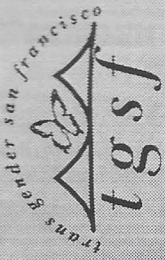
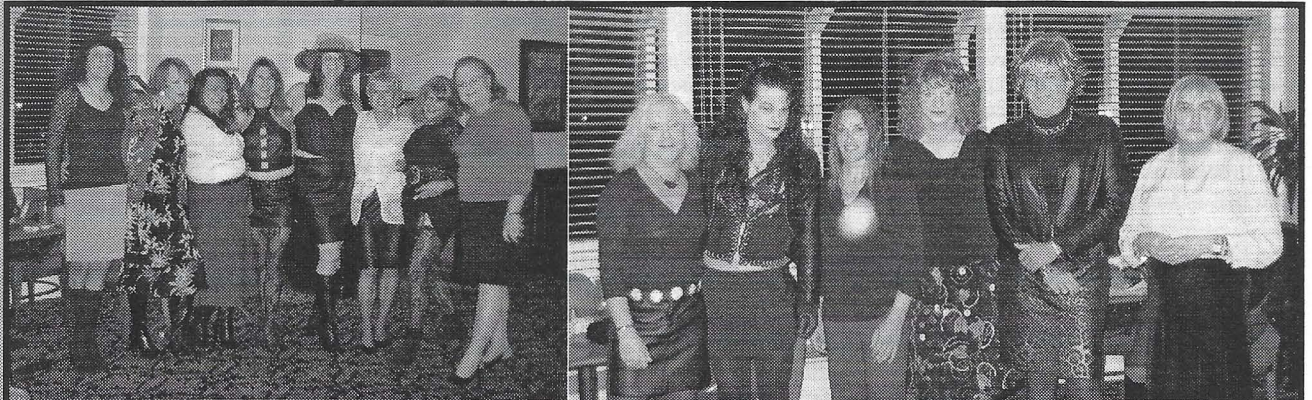


# Spicy Leather 'n Lace!



The Channel



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

# The Channel

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

## ExCom 2005 - 2006 Officers

(Fiscal Year: May 1 - April 30)

President .....	Roxy Carmichael-Hart
Vice President .....	Laura Marlowe
Secretary .....	Lisa Rae Dummer
Treasurer .....	Pamela Gray
Education .....	Dawnne Woodie
.....	Jennifer Anderson
Outreach .....	Allison D. Laureano
.....	Jennifer Siobhan Kennedy
Social .....	Tommie Watson
.....	Katra Briel
Ms. TGSF 2005 .....	Jennifer Siobhan Kennedy

## 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 **MUST** 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.

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Advertising .....	Dawnne Woodie
Contributing Photographers, this Issue: .....	Roxy Carmichael Hart
.....	Jennifer Anderson

## Ad Rates

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

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

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415-564-3246

## THE QUEEN OF PORTLAND

### The Long, Fabulous Reign Of Walter Cole And His Drag Cabaret

**Connie Monaghan**  
Special to The Los Angeles Times

On a hot summer day in 1937, Walter Cole, 7 years old, pulls a little red wagon loaded with a 25-pound block of ice down the two-lane highway through Linnton, a small community on the edge of Portland. He chips at the ice with a rock as he goes, and offers a sliver to his black-and-white mutt, Spot. A nameless pet crow clings to the dog's back as they head home past the barbershop and the feed store. The crow swoops across the street to snatch a grape from the produce display outside the grocery, and the Italian proprietor comes out and yells.



Walter Cole as Darcelle

The highway runs parallel to the Willamette River, visible just to the north, where the town's three lumber mills are busy night and day. Walter's father, Richard, works in a millpond as a boom man. He balances in cleated boots atop the floating logs, guiding them into the mill. Here in Oregon, at the end of the Depression, lumber is big business. For Richard Cole it's a living, about a dollar a day when he can get work.

Walter's hauling the ice home to his mother, Mary, in their two-bedroom company house on Front Street. It isn't much bigger than a cabin. The floors are linoleum. There are chickens in the yard. Most of the houses in town are like this, except for the doctor's and a few others. Mary has a heart problem and stays in bed much of the time.

For entertainment, Walter might run down to the Cherrys' house to listen to "The Lone Ranger" on the radio, or walk three miles, all the way over the soaring St. John's Bridge, with a dime in his pocket for a Saturday movie. But the bridge is so high it gives him nightmares, and the walk is so long. It's a big day, then, when the boy and his mother take the bus nine miles to downtown Portland to see "Gone With the Wind." The part where Scarlett pulls a radish from the dirt and swears, "As God as my witness, I'll never be hungry again" impresses him deeply.

On a warm spring night in 2005, 74-year-old Walter Cole steps into the spotlight in front of 200 people as a garishly gorgeous blond, her hair a fright wig of froth, her red-glitter eyebrows angled toward the mirror balls, her lips heavily lined and gooeey pink. Gallons of rhinestones drip down her bosom, and her Santa Claus-shaped figure is draped in a glittering gown. Onstage, Walter is Darcelle, and this is her club, Darcelle XV Showplace, quite possibly the longest-running drag cabaret in the country, offering six performances a week, every week, for 37 years.

"You know about that guy who took Prozac and Viagra?" Darcelle asks, waving a hand adorned with long red fingernails. "One happy—" The audience roars at the unprintable punch line. Darcelle smiles. The grandfather is in fine form. His mate, Roxy Neuhardt, who's heard the jokes a thousand times—since the very first show—laughs along. A foot shorter and five years younger than Walter, he's bald and compact, and wearing pounds of silver and turquoise jewelry over a gray knit shirt.

With costumes by Walter and choreography by Roxy, a handful of performers and a small staff that includes Walter's son, Walter II, the club has shown generations of patrons a roaring good time. Corny, campy and on "the edge of vulgarity," this "Disneyland for adults," as Roxy describes it, may well be the last of its kind, a testament to the toughness of one old "broad."

Walter Cole not only survived the Great Depression and a rough upbringing, but he went on to thrive: His club is a popular tourist landmark, his alter ego Darcelle is a local celebrity feted by politicians and sought as a hostess for charity events, his relationship with Roxy is long-lived and loving, and his family—two grandchildren, a grown daughter and son, and his wife, whom he never divorced—is closer than many.

On the way to becoming the man who would become Darcelle, the steppingstones were sharp and slippery. Mary died before Walter was 8. Richard, unable to cope with the loss of the wife he adored, essentially abandoned the boy. "When I lost my mother that night I lost him too," Walter says. "He would come home from work and eat some dinner and then leave to go to drink."

Dressed in street clothes—baggy shorts, floppy sandals with white socks, a baseball cap over short gray hair—the large man in the black-framed glasses looks no different than any other senior. Except for the blood-red press-on nails and the massive gold-and-gemstone bling-bling hanging from his neck and wrists. One 18-karat bracelet reads "Darcelle" and another "Walter," both scripted in diamonds.

Continued on Page 15

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Roxy Carmichael-Hart

### Season's Greetings

A very happy holiday to you and yours and we hope that you will be able to join us for some of our activities. More on that in a moment.

Well the applications are in and I am pleased to report that we have four contestants for Miss TGSF and 2 contestants for Mr. TGSF this year (yay!). The Miss TGSF contestants are (alphabetically): **Jennifer Anderson, Katra Briel, Lisa Rae Dummer** and **Tori Ann McCabre**. Our Mr. TGSF contestants are **Shane Caya** and **Brooklynne Michelle**. I have read the bios of all of them and each one of these wonderful people will make a fabulous TGSF representative. I know that I say that every year but that is always how it seems to be. Our contestants will be working very hard over the next couple of months, as will our crack production team, and I am convinced that we are going to put on a real kick-ass show. I hope you will come to lend support and encouragement to your favorites or just come to enjoy what we have in store. We will have some excellent performances and as usual **Lenny Broberg** will be MC'ing, assisted by **Donna Sachet**. I don't want to tell you too much because I don't want to spoil the anticipation. And I will have a few surprises of my own for you which I haven't even discussed with our production team. I am going to go out in style (or in flames as the case may be). But remember that everyone working hard on this show is doing so for you – to give you something to be proud of and something to remember. And do please support all of our contestants because they will be working hard for you. January 20-22 is Cotillion weekend with the show on the 21<sup>st</sup>. See details elsewhere and get your tickets now so you don't miss any of the action. See our website [www.tgsf.org](http://www.tgsf.org) for more information or e-mail me at [roxy.carmichaelhart@tgsf.org](mailto:roxy.carmichaelhart@tgsf.org). See you there.

The TGSF Holiday dinner will be held at the Cathedral Hill Hotel on Thursday, December 15. It will be a time to celebrate with your friends. As usual, we will have a gift exchange. Please bring a small wrapped gift, no more than about \$5 in value to swap with your friends. The real gift is the fact that in spite of everything, we are all able to be together. Anyway, we'll gather for dinner at 7-ish and then take it from there.

TGSF is once again a co-sponsor of the TG Community Holiday Party, December 17 at the Tarragon restaurant in Sunnyvale (140 South Murphy Street). This is always a wonderful event and perhaps will be a chance to meet some of our Mr. or Miss TGSF Contestants. But again, it is a time to get together. Please see the announcement elsewhere in the Channel and a special thanks to Jennifer Anderson and Norri Herras for setting this up, with behind the scenes help from our dearest Jackie whom I miss very much.

Since RGA will be having its annual potluck on Friday December 16 and DVG will be having its Holiday party on December 19, it might be a good idea to skip eating right after Thanksgiving. But I hope you'll support those activities as well.

A couple of quick words about some past activities. The DVG Annual Dinner was a lovely affair as always and I want to thank Donna and Julie Freeman for all of the work they have done for our community. I was pleased by the large turnout and especially the support from TGSF members and ExCom. Our reigning Miss TGSF brought her spouse, Chris and it is always good to see her. She has been an active participant in our events which demonstrates her support for Jenni. They are proof that love and conquer all.

Our Halloween Party was a blast as well with a huge turnout and lots of great food and music and dancing. I want to thank Carla, as always for her assistance in setting this up and Laura and Pammy who did most of the planning. And of course, thanks to all those who attended.

Let's forget it is you who make up this community and it is you who are here to serve.

I'll be back with more Cotillion news next month and until then enjoy USC vs. Texas.



*Rock Chick takes a bite out  
Madame Steele's(r) leash while  
pet Joelle looks on.*

## FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

Lisa Rae Dummer

### Confusions of a Deranged Mind

Sorry Roxy, but I couldn't pass up the paraphrase of your column. Especially right now, when it's kind of hard to think of something to say this month, or at least in five hundred words. I'm kind of at a loss right now, so I'm just going to put together some of those confused thoughts and hope they make a coherent piece at the end.

I can't believe we've made it to the end of another year already. I guess time really does fly when you're having fun. For personal reasons, I hope the first half flies just as fast next year.

By the time you read this, another Day of Remembrance will have come and gone. While justice was obtained for Gwen Araujo, other transgender victims were kicked in the face by the courts, particularly in Fresno. Three years for killing a transgender person, with an additional year for using a knife is not even a slap on the wrist. How many more transmen and transwomen died this year who will never see resolution of their deaths, and how many more will die in the future as a result of bigotry and hatred. My prayer for the future is that, in our lifetime, a day will come when transmen and women are accepted as a normal part of society and not the subject of hatred and violence. Is that too much to hope for?

The holidays are now upon us, and the annual holiday Dinner at the Tarragon will be held on December 17<sup>th</sup>, a Saturday this year. While the dinner has traditionally been held on a Sunday, it was moved to Saturday in the hopes that more of you would be able to attend. Last year was my first year and I thoroughly enjoyed myself, even though the bodice of my dress was so tight, whatever breasts I have were squashed flat. I plan on being there again this year and look forward to seeing all of you there, too.

As usual, the holidays play havoc with our meetings in December. This year, our "End of Month" will be held on December 15<sup>th</sup>, and there will be know mid-month. This is TGSF's traditional holiday gathering and is a wonderful time. I know it's a busy time for all of us, but, since the holidays are meant to share with your family, it's worth taking a few hours out to socialize with your "transfamily". It will also give you a chance to meet the contestants for Mr. and Ms. TGSF.

Although there will be no mid-month in December, there will be an informal get together at the Blue Muse on Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. Come and hang out with your friends while you learn more about wigs. There is more detailed information on both the Blue Muse event and the End of Month elsewhere in the Channel.

Last, but certainly not least, is the biggest holiday event of all, The Cotillion. While it may not be listed on the official list of government holidays, I think to all of us, it means as much as many of the others. This year, the Cotillion will be held on January 21<sup>st</sup>, again at the Cowell Theater. Our host hotel for this year will be the Holiday Inn Golden Gateway. TGSF has negotiated a very nice rate of \$99 per night, and it will make you convenient to all of the other activities planned for that weekend, which will all take place at the Holiday Inn. This includes a cocktail party on Friday, a hospitality suite on Saturday and the brunch on Sunday. This is a convenient and easy way for you to enjoy a wonderful stay in San Francisco while being right there for all the events. More information and a direct link to the hotel are available on the TGSF website.

Well, I'm at the end of my five hundred words and the end of my thoughts at the same time. It's amazing how that worked out. Now, if it all makes sense, I've done it.

See you at the Cotillion!

November 6, 2005

## TGSF ExCom MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 1:15

Attending – Roxy Carmichael-Hart, Dawnne Woodie, Pamela Gray, Laura Marlowe, Allison Laureano, Katra Briel, Jennifer Kennedy, Tommi Watson, Lisa Dummer

Absent – Jennifer Anderson

Guests – Becky

The Minutes of the October 2, 2005 meeting were approved



### President's Report – Roxy Carmichael-Hart

There are four contestants for Ms. TGSF – Jennifer Anderson, Katra Briel, Lisa Dummer, Tori Ann McCabre; and two for Mr. TGSF – Brooklyn Michelle and Shane Caya. There are number of items for the silent auction already, including a 3-day cruise; a one night stay and breakfast for two at the Holiday Inn Golden Gateway followed by Day of Beauty at a spa; a case of wine; three autographed books by transgender authors Lannie Rose, Nicole Cook and Lisa Dummer; a framed Cotillion 2006 poster autographed by all of the contestants for Mr. and Ms. TGSF – 2006; a day at Oasis Spa. There will be two bars set up this year to ease the crowd congestion. Drink tickets will be sold and wristbands will be used to identify those over 21. We need to work on the advertising and ticket sales. It appears that most of the advertisers from last year will advertise again this year. A \$100 donation to the Transgender Holiday Dinner was approved. TGSF co-sponsorship of the Community Event for Transgender Folks, Families and Allies in Oakland on November 11, 2005 was approved.

### Vice President's Report – Laura Marlowe

The website still needs information from the Social, Outreach and Education Committees to post. The email addresses for the ExCom members seem to be working. The Yahoo group will be set up immediately.

### Treasurer's Report – Pamela Gray

There is approximately \$4,600 in the bank and about \$900 to deposit from the Halloween party. There is also a donation of \$117 to be deposited. There is approximately \$8,000 in expenses to come in over the next couple of months for the Cotillion. It is hoped that the bar will be donated, which will save about \$1,500. \$100 was saved on the insurance for the event. There has not been any new advertising revenue for the Channel.

### Secretary's Report – Lisa Dummer

The December profile will be Tommi Watson. The January profile will be Jenni Kennedy as departing Ms. TGSF – 2005. It was decided not to profile any of the contestants for Ms. TGSF – 2006 as it might be unfair to the other contestants. Dawnne Woodie has picked up the mail and will deliver it to Roxy. The Channel will be limited to 20 pages for December and January to save costs. The January cover should be the Cotillion Poster.

### Education – Dawnne Woodie

An education seminar on the new insurance law for transgender persons was suggested. The committee will also be resurrecting the Seeking and Searching – Religion for the Transgender person that was postponed from earlier this year. We have been approached by an HR representative who would like to provide assistance to transgender individuals in resume writing, and interview skills. This will be run in conjunction with the LGBT Center.

### Outreach – Allison Laureano and Jenni Kennedy

The message on the hotline needs to be updated to current events. Jenni will take care of it. The ExCom approved a trial of Universal Number for phone service of three months. It will be less expensive than our current service and will send the messages by email, which makes them easier to deal with. The service will be evaluated in February to see if it is worth keeping. Alli took part in a conference at UC Berkeley that was attended by over 500 people from the major UC campuses. We made a lot of contacts on the Berkeley campus. USF wants to host a seminar on either November 30th or December 5th, whatever day is convenient. It will be in the afternoon. Anyone who is available should contact Alli. Dawnne attended the Academy of Arts Health Fair about three weeks ago. There were between 250 and 300 attendees. She handed out a lot of information about TGSF and transgender persons in general. Alli still needs people for her Speaker's Bureau. Anyone interested should contact Alli. Alli will contact Kara Flynn regarding the TGSF Library and find a place for it.

### Social – Katra Briel and Tommi Watson

The turnout at the Halloween Party was not as large as last year, due to a number of conflicting events. It still came off very well and was very profitable for TGSF. There is no speaker for the November 17th End of Month. It will be a night to come and hang out with your friends over a nice dinner. An event has been planned for December 12th at the Blue Muse where wig care and style will be presented. It was suggested that the Blue Muse might be a good place to hold a piano bar to showcase the talents of our transgender members. The Wedding Party and Bachelor/Bachelorette Auction is tentatively scheduled for February 11, 2006 at Carla's. Anyone acquiring a bachelor or bachelorette with a minimum bid of \$20 will be allowed to marry them. Dawnne Woodie will perform the marriage ceremonies again. It is hoped that all contestants for Mr. and Ms. TGSF 2006 will make themselves available for auction as well as former Mr. and Ms. TGSFs.

### Old Business

The position of Communications Officer for TGSF will be filled by the Senior Outreach co-chair.

### New Business

There was no new business.

**Next meeting** – It will be held at 1:00pm on Sunday, December 4, 2005 at the Cathedral Hill Hotel. All members are welcome to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35

## EAST BAY TRANSGENDER AA

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# Readers Respond

## A VISION FOR OUR FUTURE

By Jennifer Anderson  
ExCom Education Co-Chair

I really love being a part of the LGBT community. Sure, it can be a challenge sometimes not being a part of the mainstream, but being transgendered has brought a depth and richness to my life, as well as a tolerance/acceptance of others that I'm not sure anything else could have. I want to share a little of it with you.

For me it started 5 years ago in a marriage counseling session with my wife. Just a month earlier I had told my wife that if she really searched her soul and couldn't be married to a crossdresser I would find a way to put it behind me (and I sincerely meant it). In that meeting I had to tell her that I had searched my own soul and that I could not betray this deeply rooted aspect of my essential self in exchange for marital harmony. In looking back it was the first time in my life that I had ever taken a stand for myself over being pleasing to someone else.

I've really come in to my own as a person as a result of that and subsequent events. I really like who I am now and how I operate in the world. And, I couldn't have done it without the love and support of my brothers and sisters in this community. Whenever I would reach out my hand in need of support (not an easy thing for me) several hands would reach back without hesitation. And now, I'm proud to say, I am available and willing to do the same for others.

This community has given me some of the greatest experiences of my life. I was on a stage and sang solo in front of over 200 people for the first time in my life. I got to ride on the front of a parade float and be loved and supported by 1000's of folks. I got to appear on T.V. in a beautiful evening gown (without any guilt or shame). And, I have gotten many opportunities to do 1-on-1 outreach with others and provide them with similar opportunities. Most importantly, I've made many great friends along the way. The experiences are great but the relationships are what matter most to me.

It was Gandhi who once said, "Become the change you want to see in the world." I'm trying, and in some small part I hope that I am being successful. There are still way to many times where I witness members of our community who would rather express hate and anger than love and support. There are still way too many times where groups in our community would rather practice the politics of separation "You're either with us or against us" than the politics of community "We must all hang together or we shall most certainly hang separately."

My vision for our community is one where every member realizes and accepts the value of all other members. My vision is one where we realize that we can no longer afford ourselves the luxury of even one angry thought against another of our own. My vision for the future is one where whether you are "L" or "G" or "B" or "T" or anything else in between that there is always plenty to go around for all. One doesn't need to lose in order for the other to win. My vision is that we will celebrate all victories together and rally in support of all setbacks no matter whose they might be. My vision is that the LGBT community comes together in a way that it becomes a model to the rest of the world, the gender limited, on how to be in community.

Thank you for your love. Thank you for your support. Please join me in my vision!

### NEW TRANS ADVISORY HOTLINE OF AMERICA

1-877-427-3230

This will supply anyone in the U.S. with sources of:

- Referrals for Medical
- Gender Therapists
- Transgender groups and organizations
- Peer support

Hopefully, at a future date; we will have forwarding capabilities to someone in the state you reside in; answers to questions to veterans issues, problems; and avenues to help in times of natural disasters on a transgender level.

### GenderQueer, Trans, & Gender Questioning Youth Group

Billy DeFrank LGBT Community Center  
[www.defrank.org](http://www.defrank.org)

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

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

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# TGSF Events in December

**Sunday / December 4 / 1:00pm**

**TGSF ExCOM MEETING**

At the Cathedral Hill Hotel. All members are welcome to attend.

**Wednesday / December 7 / 7:30pm**

**MID PENINSULA SUPPORT GROUP**

Meets from 7:30pm to 9:30pm at the Full Circle Bookstore on El Camino in Belmont. For information, contact Laura Patterson at [REDACTED]

**Monday / December 12 / 7:00pm**

**TGSF SOCIAL**

Come join your sisters at the Blue Muse for dinner and an entertaining presentation on wig styles and care. For more information, contact Katra Briel at [katra.briel@tgsf.org](mailto:katra.briel@tgsf.org)

**Thursday / December 15 / 7:00pm**

**TGSF END OF MONTH**

Our annual Holiday meeting will be held at the Cathedral Hill Hotel, beginning at 7:00. Come and join all your friends for dinner and an evening of music and caroling. A number of our members have offered their talents to play carols on the keyboard. Come and meet your contestants for Mr. and Ms. TGSF - 2006.

**Saturday / December 17 / 7:00pm**

**TRANSGENDER HOLIDAY DINNER**

Come and join DVG, RGA, Carla and TGSF for the annual Holiday dinner at the Tarragon in Sunnyvale. You will have a choice of entrée between prime rib, chicken, salmon or vegetarian. There will be a gift exchange and each guest is requested to bring a gift with a value of between \$5.00 and \$10.00. Please contact Jennifer Anderson at [REDACTED] for information or reservations. Reservations **are** required and should be made at least two weeks in advance.

**Coming in January!**

**Saturday / January 21**

**THE TGSF ANNUAL COTILLION!**

**Hooray For Hollywood!**

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**December's Birthdays**

- 12/01 ..... Charlene Cuffe
- 12/03 ..... Sheila Faulkner
- 12/03 ..... Annemarie St. John
- 12/05 ..... Kay Gould
- 12/10 ..... Nancy Kramer
- 12/14 ..... W. Heinle
- 12/15 ..... Cseneca L. Greenwood
- 12/15 ..... Kelly Anne Marsh
- 12/16 ..... Randi Wrytt
- 12/18 ..... Susie P
- 12/20 ..... Barbara Lokker
- 12/23 ..... Sonya J. Quist
- 12/25 ..... Jeannie Richards
- 12/26 ..... Crys Hyphus
- 12/31 ..... Paloma Blanca

**Happy Birthday To All!**

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# Bay Area Calendar - December 2005

## OTHER BAY AREA GROUPS

Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

### Diablo Valley Girls (DVG)

Meets 1st & 3rd Monday every month. 8pm 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 Thursday of every month, 7pm at Rainbow Community Center, 3024 Willow Pass Road in Concord 925-937-8432.

### FTM International

Support group for Female-to-Male CDs & TSs; Holds open Informational Meetings and closed Support Meetings. Write FTMI, 160 14th Street, SF, CA 94103; 415-553-5987, or email: info@ftmi.org

### I Love It Girl Socials

Every Wednesday night at I Love It Boutique, 45979 Warm Springs Blvd., #7 in Fremont. Call Jo-An at [REDACTED]

### Mid-Peninsula TG Group (MPTG)

TGSF-sponsored support group; 7pm, First Wednesday of each month at Full Circle Books in Belmont, CA. Contact Laura Patterson at [REDACTED]

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

### Santa Cruz Trans (SCT)

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

### SCOUT (SCOUT)

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

### Silicon Valley Gender Association (SVGA)

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

### TGIF

Social group for transgenders. Meets one Saturday each month at a private home in Santa Rosa for a potluck social from 4pm until early evening. Space is limited - Reservations Recommended! Call Diane or Anne at [REDACTED]

### T.R.A.N.S

MTF support group meets every Wednesday afternoon 2pm at 1145 Bush Street in San Francisco.

### TransSpirit Ministry (TSM)

Gathering @ Metropolitan Community Church of SF, 150 Eureka, SF. Second Friday each month. Potluck dinner, social, and discussion time. For information, contact Dawnne Woodie [REDACTED]

### TransVis-HWD

TransVision Social TG Women meets 7pm, 4th Friday every month. Light refreshments and a wonderful atmosphere. Contact Tiffany at (510) 713-6690, ext. 9.

					1 7:00 PM DVG RCC	2 8:00 PM PacCtr 8:00 PM RGA	3
4 1:00 PM TGSF: ExCom Meeting	5 7:00 PM PISSR General Meeting 8:00 PM DVG	6 7:00 PM SCT	7 2:00 PM T.R.A.N.S 7:00 PM I Love It Social 7:30 PM MPTG	8	9 7:00 PM SVGA 7:00 PM TSM 8:00 PM PacCtr	10 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA	
11	12 7:00 PM TGSF Social!	13	14 2:00 PM T.R.A.N.S 7:00 PM I Love It Social	15 7:00 PM TGSF EOM TG Legal Clinic	16 8:00 PM PacCtr 8:00 PM RGA	17 7:00 PM TG Holiday Dinner	
18	19 8:00 PM DVG	20 7:00 PM SCT	21 2:00 PM T.R.A.N.S 7:00 PM I Love It Social	22	23 7:00 PM SVGA 7:00 PM TransVis-HWD 8:00 PM PacCtr	24 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA	
25 Merry Christmas!	26	27 7:30 PM SCOUT	28 2:00 PM T.R.A.N.S 7:00 PM I Love It Social	29	30 8:00 PM PacCtr	31 And A Happy New Year!	

## TGSF MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership is billed annually upon enrollment: \$40 Single / \$45 Family

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

Please Print / Check all that apply:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Support Your Organization!

## TGSF Sustaining Memberships

### FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

#### Designated Sustaining Membership Giving Levels & Recognition

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

###### Recognition & Benefits:

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

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

###### Recognition & Benefits:

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

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

###### Recognition & Benefits:

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

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

###### Recognition & Benefits:

Recognition in Cotillion Program  
Framed Recognition Certificate

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

###### Recognition & Benefits:

Recognition in Cotillion Program  
Recognition Certificate

 *Clip & Mail Today!*

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

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

Please indicate your level of giving:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# Takin' Care of Biz...

## TGSF FINANCIAL REPORT

As of October 15, 2005

### Assets

Cash .....	4212.59
Decorations .....	1000.00
Beverages .....	200.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>5412.59</b>

### Liabilities and Equity

<b>Total .....</b>	<b>0.00</b>
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## Statement of Income and Expenses

### Income

Memberships .....	200.00
Donations .....	177.00
Cotillion Tickets .....	110.00
Picnic .....	250.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>737.00</b>

### Expenses

Channel .....	333.80
Phone .....	49.71
Picnic .....	127.14
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>510.65</b>

**Net Income .....** **226.35**

## TGSF DONATIONS

*Our Friends Who Give  
as of November 15, 2005*

**Roxy Carmichael-Hart  
(United Way) .....** **\$117.00**

**Roxy Carmichael-Hart  
(room for Interview Brunch) .....** **\$100.00**

**Ayme Kantz .....** **\$10.00**

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

## CONTACT TGSF!

### 2005-06 Executive Committee

#### President

Roxy Carmichael-Hart .... roxy.carmichaelhart@tgsf.org

#### Vice President

Laura Marlowe .....

#### Secretary

Lisa Rae Dummer .....

#### Treasurer

Pamela Gray .....

Or .....

#### Education

Dawnne Woodie .....

Jennifer Anderson..... jennifer.anderson@tgsf.org

#### Outreach

Allison D Laureano .....

Jennifer Siobhan Kennedy .....

#### Social

Tommie Watson .....

Katra Briel..... katra.briel@sbcglobal.net

### Other Email Addresses

#### Editor, The Channel

Ayme Kantz .....

#### Ms. TGSF 2005

Jennifer Siobhan Kennedy .....

#### TGSF.Org Webmistress

Laura Marlowe .....

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

*Submissions can be made online directly.  
Cancelling mistakes or for other problems,  
please contact the Webmistress.*

## 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.

# WAVE ELECTROLOGY

## Permanent Hair Removal



*On-Site Physician Administered Local  
Anesthetic • Safe Clinical Environment • Two  
Electrologists Working Simultaneously Help  
Maximize Use of Local Anesthetic  
By Appointment Only Please*

Thu-Minh Ngo & Guy E. Campo  
2100 Curtner Ave., Ste. A  
San Jose, CA 95124

**(408) 371-9053**  
Email: office@waveelectrology.com  
Web: www.WaveElectrology.com

# DVG Fall Dinner is Fine for All!



# Special Events and Announcements!



## RGA, TGSF, Carla's & DVG

Invite You to Join Your Tranz Families



For a

## Community Holiday Dinner

### When

Saturday, December 17, 2005 at 7:00 P.M.

### Where

Tarragon

140 South Murphy Avenue in Sunnyvale, CA 94086

### Dinner

Dinner includes a salad, entrée, dessert and coffee

Entrée choices are Prime Rib, Chicken, Salmon or Vegetarian

Complimentary glass of wine

\$40.00 per person

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

### Gift Exchange

Each guest is requested to contribute a gift-wrapped present

Suggested price range: \$5.00 - \$10.00

### Prizes

Two tickets to the January 21, 2006 Cotillion courtesy of TGSF

Gift certificates courtesy of Carla's and Dahl Faces

### Reservations Required

Please contact Nori at [BLAiZE369@aol.com](mailto:BLAiZE369@aol.com) or 408-644-3840, or Jennifer at [jennifer.anderson@tgsf.org](mailto:jennifer.anderson@tgsf.org) at least two weeks prior.

Please indicate how many guests will be attending, and their dinner choices. Pre-payment preferred, but cash or check payment accepted at the dinner. Cancellations accepted up to December 5. Full payment requested thereafter



## Mid-Peninsula Support Group

WEDNESDAY, December 7, 2005

### Full Circle Books

1538 El Camino Real, Belmont, CA 94002

(650) 508-9546

7:30 - 9:30 P.M.

All welcome regardless of race, age, gender, gender identification. \$1 donation will be requested but no one will be turned away.

For more details please contact Laura Patterson at

[Laura@laurasoft.com](mailto:Laura@laurasoft.com)

Please note: This is a support group. The views expressed in this group are reflective of the attendees and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the ExCom and members of TGSF.

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

## UPCOMING RGA EVENTS

**First Friday in December**, RGA is hosting it's first annual No Rules Chile Cookoff! Fire up your crockpots, or bring your appetite and be a judge! .50/taster bowl, or \$1.00 for a regular bowl. There will be trophies and bragging rights for the top three chili cooks. Who's going against me? I make a great chili! See you there at 8pm!

At RGA's annual Christmas pot luck, there will be some fantastic raffle prizes. If you're a BBQ or meat lover there will be a basket with gourmet selections from around the world up for raffle! Details coming soon!

Blessings folks, hope to see you soon at RGA.

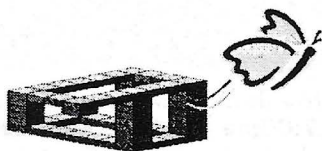
**Sydney**

[ftmsrul@hotmail.com](mailto:ftmsrul@hotmail.com)

## Significant Other Support East Bay

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

## legal questions about gender?



**Kimberly Carver** • ATTORNEY AT LAW

Name Change	Consultations
Legal Change of Gender	Court Filings
Identity Documents	Discrimination
Birth Certificate	Workplace Issues

TRANSGENDER LAW CENTER BOARD • HARVARD LAW GRAD

(415) 285-1209 • [kimberlycarver9@gmail.com](mailto:kimberlycarver9@gmail.com)

New weekly FTM social group will replace the "Transitioned Men's" group

## FTM GET-TOGETHER AND SUNDAY BRUNCH

Every Sunday @ 1pm • The Crepevine 216 Church St., San Francisco, CA 94114 • Castro †Cross street: 15th & Market St. • (415) 431-4646. For further directions call Marty @ [redacted]

## LANDMARK TRANSGENDER EQUALITY EDUCATION CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED



Queery.com

'The more Americans know and understand each other, the more united we are as a nation,' said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese.

WASHINGTON — The Human Rights Campaign launched the first-ever advertising and landmark education campaign on transgender issues today with an ad in *Roll Call*, the leading publication for congressional news, and a new handbook designed to educate Americans about transgender equality. Produced in partnership with the National Center for Transgender Equality, the ad in Thursday's *Roll Call* is first in a series focusing on the stories of hard-working Americans who have been discriminated against in the workplace because of who they are.

"The more Americans know and understand each other, the more united we are as a nation," said HRC President Joe Solmonese. "Our new education campaign underscores that employees, many of whom provide vital national security positions, are being denied the opportunity to do their jobs purely because of who they are. Most Americans want a federal law to end discrimination. But no law exists. We're working on Capitol Hill and across the country to build support for that law, a law we unequivocally support."

"These moving ads put this issue in front of Congress in a big way," said Mara Keisling, executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equality. "Coupled with the education that many of us have been doing for years, these ads will go a long way toward building the support we need to pass a transgender-inclusive non-discrimination law. This isn't the beginning and it won't be the end, but it's a big chapter toward getting this done."

HRC's new publication Transgender Americans: A Handbook for Understanding will be distributed to every member of Congress this week. The handbook addresses many of the challenges facing transgender Americans without legal protections, including employment discrimination, health care issues, identity document obstacles and school issues, and was produced in collaboration with supporting partners NCTE and the Transgender Law & Policy Institute.

"I'm so proud to be a part of this campaign," said Diane Schroer, a 25-year Army Special Forces officer who was offered but then denied a counter-terrorism job when she told her future employers she was transgender. Schroer's story is featured in the Nov. 3 *Roll Call* ad. "I had the same skills in counter-terrorism the day they denied me the job that I did the day they offered it. When it comes to keeping Americans safe, discrimination can't be a part of the equation."

A new area of HRC's website features the ads, the handbook and more information. NCTE also released a new publication entitled "Make Your Voice Heard: A Transgender Guide to Educating Congress." This publication is available for free download.

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

Visit HRC at [www.hrc.org](http://www.hrc.org)

TRANSGENDER SAN FRANCISCO PRESENTS

*Hooray for* **HOLLYWOOD!**

JANUARY 21, 2006

**COTILLION 2006**  
*At the Cowell Theater*  
Fort Mason Center  
San Francisco, CA

**Lucy Ann Jones Software**  
PC Consulting  
Voice Coaching

500 Poplar Avenue, #101  
Millbrae, CA 94030-1855  
Voice: 650-697-2314  
E-mail: [Lucyannjones@aol.com](mailto:Lucyannjones@aol.com)  
Cell Phone: 650-302-3737

*PS - I'm looking for a roommate*

**TRANSVISION SOCIAL — HAYWARD**

TransVision Social Transgender Women will meet at **7:00pm on the fourth Friday of every month** to celebrate our survival. Come and share your journey of daily living and participate in the affirmation of our lives. For each of our journeys and our vision, let us validate, support and affirm each other and celebrate our success.

There will be light refreshments and a wonderful atmosphere. Come for that good feeling. For more information, contact Tiffany at (510) 713-6690, ext. 9. Don't miss this!

## NEW MEETING PLACE FOR FTMI

### Ongoing FTM International Meetings

2nd Sunday of each month, from 2:00pm to 5:00pm, at the Walden House Multi Service Center, 1885 Mission Street - 3rd Floor, San Francisco

### Meeting Descriptions

We alternate meeting type each month. Informational meetings are "open" to FTMs and other interested parties, these meetings are usually centered around a topic to focus discussion. Often we will have visiting professionals from the communities which serve transsexuals, transgenders, genderqueer, 3rd gender and masculine women, topical films, or transexual/transgender/genderqueer/3rd gender/other speakers who have transitioned fully in their own ways. These meetings also provide time for networking and informal discussion.

Support meetings are "closed" or limited to self-identified FTM transgenders and transsexuals at any stage of the process, and women who are exploring those identities. Please don't bring friends or significant others or therapists or journalists to support meetings. There is a simultaneous meeting for partners, friends, family and allies at the same location. Email FTMI at [info@ftmi.org](mailto:info@ftmi.org) for more information.

### 2005-2006 Schedule

Nov 13th (open), Dec 11th (closed)  
Jan 8th (open), Feb 12th (closed)  
March 12th (open), April 9th (closed)  
May 14th(open), June 11th (closed)  
July 9th(open), August 13th (closed)  
Sept 10th(open), Oct 8th (closed)  
Nov 12th(open), Dec 10th (closed)

## INDIANAPOLIS MAYOR ISSUES ORDER PROTECTING TRANSGENDER CITY WORKERS

by 365Gay.com Newscenter Staff

(Indianapolis, Indiana) Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson has moved to protect the rights of transgendered municipal workers. Peterson has amended an executive order he signed in 2004 that protects gay and lesbian city workers to include the transgendered.

The order prohibits discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation. In signing the document Peterson said it brings the city in line with a state policy adopted by Gov. Joe Kernan and kept in place by Gov. Mitch Daniels. The mayor's action drew praise from LGBT advocacy groups including Indiana Equality and Stonewall Democrats.

"Changes such as this have been needed for a very long time and will make a real difference in the lives of so many people who are simply trying to make a living, support their families, and contribute to the community," said Leigh Anne Richards, President of the Indiana Transgender Rights Advocacy Alliance.

## TRANVESTITES HOODWINK TOURISTS WITH A KISS

AP/SFGate.com

Thai transvestites are often pretty enough to fool tourists and expatriates into taking them home for the night, but the unwary foreign visitor risks losing his wallet as well as his pride, Thai police warned Monday.

Members of a transvestite gang have confessed to concealing strong sedative pills under their tongues and spitting them down the throats of their victims while kissing, causing them to pass out so they can be easily robbed, police said.

The confession came from three attractive transvestites arrested last week in Bangkok for stealing more than \$7,300 in cash and valuables from a Bangladeshi businessman, said police Lt. Col. Akachai Chaicharoen.

The transvestites, fashionably dressed for a night out on the town, approached their victim in a downtown Bangkok nightclub on Nov. 7 and he invited them all back to his apartment.

The victim told police that after they arrived there he kissed one of them, then felt dizzy and passed out, and woke up ten hours later to find that his cash, watch, mobile phone and notebook computer had disappeared.

"One of the suspects confessed to investigators that she concealed a tranquilizer tablet under her tongue and spat it into the mouth of her victim while they were kissing deeply. The victim quickly passed out," Akachai said. He said the three had confessed to employing such methods on several victims.

Because tourists have sometimes been drugged and robbed by friendly strangers, police have long warned tourists against accepting food or drink from people they don't know. "But now we are adding one more warning for tourists: don't rush to kiss a stranger on the mouth or you will end up in a deep sleep," Akachai said.

Several years ago, members of another transvestite gang in the eastern seaside resort city of Pattaya admitted they applied strong tranquilizers to their nipples in order to drug and then steal from unsuspecting men.

The latest suspects are being held pending formal charges, and could face up to six years in jail each for conspiracy to rob, police said.

The Bloomington Human Rights Commission has recommended that the Bloomington City Council add gender identity to the city's human-rights ordinance, which already includes sexual orientation. The recommendation has not yet come up for a vote.

The Indianapolis City-County Council is currently considering an amendment to its Human Rights Ordinance that would protect all Indianapolis citizens and workers from discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity in the areas of employment, education, public accommodations, and housing.

Nationwide, more than 100 communities and at least 16 states and Washington, D.C. have some form of LGBT anti-discrimination statute in place for private employment.

**Interview:**

**THE TRANSEXUAL BOND GIRL**

Riding on the popularity of Star Wars, James Bond journeyed to outer space in 1979's Moonraker, but for his next adventure, producer Cubby Broccoli decided it was time to bring Bond "down to earth". There was talk, even, of Roger Moore's retirement, but he was lured back for "one last film" (Moore ended up staying on for three more films). This in mind, For Your Eyes Only was much grittier than several of the previous outings: fewer gadgets, and only a brief appearance from the official Bond car.

For all their efforts to make this film "down to earth", though, producers could never have predicted the out-of-this-world rumours that would go flying shortly after For Your Eyes Only wrapped shooting.

The Sunday tabloid, "The News of the World" came out with a story claiming that one of the Bond girls was actually born as a man. The rumour grew and grew.

One version even went so far as to claim that Roger Moore had performed a love scene with this transgendered Bond girl, and that Moore was quite miffed upon finding out what had happened.

**Q. Did a transsexual appear on screen in For Your Eyes Only?**

A. Yes. Model-turned-actress Caroline Cossey (whose professional name is Tula) was born with male sex organs on August 31, 1954 in Brooke, Norfolk, England, UK as Barry Kenneth Cossey. However, suffering from Klinefelter's syndrome (XXY chromosomes instead of the normal XY), Cossey was technically more female than male.

Growing up, Cossey claims to have even been mistaken for a girl more than once before making the decision to make the transition. Barry changed her name to Caroline in 1972, began taking female hormones, and had breast augmentation surgery. Throughout the early 1970s, she



MIB.CO.LIK  
FOR YOUR EYES ONLY © 1981 Danjaq, LLC and United Artists Corporation. All rights reserved

worked as a chorus girl and a topless dancer to raise money for her sex-reassignment surgery, which she finally underwent at Charing Cross Hospital in London in 1974.

Caroline Cossey's modeling career took off even before having her sex-reassignment surgery because there was high demand for tall models (she stood at 6 feet tall). Post-op, she became a well-known fashion model, did various advertisements, and appeared on several magazines covers before being cast in 1980 for a role in For Your Eyes Only.



**Q. Did Roger Moore perform a love scene with Caroline Cossey?**

A. No. Caroline Cossey can only be called a "Bond girl" in the loosest sense. While she does appear on screen, it is only for a few brief seconds, and she has no lines in the film. As a matter of fact, she is not even listed in the film's credits. Her appearance is during the scene in which Bond goes to Gonzales' villa in Madrid. She is one of the many unnamed girls at poolside.

**Q. What happened to Caroline Cossey after For Your Eyes Only finished shooting?**

A. After "The News of the World" revealed that Cossey was a transsexual, it severely disrupted her acting career; however, Cossey continued as a successful model for several years. She appeared in the music videos for Duran Duran's "Rio" and for Power Station's "Some Like It Hot", and she has even made multiple appearances in Playboy magazine (the first openly "out" transsexual ever to do so).

Cossey was engaged to Count Glauco, an Italian national, in 1983, but under English law, she was still considered a male, and was therefore unable to marry. After fighting for equal rights for transsexuals, she married Elias Fattal in London on May 21, 1989. Unfortunately, Fattal left her shortly after the honeymoon ended, and he had the marriage annulled on June 11, 1989 on the grounds that the marriage was not legal since - again - the bride and groom had not been female and male, respectively. Finally, Cossey married Canadian comic book artist David Finch in 1992, and as of 2003, they were still married and living in Atlanta, GA, USA.

Caroline Cossey has written two autobiographies - "Tula: I am a Woman" (1982) and "My Story" (1991) - and as Mi6 reported back in April, Cossey's memoirs have been published as part of a new book entitled "Sexual Metamorphosis: An Anthology of Transsexual Memoirs" (2005).

**NEW SANTA CRUZ TG SUPPORT GROUP**

Thinking about transitioning? Don't know where to start? In transition and need some support? Made the journey already and would like to share your experiences or just meet new people?

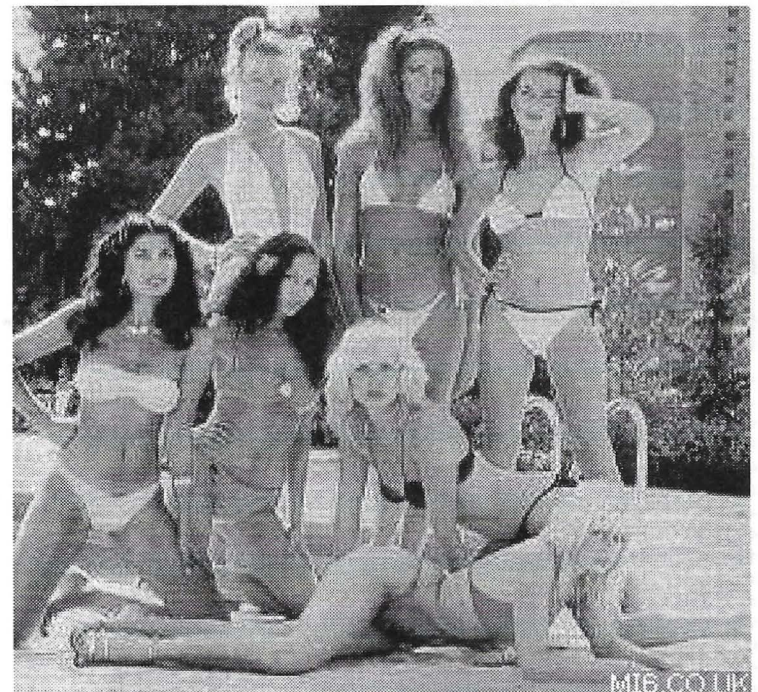
Announcing a brand new support and social group at the UC Santa Cruz campus for transsexual, transgendered, questioning folks and their allies. The group is geared towards those making, thinking about making, or who have made the physical and/or social transition from female to male (FTM) or male to female (MTF).

Students, staff, and faculty are all welcome.

The first meeting will be at the Lionel Cantu GLBTI Center on the UCSC campus, Tues. Oct. 11th @ 7:30pm. The group will be deciding on a name for the group so please bring your ideas! Regular meetings will be meeting on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month.

Questions?

Email [Nic Winter winter@chemistry.ucsc.edu](mailto:Nic Winter winter@chemistry.ucsc.edu)



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## Queen of Portland...

Continued from Page 2

As he talks about his father, he's soft-spoken and matter-of-fact, hardly the brassy impresario. Richard drank all the time, Walter remembers. "And I threw tantrums because I wanted him to be with me." His father's unmarried sister, Aunt Lily, came to stay.

Bereft and left with a virtual stranger, Walter turned inward. He made roads in the dirt for his cars, he fashioned miniature storefronts out of clay and decorated them, and he dreamed about running away—to where, he didn't know. But even then Walter knew that he was different from the other kids. School was hard, and he hated it. He grew to love Lily, though—his "growing-up mother" was good to him—and he made friends with a few adult neighbors.

He was 11, he thinks, when he was moved from Lily's bedroom to his father's. There he found a kind of comfort: For the next three years, his father molested him almost nightly. "I have to admit that it wasn't so bad," Walter says. He was finally getting the love he craved. "There we are—he rejected me when my mother passed away, when I was younger, all of a sudden now he's paying attention to me." If it weren't for the secrecy of it, the boy wouldn't have known anything was wrong. "It was like, 'OK, this happens, and maybe this is what's supposed to happen, this is how it is.' Later I resented him very much. I disliked him very much for it."

He doesn't believe Aunt Lily knew. No one knew, not even his good friend Jeannette, whom he'd known since grade school. "I carried the secret well," he says. He wouldn't tell anyone for 30 years.

The house lights dim and the mirror balls spin, throwing shards of glitter across the tables. A disco version of the theme from "2001" comes up and sets the tone, both cheesy and highly dramatic. The stage lights pop on and there they are: three men dressed as larger-than-life women behind big yellow feathered fans. It's vaudeville, the Ziegfeld Follies, Busby Berkeley and burlesque all at once. Moving in unison, the girls tease, peek, smile and shimmy. Finally they pull their fans back to reveal Darcelle, in a fabulous pink-and-black bias-striped sheath, singing along in her gravelly voice to Ethel Merman belting "There's no business like show business" as she moves downstage. Despite the campy accouterments, it's a stunning and oddly moving moment.

Then it's time for Darcelle's routine. On a night when the club is jammed, it's easy to get a laugh with the old jokes. They're fresh to a crowd that has been drinking, has waited in a long line and is looking forward to making a night of it. That crowd is primed for a riotous good time. The friends here tonight, though, have heard it all before. "The lesbian basketball team finally got a sponsor." A beat. "Snap-On Tools." Jimbo, in the light booth, wiggles the spot in place of a rimshot, but barely a titter is heard. This is when Darcelle's true talent kicks in: The lack of laughs only goads her to tease the audience until it laughs at itself. "I'm gonna pass out leaflets—you can follow along," Darcelle quips. She interviews anyone who's celebrating a birthday. "What do you do, honey?" she asks a glum-seeming woman. "You dispatch coffee machines? What? Oh, copy machines." A beat. "You must be busy." She gives the audience a look and it laughs back. The jokes don't make the show; Darcelle does.

Guts. Brass. Stick with it night after night, come war, AIDS, Christian fanatics, gunplay, drug dealers on the doorstep, lean times. Sticking with it is the key to the club's success, Walter and Roxy agree. In the days before gays were out, they had the audacity to put on dresses and makeup and flounce around the stage like women. But they didn't ignore the times, they went with them.

In 1965, when Walter bought the bohemian tavern that was to be his final business venture, he had no idea of what was to come. Women stayed at home and homosexuals hid in the closet. The beatniks were over, and the Me Generation was years away. The country was in for some radical change. As it turned out, Walter too was in the throes of a drastic transition—from apparent straight family man to outrageous gay performer.

Always a good boy, he had started working at 15 and married Jeannette at 19, leaving home for the first time. It was on a train to Salzburg, Austria, after he was drafted into the Army, that he had his first gay en-



Walter Cole sans wig and makeup

counter. "I'd had my fantasies about having a man, someone who would care about me—in a different way than my wife." But outwardly he was the typical husband of his time, returning from a tour of duty in Italy to father two children and start his own businesses, including, he says, Portland's first coffeehouse.

Twenty years into an average married life—and unbeknownst to his family—Walter planned to run his new tavern as a gay bar and attract customers by hiring a popular lesbian bartender from another establishment. The times, they were a-changing.

As Darcelle reappears in a lavender cotton-candy wig and rhinestone-striped gown singing along to "Cry Me a River," she occupies a niche that's both male and female—and neither—in a timeless realm of clinking glasses, cigarette smoke and a single spotlight. The jokes are stale, the act is PG-13, the audience is drunk. And it's all an unforgettable hoot.

That a local newspaper called the club "quaint"—a throwback in an era of S/M performers, fire-eating burlesque strippers and other extreme nightlife—doesn't bother either Walter or Roxy, who points out that "there's so little in today's world that is quaint." Mainstream is what the pair have aimed for—to appeal to all ages over 21, to be inoffensive and to leave 'em laughing. "We used to be more notorious than we are now," Walter says. "Now we're so mainstream it's almost boring!"

They weren't always considered so tame.

A year and a half after Walter bought Demas Tavern, he met Roxy, who invited him to see the lavish stage show he had choreographed and was performing in at the grand Hoyt Hotel, a risqué cabaret run by a buxom, showy matron after whom Darcelle would soon be modeled. Walter asked for Roxy's advice; his bar needed a little entertainment to bring people in.

Inspired in part by the famous San Francisco drag club Finnochio's, which ran for 63 years until closing in 1999, Walter and Roxy decided to try female impersonation. Two tables topped with plywood became the stage. Fabric was hung across a wire to create a "backstage" for costume changes and to hide a record player and speakers.

Walter and another performer took turns: While one lip-synced to a Barbra Streisand or Judy Garland record, the other changed costumes, and each killed a little more time joking with the audience, with the goof-ups becoming part of the show. "Since it was such a tight place to change, there'd be a hanger hooked on the bottom of your dress and oh, God!" Walter laughs. "We didn't take it seriously, they didn't take it seriously, and it was fun. No matter what happened, we'd laugh about it."

Continued on Page 17

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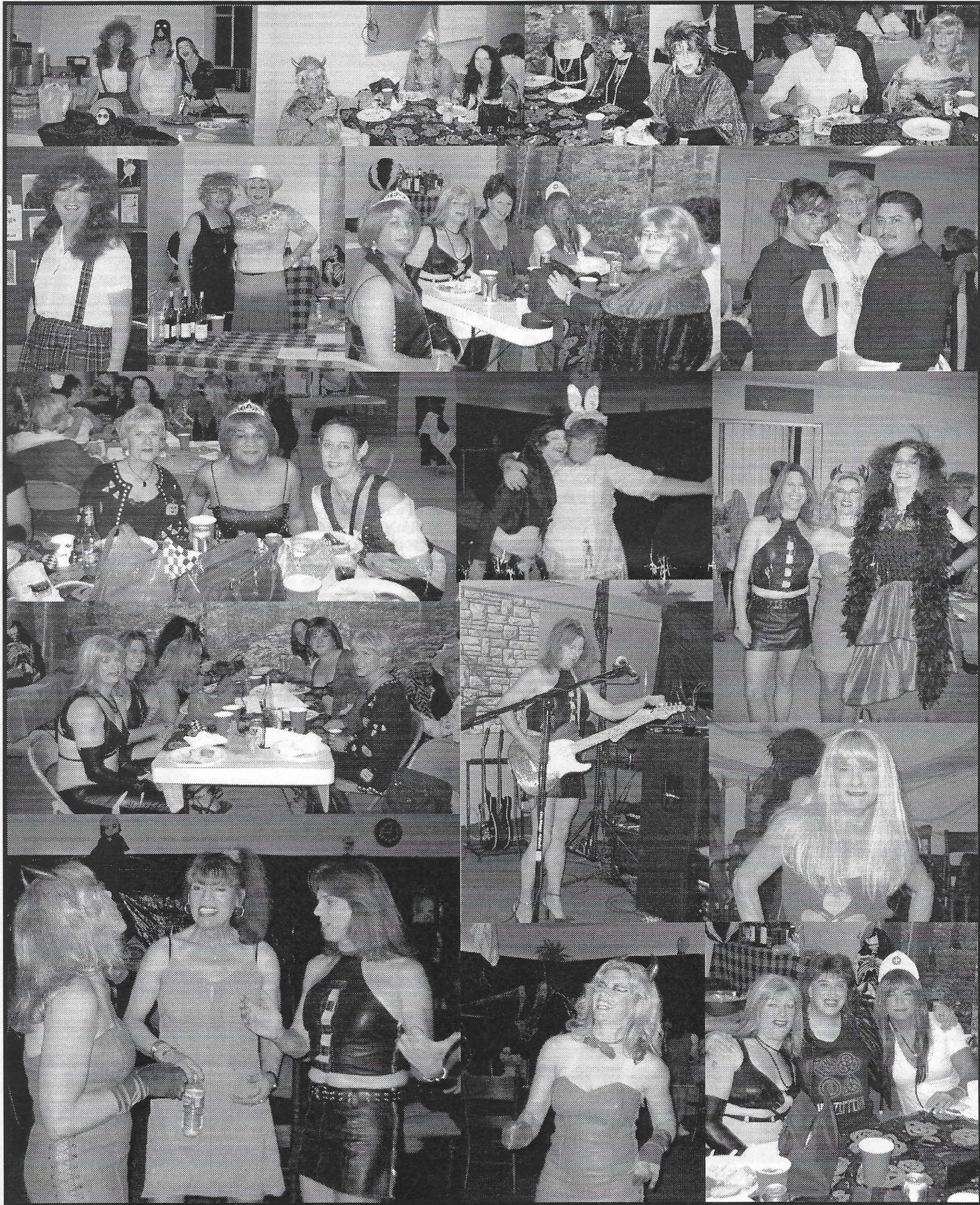
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Continued from Page 15

As the show evolved, Roxy says, "I decided to create this character, Darcelle. It was Walter. I said, 'You must become a character. You can be a character, or a caricature of what a female might be or might want to be.' That's where we started the show—with that idea that we're actors playing a role."

"We are men first," Walter explains. "We're men, and we don't wear ladies' undies and that kind of stuff. When we talk about costumes, they are costumes. They're not dresses we got off the rack somewhere. We don't wanna look like transvestites."

It was groundbreaking in a town that hosted, Walter thinks, maybe five or six gay bars at the time. "You wouldn't see a drag queen walking on the street ever here," Roxy says. "All of a sudden Darcelle's name was in the paper, and they said, 'Gosh, Darcelle's accepted, so we can do it. I bet it's safe for us to do it now.'"

It may have been safe for other drag queens, but it wasn't safe for Walter. Roxy remembers that during their first couple of years together, Walter "was afraid to be seen too publicly, the reason being that he was still married, he had two children and he was living at home. He hadn't come out to his wife yet."

Walter and Roxy were dating on the sly—until Walter couldn't stand the duplicity anymore and owned up to Jeannette.

"It was quite a shock," Jeannette says now. "I had no knowledge of him being gay . . . and then things started falling apart." She thought Walter might be seeing another woman.

"Nobody understood," Walter says. "Their first thing was, 'Well, go to a doctor and take a pill and you won't be gay anymore.'"

At the same time that he confessed to his wife and a close aunt, Arla, he also told them that his father had molested him as a child. "When my Aunt Arla found that out, she said, 'That's the end of you, don't you ever come near me again.' My father, she turned him against me. We didn't get back together until just before he died"—some 30 years later.

The tavern remained underground for several more years. The local newspapers wouldn't run its ads. "They considered our show pornographic," Roxy says. And then came another traumatic surprise for the family: A 1974 article in the Oregon Journal about a photography exhibit described the "male actresses" at Darcelle XV, "whose absurd posturings and hyper-sexy costumes appear to satisfy the clientele as well as provide some outlet for their own modes of fulfillment." An accompanying picture showed Walter in drag.

"It was embarrassing," Jeannette says, "because nobody had heard of a club like that." She did everything she could to keep it from the children.

"I wasn't told what was happening," says Maridee, who was in the sixth grade when her father left. "That was hard. I, as a little girl, would worry about him. 'Where's he sleeping?' That kind of thing. I found out later they had decided he should stay out of our lives."

In the 1970s, an influx of drug dealers drove customers and tourists from once-thriving 3rd Avenue, and the club's revenues fell by at least 30%. "We just bit the bullet and stayed open," Walter says. Finally he and other merchants "made enough noise" that the city opened a neighborhood police station. (And, luckily, a scandal of the club's own was neatly avoided after a lesbian love triangle incited a drunken patron to shoot her gun into the ceiling: No one bothered to call the cops.)

In the 1980s came AIDS. Every few days there was another call about another death, Walter remembers. "You got so used to it, you got numb to it." A friend who was "like a son," who lived with the couple and performed at the club, succumbed, as did staff members and other performers.

The '80s also brought out the religious right. Protesters from the mission down the street picketed the club with signs that read "DARCELLE'S DEMONS YOU'RE GOING TO HELL." They were more of an irritant than anything else; in a city boasting a rich history of white slavery, notorious crime syndicates and cops on the take, they were paid no mind. And with the release of movies such as "La Cage aux Folles," straight customers began taking the leap to find out what a drag show was really about.

Boundless charity work furthered Darcelle's entree into civic acceptability. In 1970, Roxy and Walter helped found the Imperial Sovereign Rose Court, a drag-



From left:  
Poison Waters, Darcelle and Monica  
Boulevard at Darcelle XV Showplace.

queen version (now inclusive of all gays) of a fund-raising service organization. It was in 1973, when she stepped down as Empress XV, that Demas Tavern became Darcelle XV. The giving began with a hat passed at early shows to support Vietnamese orphans, and has continued with everything from a yearly Christmas dinner for the homeless at the club to donations to keep the community center going in Walter's old hometown of Linnton.

In 2003, Darcelle was given a Spirit of Portland award and lauded by the mayor as a "figurehead for supporting social causes for the gay, lesbian and transgender community . . . a popular performer at fund-raisers [who] has raised thousands of dollars each year for charities."

Until a few years ago, when Roxy had a hip replaced, he was a performer in the show as well as its choreographer. In a scene from his childhood at age 8, he's sitting on the porch of his grandmother's log hotel in West Yellowstone, Mont. His grandfather, a onetime traveling salesman and "a dirty old man," is strolling up and down the street, showing him how to walk like a woman. "He'd say, 'Have you ever watched women walking down the street? Most of 'em walk like men. Here's how women should really walk.' As it turned out, it did work out really well for me." Roxy knew from that early age that he'd be a dancer, and eventually he choreographed big-time shows in Las Vegas, at the Stardust, the Tropicana, the Dunes. "I always thought I was going to be Fred Astaire," Roxy likes to say. "I didn't realize I'd turn out to be Ginger Rogers!"

And, just as in the movies, without Ginger, Fred wouldn't be half the Fred he was.

Walter and Roxy have shared their 1870 Queen Anne Victorian house since 1976. Set behind tall trees and an iron fence, it doesn't merit much notice in this eclectic Portland neighborhood, a jumble of shambling rentals and high-end historic abodes, though the string of lights around the wide porch hints at the glam aesthetic within. Its 13 rooms are crowded with period furniture, chandeliers and wall sconces, figurines, paintings, cases of rhinestone baubles, a mirrored piano, a wall of framed antique beaded purses. The bedroom is papered in red velvet and hung with five large chandeliers and crystal wall fixtures. The red-covered bed lies under red draperies and gold cherubs, flanked by a Biedermeier side table and a gold-framed baroque mirror.

On this Fourth of July afternoon, the backyard patio is crowded with friends enjoying a barbecue. Walter, in a Hawaiian shirt and rhinestone-studded baseball cap, is the grand old man of the group; Roxy holds court inside. Among the guests is Jeannette, a gray-haired woman sitting quietly between a table full of male revelers and Darcelle XV performers who are virtually unrecognizable in their "straight" clothes. Walter II is here, as are Maridee and her daughters.

In the middle of the crowd, Walter stands by a small fountain bobbing with rubber ducks, each with a number on the bottom, for a raffle to benefit the Camp Starlight Foundation for kids with AIDS. "Last chance for ducks! Five dollars!" he calls. As his granddaughter Amanda, 17, helps him collect the donations, it's a picture of easy family togetherness.

It took years for the family to reconcile. "Walter is a class act," Jeannette says. She uses words such as "wonderful" and "giving" to describe him. "He's my best friend," she says. They've never divorced, though she considered it. "At the beginning, I was really mad," she says, but "I didn't have the nerve to go to a divorce lawyer and spill the beans."

The entire family, including Roxy, spends holidays together now. Walter II has been bartending at the club for 20 years, and his wife, Julie, runs the kitchen. Maridee was married last summer with Walter, an Internet-ordained minister, officiating.

This month, Walter Cole turns 75. To celebrate, he's throwing Darcelle a very public birthday bash—"The Party of the Century"—at Portland's Melody Ballroom. As for Darcelle's eventual final curtain call? "I want a full house," Walter says, "and to keel over kickin' up high."

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## REAL-LIFE VICTOR/VICTORIA

### Couple Determined To Accommodate Hubby's New Sexual Identity

By Valerie Gibson  
Toronto Sun

If you suddenly caught your husband wearing your lingerie, what would you do? Scream, shout, burst into tears, throw him out, or laugh, give him a hug and not only go on loving him but stay happily married to him?

While many women might react badly to such an experience, Marilyn X wasn't one of them. When she discovered Victor, her husband of 24 years, in such a situation she was shocked, but chose to embrace him and his proclivity. (Marilyn and Victor declined to give their surname.)

#### Wears Lingerie

Marilyn continued to be supportive even when he made the stunning announcement not long after he was caught that he wanted to not only continue wearing lingerie, but publicly become the woman he had always felt he was.

So, with Marilyn's help and encouragement, he did just that. The retired couple are in their 60s and have now been married for 28 years, but Victor is now Miss Vicki, a male to female transsexual, who wears women's clothing continuously and openly.

"I knew for a period of time that things weren't quite right," says the cheerful, outgoing Marilyn, "something was wrong. I didn't know if it was another woman or what. Obviously I began to realize what it was when I found him in my lingerie."

She says she then went on the Internet to find more information about the world of cross-dressing, the transgendered, transsexuals and transvestites. She found many other people were in the same situation, but was upset to discover most marriages didn't survive the difficulties associated with a transgender relationship.

"I wasn't going to let that happen," she says firmly. "We're soul mates."

She told Victor she'd not only stand by him but be helpful and supportive. "I'd rather live with you than without you. Love will prevail and we'll adjust," she assured him.

But they both agree that the changeover from dressing and behaving as a male to being female wasn't easy.

The first difficult step was letting family, long term friends and close neighbours know, despite it being more than obvious with Victor now permanently dressed in women's clothing and accessories.

"I decided the best route was to send everyone a special letter," Victor says. In it, he carefully outlined what had happened and asked for their compassion, understanding and support — even their sense of humour. He explained he is transgendered — specifically a male to female transsexual.

The response was, he says, surprisingly good. Even members of his very masculine car club responded well, he says.

#### Why Stay?

Mothers were a different matter. Marilyn's mother stated she "didn't like it" but would accept it and, because of her frailty, they decided not to tell Victor's mother.

What about the attitudes of other women, specifically other wives? Marilyn says, for the most part, they ask why she's staying with him, some noting they don't know how she does it, as they couldn't.



Marilyn, left, was married to Victor for 24 years, and then he became Vicki, right. (Ernest Doroszuk, SUN)

The couple eventually began to face the practical day to day details of the transgendered life, a life that would not include surgical change as an option because of Victor's medical history.

"Although we do everything we used to do (except sex, she confides), one of the first things was to go shopping for outfits for him — and we found we have similar tastes!"

Their first stop was the well known and unique Toronto "drag emporium" Take A Walk On the Wildside, on Gerrard St. E. (Wildside.org). The boutique specializes in clothing and accessories for cross dressers, offering everything from clothes, wigs, hose, makeup and high heels to silicone breast forms suitable for men.

Take A Walk On The Wildside also incorporates a private club, a bed and breakfast plus Paddy's Playhouse where plays with a transgendered connection are presented. Marilyn and Vicki are involved in the company's latest venture — a monthly series of elegant high teas. Yesterday, the couple shared their experiences and demonstrated how a relationship can thrive when one partner cross dresses.

Despite some difficulties dealing with bank accounts and credit cards that still carry the male name, the couple say the crossover has been relatively smooth for both of them. "Our relationship is actually much better," says Marilyn. "We have fun with it too. I call him my dumb blond!"

And they laugh heartily together.

#### Transcending Transgender

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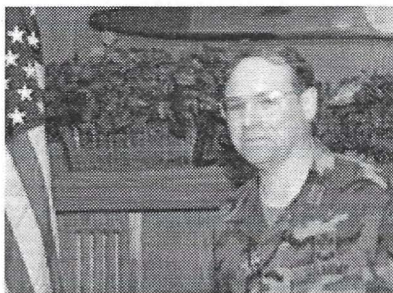
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## SPECIAL FORCES COMMANDER TRANSITIONS FROM MAN TO WOMAN

### Retired Officer Now Embroiled in Employment Bias Suit

ABC News

Oct. 21, 2005 — For more than 25 years, David Schroer was a star in the U.S. Army, rising through the ranks to become a Special Forces Commander while leading a classified anti-terrorism unit involved in covert operations. Fellow soldiers described him as a classic military man.



In 25 years of military service, David Schroer reached the rank of colonel and commanded a Special Forces unit in the U.S. Army. (ABC News)

That all changed two years ago when he abruptly retired from the military and made a shocking announcement that stunned his colleagues and family alike. He would no longer be Col. David Schroer, because he is now Diane Schroer, a transsexual.

In her first television interview, Schroer explains to “20/20” correspondent Deborah Roberts why, after decades of service in one of the most dangerous and macho lines of work, she became a woman. “Does seem a bit of a disconnect,” Schroer acknowledges. But, she says, she has struggled with her gender identity — privately — since childhood.

“Something was different since even before I can remember. I was always enthralled with things the girls were doing. ... Whenever my parents were gone, I would experiment with my mother’s makeup. And wondered why I enjoyed doing that... Wondered why I couldn’t carry a purse,” Schroer tells Roberts.

Schroer’s family has come to accept her decision, but she is now embroiled in a gender discrimination lawsuit against the Library of Congress, which, she claims, withdrew its offer of employment based on her sex.

### A Painful Internal Battle

Her lawsuit may be precedent-setting, but Dr. George Brown, a military psychiatrist, said Schroer’s story is not unique. He said he’s treated hundreds of soldiers who are transsexuals. Brown described transsexualism as “a sense that there’s been a biological mistake — that the body doesn’t match who you are as a person inside.”

Schroer says it was apparent to her from the time she was a child, growing up in Oak Lawn, Ill., just outside Chicago. Her brothers Gary and Bill only remember a happy childhood with their little brother, however. “I think it was probably very much...the typical American family, three boys growing up. We played baseball. We played in the neighborhood. We rode bikes. We pretty much did what other kids did in the 50s,” said Bill Schroer.

Schroer’s siblings Bill and Gary never knew their little brother was suffering quietly, never daring to mention the anguish inside.

Schroer says growing up as a boy left her feeling uneasy and deeply conflicted about who she really was. “When I hit adolescence, it was at times consuming. ... So I did everything I could to push that out of my mind,” she tells Roberts.

When David Schroer entered Northern Illinois University, he was in full denial of his gender crisis. He worked as an auto mechanic, an electrician and joined ROTC. After graduation, he entered Special Forces and somehow thrived in the most dangerous of military careers. He even fell in love with a woman and got married.

“We had a normal sexual relationship,” Schroer tells Roberts. “Although I would say that I would often think of myself being on the other side of the relationship.”

### Ending Years of Denial

Schroer managed to keep up the act, rising through the ranks of the military. By his mid-40s, he was a Special Forces commander leading a classified anti-terrorism unit and managing an \$8 billion budget. He even briefed Vice President Cheney on secret missions.

Then, two years ago, he grew tired of denying what he believed was his true sexual identity. “I think when I learned enough to understand what it was that I was really feeling ... I could either hide that, or I could acknowledge to the world that I was in fact a woman. And receive their acknowledgement back,” Schroer says. Schroer told his wife first, even hoping there might be a possibility they could stay together. But the couple decided to separate.

Schroer’s marriage was over, but he was finding fulfillment for the first time. He began openly dressing as a woman and calling himself Diane. Schroer was retired at the time, and didn’t have to break the news to Washington’s top brass. But Schroer did begin telling his Special Forces buddies, including retired Lt. Colonel Dan Bernard.

“The way she explained it to me was by showing me some photos that had been taken of her as a woman in a business kind of setting, wearing makeup and with a big wig and women’s clothes. ...And I didn’t get mad and I didn’t storm out,” Bernard said.

“I explained to him about being transgendered and what that meant, and he sat back for a moment and said, ‘You really had me scared. Wow, I thought you were going to tell me something bad.’ ... It was a tremendous relief,” Schroer recalls.

Now Schroer was confident enough to tell family, nervously breaking the news to brothers Bill and Gary — still dressed as David.

Even though the news was, and continues to be, difficult to accept, Gary Schroer said there was never a question in his mind about being supportive to his younger brother. “It’s still tough. But support and acceptance are two different things,” he said.

Schroer then began the long and painful process of becoming a woman, undergoing intense therapy and taking female hormones under medical supervision. He also started wearing makeup, and underwent extensive cosmetic surgery.

In 12 hours of surgery, Schroer said, doctors gave him “a scalp advance, a forehead revision, nose reconstruction, upper lip revision, jaw and chin reshaping, and a tracheal shave.” In a tracheal shave, the surgeon reduces the cartilage in the throat to get rid of a masculine-looking Adam’s apple.

The genital reassignment surgery would come later. But in the meantime Schroer was already looking more feminine and beginning to envision a new relationship. But Schroer wasn’t envisioning a sexual relationship with any men. Schroer is interested in dating women. “I would say I am in fact a lesbian,” she said.

Schroer’s desire to be with women is not uncommon for transsexuals. Dr. Brown says gender identity and sexual preference are two entirely different things. “If sex and gender were the same, then that would make no sense at all. Sexuality is who you’re attracted to. Gender is who you are as a person, male or female. So, the surgery and the transition is all about matching the mind with the body. It has nothing to do with sexuality,” Brown said.

Continued on Page 20

## SEXUAL ASSIGNMENT SURGERY: WHO DECIDES?

Michael Woods  
Toledo Blade

It's a boy. No, it's a girl. Wait a minute. Exactly what sex is it?

Parents and doctors in the United States ask those questions in about 1 in every 4,000 births each year. These kids are born with ambiguous genitals. "Intersex" babies, they have disorders of the sex organs or sex chromosomes that make it difficult to say whether they are male or female.

Laws and culture, however, encourage parents to make the call immediately. Birth certificates, for instance, are among many documents that require a declaration of "male" or "female."

Social attitudes provide another nudge to declare gender. It's the first question that new parents get from family and friends. What do you say? What do you name the baby? How do you dress it?

Those are among the reasons parents usually make the decision, and sometimes even opt for sexual "assignment" surgery. When parents decide it's a girl, for instance, male-appearing anatomy can be surgically reduced in size, along with other changes to make the genitals appear more female.

New research discoveries, however, are raising questions about whether sex assignment surgery should be done on children who are not mature enough to help make the decision. It's one situation where scientific knowledge about what makes a male or a female is outdistancing social attitudes and the law.

The making of a male or female is not as simple as Biology 101. Mom's egg does contribute an X chromosome. Dad does determine the sex by contributing either an X or a Y. An XX fetus is genetically female, and an XY is a genetic male.

However, both fetuses still develop for a while with the same general-purpose reproductive tissue that eventually forms male or female genitals. A hormonal process causes the tissue to become male or female. If something disrupts that process, the fetus can end up with ambiguous genitals.

Scientists once thought that the hormonal process also made the brain masculine or feminine. New research, however, suggests that a separate process is involved. Studies with laboratory mice have found that male-female differences exist in the brain long before the hormonal process occurs. Dozens of genes already are working differently in male brains than female brains before it produces male or female genitals and reproductive organs.

The brain may be hard-wired at conception to be at least partly male or female, no matter how the genitals develop. The discoveries show that scientists have yet to discover or understand parts of Nature's recipe for deciding whether it will be a girl or a boy.

More doctors are advising parents to delay decisions about sexual assignment surgery until the child is mature enough to have a say. Otherwise, children assigned one sex as babies may begin identifying themselves as the other a few years later.

The best way to decide the sex of an intersex child may be to let the child decide.

## COMMANDER TRANSITIONS...

Continued from Page 19

### At Center of Landmark Gender Discrimination Suit

While Schroer is grateful to have the acceptance of her family, she has encountered challenges in her public life. While still transitioning to become female, Schroer applied for, and was offered, a job as a terrorism analyst at the Library of Congress late last year.



As a woman, Schroer says, she feels her life is finally "unified." (ABC News)

Because she was still legally David Schroer, she did not reveal her plans to her prospective employer during the interview. She decided to tell the woman who hired her that she would begin work as a woman, not a man. Schroer said it seemed as though the woman took the information in stride and that the hiring was going forward as planned.

But the following day, Schroer said she was told that she was no longer "a good fit" for the position. Schroer and her brothers were furious. With her brothers' encouragement, she filed what many say will become a landmark law suit against the Library of Congress, charging gender discrimination.

She says she's protected under Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. "She is the same exact person that the Library of Congress knew that they wanted when they first encountered the application. And so there's nothing about that that's changed, except her physical appearance," said American Civil Liberties Union attorney Sharon McGowan, who is representing Schroer.

The Library of Congress first agreed to an interview with "20/20," but then declined, citing Diane's lawsuit. In an e-mail, they wrote that they "acted appropriately and complied with the law" and that "claims such as those raised by Ms. Schroer ... are not covered under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act" or the U.S. Constitution.

While waiting for her day in court and looking for a full time job, Schroer's deepest fears concerned her family who had yet to see her as a woman. In July, Schroer allowed "20/20" cameras to film her first visit as a sister with her family in suburban Chicago.

The family was understandably surprised by the dramatic change in her appearance, but before long the brothers were reminiscing about their childhood. For Gary and Bill Schroer, the memories are bittersweet as they feel in a sense they've lost a brother while gaining a new sister.

For Schroer, the childhood memories have a far different meaning. She's always known that inside that little boy lived a little girl who longed to grow up and become a woman. "What's great about my life now is that it's unified, it's focused and this huge distraction that was in my life is now gone."



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