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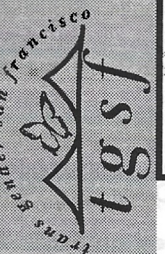
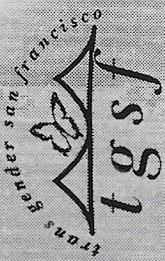
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TGSF TransGender San Francisco is a group for all members of the Transgender Community. Transgender is used as an umbrella term that includes female and male cross dressers, transvestites, drag queens or kings, female or male impersonators, intersexed 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



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)

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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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4x5	\$ 60	\$300	\$ 600
Full Page	\$100	\$500	\$1000

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THE ART OF TRANSFORMATION

Denaë Doyle Guides Clients On The Path To New Identities

Meghan Laslocky, Special to The SF Chronicle

Santa Cruz — Being a stylish woman isn't easy, particularly if you were born a man. But for transgendered women and cross-dressers struggling with the finer points of hip sway, hem length and bra fit, Denaë Doyle aims to stop unsightly "man-in-a-dress" syndrome in its tracks.



Rosalea Roberts, left, waited years to contact Denaë Doyle for help in her transition.

Chronicle photo by Katy Raddatz

Doyle, a femininity coach who has eagle eyes when it comes to the subtle differences between how women and men interact in social situations, coached "Desperate Housewives" co-star Felicity Huffman for her role as Bree, a conservative, ladylike transsexual, in the film "Transamerica," which opens in San Francisco on Friday.

While Doyle works with genetic women who want to improve their feminine demeanor, say in the search for a new job or mate, the bulk of her clients are male-to-female transsexuals, like Bree, and cross-dressing heterosexual men.

With help with their clothing, makeup, wigs, body language and voice, Doyle guides transgendered women from enduring many a sidewalk wince to "passing" in the aisles of Safeway.

"Happiness for me is my clients finding out what is true and real and striking a balance. And to help them not look embarrassing," she said recently at her Santa Cruz office.

"Let's back the baby up," she said. "How sexy is it to be homeless?"

Doyle wants her transsexual clients to be able to get respectable jobs and her cross-dressing clients to explore their feminine sides tastefully. The trick is to shed masculine mannerisms for feminine ones and not overdo it with overly feminine, flashy clothes.

Doyle lines her green eyes with slate blue makeup, tosses her shoulder-length ash blond hair as she talks, and walks with the natural sway of a dancer. On a recent afternoon, she wore a wheat-colored peasant-style skirt lightly spangled on the hem with gold sequins. Her voice is laced with the slightest Texan twang, like lemon in iced tea.

At age 16 and with hair dyed red at her father's urging, Doyle won her first pageant, in Houston, as Miss St. Patrick's Day. She went on to be crowned Miss Houston World. Before long, she was modeling for local television and on Neiman Marcus runways.

When she moved to Santa Rosa in the '70s, she founded her own modeling school and coached teenage girls on self-improvement.

But in 1996, her client base shifted when Dr. Mildred Brown, author of a popular book in the transgender community called "True Selves: Understanding Transsexualism — for Families, Friends, Coworkers and Helping Professionals," contacted her. Brown, a psychologist who lived in the Bay Area until she retired several years ago, says her clients "desperately needed help with their wardrobes and feminine carriage," so she invited Doyle to speak to a group of transgender women at Los Gatos Community Hospital.

"I wasn't sure if it would be the same teaching a transgendered woman as a genetic woman. Now I can say, 'No, it's not,'" Doyle says. She

Continued on Page 4

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By **Roxy Carmichael-Hart**

So Now What?

I hope you all enjoyed that epic battle. What a competition Back and forth it went and we did not know who was going to win until the end. But Texas took home the prize.

Oh, you thought I meant that other competition – the one for Miss TGSF. Well as I sit here on January 9, 2006. I haven't a clue who will win. We have three wonderful Miss TGSF contestants – all members of our ExCom I am proud to say – in Lisa, Katra and Jennifer. And in a late switch, Sydney Anderson Mason graciously stepped in to run for Mr. TGSF when we were faced with a sudden vacancy. I know each of these fine people is going to be great and will make all of you very proud. If I were you, I would be very proud of them and I am proud just to even know them. They have worked hard and whoever winds up on top deserves your full support and cooperation and assistance. They have sacrificed a lot for you.

I am confident we will have a good show. I am not looking for the biggest or the best or the most spectacular, just to have a show people will enjoy. As the new year dawned things looked kind of grim financially and technically but it has begun to come together. Naturally I wish we were in better shape in many ways and things could have been done differently but I will save my critiques for next month. And no one but no one is a harder critic on me than me. I strive for perfection and have come to expect it. That's because I care about this show. It matters to me. What it stands for is important. And I care about this community.

Although I will more fully discuss the Cotillion next month, I want to single out a few people right off the bat. First is Carla Blair. Whenever I am in the dumps or at my wit's end, Carla is there to fix it. It was Carla who talked to Sydney about running for Mr. TGSF. Seemingly whatever we need, Carla is there to provide it.

Next is Laura. She's always there when I need her, always organized and always calm. Laura has been a fabulous vice-president and an even better producer. We are blessed to have her as an important part of this community.

Arlynne, whom you saw lots of at the Cotillion is one of very few people I will call "my sister". She is always there to help as well and donates whatever she can to the Cotillion in terms of time, ideas and assistance. She may not be trans by the true definition but she has the heart of this community and is more a part of it than many trans folks that I know.

My favorite couple – Faye and Sydney. You know how much I love you. You have been sincere and loving friends almost since I first emerged and you honored me by asking me to be your celebrant at the renewal of your vows. And thank you so much for stepping into the breach at the last second. I am very grateful.

Madame Steele – you are always one of the first people to volunteer every year, and I deeply appreciate your donations of the crown, tiaras and sashes. Not many people realize that you do this year in and year out, from the goodness in your heart. And I



Roxy and Carla

will never forget the way you stepped in as contestant coordinator 2 years ago when we needed you. Beneath that tough moniker is a very kind, loving and warm person I am proud to call my friend.

Rachael Janelle – thank you for listening to my whining and my angst and my pain. And thanks for helping me to care again. The most important thing about the Cotillion for me was that you were there for me. You're the other person that I call "my sister".

So what happens next? Truthfully, I don't know. I have not decided what I want to do and in fact, I keep changing my mind. Some days I want to give it 2 more years as President. Some days I want to quit after the Cotillion. Some days I think about running for another position like Education or Outreach or Treasurer. And some days, I think I might want to give it a shot at Miss TGSF. I have trained and nurtured and encouraged contestants for 3 years and I think I may want to take one last shot at the brass ring – do one last thing for this community before I retire and turn over the reigns [sic] to someone else. I just don't know. But then three years ago at this time, I had no idea where my life was heading. And that is what coming into TGSF is all about – giving us direction, giving us a path, giving us hope. Whenever I see a new brother or sister walk into the light, I get the same feeling that I got three years ago when I walked as a Debutante. I matter to someone. I belong. Anything is possible. Anything is possible with hope, with help, with friends.

Don't fear the Reaper

Roxy



*Stephanie Ann and Anne Louise at the
TGSF Wedding Party 2004*

legal
questions
about
gender?



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The Art Of Transformation...

devised new strategies for coaching men who dress as women, such as exercises to elevate the voice and hand positions that downplay large hands. "The way you move is more important than a closet full of expensive purchases," she purrs to the camera in one of her DVDs on feminine movement, available from her Web site, www.femimage.com, which also cover feminine foot positions, walking strategies, going up and down stairs, getting in and out of the backseat of a car and how to close a door.

Felicity Huffman and Doyle worked together for a day about a month before Huffman began shooting "Transamerica." In an e-mail interview, Huffman said that she was surprised by how much she had to learn about femininity.

"I approached it as a foreign language and consequently felt self-conscious and awkward, which worked out well for the part," Huffman wrote of her experience as a woman learning to be a man learning to be an ultrafeminine woman.

Huffman said that Doyle helped her to figure out Bree's walk and stance. Doyle, she added, "really mapped out for me the unspoken social cues that are so different for men and women."

The bottom line in body language, Doyle maintains, is that men "push" and "lead" with their heads and shoulders, while a ladylike woman pulls herself up, leads more with her hips and uses more gestures and facial expressions.

Movement and voice are the first priorities for Doyle's clients, who schedule private consultations, which cost \$100 an hour. They practice walking in Doyle's office, and Doyle uses a microphone and audio software so that her clients can actually see the voice pitch and resonance that they should aim for. She often makes her client lie down on a chaise and covers them with a blanket. Then they hum together in different keys until they find a natural, easy tone. The big turning point is when they leave Doyle's home. "When we open the door and go outside, it's hard," she says. "They feel safe here with me."

So Doyle has a network of contacts at department stores and high-end wig salons that know her clients' particular needs — say a foundation that counteracts "beard blue" or a jacket that conceals a beer belly — and treat them respectfully.

Doyle shops with her clients not just to find clothing but also to practice being out in the world, just as they practice buying gas like a lady or dining out.

"Let's go out and eat," Doyle says. "Are you eating like a guy? I have to tell them they look bad."

One of her earliest clients, Doyle recalls with tenderness, was a pre-op transsexual who was 6 feet 3, 300 pounds, balding and arrived at Doyle's doorstep with rotten teeth and a stained blouse. She'd just lost her job. "She told me she had a tree picked out and a rope in her trunk," Doyle says.

Two years after that first meeting, Doyle ran into her. She'd had sexual reassignment surgery, gotten a partial wig of human hair, lost 75 pounds and got her teeth fixed — and been hired for and held onto a good job.



Doyle also coached Felicity Huffman, pictured, for her role as a transsexual in the new film "Transamerica." Reuters photo by Robert Galbraith

TGSF ExCom Meeting MINUTES

Because there was no ExCom Meeting in January, there are no Meeting Minutes to publish this month.



For Stanford computer networking specialist Rosalea Roberts, one of Doyle's clients, fear of losing her job prevented her from pursuing her dream of becoming a woman for years. But when the time was right for her professionally to transition, "I sought her out and said, 'Help me, please,'" says Roberts, an attractive woman in her 50s whom few would peg as a former man. "I realized while I'd been going out (as a woman) casually a lot, I had no work clothes."

So during the first six months of her transition, Doyle assisted Roberts with her wardrobe, referred Roberts to her own hairstylist to find the right style for her thick and lustrous silver hair; taught her how to sit, walk and dance; and "hooked" her on Chanel products.

"Denaë really made my life a lot easier when I was changing," Roberts says.

In addition to local people struggling to hold onto jobs in the midst of a gender transition, Doyle has worked with transgenders from as far away as Thailand and Ireland, as well as cops, surgeons, engineers and politicians, people with "high-powered jobs who are making a full transition and can't afford to look like a guy in a dress or a drag queen."

It takes many clients years to dispense with overly sexy clothes and heavy padding and makeup and settle into a casual, appropriate style. If a transgender hasn't moderated her teenagerly euphoria within three or four years, maybe she should consider keeping it private, she says.

Continued on Page 5

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.

The Art Of Transformation...

Continued from Page 4

Doyle strides to a closet by her front door and pulls out half a dozen synthetic wigs in shades that "scream rayon" and a girdle with ample embedded hip pads, all of which she's vetoed and confiscated from her clients.

She calls this "the closet of shame." A heavily sequined number peeks from a crack in the door. "You know how many of these I've taken off people?" she asks, waving a girdle.

Doyle says some cross-dressers get "gender relief" just by wearing women's underwear or a pink shirt, or taking a mild dose of estrogen from a health food store, but for those undertaking serious cross-dressing, she wants her clients to think hard about what it really means to be a woman.

"Would you want to be a woman in difficult circumstances, in another country, not with a garter belt? Do you only want to be a sexy woman? If you take away the sexy, what are you going to be?"

But gender dysphoria is, Doyle says, a huge issue to deal with. "It's a mess, and a lot of people are in it."

And sometimes, she says, the mess is downright macabre.

One cross-dressing client, she recalls, traveled from out of town several times for consultations. Then he told her he'd been diagnosed with terminal liver disease and wanted to meet with her one last time.

After he arrived, Doyle says, she realized that he wanted to shop for clothing to be buried in. He dressed in his new clothes, made himself up and lay down on her floor with his hands crossed for Doyle to photograph.

This client, Doyle says, said he made a deal with God that if he got a liver transplant and lived, he'd stop cross-dressing. He lived, but before long, he was dressing again. She never felt comfortable working with him again.

Moreover, while Doyle's affection for coaching transsexuals and serious cross-dressers is abundant, she expresses emphatic distaste for working with drag queens.

"If they're going to walk around looking trumpy, that's not being a woman," she says. "I don't agree with that. That's not being transsexual. I don't think a true woman would want to degrade women. I can't work with transvestites or horny guys off the street."

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.

So she weeds out transvestic fetishists (those who dress for sexual arousal) and those who cross-dress, and, to Doyle's eye, still look like men in dresses but look at themselves in the mirror and say, "Wow, I'd have sex with me."

"They see this person in the mirror, and they're in love with her," she says, adding that a man's tendency to be sexually aroused by the image of himself as a woman is called autogynephilia.

Being sexy is hard work, Doyle says. It saddens and even insults her when she sees transgendered women descend into sloppiness. "Being a hot mama requires a corset and 5-inch heels," she says, adding that transgender women sometimes stop caring about their appearance when they realize they can't look sexy all of the time, or in the case of transsexuals, when lack of testosterone kicks in and they lose their sex drive.

That tendency toward slovenliness, she says, separates the men from the women.

She shows a reporter a videotape of a workshop she attended and points to a tall, overweight woman with thinning hair, dressed in jeans and a wrinkled T-shirt, who looks lost and despondent as she tries to dance next to an exuberant miniskirted drag queen.

"See?" Doyle says, pointing at the tiny swaying figure on the screen. "No one tried to help her."



Denaë Doyle (right) coaches Rosalea Roberts on posture and on crossing one's legs like a lady. "Denaë really made my life a lot easier," Roberts says. Chronicle photo by Katy Raddatz

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Wednesday / February 1st / 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 laura@laurasoft.com.

Saturday / February 18th / 4:00pm

THE FIRST TGSF BACHELOR AND BACHELORETTE AUCTION AND WEDDING PARTY

Come and get married or buy yourself a bride or groom, all taking place on Saturday, February 18 2006 from 4:00pm to 9:00pm at Carla's in San Jose. For more information, please contact Katra at katra.briel@tgsf.org.

Thursday / February 23rd / 7:00pm

TGSF END OF MONTH

Our February meeting will be held at the Cathedral Hill Hotel, beginning at 7:00pm. Come and join all your friends for dinner and a good time.

February's Birthdays

2/01	Thea Horner
2/02	Roberta Ann Klitgaard
2/02	Katra Briel
2/04	Eve Summers
2/05	Cliff Anderson
2/05	Robin Barrett
2/11	Diane Sauer
2/12	Vanessa Schaefer
2/13	CJ Khing
2/17	Carla Blair
2/17	Tom Schmidt
2/17	Karin W. Fresnel
2/20	Linda Slade
2/20	Michelle Anne Roga
2/20	Sara Bird
2/21	Pamela K. Gray
2/23	Lauren Hotchkiss
2/23	Brenda Altman
2/23	Jack Baxley
2/25	Kate Goldman
2/26	Jennifer Siobhan Kennedy
2/28	Christine Michelle Ricci

Happy Birthday To All!

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Bay Area Calendar - February 2006

OTHER BAY AREA GROUPS

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.

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

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

TGSF MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

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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
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PATRON LEVEL: \$1000

Recognition & Benefits:

Recognition in all TGSF Programs / Channel / Website
Two complimentary tickets to the Cotillion
Framed Recognition Certificate
Ride on the Pride Day Parade Float
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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
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Takin' Care of Biz...

TGSF FINANCIAL REPORT

As of January 15, 2006

Assets

Cash	4561.13
Decorations	100.00
Beverages	50.00

Liabilities and Equity

Accounts Payable	593.00
Accounts Receivable	388.00
Total Assets	(205.00)

Statement of TGSF Income

Memberships	375.00
Advertising	50.00
Donations	200.00
Cotillion Ticket Sales and Advertising	3390.00

Total Income 4015.00

Expenses

Channel	375.63
Phone	149.25
Insurance	692.33
Donation to Christmas Dinner	100.00
Cowell Theatre Concession Buyout	2981.63

Total Expenses 4298.84

Net Income (Loss) (488.84)

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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Special Events and Announcements!



Mid-Peninsula Support Group

WEDNESDAY, February 1, 2006

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

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!

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.

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!

Special Events and Announcements!

Save the Date!

Sunday, February 5th, 6-9pm

A NIGHT OF COMEDY, BENEFITING THE TRANSGENDER LAW CENTER

Please join Novice Sister Gladys Pantzarhoff for "A night of Comedy", benefiting the Transgender Law Center - Sunday, February 5th, 2006, from 6:00pm to 9:00pm at the world famous "Marlena's, 488 Hayes Street, SF, CA.

We'll have a great line up of Stand up comics and other great performers, such as Trauma Flintstone, Ronn Vigh, and many more. There will be a live auction and great raffle prizes, so bring your wallets!

Please come on down, and help support the Transgender Law Center (www.transgenderlawcenter.org).

A Gathering of Transgender Persons and Allies

CALIFORNIA TRANSGENDER LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

February 17-19, 2006 (Presidents Day Weekend)

University of Southern California - Free to attendees

Join with transgender community members, families, and allies for this, first of its kind, two-day event. The California Transgender Leadership Summit is open to individuals of all skill levels involved or interested in advancing civil rights for Transgender people in California.

The Summit will offer a unique opportunity to strategize, connect with individuals from across the state and learn or improve important advocacy and activist skills in a variety of areas. Let's connect our individual local and statewide efforts into a powerful whole!

To register, go to: www.eqca.org/tg. For more information contact Danny Kirchoff, Coalition Coordinator, Equality California at 415.581.0005 #7 or email at: danny@eqca.org.

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TRANSFIGURATIONS - SELECTED WORK SHOWING AT THE SANTA CRUZ DIVERSITY CENTER

Hi Everybody,

Wanted to let you know that a selection of "The Making of a Man" will be on display at the Santa Cruz Diversity Center, Jan 5 - Feb 26. Press release is below.

*Please spread the word about the **evening lecture on Feb. 2, at 7pm**. Myself along with Lyle and Owen (of the Transfigurations) will be giving a trans awareness lecture and Q&A.*

Stay posted for the big May show at the Santa Cruz Institute For Contemporary Art.... Lots of new work in that show, including the premiere of "The Making of a Woman," which explores male-to-female transsexuals.

Happy New Year!

Jana

Gender Identity Explored in Award-Winning Photos Award-Winning Photo-Documentary Travels to Santa Cruz Diversity Center

A selection of Bay Area award-winning photographer Jana Marcus1 work, "Transfigurations - The Making of a Man", will be displayed at the Santa Cruz Diversity Center, January 5 - February 26.

Known for her compassionate and revealing documentary images of underground subcultures, Marcus1 current photographic work explores female-to-male transsexuals and their notions of masculinity as they change gender identities.

The Diversity Center is honored to show 12 of the panels from the 30-piece show that has been touring the Bay Area since last May. The Center will host an evening on the transgender experience with a presentation by Marcus and two of the transmen in her work, Lyle and Owen. The lecture is scheduled for Thursday, February 2, at 7:15 p.m. at the Center.

Over the past decade there has been heightened public awareness of transgender issues. With the increased visibility of transgender persons also comes an increase in discrimination and violence directed at transgendered, intersexed, and gender variant people. The Gender Education and Advocacy organization states that "Transgendered people are the most stigmatized and misunderstood of the larger sexual minorities (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender)." In spite of this, the transgender community is emerging into its own place in history, as a new movement, expanding the language of gender and sex.

In large black and white images with text, Marcus1 photographs focus on what it means to be a man today, by women who have transitioned into men, blurring the line on gender separation and stereotyping. Transfigurations: The Making of a Man was awarded the prestigious Best Photos of The Year 2004 & 2005 by Photo District News of New York. It was also included in The Center for Photographic Arts Award 2004, The International Photography Awards 2005, the Phelan Art Award 2005, and the Excellence in Photography grant from San Jose State's School of Art & Design. Marcus1 full exhibit, which includes her new work on transwomen, will premiere at Santa Cruz's Institute for Contemporary Art -The Attic, in May 2006.

What: Transfigurations - The Making of a Man, a photodocumentary.

Where: Santa Cruz Diversity Center, 1117 Soquel Avenue, Santa Cruz.

When: Now through Feb. 26, 2006. Free admission. Lecture: **Thursday Feb. 2, 7:15pm**. with Lyle and Owen of "Transfigurations". Info: 425-5422.

Events Horizon...

Have you ever wondered how hiring experts make their decisions?
Here's your chance to learn more about their techniques!

LOOKING FOR A JOB? THE CENTER CAN HELP!

Wednesday, Feb 1, 2006, 2:00pm – 4:00pm

The Center will present "Tips from the Source: A Panel of Hiring Experts" This program will feature Q & A with a panel of prominent Bay Area hiring experts regarding *tips, tactics, tools, and techniques* they use in the hiring process. This panel will answer questions regarding how professionals go about the business of recruiting, selecting, interviewing, and hiring candidates.

Panelists will cover such topic questions as:

- * Dos and Don'ts for job seekers
- * How to get an interview
- * Expert perceptions regarding the LGBT workforce
- * Expert opinions regarding diversity
- * Where the professionals look to find key talent

Job seekers interested in attending should pre-register at <http://jobfair.sfcenter.org>. For additional information contact David Bach @ 415-865-5534 or davidb@sfcenter.org

"HOW TO ATTEND A JOB FAIR 101"

Thursday Feb. 2, 2006, 2:00pm – 4:00pm

In preparation for the Feb. 8th Job Fair, The Center is offering a two hour workshop covering the basics of how to prepare for and make the best impression at a Job Fair.

Job seekers interested in attending should pre-register at <http://jobfair.sfcenter.org>. For additional information contact David Bach @ 415-865-5534 or davidb@sfcenter.org

JOB FAIR!

WEDNESDAY FEB. 8, 2006, 11:00AM – 3:00PM

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And More!

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Job seekers interested in attending can pre-register by going to <http://jobfair.sfcenter.org>

These events are FREE TO ALL JOB SEEKERS

For additional information contact David Bach @ 415-865-5534 or davidb@sfcenter.org

Call For Entries!

TRANSLATIONS: THE SEATTLE TRANSGENDER FILM FESTIVAL

Seattle's first Transgender Film Festival seeks entries for its 2006 Labor Day festival. Exact dates and location TBA. The festival will present all forms of film, including narrative, documentary, experimental, and animated works. Both shorts and feature-length films are welcome. All work should primarily be created by, for, or about transgender people.

Please submit work on VHS or DVD and include a SASE or postcard if you'd like notification that your film was received. We are sorry, but we cannot return screener copies. There is a \$5.00 fee to enter. You can enter your film online at <http://www.withoutabox.com/> and you can find more information about TRANSLATIONS at www.transconference.org.

For more information regarding entries, sponsorships, programs and any other details, please contact: Cressdan Maite, MPA, Festival Director at translationseattle@gmail.com

FIRST DEADLINE: March 1, 2006 / **FINAL DEADLINE:** March 30, 2006

TRANSLATIONS: The Seattle Transgender Film Festival, c/o FTM 2006, 1122 E. Pike Street #796, Seattle WA 98122



Another Happy Couple at TGSF 2004 Wedding Party

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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!

AB 1400 and AB 1586 add to strong set of existing anti-discrimination laws

CALIFORNIA HAS MOST TRANSGENDER FRIENDLY LAWS IN U.S.

Sources:

Equality California and Transgender Law Center

San Francisco, CA —On January 1, 2006 two new laws solidified California's leadership role as the most protective state for transgender rights in the nation. The laws, sponsored by Equality California (EQCA), were AB 1400 (the Civil Rights Act of 2005) and AB 1586 (the Insurance Gender Non-Discrimination Act). AB 1400, authored by Santa Cruz Assemblyman John Laird, amended California's public accommodation law to make clear that transgender people are protected. AB 1586, authored by Assemblyman Paul Koretz, prohibits discrimination against transgender people by the insurance industry, including healthcare insurers.

"By protecting transgender people and our families in education, employment, housing, foster care, insurance, and public accommodation, the legislature is saying very clearly that California supports diversity and inclusion," said Danny Kirchoff, EQCA's Transgender Equality California Project Manager. "Across the state, employers, schools, businesses, and government agencies are taking common-sense steps to create non-discriminatory environments."

After decades in which transgender people had little protection against even the most flagrant acts of discrimination, these laws establish that California embraces transgender people equally and provides effective remedies for discrimination. A 2003 report released by the Transgender Law Center (TLC) and the National Center for Lesbian Rights, *Trans Realities*, documented the high rates of discrimination experienced by transgender people. Survey respondents reported discrimination in employment (49%), public accommodation (38%), housing (32%), and health care (31%).

"Even today, transgender people face discrimination in virtually every institution in the state, but these laws provide incredibly powerful tools for creating lasting social change," said Christopher Daley, Director of TLC. "While it will take some time for the effects of these laws to be fully felt in individuals' lives, California's elected officials are to be commended for once again leading the nation on fairness and equality."

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COLORADO "SEX CHANGE" DOCTOR DEAD AT 82

TRINIDAD, Colo. - Dr. Stanley Biber, a small-town physician who said he performed more than 4,500 sex-change operations, has died, a funeral home owner said Tuesday. He was 82.

The cause of Biber's death on Monday was not announced, but he had been hospitalized for complications from pneumonia.

Word of Biber's death came from Mary Winter, a friend and owner of the Cormi Funeral Home in Trinidad, a town of 9,300 near the Colorado-New Mexico border.

Biber, an Iowa native, moved to Trinidad in 1954 and became the town's only general surgeon. He told *The Associated Press* in a 2000 interview that he performed his first sex-change operation in 1969.

He said a social worker he had met asked for the surgery, and he agreed after talking to a New York doctor who had done some sex reassignment operations and after getting sketches from Johns Hopkins University.

At one point he was performing 150 transsexual operations a year, Biber said.

He stopped doing surgery in 2003 and closed his practice in 2004, at age 81.

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Her Name Is Kitten And She's Fond Of Fake Fur

CILLIAN MURPHY

MAKES HIS MARK IN 'PLUTO'

John McMurtrie, SF Chronicle Staff Writer

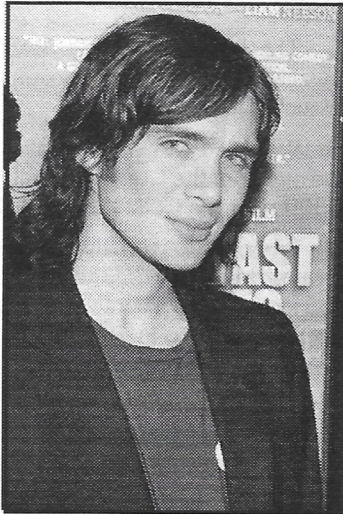
A closeted cowboy, an out-of-the-closet writer, a pre-op transsexual waitress and a bisexual hit man.

Who says Hollywood is traditional?

These were among the characters recognized last week when the Golden Globe nominees for best actors and actresses were announced.

And then there is Kitten.

The cross-dressing protagonist in Irish director Neil Jordan's delightful comic drama "Breakfast on Pluto," she is perhaps the most fun of the gay-bisexual-transgendered bunch honored by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association. ("Breakfast on Pluto" opens Friday in Bay Area theaters.)



Murphy's portrayal of Kitten in *Breakfast on Pluto* earned him a Golden Globe nomination as best actor. Zuma Press photo by Jerome Ware

Though her name is Kitten and she speaks in a delicate purr, this character in platform shoes, fake fur and snakeskin coats is as tough as Russell Crowe's boxer Jim Braddock in "Cinderella Man" (another Globe nominee).

Christened Patrick Braden, Kitten flees repressed 1970s Northern Ireland and journeys to London, where she searches for the mother she never knew. Along the way, she loses herself in the glam-rock underground of the British capital and gets in trouble with the law over her perceived involvement with the Irish Republican Army. She is abused, beaten, choked and even injured in a bombing, but never loses her innate cheeriness and kindheartedness.

"Oh, serious, serious, serious," she says, in pooh-poohing the troubled world around her.

Cillian Murphy is the up-and-coming Irish actor who plays Kitten in Jordan's adaptation of Patrick McCabe's novel.

"I fell in love with the character so much because she's fundamentally good," Murphy, 29, says by phone from his home in London. "And what she wants in life are very, very simple things, you know? Just to be part of a unit, to be loved and just to look pretty."

And does she ever look pretty.

Many in the States will remember Murphy (whose first name is pronounced kill-ee-an) as the none-too-gentle psychopaths in "Batman Begins" (as Dr. Jonathan Crane) and "Red Eye" (as the hit man with the evocative name of Jackson Rippner). He also had prominent roles in Danny Boyle's 2002 cult thriller "28 Days Later"



Cillian Murphy's preparation for "Breakfast on Pluto" included nightclubbing with transvestites.

Sony Pictures Classics photo by Patrick Redmond

and, the following year, in "Cold Mountain" and "Girl With a Pearl Earring."

Where Murphy's big blue eyes and boyish looks helped conceal the face of a murderer in "Batman" and "Red Eye," in "Breakfast on Pluto," they accentuate Kitten's beauty. Maybe it's the smooth cheekbones and full lips, but few actors look so good done up in rouge and lipstick.

Murphy doesn't remember how many outlandish outfits he wore for the movie — he seems to be wearing a different one in every scene — but he enjoyed them all.

"That era lent itself very nicely to androgyny," he says in his lyrical Irish accent. "All of the clothes were flattering to both men and women.

"Kitten," he adds, "finds solace in the cheesier side of it."

To be convincing as Kitten, Murphy says, he avoided the "long tradition of men dressing up as women in cinema. ... I wanted the character to be feminine as opposed to it being an affectation.

"You wanted to avoid camp; you wanted to avoid queeny," he adds. "I think she's a hugely resilient and strong character."

It's been said, Murphy remarks, that "Breakfast on Pluto" is about the loss of innocence. "Where in actual fact," he says, "it's all about the preservation of innocence for her and trying to create this sort of idealized version of her life."

To prepare for the role, Murphy spent a lot of time observing women, watching details such as how they move their hands. He also did more intense research, going out to clubs, in character, with transvestites. That experience gave him a sense of what someone like Kitten must go through.

"That's the reason they have such amazing wit and turn of phrase," Murphy says. "Because they have to when you just get shouted at on the street. It's these leery, stupid, drunken people. You feel threatened, you know?"

Continued on Page 15

LIFE AS A TRANSSEXUAL

Susquehanna Valley News
By Eric Mayes , The Daily Item

LEWISBURG — Valeri Schnatter never expected the hatred that met her when she moved to the Susquehanna Valley. In the nine years she's lived in the Lewisburg area, the transsexual said she has been asked to leave several churches and harassed by neighbors and even the local police. Though her driver's license still bears the name Vincent G. Schnatter, most other documents list her as Valeri, and she prefers to be addressed as a female.

Sex reassignment surgery has proven too expensive for Ms. Schnatter, forcing her to live in a state of androgyny. People seem unable to see past an exterior that may not meet their expectations, she said, to notice the person inside. "It doesn't matter what I believe or what I do in people's lives because I'm a transsexual," said Ms. Schnatter.

Admitting that she was in fact a transsexual took a long time for Ms. Schnatter. And, it has not been easy. The 54-year-old grew up in Edison, N.J., in a family where she was one of four children. At the age of 5, she started to dress in her mother's and sister's clothing. "I felt more comfortable in the role of a girl," she said.

Not content with the trappings of femininity, she also longed to become a girl. "I told my sister that on more than one occasion," she remembered. Her sister told her parents, who had no desire to discuss such things. "It was taboo," Ms. Schnatter said. Isolated, she turned to alcohol, drinking regularly at the age of 11. "With alcohol you felt the courage to be macho," she said.

By the time she turned 17 she was doing heroin. It was, she said, a way to keep her distracted from the truth. "I was totally ignorant on the subject (of transsexuality)," Ms. Schnatter said. "It was scary. I was afraid to get found out."

So she repressed her true feelings, and, labeling herself a transvestite, got married — not once but three times. She also fathered three children, two sons and a daughter. Both sons died soon after being born but her daughter survives. Eventually, she kicked both drugs and alcohol and has now been clean for 26 years.

After the final marriage broke up, Ms. Schnatter decided to leave the area of lower Berks County near Philadelphia, where she had been living. First she moved to Lewisburg and then East Buffalo Township where she now lives. It was in Lewisburg she admitted to herself that she was a transsexual. Neither community was particularly welcoming, she said.

Out bowling once in Mifflinburg, she overheard comments like: "If they want a sex change we'll take them out back and give them a sex change." It was an eye-opening experience. "When situations like that happen you know what you're up against here," she said. Nowhere was Ms. Schnatter exempt. "I get stared at something terrible," she said.

Her neighbors harassed her and when she turned to the police, she said, the problems sometimes got worse because responding officers from the Lewisburg and East Buffalo departments came in like "stormtroopers." Usually problems could be solved by talking to the chiefs at both departments, who she credited with lending a sympathetic ear. But she's still afraid to call the police. "I can't call the cops," she said. "Automatically they just get a negative view."

Even the place where solace might be expected — the church — rejected Ms. Schnatter. She was turned away by the Catholic church and a Lutheran church in Lewisburg and by a third denomination in Milton. Though most Unitarians were welcoming not everyone in that congregation was friendly. "It was like, if we don't talk about it maybe it will go away," she said of her experience at the Northumberland church. "I didn't know Christ said you can be selective with the Golden Rule."

In fact not only have local churches made it clear they don't want her as part of their congregations, the Bible has been used time and again to attack Ms. Schnatter, she said. She added that perhaps those who use it as a weapon have missed the point. "From my education of Jesus Christ, he sat around with prostitutes, robbers and people like that," she said. "He didn't say 'oh that person is a sinner.'"

Another place where Ms. Schnatter might have expected a cordial reception and hasn't found one is the local gay community, she said. "For the most part people stay away," she said. "You don't get invited to parties or family gatherings. It gets very lonely."

Ideally, Ms. Schnatter said she could be a positive role model in the community. She is someone who has kicked drugs and alcohol and might be able to help others. "I'll do anything within my power or life to help anybody," she said. "I always reach my hand out to the new person." Even if that never happens, she just wants to be treated like anybody else. "Regardless of who or what I am, I have a certain amount of civil rights," Ms. Schnatter said.

Review: Breakfast on Pluto...

Continued from Page 14

Jordan, who directed "The Crying Game" (1992) — which famously broached gender identity — didn't concern himself with Murphy's nocturnal outings.

"I just told him to treat himself like a woman," he says with a laugh from his Dublin office. "He could do what he wanted as far as I was concerned. As long as he didn't become a heroin addict, you know?"

Jordan says he chose Murphy for the role after testing all the young Irish actors he knew.

"He brought out a deeply emotional level to the part that really surprised me," Jordan says. "He's deeply instinctive."

Murphy was raised in Cork (as was another rising star, Jonathan Rhys-Meyers, who is in Woody Allen's new movie, "Match Point"). He got his start in acting after playing guitar in a Frank Zappa-inspired rock band in his late teens.

"He still is a hero of mine," he says of Zappa, "because he just didn't give a s — ."

Of his band's talent, Murphy says, "The other members in the band were very, very proficient. And then there was me — very much not."

Nowadays, Murphy plays guitar just for himself "and at drunk family occasions," he jokes. He and his old bandmates did get the chance to reunite for some music when he and artist Yvonne McGuinness were married last year in Provence.

Over the phone, the couple's 2-week-old son, Malachy, can be heard crying in the background — or "asserting himself," as his father puts it.

When he's not at home changing nappies, Murphy spends his days on the set of Boyle's next film, a sci-fi thriller called "Sunshine." He plays a physicist who travels into space, with a crew, to set off a bomb inside the sun, which is dying.

Once the film is finished, Murphy is going to take some much-needed time off: no more cross-dressers, no more killers, no more scientists in space.

"I'm just going to stop," he says with a sigh. "I'm going to hang out with my boy. That's my plan."

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.

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Bill Aims To Block 'Panic Defense'

PROPOSAL IS NAMED FOR TRANSGENDER TEEN

By Yomi S. Wronge
San Jose Mercury News

The Bay Area men convicted last year of murdering a Newark transgender teenager said they panicked upon learning that the beauty they had been intimate with was biologically male.

Using that "panic defense," their attorneys called it merely a manslaughter, but jurors rejected that argument. Now a civil rights group wants the California Legislature to redress what they see as victim-blaming in hate-crime cases.

Named in honor of the 17-year-old who was beaten and strangled in October 2002, the **Gwen Araujo Justice for Victims Act** would amend jury instructions to state that the use of so-called "panic defenses" is inconsistent with California's comprehensive hate crimes law.

Hate crimes are criminal acts (or attempted acts) against an individual or group because of their actual or perceived race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, sexual orientation, gender or disability.

Panic defenses are almost exclusively used in crimes against victims who are — or perceived to be — gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender.

"Having the panic defense be accepted by juries is an affront to the strong stances we have taken against intolerance," said Assemblywoman Sally Lieber, D-San Jose, who introduced the bill. "There shouldn't be another young person like Gwen that loses their life and has their life then devalued in a courtroom."

But Gerald Uelmen, a professor at Santa Clara University School of Law who was part of the O.J. Simpson defense team, said he would find a jury instruction like that prescribed by the current version of AB 1160 "almost incomprehensible."

"What's a jury supposed to do with that?" Uelmen said. "The jury doesn't determine public policy, just decides facts. And to say you should decide facts differently if a particular theory of defense is raised, I just think that's not an appropriate way to instruct a jury."

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Araujo was killed after four men she knew — two of whom she had been sexually intimate with — discovered she was anatomically male.

Their defense attorneys claimed the men flew into a rage after discovering they had been "tricked" into having sex with a biological male. They called the killing a crime of passion, and urged jurors to cut childhood friends Michael Magidson, Jason Cazares and Jose Merel a break — reduce the charge from murder to manslaughter — for doing what any reasonable person would do under the same circumstances.

A fourth man involved, Jaron Nabors, pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter.

In September, a jury found Magidson and Merel guilty of second-degree murder — verdicts that carry a maximum of 15 years to life in prison.

But the jury deadlocked over Cazares. The Newark resident has since pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter. All three defendants are scheduled to be formally sentenced Jan. 27.

Throughout the trial, Araujo's family and supporters decried what they saw as victim-blaming on the part of the defense. "The claim is that when they discovered a person was gay or transgender they panicked, and that somehow justifies their violence," said Geoff Kors, executive director of Equality California, an advocacy group that sponsored the bill.

Even when the panic defense is used unsuccessfully, as in the Araujo case, advocates say it sends a message that it is OK to have a violent reaction to learning someone is gay or transgender.

AB 1160 passed the Assembly Public Safety Committee by a 4-2 vote Tuesday and still faces several hurdles before it lands on the governor's desk.

Jay Boyarsky, supervising deputy district attorney in charge of hate crime prosecutions for Santa Clara County, called the bill "redundant" because judges already have discretion to allow or not allow panic defenses.

Transcending Transgender

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