, freedom to experiment with drugs — all were demanded. Behind the Iron Curtain, the Soviet Union's own citizens were beginning to demand more of these same freedoms, and the country was undergoing a powerful "thaw." New premier Nikita Krushchev was doing a balancing act, trying to keep peaceful coexistence with the United States abroad, while trying to keep "the thaw" from going too far at home.

In their way, the Press sisters would be part of the coming changes — human reality arriving to challenge entrenched ideology on both sides. They were big, muscular, plain women, complete with Adam's apples. SportsJones comments: "To say that [they] looked a little butch would be like noticing the World Trade Center looked a little tall." Both had some facial hair. Tamara had thick, muscular thighs like a weight lifter and a powerful torso, with just the barest suggestion of breasts showing through her singlet. As spectators watched the two women go into action, waves of buzz ran through the stands. Instantly the Press sisters were pegged as the latest "monstrosities." Tamara, the older and bigger of the two, provoked the most curiosity and outrage. As she walked onto the field for her first event, she must have felt this scrutiny intensely — along with the enormous responsibility riding on her broad shoulders to prove that her country was better.

According to HickokSports.com, Rome was a triumph for the USSR "The Soviet Union dominated women's track and field, aside from the sprints. Led by sisters Tamara and Irina Press, they won six of the other seven events. ... The 800-meter run, restored to the program for the first time since 1924,

Visible Man

Visible Man

TIPPING THE SCALES OF JUSTICE

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

There has been so much news lately — both good and bad — that it's difficult to know where to start. I'll flip a coin ...

OK, some good news first: California became the fourth state, after Minnesota, Rhode Island and New Mexico, to codify nondiscrimination against trans and gender-variant people in employment and housing when Governor Davis signed Assembly member Mark Leno's bill, AB 196 into law on August 2, 2003.

This may be old news to some readers, as it's had a fair amount of publicity, but I could not let it pass without comment, since the provisions of this bill are ones that I have been closely involved in working to achieve for many years.

The first attempt to add the term "gender identity" to the California Government Code was in 1996, when Senator Marks introduced a bill relating to fair employment and housing; that bill died in committee, November 30, 1996. Assembly member Keeley introduced a bill similar to AB 196 in February 2000, and it also died in the Senate six months later. We came very close to getting yet another bill (AB 1649) through the 2001-2002 legislature, under the sponsorship of Assembly member Jackie Goldberg. Leno's bill finally ran the gauntlet, thanks in no small part to the refinement of the arguments in favor of such legislation over the past decade.

Leno's experience in championing trans-positive legislation as a San Francisco supervisor was, no doubt, also helpful. Thanks, Mark, and thanks to all the other supportive and dedicated legislators who also helped win this victory. Thanks to Governor Davis, too, for taking the positive step of signing AB 196 rather than letting it become law without his signature — or, worse, vetoing it!

Now some of the bad news. Just as I thought might happen, some gung-ho conservative attorney has agreed to take on Linda Kantaras's appeal in the decision that affirmed Michael Kantaras' status as a man last February. The case will be argued at the Second District Court of Appeals in Lakeland, Florida, sometime late this year or early in 2004.

"By allowing someone to subjectively define their sex, the court sets a precedent for similar rulings on race; for example, a Caucasian who thinks he or she is African American, or vice versa," said Mathew Staver, president and general counsel of Liberty Counsel, the "conservative legal watchdog group" that has risen to the challenge.



"This case could really undermine all objectivity within the legal system, and we believe that it has great importance to not only the legal system, but also to marriage and to many other classifications that we recognize as protected statuses, such as national origin or race and many others," said Staver, who is representing Linda Kantaras, according to the Christian News Service (in an article by Lawrence Morahan, published July 24, 2003).

Note the appeal to shore up perceived protections for accepted categories like national origin and race, categories for which conservatives have also, historically, opposed "special rights." Now their tactics have changed to reinforce those protections and those special rights they hold dear.

I expect Liberty Counsel and Staver will focus their effort on establishing a mechanism for determining sex that will affirm their worldview; this will not bode well for gender-variant people who find that changing their sex is the best way for them to manage their lives.

I wonder whether Court TV will continue to monitor this case. I predict it will be highly charged with religious indignation and attempts to invoke moral judgment, and it could even rival the Scopes "monkey trial" of 1925. We are treading on dangerous ground, and the attorneys for Michael Kantaras will be called upon once again to establish evidence and lines of reason that are so clear and immutable that a reasonable court will be able to affirm the validity of Michael's gender identity and the reality of his life and his children's lives.

In a related development, the issue of gay marriage the Vatican's forceful statement against it and the Bush Administration's stated intention to codify marriage as a special right reserved for heterosexual couples — possibly even by an amendment to the U.S. Constitution — means that a showdown is coming on that front as well.

Cases like Kantaras, and other trans-related issues, will have a part to play in these arguments, too, since the conservative Religious Right conflates all these states of "moral depravity." They are terrified since the Texas sodomy laws were struck down and since Canada has legalized gay marriage. Now, they're almost holding their breath waiting for the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court to rule that gay marriage is legal in that state (a ruling could come any day, and go either way). And if the court says marriage is not for straights only, Messrs. Bush and Ashcroft will probably equate this new evil to the threat of terrorism itself.

Blind Justice holds her scales with our trans and queer lives in the balance. We've seen some major victories lately, and I am convinced we will prevail in the long run — but we may have some serious battles in the months and years ahead. We need to shore up our relations with our allies and repair any rifts within our community, so that we can present a clear, united front as we weigh in to fight for a future that is filled with integrity and freedom for all.

IMPORTANT WEBSITE UPDATE!

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

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



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Rise and Fall of Gender Testing...

Continued from Page 11

was won by Soviet Lyudmila Shevtsova in world record time." The two "monstrosities" swept the entire division. Irina placed in the top six in all events, and won the 80-meter hurdles. Tamara Press blasted her way to gold in the shot put and silver in the discus.

Women's throwing events were slowly, reluctantly being accepted into the Olympic program. Because they involved strength and weaponlike items, they'd been viewed for a long time as "unladylike" and "unfeminine." Women's discus was added in 1928, javelin in 1932. In 1948, approval of the shot put was possibly inspired by women's vigorous contributions in World War II, both in the military and civilian sectors. But the shot, as a sport started by British soldiers who threw cannonballs around for fun, demanded greater explosive strength than either the javelin or discus. Therefore, some people still considered it inappropriate for females. The biggest no-no of all — the women's hammer throw — would not be allowed until the Sydney games in 2000.

Adding insult to injury, the Rome Olympics were the first seen on television. Though there was no global satellite coverage yet, Eurovision did offer live broadcasts to its customer countries, while CBS rushed its dailies to New York and aired them from there. TV had a huge impact on Americans' sensibilities about Olympic athletes. Patriotic Americans had to sit on their sofas and watch helplessly as "state-supported atheist unfeminine commies" were beating the panties off "god-fearing American ladies." Especially those two amazons, Tamara and Irina Press. What had the world come to?

Final score on Rome medals: USSR 43, United States 34. Right away, the grumbling and rumors went to orange-alert level. Not only were the Press sisters backed by millions of Soviet rubles, but no "normal" women could perform like they did. They must have had some kind of unfair advantage. There was buzz about drug use. Though the IOC had not yet outlawed doping, some athletes on both sides were already pumping their performance with amphetamines, anabolic steroids and the like. Indeed, many in sports were OK with men bulking up on steroids — after all, when they did, they looked no different than the popular, overly muscled comic book heroes of the day: Superman, Captain Marvel, the Hulk. Allegations had it that communist women, notably the Press sisters, were being forced by their governments to use a lot of steroids. It was not OK for women to look and act like Superman.

But most of the buzz about the Press sisters focused obsessively on their gender. They couldn't possibly be real women. "Real women" were what the most popular American athletes looked like; for instance, the "graceful" Wilma Rudolph, whose three gold medals in track gave Americans one of their few happy moments in Rome. The Presses had to be men in women's clothes. The IOC should demand to look inside the sisters' shorts to see if the right sex organs were there.

Four years later, at the 1964 Games in Tokyo, tensions went even higher. Yes, the United States did recoup on medals, scoring 36 golds, compared to 30 for the USSR. But that awful Tamara Press deprived the States of another win in the shot put, plus a second gold in discus. Her awful sister grabbed the gold in the first women's pentathlon in history. Tamara's fabled strength and grim expression prompted Western male athletes to give her a wide berth. Recently, on a Yahoo sports newsgroup, one correspondent remembered: "A young American shot-putter who had qualified to travel with the U.S. team to Europe and Russia for some international meets wandered into the assigned weight lifting gym one day and started lifting weights. Tamara Press entered the weight room and started lifting weights far, far heavier than the young American was capable of lifting. So he thought it best to get the heck out of the gym and go do some throwing from the ring."

Personal Perspective

During the '60s, I was in my mid-20s, still deep in the closet. I was trying to be a "real American woman" myself, meaning I dutifully wore my favorite shade of lipstick and chic little Chanel suits to the Reader's Digest office where I worked. In 1957, I had married an emigre Ukrainian writer. My close association with refugees from communism, especially Ukrainian writers and artists who survived the Stalinist purges of the 1930s, would move Reader's Digest to put me on some book and article projects about the Cold War. Naturally, I watched the 1960 and 1964 Olympics on grainy black-and-white TV, and became fascinated with the Press sisters. There were hair-raising images of Tamara's volcanic strength, her sweaty face contorting and hair flying as she launched the iron shot like a human catapult. She became the first woman ever to hurl it farther than 18 meters.

Though I was staunchly pro-democracy, my heart went out to the Press sisters. They made me remember my high school days, when I was the hulking tomboy who picked fistfights with other students to try and stop the teasing. I wondered how Tamara, especially, saw herself. In that firestorm of

attention and controversy, with some spectators cheering her wildly and others booing and hissing, how did she keep her focus, her confidence? Was that why she looked so inward and grim on the TV screen?

My emigré friends were fiercely anti-communist, rooting for the U.S. team in front of their TV sets, but they also took great partisan pride in the Press sisters' exploits, initiating their own hot discussions about the Presses. Were they men, or great big lesbyanky? Who cared? Ukrainians and Russians were historic enemies. So every time nasha Tamara ("our Tamara") or nasha Irina won a medal, they were trampling Russians under their track shoes. That was chudovo (beautiful).

By now Tamara and Irina had won five golds, one silver and a fistful of world records. The grumblers went to red alert. It was time to remove "monstrosities" from the scene. Pressures were quietly applied by Western countries, notably the United States. The IOC announced that gender verification would be required of every woman competitor. The test made its first appearance in 1966 at the European Championships. In its first and most primitive form, it was a physical exam. The women had to stand naked before a panel of doctors and submit to having their bodies and genitals fingered. There had to be a real vagina and no penis. Some women felt horribly degraded by the ritual grope, and said so. Their countries complained to the IOC.

In 1968, reacting to this criticism, the IOC hastened to substitute a new, less invasive technique at the Mexico City Summer Games. The buccal smear made it possible to examine a woman's sex chromosomes under a microscope, using cells swabbed from the inside of her mouth. If female gender was "verified" in the form of two X chromosomes, the woman got a certificate that let her compete. If anything different was seen, the ax fell. The IOC allowed her to pretend sudden injury or illness, and go home quietly. But her future in international competition was over — the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF), the Asian Games, the Commonwealth Games and others were adopting the test.

However, the truth about gender definition, and how sports authorities could enforce it, was not so black and white. Gender testers would find themselves confronted with real, living people, not ideology.

X's And Y's

"People come in bewildering sexual varieties," says Brown University professor Anne Fausto-Sterling in a Science World article. Humans are born with 46 chromosomes, in 23 pairs. The two chromosomes that determine the child's gender are the X (female) and Y (male). Most women are XX, while most men are XY. In those days, it was assumed that the mere presence of a Y chromosome absolutely determined male gender. However, new scientific research was showing that, in an estimated few among thousands of births, there can be an amazing range of variations. Some people are born with a single sex chromosome — they are 45X or 45Y. Others are born with a third sex chromosome — 47XXY or 47XYY or 47XXX.

These and other variations were now throwing wrenches into the machinery of Olympic gender testing. The gender testers would find no biological men competing as women. What they did find, often, were women with XXY chromosomes, whose genetic makeup included a factor for testosterone resistance — yet these women had a perfectly "normal" female appearance, with no extra muscle mass that might give unfair advantage. The gender testers had to flunk them, anyway. Testers also encountered strongly built, masculine-looking women, like sprinter Maria Matula, who proved to be a standard XX and passed the test again and again. Plus, they encountered women with intersex genitalia. Some had a bit of Y chromosome attached to an X; others were "normal" XXs whose genital development may have affected by hormonal imbalance or even fetal damage. Facial hair on a woman could be the result of chromosomal variation, or of a simple imbalance between estrogen and testosterone. According to Fausto-Sterling, "Chromosomes, hormones, the internal sex structures, the gonads and the external genitalia all vary more than most people realize."

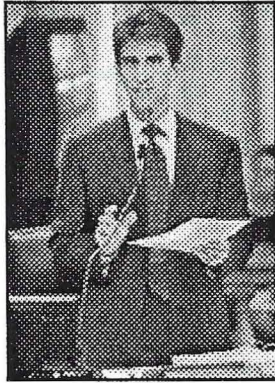
Later, in 1997, Stanford Today would put it another way, saying, "The very science that enables sex testing is demonstrating that simple definitions are no longer biologically sound. ... Try as they might, researchers are having trouble stuffing human biology into two distinct boxes labeled 'male' and 'female.'" But back in 1968, at the Mexico City Olympics, few people were listening to any scientific caveats. After all, the reason for gender testing was political: Win the Cold War any way you can.

Mexico City went down in history as the Olympics where Mexican troops fired on demonstrating students, killing 267 and wounding 1,000. It also went down in history for black runners Tommie Smith and John Carlos, who made the Black Power salute on the victory stand to protest racism in the United States. Women's growing protests of the gender test were drowned out by the blood and thunder of bigger events.

Everybody buzzed about the Press sisters not being on the Soviet team this time. Tamara and Irina had quietly retired from international competition before the 1966 European Championships. The story was that they were

Continued on Page 19

Local 79 News!



Davis Signs Ban On Bias Against Transgenders Leno Bill Makes State 4th In U.S. To Provide Them With Protected Status

Mark Martin, Chronicle Sacramento Bureau

Sacramento — Gov. Gray Davis, quietly jumping into a potentially hot-button gay-rights issue as he struggles to persuade voters to keep him in office, has signed legislation making it illegal for landlords and businesses to discriminate against transgendered people.

Davis' signature means California will become the fourth state in the country to add gender to the list of protected traits such as race and sex in the Fair Housing and Employment Act.

The signing of the measure San Francisco Assemblyman Mark Leno originated comes as recent developments such as the Supreme Court's rejection of sodomy laws has generated a larger discussion about equal rights for gay, lesbian and transgendered people.

The signing also became the latest example of the politics of the Oct. 7 recall election coloring the governor's every move. Davis' critics suggested he had signed Leno's bill to woo gay voters — a crucial voting bloc for the unpopular Democrat — but avoided publicizing the signing to avoid alienating moderate voters. Davis' press office listed the bill with 23 other measures the governor signed in a statement released at 6:00pm Saturday, the same day Davis signed a new state budget.

Still, Leno and others said the governor's approval of AB196 was a noteworthy victory. "This is a significant piece of civil rights legislation," said Leno, who held a news conference in San Francisco Monday to tout the new law. "We have had a segment of our community who up until now had no protection against discrimination."

California Is 4th

California joins Michigan, New Mexico and Rhode Island as the only states to specifically ban discrimination against transgendered people in areas such as housing and employment. Gender is defined as a person's identity, appearance or behavior, regardless of whether that identity is the same as the person's sex at birth.

Employers would still be able to use dress codes as long as workers are allowed to dress as the gender they prefer. The state Department of Fair Employment and Housing could issue fines as high as \$150,000 to employers or landlords who discriminate. The bill was approved by the Legislature entirely along party lines — no Republican voted for it.

Davis' signature was seen by many as part of a political strategy by a governor who needs big help from special-interest groups who have supported him in the past. With Davis running a campaign against the recall at the same time that hundreds of pieces of legislation will be landing on his desk, expect the governor to reach out to liberal interests who will work to get out the anti-recall vote in October, critics said.

'Signing Bills Left And Right'

"He's going to be signing bills left and right to build a coalition to save him," said Phil Paule, political director for Rescue California, the lead group that supports the recall.

Paule noted that Davis had recently announced he would support legislation allowing illegal immigrants to obtain California driver's licenses. It's a bill the governor vetoed last year; that rejection angered Democratic Latino lawmakers, who in turn publicly said they would not back Davis' re-election.

This year, many agree Davis needs all of his allies to show up at the polls and vote against the recall. A Davis spokesman insisted the governor had signed Leno's bill because he thought it was good anti-discrimination legislation. "This is the most gay-friendly governor California has ever had," said Russell Lopez. "Add this to the long list of gay and lesbian issues he has supported."

Lopez denied there were any recall-related discussions about how to inform the public of the new law, saying Davis was extremely busy and didn't have time to do a larger media push touting the signing.

Opponents To Speak Out

That will be challenged today at a Sacramento news conference about the legislation by the anti-gay group Campaign for California Families. "Gray Davis tried to hide his actions by signing this radical sex-change bill under cover of the budget, but he won't get away with it," said the group's executive director, Randy Thomasson.

Gay-rights activists said they were too pleased with the new law to worry about how the governor presented his decision.

And whether gay-rights groups invest time and money in helping save Davis' job may rely on a forthcoming decision. The biggest gay-rights measure this year is AB205, which would give gay partners many of the same rights as married couples. That bill will most likely move through the Legislature later this month and land on Davis' desk.

"That (Davis' signature on AB205) would certainly energize a lot of people," said Geoffrey Kors, executive director of Equality California, the state's largest gay advocacy and lobbying group.

NTAC Press Release Equality for California Transgendered Citizens! Governor Signs Bill Into Law

California Governor Gray Davis presented the gift of freedom to thousands of his fellow Californians on Saturday, August 2nd. In signing AB196, which clarifies the state's Fair Employment and Housing Act by including gender-identity and expression, Governor Davis brings California into a leadership position of a growing human rights struggle. California now becomes the most populous jurisdiction to enact equal rights for transgendered citizens.

The National Transgender Advocacy Coalition (NTAC), who endorsed the bill in this session and in its previous attempts, was "overjoyed" with Gov. Davis' signature. The bill was introduced by Assemblymember Mark Leno (D-San Francisco), sponsored by Equality California (EqCA), and formally supported by more than 50 other local, state and national groups.

Many in the transgender community were pleasantly surprised with news of the Gov. Davis' signature. This was the third attempt for this legislation, and the embattled governor has recently had plenty of partisan salvos to fend off. While the prospects for enactment seemed less optimistic given the political environment, the results were positive.

"I can't even begin to explain the joy and surprise I feel," said an ebullient Gwen Smith, founder of Remembering Our Dead, a website devoted to transgendered victims of murder. "I'm amazed - and pleased - that Gov. Davis chose to sign this bill, even in the midst of mounting attacks from the religious right and from the conservatives behind the recall attempt."

"Transgender people seek nothing more than the opportunity to support ourselves and our families and to be treated with dignity and respect," said Shannon Minter, Legal Director for the California-based National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR). "By enacting AB 196 into law, Californians are sending a powerful message that no person can be denied employment or housing based on gender-related characteristics."

The amended California law describes discrimination based on 'sex' as including discrimination based on 'gender,' which includes a person's "identity, appearance or behavior whether or not that identity, appearance or behavior is different from that traditionally associated with the person's sex at birth." Thus, the law protects effeminate men and masculine-appearing women as well as the transgendered.

"The governor exhibited clarity under pressure," said Vanessa Edwards Foster, chair of NTAC. "We only wish more of our political leaders could show as much leadership. Gov. Davis demonstrated his concern for all of California's citizens - not simply those who think, look like, or contribute to the same causes as he does," Foster commented. "It's far too rare a trait in these politically polarized times."

NTAC applauds the fair-minded California legislators for joining Minnesota, Rhode Island and New Mexico in protecting transgender citizens from discrimination. NTAC believes that all nondiscrimination laws and bias crimes laws should include gender-identity and expression. Discrimination has no place in our nation.

Gwen Smith summed it up simply. "It is a big win for California's transgender community."

Takin' Care of Biz...

STATEMENT OF TGSF ASSETS, LIABILITIES, AND EQUITY as of 24 August 2003

Assets

Cash	\$4,085.32
Event Equipment	
Decorations	\$1,000.00
Food Service	\$200.00
Office Supplies	\$50.00
Total Assets	\$5,335.32

Liabilities and Equity

Accounts Payable	\$3,786.50
Equity	\$1,548.82
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$5,335.32

Statement of Income, August 2003

Revenue

Memberships	\$300.00
Donations	\$0.00
Advertising	\$166.67
Total	\$466.67

Expenses

Cotillion	\$500.00
Newsletter	\$322.60
Operations	\$48.66
Total	\$871.26

Net Income (Loss) (\$404.59)

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Stop the Violence - Stop the Hate!

Two Transgender Murders in Washington D.C. in Less Than One Week; Third Gunshot Victim in Critical Condition

The following is attributable to Matt Foreman, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Executive Director:

"Today, on the eve of the 40th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King's historic march on Washington, we have to confront the reality that in just one week, right here in the nation's capital, two transgender women of color have been murdered, another brutally beaten, and a memorial altar to one of the deceased vandalized. This is beyond sad. It is outrageous. Sadly, however, transgender people are routinely brutalized across this country, and almost all these attacks go unreported and unnoticed.

The only way that anything good can come out of these tragedies is if they are used to rally our community, our allies, and government to respond in positive ways - by helping the police apprehend the at-large perpetrators, by strengthening the District's hate crimes law to explicitly cover transgender persons, to get private and government support for transgender health and human service programs. These things will not happen if we forget this last week and its victims. We must not do that."

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force is home to the Transgender Civil Rights Project, which provides legislative and strategy assistance, including evaluation of legislative language, to activists and organizations working to pass trans-inclusive anti-discrimination bills or to add transgender protections to existing laws.

Lisa Mottet, Task Force Legislative Lawyer for the Project has been actively assisting local transgender activists in the District of Columbia by helping train homeless shelter administrators on how to integrate transgender people into shelters, by pushing for transgender sensitivity training for District workers at the Department of Motor Vehicles and other government agencies, and by advocating for the D.C. anti-discrimination law to be clarified so that the law is clear that transgender people are protected.

Also, in the case of Bella Evangelista, a transgender woman who was murdered on August 16, Washington D.C. media have been referring to her as "he" and as a "transgender male" when she is in actuality a transgender female. The Task Force calls on local media to follow the Associated Press style guidelines when referring to transgender individuals. The AP Style Guide requires that transgender people be identified by pronouns "consistent with the way the individuals live publicly."

Read the Task Force Policy Institute Report, "Transgender Equality," in the Task Force publications library at <http://www.ngltf.org/library>.

Lesbian Couple Convicted In TG Trucker Murder

by 365Gay.com Newscenter Staff

(Adelaide, Australia) A lesbian couple has been sent to prison for the dismemberment murder of a transgendered housemate they had tried to rob. The case came to light when one of the lesbians, Donna Lee Casagrande, walked into a police station in November 2001 and said she wanted to talk about a murder. It was the start of an investigation into one of Australia's most grisly murders.

Casagrande, a onetime prostitute and a crack addict told officers how she and her partner Nicole Therese McGuinness had killed 53 year old Joanne Lillecrapp in the house they all shared. Casagrande said they killed Lillecrapp because she refused to give them access to her bank account so the pair could get money for crack. Lillecrapp, a former wrestler who was still transitioning had been working as a trucker and doing volunteer work for Meals on Wheels.

Casagrande told investigators that McGuinness stabbed Lillecrapp in the chest and the pair dismembered the body, burning the head in an incinerator. Some parts of the body were found buried under a strawberry patch in the backyard. Other body parts were found in a nearby dump. At the end of her statement to police Casagrande said: "All I want is my methadone".

Later, under questioning, McGuinness also admitted her part in the killing. At their sentencing, Casagrande sobbed hysterically as the judge passed sentence. McGuinness received a life sentence and Casagrande 12 years. "The killing was preceded by an attempt to incapacitate the victim, who was rendered defenseless, then detained and wounded and, later, after the unsuccessful attempt to withdraw the money, stabbed to death," said Justice John Perry.

"All of this was precipitated by a failed attempt to obtain a few hundred dollars. "You, Ms McGuinness ... stabbed the victim once through the heart and four times through the stomach, killing him. "Your plea, Ms Casagrande, is

Attacks Come One Year after the Unsolved Murders of Transgender Washingtonians Stephanie Thomas and Ukea Davis

HRC MOURNS MURDERS, ATTACKS ON TRANSGENDER WOMEN

WASHINGTON - The Human Rights Campaign mourns the brutal murders of two transgender women and the brutal attack of another transgender woman this week in the nation's capital. The attacks come one year after the unsolved murders of Stephanie Thomas and Ukea Davis, transgender teens who were brutally gunned down Aug. 12, 2002, in Southeast Washington.

"On behalf of HRC, I would like to extend our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of the transgender individuals lost in these senseless acts of violence," said Elizabeth Birch, HRC's executive director. "No person should live in fear of being attacked just because of who they are. These hate crimes are vicious reminders of the work left to be done in ensuring the safety of every member of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community."

An unnamed male-to-female transsexual was found beaten and shot early this morning in a field in Southeast Washington. The cause of death is unknown at press time. In Northwest Washington, police found another transgender woman shot and in serious condition on Wednesday evening. Police are also investigating the Aug. 16 murder of Elvys "Bella Evangelista" Perez, a popular drag performer, as a hate/bias-motivated crime. Antoine D. Jacobs, 22, was arrested for the killing in Northwest Washington, which police believe occurred after Jacobs paid Perez to have sex and later shot Perez to death upon learning she was biologically male.

According to a news release issued by the Metropolitan Police Department's Gay and Lesbian Liaison Unit (GLLU), police "are working to keep the community informed regarding the recent violence." There is also increased police visibility in areas "known to be frequented by members of the transgender community."

"The district's GLBT liaison unit is to be commended for its quick response to these brutal attacks and its willingness to keep members of the community informed of its progress," added Birch. "As a community, we are fortunate to have the resources of such a responsive unit. However, this also underscores the need for Congress to act quickly to pass comprehensive federal hate crimes legislation."

Currently seven states - California, Hawaii, New Mexico, Minnesota, Missouri, Pennsylvania and Vermont - and the District of Columbia have hate crimes laws that include both sexual orientation and gender identity. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act (S. 966), a measure pending in the Senate, would add real or perceived sexual orientation and gender to the categories currently covered in federal hate crimes law.

For information on hate crimes, visit www.hrc.org/issues/hate_crimes. For information on the Washington attacks and the investigation, visit the GLLU website at: www.gaydc.net/gllu/

The Human Rights Campaign is the largest national lesbian and gay political organization with members throughout the country. It effectively lobbies Congress, provides campaign support and educates the public to ensure that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Americans can be open, honest and safe at home, at work and in the community.

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.

advanced on the footing that you were guilty of unlawful and dangerous acts, and that you did not have an intention to kill," Justice Perry said.

"Even so, you actively participated in the preliminaries to the killing: while present, you did nothing to try to stop Ms. McGuinness from stabbing the victim; and actively participated in attempts to dispose of the body." Lillecrapp's brother Ron said he was happy with the sentences. "We have some closure now and I can sort of go forward now that justice has been done."

taking care of their ailing mother back home. Had the Kremlin kept the two women home because they wouldn't pass the test? No one knew for sure. But champions of femininity gloated — judging by the medals numbers, the mere threat of a test was surely having a deterrent effect. In 1960, Soviet women had won eight golds in track and field; this time, not a single track and field women's gold went behind the Iron Curtain. The shot put was won by a West German, Margitta Gummel. When the competition ended, the gold medal score was U.S. 45, USSR 29. Score one more for democracy. And score a big one for "real women."

Though some still alleged that the Press sisters had been on steroids, this — if true — wouldn't have prevented them from competing in Mexico City. The IOC wouldn't ban steroids, or start testing for them, for another nine years.

The Presses may have vanished from the Olympics, but Tamara got one last laugh. In 1965, at a European meet, she had set one last world shot put record: 18.59 meters. The record stood for three years, until it was broken by another Soviet woman. Tamara's final achievement seemed like a sweaty and powerful middle finger raised in defiance at the West, as she and her sister retreated into proletarian obscurity in their native country. Whatever their physical, genetic or gender realities had been would remain a mystery. Despite athletes' growing opposition to gender testing, the IOC continued to require it. Thirteen women "failed" the test between 1972 and 1984. Was there a clear body of emerging evidence that being "chromosomally unacceptable" conferred any extra power to win medals? No. Yet women's careers were destroyed if they failed the test. Polish sprinter Ewa Klubukowska, who had a "normal" female phenotype but proved to be an XXY, was barred from international competition, stripped of all her past medals and saw her world record scratched off the books. Yet, years later, she was a normal enough woman to have a baby naturally. Spanish hurdler Maria Patino also turned up with an XY. She was so outraged at being exiled from international competition that she carried on a fiery legal campaign against the IOC for three years, until she finally got reinstated. But the rule stayed in place for everybody else.

In the mid-1970s, the buccal/sex-chromatin test was deemed unreliable and replaced by an updated DNA test. Yet testing turned up no cases of men competing as women. Athletes' bodies were more visible to the public anyway — they had junked loose-fitting tracksuits in favor of tight, colorful and aerodynamic spandex outfits. With drug testing now in place, women had to give urine samples under direct observation. So it was laughable to think that a male "ringer" could slip through so many layers of scrutiny. Through the '80s, as sports got more enlightened about women's abilities, women's training improved and strenuous events like the marathon were added to the women's program, it became clear that masculine-type muscle was not necessarily an advantage. Slender, feminine Joan Benoit's winning marathon time in 1984 was faster than any men's winning marathon times before 1956 — a signal achievement, given that women marathoners were still discovering how fast they could run 26.2 miles.

And what of the male Olympians who might be XXY, or XYY? Male XXYs often have a slender, more feminine physique, which might give them an unfair advantage in sports like gymnastics and equestrian events. Some studies suggested that XYY men were more aggressive, which might confer an unfair advantage as well. But men were not gender tested. Any variants were allowed to compete unmolested.

Myron Genel, M.D., was one expert who became convinced that gender testing was a joke. In 1990, he and others accepted an IAAF invitation to a workshop on "femininity verification." Later, Genel wrote in *Medscape Women's Health*, "Our group concluded that laboratory-based sex determination should be discontinued. ... The purported rationale is to detect male imposters who would have an unfair competitive advantage. In point of fact, genuine imposters have not been uncovered; however, gender-verification procedures have resulted in substantial harm to a number of unassailable women athletes born with relatively rare genetic abnormalities that affect development of the gonads or the expression of secondary sexual characteristics."

In 1992, as a result of this study, the IAAF defied the IOC and stopped gender testing. The Commonwealth Games and various sports federations followed suit, as did the American Medical Association, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and other medical bodies. But the testing juggernaut rumbled heedlessly on. At the 1996 Summer Games in Atlanta, a cumbersome DNA screening process for 3,387 women athletes proved to be vastly expensive. Eight women were red-flagged, then further scrutinized and discussed — and, finally, allowed to compete. Finally, in 1999, even the IOC's own athletic commission went to the executive board and

demanding that testing stop. Testing was suspended on a trial basis for the Sydney and Salt Lake City games. But the IOC hasn't abandoned the old ideology. It reserves the right to reapply the much-discredited test in any individual case that is brought to their attention. Meanwhile, on the U.S. political front, gender realities continue to be ignored by many conservatives — as in Texas, where the Fourth Court of Appeals ruled in 1999 that only couples with standard XY and XX chromosomes could be married.

What Happened To Them?

Today, gender controversy still makes headlines, though the arena of controversy has shifted to the GLBT sports world. Here, officials and organizers must repeat the painful Olympic effort to get a handle on gender policy that athletes are willing to accept.

Meanwhile, it's hard to find any current mention of the Press sisters, who prompted the launch of testing so long ago. They're in the record books, of course. Tamara is listed on *Track and Field News'* all-time world rankings for the women's shot put. She holds nine world records in shot put and discus. Olympic historian David Wallechinsky considers Irina the greater of the two for her dominance in a broader range of events and her 16 world records.

But the Press sisters' impact can hardly be measured by the number of medals they won. For that reason, they are evidently the target of lingering bias and vindictiveness — and have become strangely invisible in the media. They may have gotten their due Soviet-hero honors when they returned home with their medals, but outside the USSR, they never made it onto any "great sportswomen" lists that I found. Most of the scanty current material on them dwells on the old controversy. In 1998, David Wallechinsky, publishing his encyclopedia work about the Olympics, felt sure the Presses were men. On that Yahoo sports newsgroup I mentioned, former U.S. athlete Karen Huff recalled seeing the two sisters at several joint United States-U.S.S.R. meets. She said, "When our teams would eat together in the cafeteria at Stanford, Tamara would eat alone. It was sad. Does anyone know what happened to Tamara and Irina?"

As yet, I've found no information on what the Press sisters did with their post-Olympics lives. Whatever it was, they kept a low profile. This is understandable: Any attention to them would inevitably bring all those old painful questions back to their front door. The 1995 *Russian Jewish Encyclopedia*, which documented 8,500 Jews still alive and living in former Soviet territory, lists the Press sisters, along with a few of their family members. Tamara would be 66 today, and Irina 64.

A final word on their careers is offered by *Jews in Sports* online: "Doubts and questions still linger regarding whether the Press sisters had been injected with male hormones by Soviet officials, or as some assert, were actually men. Either way, their records and accomplishments remain on the books. ... Combined, Tamara and Irina set an incredible 23 world records." Yes, the real agenda of gender testing was definitely not to ensure fair play at the Olympics. The gender test outlived the Cold War by only a few years.

In 1991, the USSR was finally overwhelmed from within by political, economic and ethnic problems, and collapsed into an array of struggling independent republics. Communism toppled in the satellite countries as well. Though the Cold War is gone today, some post-Soviet hostility still courses through the Olympic Games, where controversy now centers more on doping and judging. At Salt Lake City in 2002, all that brouhaha around the figure skating gold medal — with the Russians accusing Western judges of anti-Russian bias — owed much to the distant past.

Ironically, gender testing never gave the U.S. the hoped-for advantage in the women's throwing events. Over the years, females from communist countries consistently grabbed the shot put golds. Though these countries are no longer "red," their women continue to medal frequently in the event. At the Sydney Summer Games in 2000, Yanina Korolchik of Belarus won gold in the shot put, with silver going to Russia's Larisa Peleshenko. According to *Track and Field News*, the USSR remains the highest-scoring nation in history in this event.

Do such achievements still happen today because these women have an unfair genetic advantage? Not likely. Do they happen because these women use performance-enhancing drugs? Well, many athletes today, including Americans, use a state-of-the-art array of performance enhancers, despite IOC efforts to stamp out doping. But it's more likely that these women have the final edge because they are still less fettered by "conventional femininity." Indeed, their dominance in the shot put is now a tradition, in the same way that the U.S. traditionally excels in sprints.

Meanwhile, a Cold War ideology of "masculine-looking female bad guys" managed to masquerade as sports science for 32 years. Gender testing could have come straight out of a Tom Clancy novel — if Clancy had ever written about sports.

NYC TO OPEN ALL-GAY HIGH SCHOOL

by Beth Shapiro

365Gay.com Newscenter, New York Bureau

(New York City) The first all-gay high school in the US will open in New York City this fall. The school, named for slain San Francisco supervisor Harvey Milk, will have about 100 students.

New York mayor Michael Bloomberg told a city hall news conference Monday that the high school will be a safe environment for vulnerable teens. "I think everybody feels that it's a good idea because some of the kids who are gays and lesbians have been constantly harassed and beaten in other schools," Bloomberg said.

Harvey Milk High will occupy a now empty school, in the East Village and is undergoing a \$3.2 million renovation. While this is the first time an entire school has been used exclusively for LGBT students, it is not the first program for gay students in New York. In 1984 a program was launched to encourage gay students who were in danger of dropping out because of the effects of homophobia. The handful of students studied in two small classrooms.

Since then the program has grown to about 100 students. The Hetrick-Martin Institute, a gay-rights youth advocacy group that has managed and financed the program since its inception, has hired William Salzman a former Wall Street executive who most recently served as assistant principal at Brooklyn's Automotive High School as principal of the new school.

In an interview with the New York Post, Salzman said that the school will be academically challenging, emphasizing English and math programs but also offer computer technology, arts and culinary arts. The school is not without its critics.

"Is there a different way to teach homosexuals? Is there gay math? This is wrong," State Conservative Party Chairman Mike Long told the Post. "There's no reason these children should be treated separately."

[Editor's Note: Kabong!]

Suit Planned To Prevent Opening Of NYC Gay School

by Beth Shapiro

365Gay.com Newscenter, New York Bureau

(New York City) 80 conservative politicians and Christian groups Thursday announced plans to sue to New York in a bid to prevent the opening of Harvey Milk High School.

The school is designed to provide a safe atmosphere for LGBT students unable to fit in at other schools in New York. Some of the 100 students enrolled at the school have been victims of harassment and had transferred, others had dropped out.

In announcing the school earlier this week, Mayor Michael Bloomberg said it would be a safe environment for vulnerable teens. "I think everybody feels that it's a good idea because some of the kids who are gays and lesbians have been constantly harassed and beaten in other schools," Bloomberg said. (story)

Conservative politicians and religious groups condemned the plan. Public funding should not be used to segregate kids," said state Sen. Ruben Diaz (D-Bronx). Diaz, president of the New York Hispanic Clergy Association, said the association was working with New York State Conservative Party Chairman Mike Long on the lawsuit.

"We cannot go back to the '60s, when schools were segregated," said Rev. Lemuel Rodriguez, president of Promise International Christian Ministry in Corona, Queens and a member of the association. Diaz said the group was not discriminating against gays, but rather wanted to see all of the city's schoolchildren treated equally.

Creating a separate school for gays "will only create more animosity for them" by singling them out, he said. Rodriguez said the group was not acting out of religious concerns. "Homosexuals can do what they want," he said, but quickly added, "if they say they are normal people, then why do they need a private school?"

[Editor's Note: Because they keep abusing us in the public ones! Kabong!]

San Diego City Council Gives Final Approval for Transgender Protection

Amanda Watson

(July 28, 2003) - Today in a historic vote, the San Diego City Council unanimously voted to amend the city's Human Dignity Ordinance (HDO) to protect the civil rights of transgender people.

"We as a community have worked hard to achieve this goal," said Amanda Watson, co-chair of the HDO Amendment Coalition, which formed early this year to press for passage of the measure. "It has been an honor working with such a diverse group. I am proud to be a part of this and to live in a city where I know I have rights too."

The amendment adds "gender identity" to the current language (which protects against discrimination based on sexual orientation). Gender identity is defined as "having or being perceived as having a gender-related identity or expression whether or not stereotypically associated with a person's actual or perceived sex."

San Diego is the first city to use the word "stereotypically" in its language instead of the word "traditionally." San Diego now joins 3 states, 9 counties and 49 other cities in specifically protecting transgender people. San Diego's current HDO, passed in 1990, covers employment, housing, city services, business establishments and educational institutions.

"Many people assume that laws protecting gays and lesbians also protect transgender individuals, but that's not the case," said Jess Durfee, also co-chair of the HDO Amendment Coalition. "There is no direct relationship between one's gender identity or expression and one's sexual orientation. We needed language specifically protecting the civil rights of transgender people."

The HDO Amendment Coalition worked with Lisa Mottet, a legislative lawyer for the Transgender Civil Rights project at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. They asked Mayor Dick Murphy, through the LGBT Advisory Board, to amend the HDO, and Councilmember Toni Atkins submitted the recommendations to the City Attorney.

Members of the HDO Amendment Coalition include: the American Civil Liberties Union, Balboa Park for All, BiForum, BiPol, Bienestar-San Diego, Dawn Media, Imperial Court de San Diego, Inc., LGBT Center of San Diego, LGBT+SQ Communities E-Mail List, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Pride At Work, San Diego Democratic Club, San Diego State University LGBT Student Union, San Diego TransFamily, Inc., The Butterfly Group, Transgender People of San Diego, Inc., and Transpire.

PA Governor Bars Gender Identity Discrimination

Query.com

PHILADELPHIA (AP) - Gov. Ed Rendell has signed an executive order barring state agencies from discriminating against employees based on their gender identity, adding transgendered people to the list of those whose rights are protected.

The order adds "gender identity or expression" to the list that already includes race, religion, age, sexual orientation and other criteria. It will generally affect people who are transgendered - a broad term that refers to cross-dressers, hermaphrodites and transsexuals, or those who have surgically changed their sex.

"The addition of only four words to this short executive order is an important step for the recognition of personal dignity and freedom," Rendell said in a statement. Rendell spokesman Tom Hickey said the governor wants to make sure he honors people's right to personal freedom and how they express themselves. Stephen Glassman, chair of the state's Human Relations Commission, said the change is needed, adding that he is aware of several cases in which people have been fired from state agencies based on their gender identity.

"It's a difficult issue for them because there haven't been protections," Glassman said. Stephen Miskin, a spokesman for Republican House Majority leader Sam Smith, said he wasn't sure of the need for the executive order. Miskin said he hadn't ever heard of any discrimination concerning gender identity in state government.

"We never knew that this was an issue before," Miskin said. "In a sense, it's just out of the blue." Miskin said he hadn't seen the order and would have to talk with Rendell's office more about the reasons for the change. About 87,000 employees work for state agencies, boards and commissions.

GAYS MAY BE HOPE FOR MARRIAGE

Leonard Pitts, Jr.
Miami Herald

So what is it you have against gay marriage? I'm not talking to the guy next to you. He doesn't have a problem with it.

No, I'm talking to you, who is fervently opposed. The number of folks who agree with you is up sharply since June, when the U.S. Supreme Court struck down anti-sodomy laws in Texas. As recently as May, 49 percent of us supported some form of gay marriage; according to The Gallup Organization. The figure has since dropped to just 40 percent. That's a precipitous decline.

So what's the problem? What is it that bothers you about gay people getting married? Don't read me that part in Leviticus where homosexuality is condemned. I mean, that same book of the Gospel mandates the death penalty for sassy kids and fortune tellers, by which standard the Osbourne children and Miss Cleo should have been iced a long time ago.

I read The Book. I believe The Book. But I also know that it's impossible to take literally every passage in The Book, unless you want to wind up in prison or a mental ward. So don't hide behind the Bible.

Let's just be honest here, you and me. Why do you oppose gay marriage, really? It just feels wrong to you, doesn't it? At some visceral level, it just seems to offend something fundamental. Hey, I understand. It's one of the emotional sticking points for us heterosexual types, this primeval "ick" factor where homosexuality is concerned. I won't try to talk you out of it.

I will, though, point out that once upon a time, the same gut-level sense of wrong — and for that matter, the same Bible — was used to keep Jews from swimming in the community pool, women from voting and black people from riding at the front of the bus. All those things once felt as profoundly offensive to some people as gay marriage does to you right now.

The issue has been vaulted to the forefront in the last few days. Political conservatives have been galvanized by it. President Bush says he wants to "codify" marriage as a heterosexual union. And the Vatican has told Catholic legislators that they must oppose laws giving legal standing to gay unions, unions the church describes as "gravely immoral." Which is funny, given the level of sexual morality the church has demonstrated lately.

Anyway, the reasoning seems to be that gay people will damage or cheapen the sanctity of marriage and that this can't be allowed because marriage is the foundation of our society.

I agree that marriage — and I mean legal, not common law — is an institution of vital importance. It stabilizes communities, socializes children, helps create wealth. It is, indeed, our civilization's bedrock. But you know something? That bedrock has been crumbling for years, without homosexual help.

We don't attach so much importance to marriage anymore, do we? These days, we marry less, we marry later, we divorce more. And cohabitation, whether as a prelude to, or a substitute for, marriage, has gone from novelty to norm. We say we shack up because we don't need a piece of paper to tell us we are in love. I've always suspected it was actually because we fear the loss of freedom. Or because we're scared to bet forever.

I'm not trying to beat up cohabitators. A long time ago, I was one. But it strikes me as intriguing, instructive and poignant that gay couples so determinedly seek what so many of us scorn, are so ready to take the risk many of us refuse, find such value in an institution we have essentially declared valueless. There's something oddly inspiring in their struggle to achieve the social sanction whose importance many of us long ago dismissed.

So tell me again why it is you don't want them to have that. I mean, yeah, some people say they are a threat to the sanctity of marriage. But I'm thinking they might just be its salvation.

Attorney

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COMMENTARY ON MARRIAGE

By Phyllis Randolph Frye

It's not about "Adam and Steve." It is about Adam and Eve, and then Joan, then Susan, then Linda, then Wendy, then Doris, and on and on and on — all legally protected for the hets!

I am so tired of these holier-than-thou people on the television ranting about "Adam and Steve." What we need to shove back at them is the legality of Adam and Eve, and then Joan, then Susan, then Linda, then Wendy, then Doris, and on and on and on.

The law allows hets to marry and divorce and remarry as many times as they want. They do not have to have it as a religious ceremony. They do not have to procreate. They can legally cheat both in and out of marriage - whatever they want - it is all legal for hets. Yet, they will not allow us to marry even once.

I remember when I was young, and it was tough to get a divorce. People went to Las Vegas or they made up grounds for divorce. Now it is easy, quick and NO FAULT in all states. With remarriage — not a problem — if you are het!

So if the hets own actions and remarriages do not hurt the institution of the family, how do our wishing to be married at least once hurt the family?

On another note, this Episcopal split, reminds me of the conservative Christians who tore apart the Baptist Church over slavery which they justified in the Bible. Read up on how the Southern Baptist Church came to be in the mid-1800's.

So much conservative hypocrisy.

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Remember Gwen Araujo!



Coming in November! Annual Day of Remembrance

Anti-transgender violence did not end with **Gwen Araujo**. Since last year's Day of Remembrance and as of this writing, there have been 22 reported instances of anti-transgender murder. 14 of those have been in the United States. Because of this continued threat against us, we will meet again for the **Transgender Day of Remembrance**.



Gwen Araujo
February 24, 1985 -
October 3, 2002

San Francisco's observance will be on **Thursday, November 20th, 2003**, with a march on Market Street from Harvey Milk Plaza to the LGBT Community Center. The march will kick off around 6:30 p.m. A large remembrance event featuring music, speakers, and poetry will be held in the Rainbow Room at the LGBT Community Center following the march, at 7:30 p.m.

The Transgender Day of Remembrance was started in 1999 as a response to the growing issue of anti-transgender violence leading to death. Last year, the Transgender Day of Remembrance was observed in 90 locations in 8 countries.

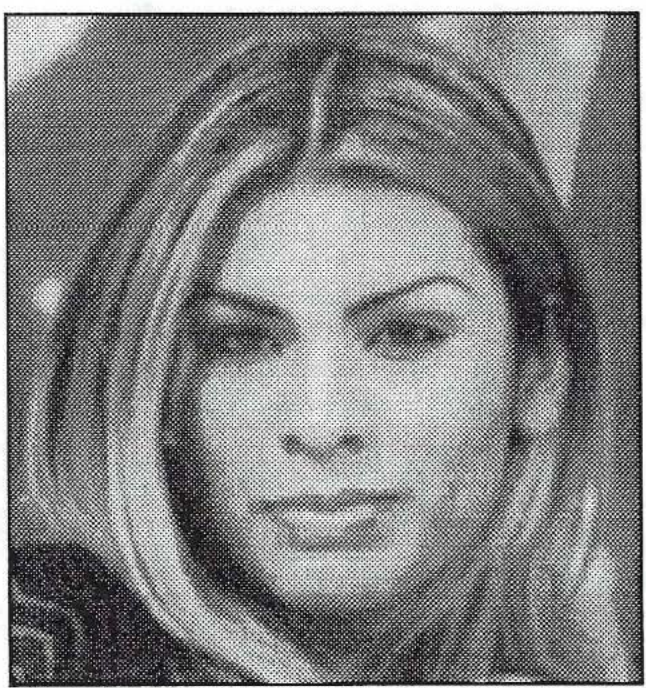
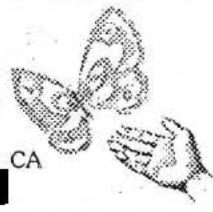
For more information, please see www.rememberingourdead.org.

Gwen Smith

PLEASE HELP SYLVIA!

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

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National G&L Task Force Media Release Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Says 'We Walk With You' at 40th Anniversary of 1963 Civil Rights March on Washington

"...homophobia is hate and hate has no place in the beloved community..."

— Martin Luther King, III, President,
Southern Christian Leadership Conference, August 23, 2003.

Washington D.C., August 23, 2003 - More than fifteen hundred lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people participated in the 40th Anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington and Dr. Martin Luther King's historic "I Have A Dream" speech today, which drew an estimated crowd of 15,000. A "We Walk With You" banner and 100-foot long rainbow pride flag led the LGBT contingent from the northeast corner of the Reflecting Pool to the Bayard Rustin Rally near the Lincoln Memorial.

LGBT issues were addressed in the multi-issue teach-ins conducted on the Mall and at the Task Force/Southerners on New Ground (SONG) Bayard Rustin Memorial Rally held just prior to the Civil Rights Rally in tents next to the Reflecting Pool. Unity with gay people and the entire LGBT community was called for by many speakers from the Lincoln Memorial Rally podium itself, starting with Martin Luther King, III (quoted above) and continuing with many speakers throughout the day. Congressman John Lewis, the last surviving speaker from the original 1963 rally, said, "...gays and straights must pull together for the common good." At least three of the Anniversary Rally speakers (including the Task Force's Matt Foreman and SONG's Mandy Carter) were openly gay or lesbian.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force was involved in this event from the outset, participating in every press conference, major conference call, and - at the March organizers' request - taped radio PSA's for the Anniversary March. The Task Force made a \$10,000 donation to support the March and hired a temporary staffer dedicated to organizing LGBT community participation in the event and also provided a tent for the Bayard Rustin Rally, which was used by other groups throughout the day.

"This is the first time ever that our community has been invited to participate in the March and be represented at the rally," said National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Executive Director Matt Foreman. "I was honored to walk with my African American brothers and sisters in this inclusive 40th anniversary of our nation's historic civil rights March on Washington and I am proud of the LGBT community who came together from across the country to support it."

"As a Black woman and a lesbian, I think it's important to not only emphasize equal civil rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people as a whole, but specifically for LGBT people of color as well," said Mandy Carter, Executive Director of Southerners on New Ground (SONG). "It's unfortunate that Bayard Rustin couldn't bring all of his identities to the table in his fight for civil rights. We are not only proud to be a part of this 40th Anniversary March, but we are extremely proud to be honoring Bayard Rustin for his work from decades ago."

Other events held during the week presented by/participated in by the Task Force and SONG included the "Queering the Color Lines: LGBT Communities of Color and Allies Organizing for Justice" panel on August 21, the ceremony and press conference to unveil the "I Have a Dream" commemorative plaque at the Lincoln Memorial and the free screening at the Kennedy Center of "Brother Outsider - The Life of Bayard Rustin," both held on August 22, and, the LGBT contingent 100-foot pride flag procession to the Bayard Rustin Rally. Both Matt Foreman and Mandy Carter were speakers at the 40th Anniversary Rally held on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial on the afternoon of August 23.

Photos from the LGBT community involvement at the 40th Anniversary Civil Rights March on Washington will be posted on the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Web site soon.

Following are National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Executive Director Matt Foreman's remarks presented on August 23, 2003 at the 40th Anniversary of the Civil Rights March on Washington and Dr. Martin Luther King's historic "I Have a Dream" speech.

"On behalf of an incredibly diverse gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community, I thank you for inviting us to be here today and - in the words of Dr. King - to walk with you on the road to jobs, peace and freedom. It is an extraordinary privilege and honor to stand here.

I'd like to start by lifting up, along with Dr. King, the life and memory of Bayard Rustin - an unsung hero, a dear friend of Dr. King, the prime architect of the 1963 march, and a gay African American man. We also thank and honor Coretta Scott King, who, for years, has spoken out loudly for equal rights for gay people. And, we lift up with gratitude the members of the

Congressional Black Caucus, who have - time and again - voted against legislation seeking to harm our people.

Let's put something on the table right now: there are differences between parts of the beloved community. That's because we are people of conviction. But what we agree on far outweighs our differences. We all agree that all discrimination is wrong, that everyone deserves full equality under the law. We agree that hate violence still stains America. I note with sadness that just one week ago, right here in our nation's capital, Bella Evangelista, a transgender woman, was murdered simply because of who she was. We agree that centuries of legal racial oppression can only be overcome through forceful and affirmative action.

I could go on, but the proof of our solidarity is in what our communities do when they vote. Time and again, exit polls show the Democratic party's most loyal supporters are African Americans and gay, lesbian, and bisexual people.

There is another thing we all agree on: the hard-won progress achieved over the last 40 years in civil rights and economic justice is in mortal danger. But, let's be clear: this administration is in power and the majority in congress is in power and the right wing is in ascendancy NOT because most Americans want what they are inflicting on the nation. No survey anywhere shows that. No, this minority is in power because they know how to set aside their differences, they turn out to vote, and they repeatedly and successfully drive wedges into the heart of America and into our beloved community.

Over and again, we've witnessed their vicious dehumanizing and demonizing tactics, shamelessly exploiting race, immigrants, choice and poor women to name only a few. Through this, they convince us and other Americans that we are the enemy. They fracture us. They win.

And mark my words, they are already geared up to make gay people and our relationships the Willie Hortons of the 2004 election cycle. This time, gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people will be their chosen prey to distract the nation from the mess they've created at home and abroad. To all of this evil, let's collectively say, enough!

Dr. King spoke of the "fierce urgency of now" and said that "we are all tied together in a single garment of destiny...an inescapable network of mutuality." Urgently, then, let us put on the garment we in fact do share, keep it on, and walk together proudly to defeat our common enemies.

TRANSEXUAL JAILED FOR INJECTING SILICONE

Gay.com / PlanetOut.com Network

A Florida transgender woman was sentenced on Wednesday to a five-year prison term for her role in the death of a woman who sought illegal silicone injections at a "pumping party."

According to the Sun-Sentinel newspaper, Donnie Hendrix helped inject industrial silicone into the buttocks of Vera Lawrence, who died shortly afterward. Hendrix was convicted of practicing medicine without a license. Her accomplice, Mark Hawkins, was convicted of third-degree murder and could receive 15 to 20 years in prison.

The fatal incident occurred two years ago, when Hendrix was reportedly known as "Viva," a buxom blonde who served as a stylist for transgender people competing in beauty contests. The case exposed an underground trend in which people gather in apartments or hotel rooms to inject industrial grade silicone into lips, breasts, buttocks and other body parts to make them bigger.

At her sentencing on Wednesday, Hendrix received credit for time served. She told the judge, however, that her 28 months in Broward County Jail have been "horrific." She said she had to have her silicone-enhanced breasts removed because they were injured when an inmate tried to rape her. "I've lived in constant fear from the murderers, rapists and violent inmates I've had to coexist with. I don't think I'll ever feel truly safe again," Hendrix said in court, as reported by the Sun-Sentinel. "I've sat by helplessly as I've watched my body slowly revert back to the state I was years ago — before beginning hormone therapy — because I was refused comparable medication."

Gwen Smith, transgender activist and founder of the Remembering Our Dead project, called Hendrix' prison conditions "cruel and unusual punishment." "While I agree that what Viva Hendrix did is wrong, her sentence does not include prison rape or physical abuse," Smith told the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com Network. "Make no mistake, she will face this in abundance, as have any number of other male-to-female inmates housed with male prisoners. That type of 'punishment' clearly does not fit her crime."

FOR THESE TRANSVESTITES, STILL MORE ROLE CHANGES

By JANE PERLEZ

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SURABAYA, Indonesia, July 18 - For two years, Merlyn Sopjan lived with her boyfriend. Using his name, she became Mrs. Nanang. She was known in the neighborhood as his wife, and tucked his photo into her wallet. She was admired for her feminine looks: with liquid eyes and pancake makeup, she has the allure of a model.

Merlyn, 30, is a transvestite. The women on the block knew, she said, that under her demure clothes and despite her "wiggling" walk, she was physically a man.

"I lived in his house and I was part of the community," she said, showing off a snapshot of herself with Mr. Nanang as they posed as a couple in casual clothes, her arm on his shoulder.

Transvestites go back many centuries here in the world's most populous Muslim country, and their recognition stands in contrast to the relative disapproval of homosexuality, sociologists say.

Now Merlyn and others like her are trying to create roles for themselves beyond their long tolerated positions as television stars, entertainers and beauticians, moving even into the political arena.

Last month Merlyn tried to register as a candidate for mayor in Malang, the town in East Java near here where she is now finishing her civil engineering thesis at the university.

Her application was denied by city officials on the ground that she missed the filing deadline by five minutes. It was not an explicit rejection on the basis of gender, though Merlyn suspects that had something to do with it.

The rejection received sympathetic press coverage, with reporters asking why a "waria" - a combination of "wanita" (woman) and "pria" (man) - should not have the same rights as anyone else. "I want waria to have a role in government," Merlyn said. "That's my mission."

They have before. Public records of transvestites date from a 14th-century ruler, Hayam Wuruk, who is described in court annals as dressing as a woman in front of his ministers and using a woman's name. Later, after the arrival of Islam, men often played the role of women in the village dance dramas of East Java, and they still do.

The first president of independent Indonesia, Sukarno, writes proudly in his memoirs of playing female roles when he was a young man, putting powder on his face and rouge on his lips, and stuffing "two sweet breads" in his blouse.

"With this addition to my shapely figure, everybody said I looked absolutely beautiful," he said. "After the show I pulled the breads out of my blouse and ate them."

Under the autocratic rule of Sukarno's successor, Gen. Suharto, and even more so now, transvestites have won some rights. While they are still sometimes rounded up and held in detention if working as prostitutes, in some cities they court business openly in what amounts to a late-night transvestite parade down the main thoroughfares.

In the major cities of Java, including this one, local governments provide training programs for transvestites who want to run beauty salons and wedding businesses (gowns, decor and makeup, all in a package).

At a training session in Jakarta, the supervisor, 56-year-old Nancy Iskandar - she changed her name from Nandy to Nancy at 21 - encouraged a group of young transvestites who had just been picked up off the street by the police to learn the art of hairdressing.

She had hired a professional, Iwan, 34 and also a transvestite, to primp the hair of the young transvestites like Bella, 23, who sat in front of a mirror, polish on her nails, while Iwan teased her long black hair, coaxed it into a bouffant and coated it with lacquer.

"This is a way for the old waria to help the young waria to be independent, to earn money," Nancy explained.

In many places, self-help groups founded by transvestites stress AIDS prevention. In Malang, where Merlyn heads the local transvestite group, a weekly volleyball game has been held for more than a decade.

"The lifestyle of most waria is to sleep all day," Nancy said. "The sport is to get them out of bed and up in the morning." In the last several years, she has organized the distribution of free condoms at the games.

On Indonesian television, transvestites are regular hosts on comedy shows and appear as characters in a popular puppet show.

In 1977, when sex-change operations were still relatively unusual in the West, government television showed a movie called "I Am Vivian." Based on a true story, it showed how an Indonesian boy who felt more like a girl was finally accepted by his family as a transvestite. In one of the more striking scenes, a doctor advises Vivian to have a sex-change operation. The movie ends with her in a white wedding gown, complete with veil, being carried by the groom to the bridal suite.

These days, sex-change operations are out of vogue, and for reasons of religion, many of the advocates say they do not encourage them.

Here in Surabaya, Irma, 38, a former teacher who left the classroom because she was not allowed to dress as a woman, said that according to her interpretation of the Koran, it was against the tenets of Islam for a person to change sex. "When we die, what will we say to God?" said Irma, who runs a beauty business and leads the local transvestite support group.

In keeping with Indonesia's mostly relaxed practice of Islam, the imams appear to be tolerant, too. "The imams say: 'Follow your heart,'" Nancy said. When she visits the elders of the Islamic Council, Nancy wears a jilbab, the head covering worn by some women here. But when she goes to the mosque, "to pray, I must go as a man."

For Merlyn, the breakup of the eight-year relationship and two years of living with Mr. Nanang came when he decided he needed to marry and have children, she said.

She gets solace, she said, from the fact that the women in the neighborhood still show her respect. And she has moved on to a new boyfriend, a young handsome policeman whom she met when trying to release some transvestites from the police station. His photo is a new addition in her wallet.

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