

Social Event of the Year!

TRANSGENDER SAN FRANCISCO PRESENTS

Hooray for HOLLYWOOD!



JANUARY 21, 2006

COTILLION 2006

At the Cowell Theater

*Fort Mason Center
San Francisco, CA*

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



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

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- Editor Ayme Michelle Kantz
- Advertising Dawnne Woodie
- Contributing Photographers, this Issue: Roxy Carmichael Hart

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WHAT MAKES A MAN

Transgendered Graduate Student Finds Harmony In Transition From Woman To Man

**Adrian Sharp | Asst. Features Editor
Ball State Daily News**

When he was a little girl, Leo said he hated wearing dresses. Today the Ball State University graduate student is sitting in his office, clad in khakis and a button-up shirt.

At first encounter Leo, who asked for his last name not to be used, looks like a typical thirty-something guy; sideburns, goatee, a little pudgy but nothing out of the ordinary. In a raspy tenor voice, he talks about the store he and his wife own, about their cats and about how he quit smoking three months ago and can't live without nicotine gum.

But Leo's demure appearance betrays his extraordinary past. In 1999 he began the process of physically transitioning from a woman named Lynette into a man called Leo. It started with counseling and moved on to testosterone injections, which lowered his voice and allowed him to grow facial hair. In 2000, he had his breasts surgically removed. But Leo said his transition did not end with a surgery and some injections. Rather it is an ongoing journey into the depths of what it means to be a man.

Transgendered in America

Leo is not alone in his transition. The American Psychiatric Association estimates that one in 100,000 women are unhappy enough with their genders that they seek sexual reassignment surgeries.

George Gaither, assistant professor of psychological science at Ball State, said TV shows such as Nip Tuck helped introduce transgender issues into the mainstream media. "It's getting out there, but to the person who isn't really open to it, it isn't going to have that much of an effect," Gaither said. Transgendered people are struggling for acceptance in today's society, but this was not always the case, said Gaither, who teaches a course in sexual behavior.

In the southwest, Native American tribes such as the Zuni venerated transgendered people whom they called "Two Spirits" because they had both masculine and feminine characteristics. "They're almost elevated in their society," Gaither said. "Almost like Shamans."

In mainstream American culture transgendered people don't fair as well because the public's perception is often obscured by fear and misconception.

Gaither said ignorant, even slanderous, myths about transgendered people are still commonly accepted. One myth says they are all pedophiles, and another says contact with transgendered people makes impressionable children want to change their genders. "[Transgendered people] are individuals," Gaither said. "A lot of times a lot of people lose sight of that. We use labels a lot and when you use labels it's easier to dehumanize people."

Ms to Fs, or people who transitioned from male to female, generally face more problems in their daily lives than Fs to Ms, Gaither said. This is because stronger features, broader shoulders and Adam's apples make it hard for them to pass as a woman.

In most cases, testosterone, clothing and breast removal, are enough to allow an F to M to pass for their preferred gender in everyday life.

A New Driver's License

"People usually don't think to verify if you're male if you look male," Leo said.

It's late afternoon at the mt cup coffee shop. Orange light slants in from the windows as Leo talks about how he got his driver's license changed when he lived in Boston, so it said he was a man.

He was nervous as he walked up to the counter at the Registry of Motor Vehicles, he recalled with a slight smile. The people there might say no. They might ask for documents. He didn't know what would happen.

Leo said he looked masculine but had yet to take testosterone or have surgery and there was a tiny fear that he might not pass as a man.

He walked up to the counter and pointed boldly to the "F" on his license.

"You guys made a mistake," he said.

"Oh. My. God. I'm so sorry, sir," the clerk said.

The RMV changed the letter to "M", and Leo walked out of the office a licensed male driver in the state of Massachusetts.

Leo said the "M" on the document was more than just a letter. Years of struggle and transition were packed into it. The letter didn't just stand for "male," it stood for acceptance. It meant salvation from a police officer's embarrassing questions if he got pulled over or a bartender's confused insults if he got carded. For Leo the new driver's license was one of the first pieces of tangible proof that he was no longer a woman.

Continued on Page 15

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Roxy
Carmichael-Hart

We're Here!

Yes, we have arrived at Cotillion 2006.

So accompanying this article of my friend Arlynn and I. You'll see her at the Cotillion. She is by best friend, my big sister and my protector. But what I love most about her is her warped sense of humor. Like when we were talking about the Christopher Walken sketch on Saturday Night Live. You know the one.



I am listening to Quiet Riot now. Did you know Randy Rhoads played in this band before he went to Ozzy's band? He was tragically killed in 1982. This is a great song but you know, it could have used a little more cowbell.

But anyway, we have a great show lined for you. Our cracker-jack production team of Laura, Alli, Dawnne and I are working very hard to make this show something special. And our wonderful contestants are also working very hard – dedicating and sacrificing countless hours to do their best. And they are putting forth this effort for one reason, and that is you. They are working hard to represent you and to help our community be united and strong. All of them have talked to me about their hopes and dreams for this community and all of them talk about making this a better place for all of us. I have absolutely no doubt that whoever is selected, that we will be very proud of her (and him!). So please come to the Cotillion and cheer hard and loud for Lisa, Tori, Katra, Jennifer and U.B. You can read more about them in the profiles you'll find elsewhere in this Channel.

And also elsewhere you can read about the tickets which, even though it is early December on my calendar right now, are going really fast. Every day I hear about more tickets being sold. You can get tickets from Carla (everyone knows where Carla's is), the Diablo Valley Girls, the Fort Mason Box Office and the LBGT Center Box Office. I was selling tickets but I am plumb out. I told you that those babies would really move.

You can also read about the fabulous Cotillion weekend, which is being held at the Holiday Inn Golden Gateway, 1500 Van Ness, in San Francisco. On Friday night January 20, there is our reception. On Saturday January 21, there will be a hospitality suite from 10 AM to 4 PM, and an hour later, doors will open at the Cowell Theater for our show. Please don't forget to visit our silent auction and our raffle because there will be dozens of fabulous prizes up for auction. A list of items that are available at press time appears elsewhere in the Channel.

All of the Cotillion details are available by visiting our website at www.tgsf.org or by giving me a call at 510-366-9855.

After the Cotillion, we'll get going on our Wedding Party/Bachelor/Bachelorette auction in February. And soon after, we'll look at electing our new ExCom. We have five positions up, including mine so you might want to take a stab at my position unless you love me so much you want me to stay.

But, get ready for "HOORAY FOR HOLLYWOOD". It's going to be a great show and let's hope it doesn't need any more cowbell.

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

Lisa Rae Dummer

Where's your Tiara?

By the time you read this, you will already know that I am one of the announced contestants for Ms. TGSF – 2006. However, there are hundreds of contestants who haven't announced they are running for Mr. or Ms. TGSF, yet everyone is a real choice for the title. Who are these hundreds of possible representatives of the transgender community? Why, you, of course.

Mr. and Ms. TGSF are the visible representatives of the transgender community both within the community and to the world at large. Each time you step outside your door as your true self, you are also a representative of our community. What you do and how you act reflects not just on yourself, but on the transgender community in general.

Before I go any farther with this, I want you to understand that not everyone who reads this article is able to be out and visible. In no way am I asking you to step out. Those who know me, know that I have always maintained you should not make any move until necessity moves you. With the current reaction of society to transgender individuals, transition is still an act of desperation, not choice. It is this attitude that we need to overcome.

Most people outside the Bay Area will never knowingly meet a transgender person during their lifetime, so we can't reach them by ourselves. That doesn't mean, though, that they will never know us. Each one you meet who knows you are a transgender woman or man, will take away an impression of not just you, but of all transgender individuals. Each time someone says, "Hey, I met a guy named Ron (or a girl named Jennifer) the other day and they were really great. I found out later he (or she) is a transgender person. I'd never met anybody like that before, but maybe I've been wrong about them. Maybe transgender people aren't so bad after all."

Each one of you is an ambassador for the community each time you meet someone new. How they react to you and, by extension, all transgender persons is in your hands. You can further our cause, one person at a time. When you toss a stone into a pond, small ripples occur at first, but as they move outward, they become larger and larger, until the whole pond is filled. So, too, you spread your ripples across the world.

So, Mr. and Ms. TGSF, I ask you the same question we asked Jenni Kennedy at her first appearance as Ms. TGSF – 2005, "Where's your tiara?"

legal questions about gender?



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December 4, 2005

TGSF ExCom MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 1:05

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

The Minutes of the November 6, 2005 meeting were approved

President's Report – Roxy Carmichael-Hart

We lost one contestant for Mr. TGSF and may lose one for Ms. TGSF. 35 tickets to the Cotillion have been sold so far, which is ahead of the sales from last year. There will be 5 vacancies on the ExCom next year – President, Treasurer, Outreach co-chair, Education Co-chair and Social Co-chair. It is expected that Dawnne Woodie and Katra Briel will each run again for the Education and Social Co-chairs. Alli has said she will run for President. Both Bonnie and Becky have expressed interest in running for Outreach Co-chair although Becky may run for treasurer instead. Anyone else interested in running should contact Roxy.

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 has been set up but Lisa and Tommi have not joined yet. Laura will send the invitation again as Lisa did not receive it initially.

Treasurer's Report – Pamela Gray

There is approximately \$5,800 in the bank and about \$2,700 in current expenses. There is an additional \$6,000 in expenses to come in over the next couple of months for the Cotillion. The ticket sales and advertising revenue should cover the current shortage. Lucy Ann Jones has renewed her advertising in the Channel for another month.

Secretary's Report – Lisa Dummer

The January profile will be Jenni Kennedy as the departing Ms. TGSF – 2005. Dawnne Woodie has picked up the mail and delivered it to Roxy. The Channel will be limited to 20 pages for January to save costs. The January cover will be the Cotillion Poster.

Education – Dawnne Woodie and Jennifer Anderson

An education seminar on the new insurance law for transgender persons will be put together for after the Cotillion. The committee will also be resurrecting the Seeking and Searching – Religion for the Transgender person that was postponed from earlier this year. Dawnne will be doing a presentation on HIV prevention next week.

Outreach – Allison Laureano



The message on the hotline needs to be kept current and messages need to be picked up more frequently. There was nothing new on switching the phone service to a less expensive and more advanced carrier. USF hosted a presentation to the Sex and Sexuality class on November 30th. Speakers with a USF tie were requested so Alli and Lisa made the presentation. There will be another presentation to UC Berkeley in the Spring. It should be a day long seminar. It appears that Santa Cruz does not want a TGSF chapter locally but will form their own group with cross sponsorship of events.

Social

An event has been planned for December 12th at the Blue Muse where wig care and style will be presented. The December End of Month on December 15th will feature holiday music by Jenni, Michelle, Anne Louise and Arianna. The Wedding Party and Bachelor/Bachelorette Auction is now tentatively scheduled for February 18, 2006 at Carla's. 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

It was agreed that Nicole Cook would post a Cotillion poster at her book signing on January 21st in hopes of drawing more people to attend that night.

New Business

Lisa has been speaking with Katra and Sydney Anderson of RGA about the possibility of co-hosting a Casino Night fund raiser in September. Possible locations are Carla's or the Most Holy Redeemer hall in San Francisco. The legality of casino nights will need to be verified although Lisa owned a company for 10 years that provided equipment for Casino nights and never had a single problem during that time. The ExCom authorized Lisa to continue looking into it.

Next meeting – There will be no meeting of the ExCom in January due to the holidays and the Cotillion. A date in February has not yet been selected.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45

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.

EAST BAY TRANSGENDER AA

Genderqueer, Transgendered, Transsexual, Twin-Spirited, LGBT. Speaker/Discussion/Meditation/Readings of AA approved literature. **Weekly – THURSDAYS – 8-9 PM.** 3989 Howe Street (Mandana House one block from Kaiser off Broadway), in Oakland, CA 94611.

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!

CONFESSIONS OF A DANGEROUS MIND

By Roxy Carmichael-Hart

Outreach, Outreach, Outreach

One of the great lessons taught to me by my mentor Rachael Janelle, even before I became president, was the importance of outreach. After all, that is the basis upon which this organization was founded. And without Rachael's outreach effort to me, I probably wouldn't be here and I would bet that many of you wouldn't either. I have always tried to keep Rachael's teachings in mind while I have been president.

I wanted to relate to you a little story. About two years ago, at our holiday party, a young woman made her first appearance at the Blue Muse. I could tell she was unsure of herself, quite nervous, and probably a little scared. After all, how did she know how she would be accepted by the group? Well, I took her aside and talked with her, as did others. That young lady was just looking for a place to belong, a place where she knew that people cared. She decided to get involved in TGFSF, donated a raffle item for the Cotillion and started coming to all the events. I gently twisted her arm to run for the ExCom and she did. That young woman's name is Dawnne Woodie.

Last night at our holiday party, a young woman came to our group, just having arrived from Ohio. She was a little unsure of herself, quite nervous and probably a little scared. And who do you think was her first point of contact? That's right, Dawnne Woodie. It comes full circle. I believe that this young lady came to realize that she was among friends and that people cared about her. She's going to do just fine. It'll be tough in the beginning but if we all help her, she'll get through it. I appreciated the group's efforts in making her feel welcome. Next year, I hope that she will be able to stand where I stood and reach out her hand in friendship to a new girl, as was done for me, as was done for probably everyone in that room, whether they realized it or not.

I recall Kara Flynn saying once that "we need as many people as we can to do outreach". I totally agreed. And it was Kara's words that inspired me to appoint Kelly Marsh as our Outreach Ambassador, a title she takes to heart. Kelly once told me that "every time we step outside our doors we do outreach". That is so true. How the community at large views us is usually defined by how we present ourselves. If we show the world that we are just people, then that's how we'll get viewed. One lady recently told me that a friend of hers has seen a transgender person in the

supermarket in Hayward (which could likely have been me or Kari McCallister). Her comment was that "she admired her for just getting on with her life". That's all most of us want. Just to go about our business without any fuss or harassment. Just to show the world that we are no different than any other individual. I don't run around with a big TG Pride button or sticker on my car. I just want to blend in and for people to think this is no big deal. The less attention I draw to myself, the more people will look at me, then go about their business, forgetting me two seconds later. That's what I want and that is ultimately how transgender people should be viewed.

We don't have to hide who we are, nor should we. I proudly proclaim being transgender when it serves a purpose for the greater good. But like all groups, we should be viewed as who we are on the inside, not as how we present ourselves. We should be viewed as individuals and throw the old stereotypes into the incinerator.

We should all be grateful that people like Rachael Janelle took the time to extend their hands. Think of where you would be if someone hadn't extended their hand to you. Would you be where you are now? I think not. One small gesture makes the biggest difference.

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GenderQueer, Trans, & Gender Questioning Youth Group

Billy DeFrank LGBT Community Center
www.defrank.org

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

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

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TGSF Events in January

LAST MINUTE COTILLION INFORMATION!

TGSF (Transgender San Francisco) Presents

Hooray for Hollywood!

COTILLION 2006

January 21, 2006

Cowell Theater at Fort Mason Center, San Francisco, CA
Doors open 5pm ~ Show starts 7pm

Tickets: \$25~\$35~\$45

Available at:

Carla's Salon & Boutique

Diablo Valley Girls
or from

Fort Mason Center Box Office

(415) 345-7575~Phone

(415) 292-4639~Fax

or by mail from:

Fort Mason Box Office

Landmark Building A

San Francisco, CA 94123

or from the LGBT Center Box Office

1800 Market Street, San Francisco

Enjoy Cotillion Weekend 2006 at our Host Hotel:

Holiday Inn Golden Gateway

1500 Van Ness, S.F., Ca.

\$89~night; parking discounted at \$20 a day

Phone: 415-441-4000 or 1-800 HOLIDAY

Must be reserved by January 6, 2006 to guarantee group rate,
must mention "Transgender San Francisco Cotillion 2006"

Friday Night January 20, 2006

Reception 7-10 PM Portola Room.

No-Host bar and light snacks will be served.

Saturday January 21, 2006

TGSF Hospitality Suite 10 AM - 4 PM

Sunday January 22, 2006

Celebration Brunch, Portola Room, All you can eat breakfast
buffet \$16.50 complete.

Come meet the new Mr. and Miss TGSF.

Details available at www.tgsf.org or call

Roxy (510) 366-9855 or write roxy.carmichaelhart@tgsf.org

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January's Birthdays

0101	Bobbi Chopp
0102	Kathleen Edwards
0103	Susie Schang
0105	Susan Agles
0105	Jennifer Wilhelmi
0108	Kenette Faulkner
0109	Akiko Ellis
0111	Andee Werthman
0113	Carolyn Thomas
0113	Sara Roberts
0114	Susan Laird
0114	Robin Ward
0115	Georgia Kay Castleberry
0116	Rachael Dettmer
0120	Marcy Slagel
0127	Anastasia Adair

Happy Birthday To All!

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Bay Area Calendar - January 2006

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 510-656-4738.

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 Laura@laurasoft.com.

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 707-544-1540.

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 (415) 748-2396 or sf_dawnne@yahoo.com

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	2	3	4	5	6	7
	7:00 PM PISSR General Meeting 8:00 PM DVG	7:00 PM SCT	2:00 PM T.R.A.N.S 7:00 PM I Love It Social 7:30 PM MPTG	7:00 PM DVG RCC	8:00 PM PacCtr 8:00 PM RGA	
8		10	11 2:00 PM T.R.A.N.S 7:00 PM I Love It Social	12	13 7:00 PM SVGA 7:00 PM TSM 8:00 PM PacCtr	14 8:00 PM FWV 8:00 PM SGA
15	16 8:00 PM DVG	17 7:00 PM SCT	18 2:00 PM T.R.A.N.S 7:00 PM I Love It Social	19 TG Legal Clinic	20 8:00 PM PacCtr 8:00 PM RGA	21 5:00 PM TGSF: Cotillon 2006!
22	23	24 7:30 PM SCOUT	25 2:00 PM T.R.A.N.S 7:00 PM I Love It Social	26	27 7:00 PM SVGA 7:00 PM TransVis-HWD 8:00 PM PacCtr	28 8:00 PM FWV 8:00 PM SGA
29	30	31				

TGSF MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

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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

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- Framed Recognition Certificate
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- Ride on the Pride Day Parade Float
- Paid Annual Membership in TGSF

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- Recognition in all TGSF Programs / Channel / Website
- Two complimentary tickets to the Cotillion
- Framed Recognition Certificate
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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
Total	5412.59

Liabilities and Equity

Total	0.00
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Statement of Income and Expenses

Income

Memberships	200.00
Donations	177.00
Cotillion Tickets	110.00
Picnic	250.00
Total	737.00

Expenses

Channel	333.80
Phone	49.71
Picnic	127.14
Total	510.65

Net Income **226.35**

TGSF DONATIONS

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

Ayme Kantz **\$10.00**

Bless You and Thank You for Caring!

CONTACT TGSF!

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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.

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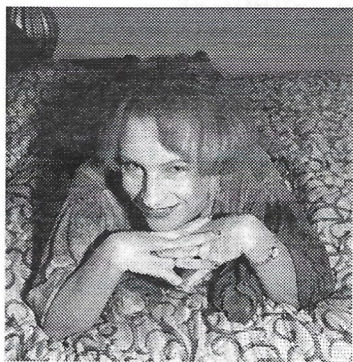
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Web: www.WaveElectrology.com

2006 Cotillion Contestants!



Hi, I'm **Lisa Dummer** and I'm running for Ms. TGSF again this year. Why would I subject myself to all of the time constraints and effort again? In part because of the fantastic time I had last year and the close sisterhood I built with the other contestants. Although we competed against each other, we worked together toward a common goal - to give the transgender community the best Ms. TGSF possible. Mainly, though, the answer is because I'm angry - angry that it took 55 years for me to admit who I was and act on it; angry that it was an act of desperation, not choice, that forced me to acknowledge my true

self; angry that there are thousands of us who aren't even able to step outside their front door out of fear. I am running for Ms. TGSF to teach people that transgender men and women are important and productive members of society so that the men and women who come after me will not have to deal with the fear, anxiety and depression that being a transgender person causes - that to be themselves can be a matter of choice, not desperation; an act of choice to be a part of the community that has embraced me.



My name is **Katra** and am greatly looking forward to seeing you at Cotillion 2006. I had wanted to run last year, but still being in the Army at the time I thought I would wait until I retired and run for Miss TGSF this year. So here I am with a couple of my friends, sharing our thoughts, experiences and hopes for the coming year and wondering exactly who will win the Tranny! (OK, so there really isn't a "Tranny", but it just seemed to fit in with this year's theme, and knowing no matter what happens, we have all won!

It has been such an amazing year. I've met so many of you and hope to get to know all of you better and to be able to represent you and this organization in the best possible light. So many of you have befriended me and I've learned a lot from all of you. You have helped me out when I needed it and I want to be able to help others in return. I have been trying to fill in as the Social Co-Chair, but Ann Louise left some pretty big (figuratively speaking) yet stylish shoes to fill. I see a bright future laid out for TGSF and the Transgendered Community and I hope to be there in the forefront just for the privilege of witnessing the events unfold and to hopefully influence the minds of some of the "Powers That Be" by presenting a positive, dynamic, friendly image as Your Ambassador to the World at Large. I have spent my life and career defending what is great about our country and our people, and I view this as just another opportunity to continue to ensure that we live in the land of the Free and home of the Brave. For all of you are brave and courageous in taking that first step out of your door, to live life as the free Men and Women you are!

To my competing Sisters I wish them a heartfelt "Break a Leg Girls"! And I hope you are all thoroughly entertained tonight! With that said, "On with the Show"!

Significant Other Support East Bay

Questions or concerns about your partner's crossdressing? Please call Julie at (925) 937-8432, or e-mail julie39@comcast.net, or write to: Julie Freeman, PO Box 272885, Concord, CA 94527-2885.

I am **EvilPonyGirl AKA Tori McCabre** (or so rumored) Evilponygirl while indigenous to the mid-west (Kansas City) was deported to San Francisco (for a player to be named later) on October 30, 1998.

Since, I have gone thoroughly native if somewhat reclusive by circumstance. In my travels I have found it to be a necessity to educate those I come in contact with and to stand up for transgender rights whenever I may. I do not hide who I am but find strength in the journey instead. I have been lax in knowing the transgender community in San Francisco but have been quite active in other arenas. I am an artist, writer, model, and sometimes muse. However, I like to tell people that I am not really a model, I am actual size.

I would like to connect to my community on a more meaningful basis and the Cotillion seems like the perfect way. If I am selected Miss TGSF I will do whatever I can to promote and protect transgender rights in the Bay Area as I already do. I am looking forward to meeting everyone.



Where did the time go? It seems like only last week that I was walking across the Cowell Theater stage as a contestant at Cotillion 2005. It was one of the most amazing experiences of my life and has served as a springboard for me from LGBT community member to LGBT community activist!

For those of you who don't already know me, my name is **Jennifer Anderson** and I am proud to be a contestant for Ms. TGSF 2006. I'm also thrilled that there will be a Mr. TGSF candidate this year!

Last year was my first year as a contestant and my first time ever performing on stage. You (the audience) immediately embraced me and I was never afraid! I still recall your love and your enthusiasm during my performance. Your response still gives me goose bumps.

In gratitude for that opportunity I have sought to pour my time and energy back in to LGBT community support. Since the Cotillion I have joined and become an active member of the TGSF board, participated in Pride and other outreach events, organized or assisted with organizing LGBT community events and have become a regular social butterfly! It's been a great year!

However, there is still so much more that I feel I have to contribute to our community and if given the opportunity to serve as your Ms. TGSF for the next year I promise to bring a level of enthusiasm, passion and commitment that will honor you and make you proud. Thank you for this opportunity to be a contestant and I promise you a memorable show!

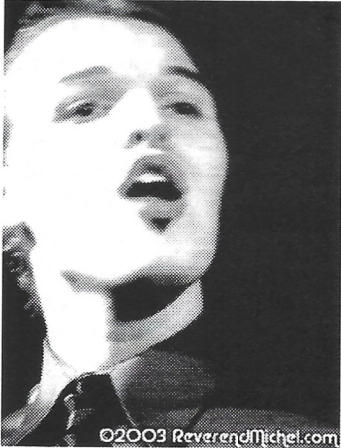


Transcending Transgender

Sponsored by
City of Refuge UCC Outreach Ministries

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

2006 Cotillion Contestants!



U.B. Mackin is young talented Drag King that broke into the San Francisco drag scene with an astounding performance at Trannyshack in early 2003. Since that fateful night he has been busy tearing away at the gender barrier. When not on stage he can often be found sitting on steering committees and advisory boards for local non-profits. He also speaks in elementary, middle and high schools along with colleges on transgender rights and information, along with providing trainings to service providers on working with transgender youth. He can also be seen, in his office at Youth Gender Project, where he's an events coordinator, or out and

about town helping raise money and awareness for various non-profits. He has been very active in the transgender community since an early stage career at 16. U.B. also is in a very wonderful loving relationship, to the single most adorable genderqueer boy. His support makes U.B. being here and SANE possible.

Ms. TGSF 2005

JENNIFER SIOBHAN KENNEDY



It was the best of times, it was the worst of times – strike that, it pretty much was the best of times all the way through! My year as Ms. Transgender San Francisco 2005 is drawing nigh, and I will soon fade into the oblivion of title holders of years gone by.

A year long balancing act, trying to participate as much as possible in the community while keeping my relationship stable and give my children the attention they deserve. In a lot of ways, it seems like my reign is over too soon, there seems so much left to do.

But over this past year, I have done many new things, been exposed to many other aspects of the LGBT community, and I have been exposed to many aspects of our own community that I was oblivious to before. I had the challenge of figuring out what the heck this whole IRLM / Court System thing is that we as Ms. Transgender San Francisco title holders are expected to attend - I have done it, and I am still trying to sort out exactly what the heck it is! I took part in the Human Rights Campaign gala dinner where Felicity Huffman was given an award for her portrayal of a Transsexual M2F Woman in a film – and inexplicably, of roughly 1000 attendees there were only 3 Trans folk there!!!??? The GAPA Runway, Butterfly Ball, the many other TGSF events, performing at Carla's Halloween Bash, End-Of-Months with the requisite post-meeting Martunis/Mecca pilgrimages, and so many other special events.

The highlight of the year had to be Pride in June. The experience of taking part in pulling together such a wonderful float like ours (a design award winner) is something that will stay with me forever. And the Pride Parade itself, held on my birthday (what a present), was indescribably amazing. Over a million people along the parade route, and my arms felt like I had waved to every last one of them. Our theme meant so much to me and so many others, from Stonewall to the Picket Fence, representing how far we have come from drag queens rioting at the Stonewall Inn to becoming a visible and accepted part of the community.

The lowlights of the year have been the incessant fighting within our own community. It seemed that a week could not go by without some wars of words, bruised egos, finger pointing, and overblown histrionics. Our community seems way too thin-skinned and unable to deal with the political realities of our new world, a world where personal politics may be out of step with human rights oriented politics of our community as a whole. A world where we can no longer accept being directly associated with the BDSM community just because some members of our community are also into the BDSM scene (nothing wrong with the BDSM scene, but it is a separate and distinct scene and set of issues). We are defining our role in society, and the growing pains within our community were very apparent this year.

For me personally this has been a year of triumphs, a year of change. Winning the title was a wonderful start to the year. Not so long after that I successfully transitioned at Microsoft where I was consulting (I had to, hard to hide my breasts anymore ;-). I finished up there and then spent a wonderful summer playing soccer mom along with the other mom's carting their kids around (and none of them knew my little secret). This fall I started consulting to a company here in the North Bay as a woman, and they have just hired me as a woman (though I did warn my manager and the director of HR of my little secret). So I began the year in celebration of being Transgendered, and finish the year living my life accepted completely within society as a woman, now on the other side of transitioning. But no matter how much I integrate and blend into the world fully accepted as a woman, I will always be Transgendered, and I will always be proud to be who I am.

And now, the Cotillion for 2006 is here, a time to celebrate our pride as individuals, to celebrate our community, to crown a new Ms. Transgender San Francisco title holder for the coming year, and most important of all – to enjoy ourselves and celebrate our time together. I am looking forward to seeing everyone there, and in cheering on the next Ms. Transgender San Francisco title holder. Thanks to everyone for an amazing year, love and hugs, jen...

SILENT AUCTION ITEMS AT COTILLION 2006

Bid High, Bid Fast, and Bid Often!

Books:

- "The Genite Chronicles" Nicole and Debbie Cook
- "How to Change Your Sex" Lannie Rose
- "Carolina Kane" W.L. (Lisa) Dummer
- "Becoming a Visible Man" Jamison Green

Wines:

- Castle Rock 2004 Carneros Pinot Noir — 3 bottles
- Liberty School 2003 Cabernet Sauvignon — 3 bottles
- A case of wine

Items:

- Dayrunner Entrepreneur Briefcase with fillers, Black leather
- 2 Serenity Angels — engraved with "possibility" statements

Posters:

- Autographed poster of this year's contestants
- Autographed poster of this year's tech team

Big Ticket Items:

- 3 day cruise courtesy of Olivia Cruises
- Six sessions with Kathy Olberts, a relationship and personal life coach, worth approximately \$3000.00
- Gift certificate from Dr. Barbara Anderson, good for one hour of treatment, worth \$100.
- Day of Beauty at Refresh Day Spa — any combination they offer up to \$250.00
- One night stay @Holiday Inn Golden Gateway, with breakfast for 2 next morning
- Carriage ride from Fisherman's Wharf — worth \$75.00

Special Events and Announcements!



Mid-Peninsula Support Group

WEDNESDAY, January 4, 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

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.

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

TG HEALTH SERVICES AVAILABLE IN SANTA CRUZ

Beginning in October of this year under a California Endowment Grant, The Diversity Center of Santa Cruz and Planned Parenthood Mar Monte Westside Health Center are jointly working to provide therapy referrals, health care and hormone therapy services to the Santa Cruz transgender community.

They also offer a support group the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month between the hours of 7:30 and 9:30pm at the Diversity Center of Santa Cruz office located at 1117 Soquel Avenue.

For more information about this exciting program, please contact **LuLu Manus** by e-mail lmanus@diversitycenter.org or (831) 425-5422.

MID-MONTH SOCIAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

TGSF is looking for some enthusiastic and motivated people to help plan our mid-month socials.

All it takes to plan these events is for someone to call a venue that is hopefully very TG friendly and see if they would be willing to host our event. Mid-months can expect anywhere from 10-20 people.

If you would like to help with these events, please contact roxvhart72903@sbcglobal.net Thank you!

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 @ 415-845-1157.

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!

CITY MAY REQUIRE TRANVESTITE BATHROOMS

By Michael Astor, Associated Press Writer
Sfgate.com

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — For most, it's a choice of the men's room or the women's. A Brazilian city is trying to give an option to those who don't fit easily into either category. A bill passed by the Nova Iguacu city council would require nightclubs, shopping malls, movie theaters and large restaurants to provide a third type of bathroom for transvestites. Mayor Lindberg Farias will decide whether to make it a law.

"A lot of lawmakers didn't want to deal with this issue, but it's a serious problem in society," said city Councilman Carlos Eduardo Moreira. "It's a way to put an end to prejudice."

Moreira, a 32-year-old policeman on leave from the force, said he got the idea when dozens of transvestites showed up for a local samba show. "It was a real problem. The women didn't feel comfortable having them in the ladies' room, and the men didn't want them in their bathroom either," said Moreira, who is married and the father of two children. "I'm not doing this for my own benefit."

He said the "alternative bathrooms" could also be used by men or women who didn't mind sharing space with transvestites. Moreira said there are nearly 28,000 transvestites in Nova Iguacu, a poor city of about 800,000 on the outskirts of Rio de Janeiro.

Moreira said many transvestites are reluctant to go out because there's no bathroom for them. And he denied that the cost of building a third bathroom would be a big problem for restaurant or club owners. "It requires an initial investment, but after that, the establishment will end up making more money because it will have a larger public. And transvestites like to spend," he said.

The issue has divided gay groups; some feared it could segregate gays, while others said it recognized a problem within the gay community. "At first we were against the law, but after some discussion we decided we had to support it because it addresses a real problem for a segment of the gay community," said Eugenio Ibiapino dos Santos, a founder of the Pink Triangle Association, a gay group in Nova Iguacu. "We see it as a way to open a discussion about civil rights."

Brazil is generally more tolerant of homosexuality than other Latin American countries, but discrimination still exists.

A study conducted by the Candido Mendes University in Rio de Janeiro found that 60 percent of Rio's homosexuals had met some type of harassment, and 17 percent said they had experienced physical violence.

TRANSSEXUAL CANNOT BECOME CRISIS CENTER COUNCILOR COURT RULES

by The Canadian Press
©365Gay.com 2005

(Vancouver, British Columbia) A Vancouver transsexual has lost the latest round in her battle with a women's group to become a volunteer rape counselor. The British Columbia Court of Appeal dismissed an appeal by Kimberly Nixon to overturn her expulsion from Vancouver Rape Relief. Gwendoline Allison, the lawyer for the women's group, says the decision essentially protects the right of Vancouver Rape Relief to choose its counselors.

Nixon, who was born biologically male but underwent a sex-change operation in 1990, was ejected from a training session for volunteer counselors when a staff member learned she had not always been biologically female.

Nixon won a B.C. Human Rights discrimination complaint but the B.C. Supreme Court later overturned the ruling and \$7,500 award.

Her lawyers had asked a three-member panel of the appeal court to reinstate the tribunal's original finding. "Today the B.C. Court of Appeal gave its blessing to a clear case of discrimination," Gilles Marchildon, Executive Director of LGBT rights group Egale said from Ottawa.

"If women's groups can exclude women based on their trans status, what is to prevent them from excluding other women based on race, religion or sexual orientation? Discrimination based on a person's intrinsic nature or personal circumstances is just plain wrong."

The case now heads to the Supreme Court of Canada.

NEW YORK HONORS TRANSGENDER ICON Christopher Curtis, PlanetOut Network

New York City renamed a street corner in Greenwich Village on Thursday after Stonewall veteran and transgender activist Sylvia Rivera. The event coincided with the annual Day of Remembrance, a day the transgender community remembers its dead.

Rivera was one of the first protesters to throw a bottle at the police as they raided the Stonewall Inn bar on June 28, 1969. She understood the significance of the moment, calling it a "turning point" for LGBT rights.

The next year, Rivera joined the Gay Activists Alliance in an effort to pass a gay rights bill in New York City — going as so far as to crash a meeting on the bill by scaling City Hall walls in a dress and high heels.

But later it was the mainstream gay culture that made her feel like she was crashing the party. Activists dropped transgender rights from the proposed city gay rights bill in an effort to make it more acceptable. "When things started getting more mainstream," Sylvia told Michael Musto in a 1995 interview, "it was like, 'We don't need you no more.'"

Although frequently homeless, Rivera co-founded Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries (STAR) with Marsha P. Johnson, to provide temporary housing for others in the transgender community.

Rivera died on Feb. 19, 2002.

Riki Wilchins, executive director of the Gender Public Advocacy Coalition (GPAC), described Rivera's final moments in an article for the Village Voice.

"She was hooked up to monitors, IVs, and a morphine pump last Sunday when local gay leaders stopped by the intensive care unit to ask her advice. Mortally ill, she held back the night long enough to give them hell one last time for not being inclusive enough. She died only hours later, at just 50 years old: a unique lady for a unique time."

Melissa Sklarz, co-chair for the LGBT Committee of Community Board #2, said she acted on a friend's suggestion to name the street corner after the transgender icon.

"In the past we did very somber events," Sklarz recalled. "But we wanted to start celebrating our lives rather than mourning our dead."

Gwen Smith, who started the Day of Remembrance after the unsolved Nov. 1998 murder of Rita Hester in Boston, said of the street naming, "I can't think of anyone who is more deserving. Her and Marsha P. Johnson were really the mothers of the modern trans rights movement."

Mara Keisling, executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE), said Rivera is the first out transgender person to have a street named after her. "I think it's a wonderfully marvelous gesture."

Sklarz added the naming of the northeast corner of Christopher and Hudson streets after Rivera also had a political message worthy of its namesake.

"Right now we're having trouble with the community in Greenwich Village as the residents protest the LGBT people who hang out there as destructive to their way of life," Sklarz said. "We thought naming this corner after this iconic figure who once prowled here would remind everyone of the neighborhood's history."

Trans Community Holiday Dinner Pics!



What Makes a Man...

Continued from Page 2

The episode at the Registry of Motor Vehicles is a triumphant memory – one Leo is happy to talk about. But there is another, darker time that haunts Leo's past.

Wrestling A Demon

A teenage girl knelt in front of the altar at her parent's church with a crowd of hands swaying over her. The congregation clustered around. In a ceremony full of tears, prayers and sweat, the church pleaded with God to remove the demon that tormented the 15-year-old and threatened to send her soul to Hell.

It was 1990, and Leo had told his parents a few days earlier that he was sexually attracted to women. The ceremony was supposed to cure him, to drive out his homosexuality and set him back on the strait and narrow pathway.

Leo said he hoped with all his heart the laying-on-of-hands ceremony would work. He closed his eyes and tried to feel the invincible, divine energy surging from God through the hands of the faithful and into his soul. It did not come. After the exorcism people walked out of the church and drove home, but Leo's attraction to women stayed.

Convinced she was being tormented by demonic forces, the teenage girl attempted suicide shortly after the exorcism. "I didn't really want to die, I just didn't want to feel that," Leo said. "It's not a good feeling to feel like you are possessed by a demon."

Leo said his failed suicide was the culmination of many years of intense confusion and pain that began when he was young. Puberty was especially hard. As he matured from a girl to a woman Leo said he was overcome with a sense that something was tragically wrong, as though some terrible mistake had been made. "I hated getting breasts; it was horrifying," he said. "I thought I could cause myself to get breast cancer by hitting them and I'd have to get them removed."

Leo said his discomfort with the growths on his chest did not compare to the psychological pain he felt each time he menstruated. "I had this because I had a female body," he said. "During that time you have to attend to it. It was a painful constant reminder of what my body was intended to do – that it was intended to carry babies."

An A-student all through high school, Leo was an out-of-the-closet lesbian by the time he graduated. Although he had a loving and understanding girlfriend, Leo said he remained unsatisfied as he prepared for his first semester at Ball State. "I identified as a lesbian but I wasn't comfortable being perceived as a woman," he said. "Moving away gave me more options."

Leaving Home

One night in June 1993, Leo's father told him to sit down at the kitchen table. It was about Leo's girlfriend. She was living in the house with Leo, sleeping in his bed. This was an evil thing, his father said, and he was not going to allow it to continue under his roof.

Leo said the confrontation escalated into a screaming argument in which he and the girl left the house and moved into an apartment together. It was the last time Leo spoke with his father. Leo's mother was more accepting. Although she disapproves of certain parts of his lifestyle, the two have stayed close through the years.

That fall, Leo began his first semester at Ball State. But the combination of classes, a full-time job and the turmoil in his family life proved to be too much for him. Leo got As and Bs, but the workload was grueling and he had to drop something. He chose school. "I just couldn't keep up with my classes," Leo said. "I had to drop out." Leo returned to Ball State for Spring semester as a part-time student. He excelled this time, graduating in 1998 with a degree in Psychology.

Things have improved for transgendered students at Ball State since the days when he was an undergraduate. Leo said. The Lesbian Bisexual Gay Straight Alliance, for example, changed its name to Spectrum to be more inclusive of transgendered people.

The library only owned one book dealing with transgender issues when Leo first came to the university. Now it has more than twenty.

Spectrum president Zac Davis said his organization has three transgendered members but hopes to attract more. "There's not a big demographic of transgendered students that are out," he said. "So it's difficult to do programs for them."

Spectrum tries to educate people about transgender issues through speaker panels and other events, Davis said. Spectrum is also working on a program with the university that would give Ball State faculty and staff a greater understanding of the GLBT community. Davis said the program would emphasize the transgendered community.

The Transition

After he graduated from Ball State, Leo got a job offer in Boston. He jumped at the opportunity. His five-year-long relationship had ended, and as his plane left Indiana, Leo was journeying to an unknown place. When he arrived in the city, Leo said he felt totally alone. "It was scary," Leo said. "I was completely by myself."

Despite his loneliness, Leo said his first few months in Boston were liberating. "It solidified my independence even though it was scary at first," he said. "But I started feeling like if I could do this, I could do anything. It was a big confidence builder."

With all the time to himself, Leo came to terms with something he had repressed for a long time. He wasn't a lesbian, he was a man who was born in the wrong body.

Leo started researching his condition on the Internet and found there was an actual name for it, gender dysphoria. Soon after, he started going to counseling. In November 1999, Leo started taking testosterone injections which lowered his voice and allowed him to grow facial hair.

In July 2000, Leo flew to San Francisco for the operation that would remove his breasts. The surgeon he chose, Michael Brownstein, specializes in gender reassignment surgeries and is one of the better-known doctors in his field. Leo said choosing the right surgeon was crucial for people looking to transition. Patients in the hands of an unskilled surgeon often end up with horrid scarring and unnatural nipple placement.

Leo said he finally felt like himself when his breast tissue was taken out – like he was in the right body. "It was a kind of statement of me saying, 'This is who I am,'" he said. "Going through my transition, it was also kind of a celebration of myself, like I'd been freed."

After the operation, Leo recovered at a friend's house while his chest healed. The friend, also a transgendered man, was sympathetic to Leo. He took care of him, even woke him up in the middle of the night to make sure he took his pain medicine.

Leo's employees and co-workers were supportive of his transition. So when he returned to his job in Boston, his post-operation body was not a big deal. His style was always to wear men's clothing to work where he was called by the male name, Leo, rather than his given name, Lynette.

Continued on Page 17

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REFLECTIONS OF A WESTERNERS' TRANSITION IN AN EASTERN SOCIETY

Gill Chrystina Dalton

Why does transitioning have to be so difficult for so many people?

For me, as a UK national, who lived as a male for 10 years in Thailand and then started and completed my transition to female there, this question is really now what dominates my whole life.

Let me explain! Once I embarked on my transition, everything followed logically with no perceivable barriers put up to block me. Neither from the medical profession or the general public at large.

Let's deal firstly with the medical profession who treated me throughout as a rational human being. Can you believe that! Every step I took was taken with their advice but, most importantly, the decisions were mine. My choice as to how and when I proceeded based on their recommendations. I started my transition in March of 2002 and completed it in July of 2003. I was monitored on a monthly basis by an endocrinologist. I had two consultations with two completely independent psychiatrists who, after a two hour session with each, almost verbatim told me that in their opinions, I was perfectly sane, rational and would come through with flying colours and that neither felt they needed to see me again. That was me done with the psychiatric community! I am not saying this would be the same for everyone, but, the point is, we are all different and it is about time that those intrinsic differences are recognised and taken into account. Do people really need to spend years and years convincing the psychiatric community that they are what they have known they were since very early childhood?

When I had my final surgery I had literally never met another western transsexual. So when I did start meeting them in the hospital I was, perhaps naively, shocked when I started hearing all the stories of discrimination, prejudice and bigotry that go on around the world. For me in Thailand, it just never did happen. Society just accepts and tolerates differences. They look, they nudge their friends for sure, but that is as far as it goes. Think about it for a minute. In a society where the average male height is only 5ft 6ins, and female height is 5ft 2ins, I stood out already as a 6ft 5ins male without the added element of changing gender! **Yet, I experienced not one confrontation, no ridicule or no abuse in Thai society.**

The question that begs an answer from all this is, why did my own transition, although personally traumatic with my marriage breakup to contend with, not have anywhere near the number of indignities that so many have to contend with? The simple answer to this is that I was allowed to remain in control of my own body and mind. From start to finish, my own free will and choice regarding the steps I took and more importantly, when I took them. At the same time carrying out my transition within a society that is far more tolerant than any of the so called 'Civilized Western Societies'.

Gill will be in San Francisco until the 4th January and for more information please visit her website at www.grs-thailand.com

What Makes a Man...

Continued from Page 15

At work, the only difficulties Leo faced because of his transition came from the company's corporate headquarters. "The company is based out of Salt Lake City," Leo said. "Some of the Mormon corporate staff that seemed friendly when we'd talk on the phone before were kind of uncomfortable, but that dissipated after a time. I had a very uneventful transition on the job."

How Leo Met His Wife

Leo met his wife Carolyn in Boston during a community theater production of "The Music Man." Leo played Tommy Djilas and Carolyn was his girlfriend, Zaneeta Shinn. The two were dance partners in the musical. Carolyn said she kept falling over her future husband during routines and landing on him in some awkward spots. "I kept landing on his lap and I kept worrying I was going to hit him in the balls and he was like, 'Don't worry about it,'" she said.

The couple hung out for the first time outside of the play when a tree branch fell in Carolyn's yard and she needed someone with a saw to help cut it up. Leo volunteered right away. "I didn't even have a saw," he said. "I had to go and rent one."

Right after he finished with the branch, Leo decided to tell Carolyn about his past as a woman. "I told her as soon as I decided I was interested in her," he said. "I didn't want her to get to know me and like me, then find out and feel deceived or betrayed. I wanted her to know early on."

Carolyn said Leo's past as a woman did not bother her, and she fell in love with Leo for who he was, not for what was between his legs. "He was the first person that really got me," Carolyn said. "We had similar religious beliefs, we talked about life, about God."

Bringing It All Home

Leo asked Carolyn to marry him after five weeks of dating. When she told her relatives about her new fiancée, they were confused. Leo's family didn't even want to hear about it at the time.

Leo and Carolyn decided a formal wedding might not be their best bet. Taking advantage of a package deal at a bed and breakfast in New Hampshire, the couple chose to elope. The ceremony was low key. Leo wore a tuxedo he bought at Goodwill and his wife found her dress on eBay. "The only thing missing was my family," Leo said. "My mother wasn't very accepting of me getting married as a man."

After the marriage, the couple bought a house outside of Anderson, and Leo returned to Ball State as a teaching assistant.

Except for the occasional panel discussion, Leo doesn't usually bring up his past as a woman. It is a big part of his life, but it doesn't define him as a person, he said. He's more concerned about the future.

He wants to teach high school when he is done at Ball State, he said. "They have a program called Transition to Teaching," he said. "I guess that will be my second transition." The program puts graduate students on a fast track to certification so they can teach secondary education.

Leo has come a long way from his life as the daughter of impoverished Pentecostal parents. Despite the turbulent episodes in his past, his life now is surprisingly mundane. He spends most of his time teaching and preparing for his classes.

"I'm not abnormal," he said. "I just have this extraordinary past. I've had the privilege of seeing the world when it perceived me as different things."

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Medical Community Trying To Better Meet Their Needs

ABOUT-FACE IN CARE FOR CITY'S TRANSGENDER PATIENTS

By Julie Davidow
Seattle Post-Intelligencer Reporter

For several years after beginning his transition from a woman to a man, Airen Lydick saw two doctors — one who knew him as a woman and one to monitor his testosterone injections. “I know what they need me to call myself in order to get the health care coverage that I need,” said Lydick, who started injecting male hormones nearly three years ago. He worries about one day being denied coverage for ovarian or breast cancer if his official medical records list him as male.

He changed his driver's license to identify him as a man, but health insurance is trickier.

Transgender men and women often rely on medical interventions to transform their bodies, but going to the doctor means subjecting their anatomy and lives to the close scrutiny of a stranger who's likely not well-versed in transgender medicine or culture.

“I think to a certain extent it's invisible to the field of medicine still. It's not a specialty. I'm not going to be board-certified,” said Dr. Teresa Murphy, who treats low-income transgender patients at the Pike Market Medical Clinic.

But an interest in transgender medicine appears to be gaining momentum in Seattle as providers, clinics and public health officials attempt to learn more about the unique concerns of patients who don't identify with the sex of their birth.

They're requesting sensitivity trainings, calling local experts in transgender medicine for advice and figuring out details about the transgender community and its concerns. A major one is insurance. Companies that categorize clients as only men or women can make health care a precarious and often expensive pursuit for transgender people.

Anthony Ricardi, a transgender man, saved \$8,000 for chest reconstruction surgery to remove his breasts. “I wanted to look like this in the world,” said Ricardi, whose chest is now broad and flat. “I felt really uncomfortable in my body.”

A doctor in San Francisco performed the surgery. Group Health Cooperative declined to pay. Although gender-identity disorder is a diagnosable psychiatric condition (as defined in the “Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders”), most insurers do not consider it a medical condition.

“There's a specific exclusion in our contract that says sexual-reassignment surgery and related services and supplies are not covered,” said Holly Knighten, manager of contract compliance and training at Group Health. “We just don't consider it something that's a medical condition that we would cover.”

Ricardi, a 24-year-old student at Seattle Central Community College, wants to study nursing in large part because of his experiences as a transgender patient.

Clearly stymied by his patient's ambiguous gender, a chiropractor once asked Ricardi what his genitals look like. “It's hard to feel comfortable with a doctor who's freaked out by your body,” Ricardi said.

Vanessa Grandberry heads a King County-funded program started three years ago to provide HIV and AIDS education to transgender men and women of color at the People of Color Against AIDS Network in Seattle. “I really believe that transgender people

Part II

MARLA AND JUDY IN MOTOWN

We have been here since 9/11. This major move and re-settlement to Marla's lovely hometown has been anything but smooth. However, in spite of the adversity, we have no regrets. We should have done this 3 years ago. We don't miss the Bay Area, especially its high cost housing. We do greatly miss TGSF and all of the great friends we left out there.

The trans network here in southwestern Michigan is a hodge-podge of loose-knit organizations. Downriver Detroit is all but non-existent. TGMI has no social calendar. Our initiation to the community was one Saturday night in mid-October when we attended the monthly meeting of Crossroads, the only trans-social group for many miles. They meet in Royal Oak at the Senior Center.

We were greeted with typical Michigan hospitality for the final cookout before winter. Other than the camaraderie one expects from a TG group, it is like San Francisco 1975: changing rooms, uncertain fashion sense, and fear of the straight world. There were only about 8 people in attendance. We will report more on the social scene next month when we will finally start to crawl out of the hole financially.

We were able to attend the ground breaking ceremony for the new Affirmations LGBT center in Ferndale back in October, the 23rd. It was well attended with many political dignitaries present. Michigan Governor, Jennifer Granholm, a representative for US Senator Debbie Stabenow's office, and the Mayors of both Ferndale and Royal Oak were highly visible and made LGBT friendly statements. There is, however, a long way to go to achieve as much in equal rights as California has done. TLBG rights here are a patchwork of local ordinances.

Although there are friendly Democrats, the Michigan state legislature is controlled by so-called, self-styled “family values” Republicans. Check www.pridesource.com for the story of Mr. Family Values, State Attorney General Mike Cox, recently outed for infidelities to his beautiful wife. No doubt it is all our fault for attacking the sanctity of marriage—just see what happens when public officials conspire to give health benefits to “those kind of people”...or whatever their logic is.

In other news, we have a large one bedroom in a well maintained 1927 building in wonderful Midtown Detroit. The rent is \$580 per month including gated, secured parking, a must to protect our “79 Monte Carlo, which has a fan club here in Detroit. We are within a half mile of the Main Detroit Public Library, Detroit Institute of the Arts, Detroit Science Center, the Detroit Historical Museum, and Wayne State University envelopes us.

Until next time, with best wishes for Happy Holidays,

Marla and Judy Selby
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are where gay men were 60 years ago,” Grandberry said. “Some people don't seek any health care because they are ashamed or they are afraid they're going to be discriminated against.” Others, like Lydick, work out a compromise by using two physicians.

In addition to the complications and side effects associated with surgery and hormones, some small studies suggest transgender people are also at higher risk for depression, suicide, drug and alcohol abuse and HIV and AIDS than the overall population.

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About-Face In Transgender Care...

Continued from Page 18

Some providers are beginning to take note. "We used to speak in terms of lesbians or gay men, but now we need to include transgender people, too, in that discussion," said Martha Clay, a nurse practitioner in the breast center at Swedish Medical Center. In September, the center held a staff training session about transgender health care.

That nascent interest is fueled in part by a locally active and vocal transgender community, said Dr. Bob Wood, director of the HIV/AIDS Program at Public Health — Seattle & King County. "I think people in the population are pounding their shoes on the table and saying we need services, too," Wood said.

Despite a lack of accurate population estimates, some say there's evidence of a growing number of transgender men and women in Seattle.

In the past several years, members of the community say a younger, more outspoken and politically active generation has expanded what it means to be transgender. The term now encompasses a wider range of gender expression, including those who don't want to make any physical changes to their bodies. That has effectively increased the number of people who identify as transgender.

"There are a lot more trans folks that are just out and proud," said Mary Dzieweczynski, executive director of Verbena Health, a lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender health advocacy organization in Seattle. "The stigma is wearing away."

Seattle has long been a draw for transgender men and women. The Ingersoll Gender Center, founded in 1977, was among the first non-profits in the nation designed to support people with gender-identity issues. Ingersoll offers support groups, peer counseling, referrals to licensed therapists and workshops.

Today, the Internet also links transgender people across the country with resources, support and information, including Seattle events. About 50 people attended a recent transgender health fair — the second annual event sponsored by Verbena. Participants came from rural Washington, Idaho and as far as Iowa. And a growing number of non-profit agencies, clinics and specialists, including Verbena, provide counseling and health services for transgender men and women in Seattle.

When Grandberry joined the King County HIV/AIDS Planning Council in 2001, members weren't convinced there were enough transgender residents to build services around. "We've had certain members ... that will say there's no data, there's no data so why should we be funding programs for transgender people," Grandberry said. "That attitude has changed."

In 2003, the public health department started collecting information about the local transgender community and tracking cases of HIV and AIDS.

Gay City Health Project, which has traditionally focused on gay men's health and HIV and AIDS testing, for the first time added female-to-male transgender concerns to its health pamphlets in 2003, said Fred Swanson, executive director at Gay City. "We're thinking more broadly about the gay community and gay males," Swanson said. "It's recognizing that some gay men may not be born with penises. "We could have different bodies and be at risk for different things for different reasons."



Photo: Anthony Ricardi, a student at Seattle Central Community College, wants to study nursing in large part because of his experiences as a transgender patient.

Lydick grew up on a farm in rural Nebraska. He was never a girly girl, but other interests and inclinations — he liked to read and study — stood out more among his peers than his appearance and mannerisms. "I'm not one of those folks who says when I was 3 my mom tried to put me in a dress and I kicked her in the head," Lydick said. "I was a farm kid. There was no putting me in a dress. I wasn't supposed to be pretty."

He moved to Seattle six years ago after graduating as a philosophy major from a liberal arts college in Illinois.

Lydick pays cash for his hormones and twice-yearly visits to Murphy to monitor any side effects from the injections. The male hormones have made his voice deeper and given him facial hair. Chewing on a croissant in a Capitol Hill coffee shop last month, his face was clean shaven except for a patch of whiskers on his chin. His hips are trimmer than they once were, his face less full.

But Lydick doesn't know what could happen to his body after a lifetime of the high-dose hormones. "There has been no long-term testing of trans people," said Lydick, 30. "That's of concern to me."

Like many transgender people, he's familiar with nightmare stories about transgender interactions with the health care system. The film "Southern Comfort" — a lightning rod for health concerns within the transgender community — tells the story of a transgender man who died after doctors refused to treat him for ovarian cancer.

California recently became the only state in the country to prohibit discrimination in health policies or benefits based on gender identity. And even well-meaning doctors avoid eye contact or give their patients the once over, searching for evidence of one sex or the other. "Doctors are human," Lydick said. "And gender deviance is scary to many humans."

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ARAUJO CASE DRAWS TO CLOSE

Last Defendant Pleads No Contest To Avoid Third Trial

Henry K. Lee,
SF Chronicle Staff Writer

In a dramatic turn, the last of the four men charged with killing Newark transgender teen Gwen Araujo three years ago pleaded no contest Friday to voluntary manslaughter and will be sentenced to six years in prison.

During a hearing in Hayward, Jason Cazares, 25, whose two trials led to deadlocked juries and mistrials, said, "Yes, sir," when Alameda County Superior Court Judge Harry Sheppard asked if he intended to enter the plea, which carries the same punishment as pleading guilty.

Cazares declined to comment after the hearing, drawing to a close the prosecution of four men charged in the 2002 killing of Araujo, who was born Edward Araujo but had been living as a young woman. But Cazares' attorney, J. Tony Serra, said his client has always admitted to a role in the crime.

"We have never denied his responsibility as an accessory after the fact," Serra said. Although two prior trials had ended in mistrials, the risk of conviction during a third was a possibility, Serra said.

"It probably would have gone the same way, but the risk is inordinate," he said.

Araujo was beaten and strangled during a Newark party in October 2002 by four men after two of them, after having had sex with her, discovered she was biologically male.

Although Cazares "is not happy" with the prospect of spending time in prison, his plea "is a pragmatic, valid disposition" to the case, Serra said. Legally speaking, pleading no contest — called *nolo contendere* — is the same as pleading guilty, but the conviction cannot be used against the defendant in a civil lawsuit.

Prosecutor Chris Lamiero agreed the plea was the best outcome. "We took this case to trial twice and gave it our all," he said. "I think it's an appropriate disposition, all things considered."

Lamiero said Cazares was willing to plead guilty to a charge of being an accessory after the fact to murder, but the prosecutor said he rejected that because it would carry a sentence of just three years and would not involve admitting to the slaying.

A jury in September convicted Jose Merel and Michael Magidson, both 25, of murdering Araujo, with whom they had had sex.

Merel and Magidson are expected to be sentenced to 15 years to life in prison in the slaying. Araujo was buried in a shallow grave in the Sierra foothills.

Merel, Magidson and Cazares are to be sentenced Jan. 27.

Serra asked that his client not begin serving his sentence until after the birth of Cazares' third child, who is due in March or April. In an interview, Lamiero said, "I just think that it's difficult for me to entertain a request like that when Gwen Araujo is dead."

Although Serra said Sheppard had indicated he would approve the attorney's request, the judge did not say so in open court.

Jurors spent weeks deliberating during the second trial in Araujo's slaying before revealing that they were deadlocked 9-3 in favor of a second-degree murder conviction for Cazares. But they rejected allegations that the slaying was a hate crime stemming from Araujo's gender orientation.

The first trial ended after 10 days of deliberation in June 2004, when the jury deadlocked on the charges against all three men.

A fourth defendant, Jaron Nabors, 22, who led police to Araujo's body, pleaded guilty in 2003 to voluntary manslaughter in exchange for testifying against his friends. He is expected to receive an 11-year prison sentence.

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Movie Review | "Transamerica"

A COMPLEX METAMORPHOSIS OF THE MOST FUNDAMENTAL SORT

By A. O. Scott, NY Times

To call Felicity Huffman's performance in "Transamerica" persuasive would be an understatement, as well as somewhat misleading. Her character, Bree (short for Sabrina), is a pre-operative transsexual who lives in a modest bungalow in Los Angeles and in a condition she refers to as "stealth." In other words, though still technically male, Bree passes for a woman, though there is nothing very stealthy about her elaborate, almost theatrical displays of femininity. In her tasteful pink outfits and meticulously applied makeup, she presents an image of womanliness that harks back to an earlier era. Her voice soft and breathy, she avoids cursing and peppers her conversation with Latinate words and foreign phrases.

In this debut feature by Duncan Tucker, who wrote and directed it, "Transamerica" sets out to affirm Bree's dignity, to liberate her and others like her from any association with camp or freakishness. That the film succeeds without slipping too far into sentimentality or didacticism is in no small measure the result of Ms. Huffman's wit and grace. (She may also be the first film actor of either sex to do frontal nudity, in a single movie, as both.) Her work on "Desperate Housewives," for which she won an Emmy earlier this year, suggests a knack for gender parody, since that series is in essence a drag show that happens to star real women. The challenge Ms. Huffman faces here is more complicated: she must convey the layers of Bree's identity and the spaces between those layers. It is not just that the actress must play a man who is playing a woman - that much is a matter of technique (with some prosthetic assistance, to be sure) - but also that she must impersonate a performer in the midst of learning a complicated role. Her performance is a complex metamorphosis, and it is thrilling to watch.



Felicity Huffman as Bree, formerly Stanley, and Graham Greene as Calvin in Duncan Tucker's debut feature, "Transamerica."

"Transamerica" itself does not always live up to its star, but it is touching and sometimes funny, despite its overall air of indie earnestness. A week before her gender-reassignment surgery, Bree, formerly and reluctantly known as Stanley, discovers that a long-ago relationship has produced a previously unknown son named Toby (Kevin Zegers), who is now a teenage street hustler living in New York. Told by her therapist (Elizabeth Peña) that this is a loose end that must be tied up, Bree flies East to help the boy, who has run away from home after his mother's suicide. Allowing him to think that she is a Christian missionary - her upright, churchly bearing makes it easy to believe - she decides to take him back to rural Kentucky, where his stepfather lives.

Their journey gives Mr. Tucker a chance to indulge in yet another exercise in road-trip Americana, as Bree and Toby tour that mythic land where banjos and acoustic guitars compete with the crickets and loons. In keeping with the rules of cinematic cross-country travel, they eschew interstates in favor of winding two-lane highways, and eat in homey little roadside cafes. Along the way, they encounter a wise, warm black woman, a drunken and depraved hillbilly and a courtly Indian (Graham Greene), who takes a liking to Bree.

And of course, father and son do some tentative, poignant bonding, even though Bree can't bring herself to tell Toby the truth about their relationship. "I'm not his mother," she insists when strangers identify her that way, with increasing awareness of the absurdity of the situation. Luckily - for the audience, if not for Bree - they are forced to take a detour to visit her parents in Arizona, at which point the movie takes a welcome swerve. Off the road, it swerves toward a kind of domestic melodrama laced with mordant humor, as if Douglas Sirk had joined forces with Alexander Payne.

By its final third "Transamerica" has worked up enough momentum and self-confidence to overcome its sometimes obvious narrative, and to endow Bree's family of origin with an individuality that is both grotesque and heartbreaking. Her father, Murray (Burt Young), is an easygoing fellow in loose-fitting linen, but it is her mother, Elizabeth (the astonishing Fionnula Flanagan), who commands our attention. With her peroxide curls, silk pantsuits and heavy makeup, she might be an aging movie diva, and she has the volatile temperament to prove it. She verges on monstrosity, but stops short of being grotesque, and it is clear that while young Stanley may have rebelled against his mother, Bree has studied her behavior closely in search of both negative and positive examples.

Mr. Tucker is a subtle and conscientious writer; he takes care to treat Bree as a person rather than a case study. His individual scenes are more convincing than the narrative as a whole, which seems at times too neat, at times too ragged. But Ms. Huffman carries herself with such sensitivity and authority that you never doubt Bree for an instant.