

# TGSF Legs Contest

**TGSF** *The Channel*  
TransGender San Francisco  
(formerly ETVC)



# The Channel

TGSF, Inc., a 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 1999 - 2000 Officers

(Fiscal Year: May 1 - April 30)

President ..... Leslie Bailey  
 Vice President ..... Lulu Blau  
 Secretary ..... Roxanne  
 Treasurer ..... Janis Ryan  
 Education ..... Nancy Cupps / Tianna Marie  
 Outreach ..... Theresa Sparks / Telzey Adams  
 Social ..... Nicole and Debbie Cook

## Membership Report

As of October 15, 1999

| Fiscal Year |                     | Number     | % of 98-99  |
|-------------|---------------------|------------|-------------|
| 1998-1999   | Total members       | 290        | 100.0       |
| 1999-2000   | Renewals            | 187        | 64.5        |
| 1999-2000   | New members         | 26         | 9.0         |
| 1999-2000   | <u>Non-renewing</u> | <u>103</u> | <u>35.5</u> |
| 1999-2000   | Total members       | 213        | 73.5        |

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

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

## Newsletter Staff

Editor ..... Ayme Michelle Kantz  
 Advertising ..... Janis Ryan  
 Contributing Photographers ..... Telzey Adams,  
 ..... Nicole and Debra Cook

## Ad Rates

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

Personal ads from TGSF members: \$10 for up to 40 words per issue. We will not accept ads with a sexual objective. Ad deadlines are the 15th of every month. Send ad copy and check or money order to TGSF, Advertising Dept., PO Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486



## FROM THE EDITOR...

I trust you all had a safe, sane Halloween. I mentioned this time last year how much I hated Halloween because it's the one day of the year that the general public's observation and sense of the "weird" is heightened - they're on the lookout for anything unusual. So when I'm walking down the street in my best suit going to work like any other day, invariably someone will come up to me and say "great costume man!" I feel like I should wear a sign on my forehead stating "this is NOT a costume!" I dunno...I used to love this time of year, but now I can't wait for it to be over with. Ya think I need a better sense of humor?

Okies treat Halloween as a revered holiday out here...for weeks now there have been sales on hay bales, pumpkins and other such paraphernalia, and all the parking lots of the major costume shops are crammed to capacity. Practically every house on every street in the city is decorated with cobwebs, scarecrows and those cutesy cardboard cutouts of ghosts, witches and the like. Verry different from San Francisco. By law here in Oklahoma, they don't allow trick-or-treating on Sundays, and Halloween falls on a Sunday this year of course, so the candy-giving ritual will be enforced on the Saturday prior. Curious...kinda ranks up there along with no liquor sales on Sundays. Stupid state.

## Up To Something...

The Women's Chorus I sing in now debuted successfully to rave reviews - there were a few rough spots which were to be expected, but we really made a statement to the GLBT community. We're all jazzed now and gearing up for our Holiday concert in early December. And I feel absolutely wonderful to be singing again and making a creative contribution - very therapeutic.

Micheal and I spent last weekend up in Tulsa, attending the OML2000 (Oklahoma Mr. Leather) event - THE state leather gathering of the year, and we were both surprised to learn of the extremely vast history the leather community has had in Oklahoma. Ms. Catia Lee Love, recently crowned Miss Gay America, was in attendance and donated all her tips to the pot throughout the course of the evening (interspersed throughout the contest was an auction). Both the drag and leather communities are gaining wider acceptance in the Bible Belt as they raise thousands and thousands of dollars for local charities and organizations. And they're darn proud of the work they do, perhaps more so than in other states, because they've been up against the so-called Moral Majority for so long, that to be able to have the success they've enjoyed with each ensuing year, gives us all hope and strength that one day everyone will be accepted for who they are and given the respect they deserve. Anyway we both had a great time for an out of town jaunt, ate like piglets, and met a lot of extremely interesting people who came from all over the country to attend this event.

Mikey and I are also planning on a 10-day trip during Thanksgiving week - going to drive up to Chicago to visit his mom, which should be quite interesting as she's asked him before if he was living with a man, and he politely said "no mom." Ya'll know I'm paranoid about my speaking voice and a couple of times I've spoken with her on the phone I just know I've slipped up. After that we'll head west a bit to Minnesota and spend some time with my Dad and Sister. I mention all this because as Editor of the Channel, I have to harp about publishing deadlines and since I plan to be away from the computer for two consecutive weekends (a time usually set aside for doing the job), I have to ask that submissions for the December issue be received early this month - no later

Continued on Page 3

**Hotline & Voice Mail**  
**415-564-3246**

**WWW.TGSF.ORG**  
**NEW SITE! GET ONLINE!**



## PRESIDENT'S POTPOURRI

by Leslie Bailey

Madame President was indisposed and will return next month with her regular column. We are, however, very pleased to offer this charming story from one of our sisters on the East Coast:

### Southern Comfort

## THE RETURN OF THE SOUTHERN BELLE

By Kelly (Fun2btg@aol.com)

This years Southern Comfort is to feature a Riverboat Theme Ball on Saturday night with Southern Belle attire strongly encouraged. At first I thought it was just ridiculous, but found myself warming up to the idea as time went on. I called Backstage Theater Supply and was told that such a gown was available and rents for \$75.00. I also went cruising the Internet and found several costumes available through Halloween stores and a few Civil War reenactment suppliers. I knew that at 6' tall, I would probably not fit anything that was stocked. I remembered that Wingeo advertised in the Pinnacle so I thought I would at least try this out as an option. In order to be ready for the ball, I was aware that time was getting down to the wire.

Though Winnie advertises in the Pinnacle and I was aware of her supportive nature, I was still nervous as I called to set up an appointment (for me, hoop skirts are still quite a bit "over the top" for my style). I ventured south to Occoquan after finishing work early on Friday, remembering to pack my foundation garments and wig in the morning, so I was able to go straight from work. I arrived at her modest shop, which I found to be filled with an assortment of civil war and Victorian era costumes. I explained who I was and was greeted warmly.

As I was milling about waiting for her to finish her latest project, another woman ventured into the shop. I had the distinct impression that she came in to check me out. She sized me up then quickly turned about and left. I'm wondering if Winnie's clientele are local attractions in that little alley.

This afternoon turned into one of the most rewarding experiences in recent memory. Winnie was totally accepting and supportive of my plans. She allowed me to get ready in a small dressing room and then came in to size me up. Once she slipped the hoop petticoat over my head and fastened it about my waste, all of the apprehension I had about this project slid away. Starting measurements with the neck, I heard her muffle a squeal at the size. I spent far too many years in football trying to be the jock that my Dad wanted me to be, and as a result have a thick neck, which is typical for a lineman (or a Taurus). Things got better as we moved down the body and I found that my shoulders and waist were more appropriate in a feminine frame. Winnie even remarked that I could certainly go with a larger breast size should I desire. Looking at myself in the mirror, I knew that it was OK for me to relax and allow myself this indulgence.

With the preliminaries out of the way, we began planning my costume. She made it seem so natural and comfortable to discuss my style, colors, fabric and trim details. I was happy to find what I wanted would be on sale at the fabric stores. Being able to discuss the frills and detail that I wanted for such a



(Ed Note: From the looks of the photo, every penny was well spent - she looks absolutely ravishing!)

## From The Editor...

Continued from Page 2

than **Friday, November 12<sup>th</sup>** please! Otherwise I'm afraid that the December Channel will arrive in your mailboxes later than you're used to (for which I apologize should that occur).

### Do Me A Favor?

That was sad news we all received when Theresa Sparks had to relinquish her position on the ExCom. In her eloquently worded letter (Readers Respond, Oct99 issue) she revealed that she was having troubles finding work she was qualified for and ended up driving a cab at ungodly hours in order to make ends meet. And surprisingly she discovered it was an interesting job and ended up liking it. She turned what well could've been a hazardous situation at best, into a "privilege of taking our message to the people of San Francisco," showing each of us how important it is that we all strive to get out from under the "gender bubble" and show others that we can be transsexual and still be human. Well since then I've also learned from her that the cab company has let her go, if only to complicate her life even further but under suspicious circumstances nonetheless. I'm sure that she'll tackle that challenge in her usual head-on manner, but should you see her, go up and give her a hug for me would you please?

Otherwise, I wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving - journey safely during the Holidays, learn to love and accept yourself for who you are, and then you'll find it so much more rewarding and enjoyable to love and accept the others around you. Come out and integrate yourselves into the world - you're just as "normal" as the next person, just living your life the way it was meant to be. Attach a face, a name or a positive experience to the mystical term transgender and one day society will accept us as we accept ourselves. Thanks, Tess.

dress without shame was a unique experience. There were no excuses necessary. Winnie was relieved that I did not specify that I wanted to look like "Scarlet", instead, I wanted to apply Kelly's own style to the dress so that I would be happier with the result.

Winnie was concerned with maintaining attention to authenticity and detail. So after deciding upon the dress, we continued discussions of jewelry and hairstyles. She even offered to sew a cachet for me to go with my costume so I would have a coordinated bag to keep my things in.

As we were writing up the order, I was floored when she invited Kelly to join her on a riverboat cruise with a late 1800s period theme. She was so natural about this whole process I was stunned. When I remarked at how nice it was to be treated with dignity and as a valued customer, she nonchalantly remarked that that was exactly what I was. Actually, she considers herself as unique (or odd) as me in that she too likes period dress and sees nothing wrong with dressing up routinely. I left her with a sizable deposit in cash and went happily on my way. I don't have an exact cost on this gown yet, since it is custom made, it will rely on how much time Winnie requires. Still I know already the price will be worth it.

## EXCOM MEETING MINUTES

The monthly meeting of TGFS's Executive Committee was held in Albany on Sunday, October 10, 1999, at 3:00 p.m. In attendance were President Bailey, Vice President Blau, Treasurer Ryan, Outreach Chair Adams, Social Co-Chairs Cook and Cook. Guest included Stephanie, Kalani and Deborah. Secretary Camino and Education Co-Chair Cupps were away on business. Education Co-Chair was attending personal business. President Bailey called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.



### Announcements:

- Nicole reported that there will be Creative Change '99 in Oakland on November 10-14, 1999. She has details for all the days, if anyone is interested.
- Parajo Dunes Weekend will be held the first weekend in December. For prices or more information contact Carla.
- There were various other events that were mentioned.

### Old Business:

- President Bailey accepted the resignation of Co Chair Outreach Theresa Sparks. At this time, Telzey will be sole chair with Nicole assisting her as one of the volunteers. Telzey has given Nicole related information about the speaker bureau.

### By-Laws Changes:

After much discussion, the Ex-Com agreed to the concept to change the membership year to a month - to - month basis, meaning if a member renews/ joins in July then the membership year would be July to July. This will create less work for the person maintaining the membership database, so not every May they get overloaded with renewals. On a motion from Nicole, and seconded by Debbie, the ExCom passed Section D, which now reads... On another motion from Janis, and seconded by Debbie, the ExCom will hold a special meeting (at one of the socials -to be determine at a later date) . At this meeting the membership will vote on the by law changes regarding the membership year (for new/renewals). A third motion by Nicole, and second by Lulu reads in concurrent with the special meeting the membership will vote to have the by laws amended to strike ETVC and replace with Transgender SF. Janis and Leslie will work off line to clarify the remaining changes (which Janis made at a previous meeting) to the by laws. The revisions will be sent via e-mail to the ExCom to be read prior to the November meeting and the vote will be called on at that time.

### Tax Status

Janis reported that for FY98-99 taxes were filed. With the information that was available Janis filed FY 95-96 and FY 96-97. We do have a missing year for FY 97-98, in which no paperwork was located. Janis has requested a copy of the tax returns but has not received them as yet. Leslie will contact Sandy Katz, Veronica and Juana Smith to see if there was a legal advisor that was sought or given for that year. Leslie will call Lisa to see if she filed for FY97-98.

### President's Report:

Serena was a judge in the Ms./Mr. Gay pageant. Everett and Kalani worked the hat/coat check.

### Vice-President's Report:

Lulu reported on the 2 previous Cotillion Committee meetings. At the September meeting there were 10 people and at October there were 6. The theme will be around San Francisco and the Millennium. There are 4 directors that are interested in presenting proposals to the committee for consideration. The committee is working on a name and design so tickets can be produced. The committee has a ticket structure of the following: Premium - \$45 - \$40; General (in advance) - \$30; At the Door - \$30; After 8:15 p.m. (night of) - \$25

This last tier is to enable those who cannot afford the higher priced tickets to still come and enjoy the show. They would not get dinner as those above would. Also it was suggested that for \$100 a ticket, we could set aside 2 tables for special sponsors, VIPs, maybe acknowledge them during the show. These tables would only seat 8 instead of 10 people. Lulu asked for a motion to accept the pricing tier and the budget. Nicole made the motion with Debbie seconding it. The motion passed. Lulu suggested that Roxanne might want to see if Joseph of Model Search would be interested in submitting a proposal for the Cotillion. The next Cotillion meeting will be Tuesday, October 19 at Lulu's.

### Secretary's Report:

- On a motion from Janis and seconded by Nicole the minutes from September were approved with no corrections.
- Roxanne was a contestant in the Model Search '99. She was chosen as Miss May. She will give her observations of how it was run to the Cotillion Committee.
- Roxanne and Serena attended the benefit at Trannyshack for the Gay/Lesbian Historical Society.

### Treasurer's Report:

- Janis distributed the spreadsheets for month ending September 30, 1999. The balance as of September 30, 1999 was \$14,308.88. This will be posted in the newsletter as well as on the web.
- Insurance is due on the 28<sup>th</sup> of October. Nicole made a motion that Leslie and Janis will look over the insurance policy and then renew. Lulu second. The motion passed.
- Membership status in around 225. There are a few trickling in for new members and renewals.
- Sales Tax status is that we either need to get a reseller's permit, or the special event permit which allows up to 3 events per year. The issues in question are the food at the Cotillion and the drinks at the Halloween party. Nicole suggested that the ExCom allow Janis to find someone to do the tax returns. Leslie deferred this for now, as the sales tax is most important as the Halloween party is coming up. Leslie will talk with her tax consultant to see if there are any loopholes in question. Leslie will report her findings to Janis and will be agendized for the November meeting. In the meantime Janis will go ahead a get the special event permit in time for the Halloween party.

### Social Report:

- The mid month for October will be the 12<sup>th</sup> at Café Mars and Trannyshack,
- The end of month will be at De Frank's/Carla's on the 23<sup>rd</sup> for the annual Halloween Party. Tickets can be purchased at Carla's in San Jose; I Luv It in Niles District

Continued on Page 5

# TGSF FINANCIAL REPORTS

TGSF Balance Sheet  
As of 9/30/99

## ASSETS

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| Cash and Bank Accounts                    |                  |
| TGSF .....                                | 14,308.88        |
| <b>TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts .....</b> | <b>14,308.88</b> |
| Other Assets                              |                  |
| Computers .....                           | 0.00             |
| Event Equipment .....                     | 1,200.00         |
| <b>TOTAL Other Assets .....</b>           | <b>1,200.00</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS .....</b>                 | <b>15,508.88</b> |
| <b>LIABILITIES</b>                        |                  |
| Other Liabilities                         |                  |
| Insurance .....                           | 0.00             |
| <b>TOTAL Other Liabilities .....</b>      | <b>0.00</b>      |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES .....</b>            | <b>0.00</b>      |
| <b>OVERALL TOTAL .....</b>                | <b>15,508.88</b> |

## TGSF Cash Flow Report 9/1/99 Through 9/30/99

### INFLOWS

|                                   |               |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| Advertising Income .....          | 50.00         |
| Honorariums .....                 | 50.00         |
| Memberships .....                 | 270.00        |
| Other Inc, Bus: .....             | 0.00          |
| Resource Guides .....             | 9.50          |
| <b>TOTAL Other Inc, Bus .....</b> | <b>9.50</b>   |
| <b>TOTAL INFLOWS .....</b>        | <b>379.50</b> |

### OUTFLOWS

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
| Awards & Gifts .....                     | 21.50          |
| Corporate Information Fees .....         | 20.00          |
| Corporate Penalty .....                  | 50.00          |
| Licenses and Permits .....               | 94.00          |
| Office .....                             | 60.33          |
| Postage and Delivery .....               | 24.35          |
| Printing and Reproduction .....          | 402.52         |
| Professional Services:                   |                |
| Newsletter Production .....              | 143.00         |
| <b>TOTAL Professional Services .....</b> | <b>143.00</b>  |
| Rent Paid .....                          | 215.00         |
| Supplies, Bus .....                      | 18.99          |
| Tickets Purchased .....                  | -200.00        |
| Transportation .....                     | 80.00          |
| <b>TOTAL OUTFLOWS .....</b>              | <b>929.69</b>  |
| <b>OVERALL TOTAL .....</b>               | <b>-550.19</b> |

## TGSF Net Income and Expense by Function 9/1/99 Through 9/30/99

|                            |                |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| Educational .....          | -50.00         |
| Halloween .....            | -345.77        |
| Membership .....           | 213.52         |
| Newsletter .....           | -260.89        |
| Operations .....           | -72.71         |
| Outreach .....             | 50.00          |
| President .....            | 75.00          |
| Resource Guides .....      | -97.84         |
| Social .....               | -61.50         |
| <b>OVERALL TOTAL .....</b> | <b>-550.19</b> |

## Notes to Financial Statements

1. Membership Revenue on statements for periods prior to May 1, 1999 includes all income which was otherwise uncategorized. Beginning with May 1, 1999 it includes only revenue received as membership payments.
2. The Asset values for Event Supplies have been carried forward from the April 30, 1999 Balance Sheet. There is no documentation supporting these values, and no procedure to depreciate or otherwise adjust them.
3. The Liability values for Taxes, Utilities, and Insurance which had been carried forward from the April 30, 1999 Balance Sheet have been removed. Those entries are inconsistent with a Cash accounting system.

## Meeting Minutes...

Continued from Page 4

and Piedmont in the city. Volunteers are welcome to come early to help set up with food, decorations and bar.

- November's mid-month will be at the Coco Club. (Ed Note: since changed - see Calendar)
- A special social will be November 13 at the Cliff House were Debbie's birthday will be celebrated.
- End of Month for November will be at the Blue Muse, with a gift exchange for the Holidays.
- Nicole will look into CJ Dance class and try to work something out.

### Newsletter:

Debbie reported that she ran out this month and had to print 19 extra. She recommended to up the number to 300 next month. The Executive Committee agreed.

### Education Report:

Education co-chair Cupps is currently on vacation. In her absence, she asked to have the following two items read into the Education Chair portion of the meeting minutes:

- Attendance at the September educational seminar on electrology was very low; just a few people. No donations were solicited.
- Tianna Marie will host the next educational seminar at 1pm, Saturday, October 30th, at Kimo's. The topic will be "The Transgender Family and Family Issues." The featured speakers will be Marcia Perlstein, Clinical Director, and Zhav Doherty, Co-Facilitator of the Transgender Parents Group; both with the Alternative Family Project in San Francisco.
- Tianna will also host an educational seminar at 1pm, Saturday, November 13th, at Kimo's. The topic is titled "Living La Vida Loca" - Transgender Dating Issues. Luanna L. Rodgers, MA, MFCC, will be the guest speaker.
- Due to the holiday season, there will not be an educational seminar scheduled during the month of December.

### Outreach Report:

- Telzey reported that Nicole is helping with outreach. Melissa is also assisting with outreach.
- Nicole is working on the web site items - so when clubs ask for speakers, they will be able to fill out a form (on the web) and forward it to us online.
- Telzey needs more telephone volunteers. Monica of the New Community Center asked if we were interested in renting office space.
- Nicole will call Monica about the price of renting an office and also to see exactly what Monica wants. In previous meeting minutes the ExCom voted to un mingle the New Community Center Funds. Janis will un mingle them, which is \$2000 plus. Lulu remembers that this was around the last term of last year when the ExCom voted to un mingle the funds.

President Bailey adjourned the meeting at 7:50 with a motion by Nicole and seconded by Debbie.

**Friday / November 5<sup>th</sup> / 8:00pm**

## **LIBRARY/POKER NIGHT**

Call Nancy Anne at (415) 469-5445 for information and directions. Peruse our extensive archives or join in the game! Please call to confirm.

**Sunday / November 7<sup>th</sup> / 3:00pm**

## **EXCOM MEETING**

The November ExCom meeting will be held out of the area. So for those of you who are not used to attending you might want to wait for December. However we still want to know if you would like to volunteer for something. If you are considering coming, please call Nicole and Debbie at (707) 824-0860 and we will be happy to give you directions.

**Wednesday / November 10<sup>th</sup> / 8:00pm**

## **MID-MONTH SOCIAL**

I thought this would be a good time to visit Aunt Charlie's. Aunt Charlie's is located at 133 Turk (between Taylor and Jones). This is the place that sent someone over to our end of month and handed out free drink cards, so it is pretty evident that we are welcome. During this time the Creating Change event ([www.creatingchange.org](http://www.creatingchange.org)) will be happening in Oakland, so if you want to start the day early you could begin in Oakland and finish in SF.

Don't forget that Wednesday is the day that the TransBay group meets at Quetzal's. Quetzal's is located at 1234 Polk, between Sutter and Bush (right down the street from Kimo's). Park in the large parking structure and walk around the corner to where the coffee shop is located. This event starts at 7:00pm.

**Saturday / November 13<sup>th</sup> / 1:00pm**

## **EDUCATION SEMINAR: 'LIVING LA VIDA LOCA' - TRANSGENDER DATING ISSUES**

At one time or another, nearly all of us have struggled with the question "how do I tell the person I'm dating that I'm transgender?" In many cases, we waited to discuss our transgender status with our significant other even though we began a committed relationship, began living together, or even became married with children! Do you know how many of us mistakenly believed marriage would "cure" us? As a result, you find yourself 'living la vida loca' while you (and possibly your significant other) suffer the burden of your 'well kept secret'! You might have asked yourself questions such as "will my SO accept me if they know? When is the appropriate time to tell them? How do I begin?"

Please bring your questions, thoughts, and personal experiences to join us as we welcome our noted guest speaker, Luanna L. Rodgers, MA, MFCC. She will address being transgender and dating. Luanna is well known and respected in the transgender community by both colleagues and the many transgender people who have received counseling from her. She is a friend and supporter of TGSF as well as the TG community as a whole! She welcomes with great enthusiasm the opportunity to speak with us

and discuss the aforementioned topics. Luanna's business card ad appears in the TGSF Channel newsletter. She can be reached by phone at her San Francisco office: (415) 641-8890. Upstairs at Kimo's, Polk & Pine Sts., SF. Donations Appreciated. *Note: Due to the holiday season, there will not be a seminar in December.*

**Saturday / November 13<sup>th</sup> / 8:00pm**

## **SPECIAL DINNER OUTING**

This event is not something for your first time out. One of our members decided that The Cliff House overlooking the ocean in San Francisco needed some cultural exposure from the TG community (did I say that right Tianna?). So we will be visiting as a party of 4, 8 or ??, but with no special warning. If you would like to join us call Debbie or me at (707) 824-0860 sometime before the 8th.

**Thursday / November 18<sup>th</sup> / 8:00pm**

## **END OF MONTH SOCIAL**

Surviving the Halloween party makes this a perfect time to just sit back and socialize. There is no special event planned but we will make it a point of having the Resource Guides with us. Spend time socializing with the other members and if you see anyone new be sure to say "Hi" to them as well. The End of Month Social will be held at our usual meeting place, The Blue Muse 409 Gough Street in San Francisco. Park in any of the local parking lots on either side of the restaurant.

**New Members  
since October Issue:**

**There were no new members  
for the period**

**Welcome!**

**Now Available!**

## **1999 RESOURCE GUIDE**

The 1998-99 TGSF Resource Guide is now available at cost to all TGSF members. You can bring \$3.00 to the next social or we can mail it to you for \$3.00 + \$1.50 postage. If you are a service listed in the guide you can get copies for \$5.00 each plus postage. The Resource Guide will be available to everyone else for \$10.00 each.

The 1999 TGSF Resource Guide is your one source for virtually all the Transgender Resources in the Greater Bay Area (From San Jose to Sacramento to Santa Rosa to San Francisco). The Guide covers where to go to have a good time on the town, where to shop, where to get services like Make-up, Electrolysis and Beauty Salons, as well as where to stay in the San Francisco area (and Russian River Resort Area). You can also locate professional services such as Doctors, Psychologists, Lawyers, Voice Therapists and others. The Guide also contains information on other Gender Information and Education Groups. If you are going to visit the San Francisco area - This is the guide to have!

If you would like a guide by mail you can send a check for \$4.50 (per copy) to: TGSF, Resource Guide, P.O. Box 426486, San Francisco, CA. 94142-6486. Please be sure to indicate on the check that it is for the Resource Guide.

# Calendar of Events - November 1999

## OTHER GROUPS

### Pacific Center for Human Growth

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

### Rainbow Gender Association (RGA)

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

### Sacramento Gender Association (SGA)

Blue Rose Chapter meets 8:00pm the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month in Sacramento. Write PO Box 215456, Sacramento, CA 95821-1456 or call 916-482-7SGA (7742) for meeting locations.

### Diablo Valley Girls (DVG)

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

### DVG Rap Group (RCC)

Meets 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month, 7:00pm at Rainbow Community Center, 2637 Pleasant Hill Road (@ Taylor Blvd.) in Pleasant Hill. For more information call 925-937-8432.

### FTM

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

### TGIF (TransGenderism Is Fun)

A social group for transgenders. Meets one Saturday each month at a private home in Santa Rosa for a potluck social from 4:00pm until early evening. Space is limited - Reservations Recommended! Call Diane or Anne at 707-544-1540.

### Silicon Valley Gender Association (SVGA)

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

### Far West Women (FWW)

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

| Sun                              | Mon               | Tue | Wed   | Thu  | Fri  | Sat   |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|-----|---|--|--|---|
|                                  | 1<br>8:00 PM DVG  | 2   | 3   | 4<br>7:00 PM DVG (RCC)                                       | 5<br>8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap<br>8:00 PM RGA<br>8:00 PM TGSF: Library / Poker Night | 6   |
| 7<br>3:00 PM TGSF: ExCom Meeting | 8                 | 9   | 10<br>7:00 PM TransBay<br>8:00 PM TGSF: MidMonth Social | 11   | 12<br>7:00 PM SVGA<br>8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap                                      | 13<br>1:00 PM EduCom Seminar: TG Dating<br>8:00 PM FWW<br>8:00 PM SGA |
| 14                               | 15<br>8:00 PM DVG | 16  | 17  | 18<br>7:00 PM DVG (RCC)<br>8:00 PM TGSF: End Of Month Social | 19<br>8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap<br>8:00 PM RGA                                       | 20  |
| 21                               | 22                | 23  | 24  | 25<br>Happy Thanksgiving!                                    | 26<br>7:00 PM SVGA<br>8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap                                      | 27<br>8:00 PM FWW<br>8:00 PM SGA                                      |
| 28                               | 29                | 30  |   |  |  |   |

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| OCT        | 17.5            | 23              |
| NOV        | 15              | 20              |
| DEC        | 12.5            | 17              |
| JAN        | 10              | 13              |
| FEB        | 7.5             | 10              |
| MAR        | 5               | 7               |
| APR        | 2.5             | 3               |

# Our Readers Respond...

## "TRANNNY TALK" HITS THE AIRWAVES

by Gwendolyn Smith

"Tranny Talk", a news magazine/talk show for, by and about the transgendered community hit the airwaves on Sunday, October 17 at 11:30 AM on San Francisco's public access cable channel. The show will air regularly on the first Sunday of each month at 11:30 AM. Dina Boyer, the show's producer said "There is a lot of excitement about the show. If 'Tranny Talk' is a success, we may be able to expand into a biweekly format."

The show debuted with co-hosts Kitty Kastro and Rosalyne Montgomery. The talk centered around what is transgenderism and the basic knowledge of the TG community. Ms. Montgomery then remarked on the hardships of many transsexuals encounter during their transition.

Gwen Smith, a community activist most widely known for her "Remembering Our Dead" website talked briefly about her activism with America Online about creating the Transgender Community Forum and her memorial project.

Dr. Jones, a neurologist practicing at Tom Waddell Health Center, and a transsexual herself discussed hormone therapy and it's pitfalls. Electrology and laser hair removal was also discussed. Kitty also did a dance routine and also interviewed people on the street in one segment, then interviewed the employment services coordinator at the Central City Hospitality House.

The show closed with Ms. Montgomery pleading for society and particularly employers to lay aside their prejudices and treat transgendered people simply as human beings.

## Phyllabuster

### 1ST MEETING - NATIONAL TRANSGENDER RIGHTS COALITION (NTRC)

By JoAnn Roberts, JoAnn@tgforum.com

*Phyllabuster Note: It is time to begin again. According to the following, GPAC (good friends with the Elizabeth Birch Society, the so-called Human Rights Campaign) is disenfranchising its founding organizations and shackling itself to reduce its political clout (if it had much after cozying up with HRC). So to have a real political voice in D.C. the following announcement is being made. I did not start this, but I support it 100%, I support it 100%, I support it 100%, and I WILL be there to help it get born. I hope that you will too.*

With the recent announcement at the Southern Comfort Conference by GenderPAC Executive Director Riki Wilchins that GPAC has incorporated in New York state and applied for federal 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status, the transgender community has lost it's political voice. A "C3" tax-exempt organization is prohibited from substantial lobbying activities of the type that many transgender activists believe we need to make. In addition, Ms. Wilchins noted that the new GPAC board will be comprised of individuals rather than organizations. This GPAC transformation disenfranchises the 12 organizations that met on November 2, 1996 to create GPAC and alienates a majority of the transgender community

Not willing to give up transgender political activism to GPAC, nor willing to buckle under to organizations like the Human Rights Campaign, several transgender activists are moving again to cre-

November 6

## MISS SGA PAGEANT

This year's Miss SGA Pageant will be held on Saturday, November 6. The doors will open at 7:30 pm, and the show will be starting precisely at 8:30 pm. The location is Joseph's, 1454 Del Paso in Sacramento, at the junction of Arden and Canterbury.

Miss SGA 1999, Tina Louise, will be putting on a spectacular show, including three special performances by her. The candidates for Miss SGA 2000 include Trina Bloom, Liz, and Lady Cathy, all of whom are planning great performances and spectacular outfits for the occasion.

Also performing will be many others, displaying the versatility of comedians, vocalists, dancers, illusionists, as well as two MC's, the Portuguese Sisters, who will keep the show moving and the audience entertained.

Tickets will be available at the door for \$8.00 to the public, and \$5.00 to members of SGA, TGSF, DVG, or RGA with their membership cards.

For further information, contact Tina Louise at (916) 442-5710.

## CREATING CHANGE 99

There will be an event called "Creating Change 99" in Oakland. The event will start on the 9th and continue until the 14th of November. This event is being produced by NGLTF, see the web page at: <http://www.creatingchange.org/> for more information. They are looking for volunteers to help run the event.

ate a transgender community-based lobbying organization to work for transgender rights, called the National Transgender Rights Coalition (NTRC). The first meeting of the NTRC takes place Saturday, May 6, 2000, at the Fourth Congress on Sex & Gender, to be held in Philadelphia, May 4-7, 2000. The meeting will be used to finalize organization structure and develop political policy and strategy.

If you think your organization will support a national transgender political rights movement, have one of your officers contact JoAnn Roberts <joann@tgforum.com, voice: 610-640-9449, fax: 610-648-0257> who will coordinate the initial meeting.

For information about the Fourth Congress, contact Angela Gardner <angela@ren.org>, voice: 610-975-9119, or go to <<http://www.ren.org/4thCongress.html>>.

Remember: You Are What You Do When It Counts!



# Our Readers Respond...

## SASSY SEATTLE SISTERS VISIT BAGHDAD BY THE BAY

by Debra Darling

I just love the consonance in that title. What it is all about is that Karen Williams and I came down to SF for a few days to do battle during the day and have fun at night. She went to school and I visited various clients around the area.

I flew down on Alaska via Oakland, to save a little money. I chose to fly in drab. Karen came on United through SF (brave girl) flying as Karen. (Yes, you can do that even with male identification.) When we met in Foster City, Karen was most unhappy and she said it was all my fault.

Seems no one reacted to her at all. She says I have flown so much out of Seattle and rented so many cars from Alamo as Debra that everyone is used to it by now. Oh, well, there's always Kansas, Toto.

We'll skip the days except to gloat on one issue. Karen and I went to the same school at the same time. (Notice, I did not say together.) Karen was a drug-crazed hippie, throwing eggs and things at the ROTC boys. I was on the other end of the eggs and things. Today, Karen is thankful that we know each other, as I can fill in the gaps in her memory, as she has no recollection of most of those years.

Anyway, for Karen's ilk, Mecca was the corner of Haight and Ashbury. Strangely enough, she had never been there, but I had. I returned this trip and gleefully told her we (the ROTC boys) had won out after all. The two best stores at the intersection are now The Gap and The Piedmont, a store I described as Drag Queen Heaven.

Nights though were heavenly. We started out with the familiar (at least for us.) We had dinner at the North Beach, an old Italian bistro we have visited before. The doorman had our car door open even before we fessed up to no reservations. "No problem ladies," was the response. "Of course we can seat you, ladies," came from the concierge. "Nice to have you back," from the waiter. God, what a wonderful beginning.

From there, after a scrumptious dinner, we ventured down to Union Square for some music. We started out at Biscuits and Blues where we were treated to some of the best, hard driving boogie piano I have heard in a long time. The woman was supposed to be back up to a guitar player/singer, but he never stood a chance. For one number, they invited a young woman up from the audience. I talked with her afterwards, and suggested some song stylings she might listen to. No one reacted with me in any manner than as

one blues fan to another. We ended the night at the Gold Dust with an all black blues band. They played Jimi Hendrix stuff for us because we were from Seattle.

Second night, same visit. I wanted to dine at a restaurant I knew about on Van Ness. Unfortunately, it was gone. Replaced by a furniture store. How sad. We ventured up the street a bit to the House of Prime Rib, and what a choice. Repeat of welcome at the North Beach. Loved every minute of it, even the one moment of disapproval on the whole trip. Two gay guys out to dinner who did not care for us at all. Oh, well.

Left here and went to John Lee Hooker's club. Great blues house band, complete with a warm welcome and an invitation to come back the following night to hear the Hammond B3 cranked up. Last stop was a dance club out on Market with a line dance group of girls. Karen was just too tired by then so off to Foster City for a bit of sleep.

Third night and what to do? First stop was the Moonshine Restaurant. This is next to Rick's, which is next to Finocchio's. No drag show that night, but lots of tourists here on Broadway. The valet took our car and it was a nice night so the restaurant fronts were open to the street. Oh my, the looks. Dinner was very good, the waiter was so friendly (even made by mint julep with Gentleman Jack), and the band was Cajun, with lots of swamp music for dancing.

Next stop was back to Hooker's for that Hammond B3. Then to Trannyshack. Surprise, surprise, this place is listed on Microsoft's Sidewalk site as a place to visit in SF. I'll bet a lot of tourist nerds are amazed when they arrive. Lots of nice people and good conversation. Even one friendly pool game.

Thanks to SF for a truly wonderful time. We are thinking seriously about a return bout for the Cotillion, especially since Alaska is giving away airfare right now. Hope to see more of all of you next trip, but for now, if you want a little bit of class and being treated nice, visit any of the places mentioned above. We vouch for them.

Following that, we...

## ARE YOU A VETERAN?

Are you aware that there is a gender discussion group every Monday afternoon at the Ft. Miley Veteran's Center in San Francisco? The group is open to all TS, TV, and TG's who are qualified veterans. If you are interested and wish further information, contact Lorraine Hall at: Quiche4520@aol.com or call 510-523-9952.

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## Brandon Teena Story

### BOYS DON'T CRY

Written by Jim Beckerman  
(c) 1999, bergen.com

In order to tell the story of Brandon Teena — a.k.a. Teena Brandon — actress Hilary Swank had to walk a mile in his — her — shoes.

"I had to really do what Brandon did, or I would be doing the movie a grave injustice," Swank says.

What Brandon did was to pass herself off as a boy.

Not just any boy, as we see in Kimberly Peirce's powerful, harrowing new movie "Boys Don't Cry," opening Friday New York and wide on Oct. 22.

The real Brandon Teena was a charmer — a pretty boy in the Leonardo DiCaprio mold, all milky cheeks and white teeth.

A gutsy if sexually complicated drifter, Brandon became best buddies with the pool-hall-hanging, pickup-truck-driving roughnecks in the backwater Nebraska town where he relocated. To the town's womenfolk, used to dating factory workers and ex-convicts, he was the Hollywood hunk of their dreams.

It sounds like the premise for a comedy — a corn pone "It's Pat." But there's nothing funny about what happened to Brandon.

The story of his 1993 murder, recounted in a Village Voice article, became the basis for a documentary, "The Brandon Teena Story," and the inspiration for two feature film projects (another film, "All She Wanted," originally to have starred Drew Barrymore, has been put on hold).

Swank, best known for her appearances in the movies "Buffy the Vampire Slayer," "The Next Karate Kid," and the TV series "Beverly Hills 90210," modeled herself closely on pictures of the real Brandon.

"He was very cute, very attractive, just really handsome, with small features, smooth skin, kind of soft lips," Swank says.

But it wasn't enough for Swank to merely look like Brandon. She had to think like him too.

So four weeks before shooting began, she cut her hair, strapped her breasts, and put a sock in her pants. She told her husband, actor Chad Lowe, to introduce her as "James" — a name she came up with at the spur of the moment, near the start of her month-long adventure as a man.

"I was working in my yard and one of the neighbors walked by and was kind of looking at me and didn't know who I was," Swank says. "I finally said — and I used my [deep] voice — 'Oh, I'm Hilary's brother, James.' Somehow, that's the name that came up for me."

It didn't stop there. The 25-year-old Swank also began attending classes at a Los Angeles high school. "No one said anything," Swank says. "A lot of people used the pronoun 'he,' but I'm not naive enough to think that everyone thought I was a boy."

Swank wasn't merely pulling a stunt.

Her ordeal was the culmination of a process that began when she first "strapped and packed" (her term) for an audition that wowed director and co-writer Peirce.

The director, obsessed with the Brandon Teena story after reading the Voice article, spent 2 1/2 years auditioning women who were either not convincing as boys, or not convincing as actors.

Swank, who appeared at the 11th hour, was both — but director and actor each felt that it was essential to the believability of the film that Swank be literally able to fool people. "Basically that entailed a very difficult physical and mental transformation," Swank says. "I had to see what worked out in the street, and what didn't work."

She also worked hard to perfect Brandon's flat, Midwestern accent (Swank was actually born in Nebraska, where "Boys Don't Cry" takes place, although the film was shot in Texas).

In the end, Swank still can't say that she knows exactly what it's like to be a boy.

"Ultimately, I have my same mind and my same thought pattern," she says. "I am a girl, genetically. I can say that I know what it's like to go out in the world and not fit into a stereotypical black-and-white definition of a girl or boy. To have people be confused by what it is you are. And ignore you, and not want to have anything to do with you. And how lonely that can be. That's a very sad place."

Nor does she have any definitive explanation for the real Brandon Teena — who seems to stand outside any of the usual, or even unusual, sexual categories.

Not a transsexual (she had all the normal female equipment), she might also not have answered to the term lesbian. She was, it would seem, a boy in just about every way but fact.

In playing Brandon, Swank was careful not to diffuse the mystery at the center of the character. "No one knows what Brandon was, so it was important for me not to define that," Swank says. "I tried to make it so you didn't know if he was transgendered or just a lesbian." "What I can relate to is, obviously I've never had a sexual identity crisis myself, but I've sure had identity crises: I've asked myself what is my meaning, why am I here, and what am I supposed to do with my life. We all have those confusions." In the film, as in life, Brandon meets a ghastly end at the hands of redneck tormentors (Peter Sarsgaard, Brendon Sexton III) — motivated both by old-fashioned bigotry and by sexual jealousy.

For all that, Swank doesn't see the story as a downer.

For one thing, Brandon — briefly — finds true love, in the arms of a local beauty (Chloe Sevigny) who is able to see Brandon as he sees himself. "Something we definitely talked about was not playing Brandon as a victim," Swank says. "What inspired me about the story is that it's someone who lived their life and lived their dreams. When you do that, you see the joy he had in his life. Brandon had an absolutely full life. It ended at 21 years, but I think in his lifetime it was more full than most people who live to 50."

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### TGSF Donations - Our Friends Who Give as of October, 1999

There were no donations for the period.

**Bless you for caring and thank you!**



## SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER SOCIALS IN REVIEW

By Nicole and Debbie

This time around the end of month on September 30th was the time for the 1999 TGSF Legs contest. The best legs in San Francisco were displayed (and perhaps some others were modeled as well :-). In all

19 contestants vied for the coveted distinction of having the best legs in town. The votes were quite varied for the four categories in the first round, Sexiest, Most Tasteful, Most Exposed, and Most Graceful. In the most Graceful Category one of our new members (I think it was her first time out with us) "Erin" took a decisive first place, with Kalani making an impressive 2nd place showing. In the Most Tasteful category another new member "Lynnea" took the top spot with Erin (the Graceful one) picking up 2nd place. The Most Exposed category was a landslide with Tianna picking up the title in Didi's absence. Lulu came in at a distant second place (in votes that is, Lulu came dressed to compete with Didi, but the crowd decided to go for a more tasteful exposure :-). That leaves the Sexiest category, "Shelly" took the lead here with yours truly taking 2nd place. Then it was time for the final round. The audience was asked to look at our 4 winners from the first round and select the best. Shelly took home the top prize (2 tickets to the Halloween party at Carla's), Erin and Tianna tied for 2nd place, each of them received a gift certificate, one was for See's Candy (a pound I think) and the other was for Bath & Body Works. We also had someone from a new club Aunt Charlie's 133 Turk St. come by and invite us to visit. I thought it was nice to actually have someone seeking us out for our business.

In a rather hurried fashion a rally for discharged teacher Dana Rivers was held at the capitol building in Sacramento on October 4th by a radio station from that area. Debbie and I found out about the event 2 days before it was to happen and it was by a stroke of luck that we were able to attend. I have mixed feelings about the way the rally was put together which I thought tended towards a publicity opportunity for the radio station. However, after discussing this with Gwen from Transbay (who was also there) I have to admit that if this was left up to the trans community it may not have happened. So on the "something is better than nothing" evaluation I guess it was OK. About 20 or fewer TG people were in attendance. Both Gwen and LeChara spoke at the event along with several other people representing the GLBT community. Several of Dana's students were present with Banners (which should have been placed over the backdrop which was an advertisement for the hosting radio station) in support of Miss Rivers. One of the Board Members who voted in favor of Miss River's was also present to set the record straight on rumors which had been created by the right wing religious group responsible for perpetrating this blatant act of discrimination. After the event LeChara, Debbie and I headed over to Joseph's with some of the SGA people in attendance for dinner.

October 4th turned out to be a busy day. We left Sacramento and headed for the DVG Social in Walnut Creek. This was the first time we had been to the new location at Club 1220. This club is the most concealed location I have ever been to. We arrived after dark and parked behind a building near the right address, then we headed out to the street. We were standing between a building with a higher and lower address looking for the club. Then we noticed we could faintly here music. We walked around homing in on the music. It was the door in the back of the 7-11 !! We opened the door and found the club. There were 15 to 20 or so DVG people inside and we socialized for a while, and took care of some Halloween party business.

On October 9th DVG held their Dinner & Dance event at the Boundary Oak's Country Club. I will make a guess at the number of people, which I think was around 40. The room we had in the restaurant "Blake's" offered a nice view of Walnut Creek below. Debbie and I got the chance to socialize with a number of girls without any loud music playing which was nice. We discussed a variety of topics at our table, which included some reminiscing about past TG events. At around 9:30 or so Erin gave us her new comedy routine. She has some new material, and there were some particularly funny ones, but rather than tell you here, I will let you see her show for yourself at Josie's Juice Joint. We were feeling a bit tired and headed off around 10:00 so we do not know what happened after that. We had planned to go to the Water World event in Sacramento the next day but we decided to sleep since we had to go to the ExCom later that afternoon.

Once a year we change our schedule and synchronize our Mid month with Trannyshack. This was the month and on October 12th the mid month which tends to be more wild than usual took place. The special Tuesday night mid-month began at Cafe Mars. There were about 8 to 10 people at Cafe Mars having dinner and drinks. Tianna, Debbie and I were there for about an hour and a half, 10pm to 11:30pm. At 11:30 we headed over to The Stud for Trannyshack. As usual the entire crowd had not arrived yet so there was still opportunities to dance and move in the show area. As it turned out there were several more TGSF people at Trannyshack who had skipped Cafe Mars. Tianna found a place near the stage to sit and Debbie and I took up positions by the bar. By midnight the floor was packed to the point where you had to exhale to allow people to get by you. We watched the first part of the show from our spot at the bar and the last part on the TV in the back room (I can only stand in 5" heels for so long). The show was ok and like usual the audience was also a source of entertainment. As the clock neared 1:30 it was time for us to depart and off we went.

We used this opportunity to attend the TransBay meeting on Wednesday the 13th. As it turned out we had other business to the South so we arrived early at Quetzal's (about 4pm). We graded tests, ate dinner and had a spectacular dessert, which I am still trying to exercise off. By 7:00pm about 10 people had arrived and we got the opportunity to speak to 3 or 4 of them. I met 3 people who I had not met before. One girl "Beverly" is a vocalist who has her own records (in a past life). I also met a girl from back East who had just been to visit Dr. O. I am sure the next time I meet her I will envy her nose :-). Somehow the discussion drifted towards a surgeon in Thailand named Dr. Preecha who evidently does quality half price (or less) SRS procedures. I was hearing the entire package including airfare is less than \$8k. At about 8:00 LeChara arrived and gave me a copy of the Cotillion Press Release to read. It sure is nice having someone concentrate on this aspect of the Cotillion. Once again we were tired so we headed home early.

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## SOUTHERN COMFORT CONFERENCE REVIEW

Written by Laura Brown  
(c) 1999, Southern Voice

Provided by Dallas Denny (aegle@mindspring.com)

Transgendered people from all over the country heard a call at the recently held Southern Comfort conference to "do away with the misery" that has been the hallmark of medical definitions of transsexualism and "set about redefining ourselves."

"Transsexualism is rather like a country that has been colonized... and the flag is the caduceus, the medical staff," longtime Atlanta activist Dallas Denny said Friday in a keynote address at Southern Comfort, the ninth annual transgender conference held September 21-26 at the Sheraton Buckhead Hotel.

"Physicians claimed the land of transsexualism about 40 years ago, and have owned it ever since... Transsexual is a slave name, and we conspired in it," said Denny, founder of the American Educational Gender Information Service.

"What I object to is not so much the name as what it means... To be transsexual I must be miserable, hate my genitals, and be a knotted ball of rage," she explained, noting that doctors at Vanderbilt University initially turned her down when she wanted to transition from male to female, "because I wasn't screwed up enough."

"I didn't hate my genitals—they were there, and what a strange thing for a woman to have on her body, but they were inappropriate, not hated," she said.

Now, 10 years after her transition, Denny called on transgendered people to stop allowing themselves to be defined only by pain. "I feel gifted that I am transsexual... We don't talk about what a magical journey it is and how we are social engineers," she said.

Denny's remarks, which earned a standing ovation, echoed a common theme for Southern Comfort attendees, who encompassed a broad spectrum of transgender—from occasional crossdressers to male-to-female and female-to-male transsexuals.

The conference offered many workshops on important practical issues facing transgendered people—everything from advice on hair and makeup to presentations from physicians about hormone treatments and surgery, to ways to deal with the legal and employment issues raised by gender transition.

But a growing number of seminars and speakers also urged participants to work toward, as Denny put it, "building a community where people are judged not by what lies between their legs, but by what lies between their ears."

### New Records Set

Overall, this year's Southern Comfort was an "incredible success," setting new records for both total attendance and attendance at a single, seated event, according to Stefanie Schumacher, a member of the conference's board of directors.

This year's conference drew 600, a 20 percent increase over last year, Schumacher said. Saturday night's gala dinner, which included a performance by the Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus, seated 450 and "was the largest single gathering of transgendered people we know of in modern history," she said.

While last year's conference drew a group of about five Bible-carrying protesters who shouted Bible verse at attendees outside the hotel one night, this year's Southern Comfort sparked "no protests at all," Schumacher said.

### Project Launched for FTMs

Although Southern Comfort offered a full schedule of workshops, seminars, outings into Atlanta, and evening entertainment, what Schumacher described as "one of the most important things Southern Comfort 1999 did" wasn't an event at all.

For the first time, Southern Comfort launched a Men's Health Project designed to help female-to-male transgendered people get the gynecological health care many find extremely uncomfortable with mainstream physicians.

Organizer Lola Cola said she decided to start the project after her lover, Robert Eads, died of cancer in January.

"The fact is female-to-male transies are really abused by the medical profession, and they are refused treatment quite often," Cola said.

"What really instigated all of this is my lover Robert was an FTM and he contracted uterine cancer and was turned away by 29 doctors and clinics before he found someone to treat him and then it was too late.

Cola said Men's Health Project organizers worked with Atlanta's Feminist Women's Health Center to set up a special evening for clinic visits during the conference where transgendered men could access health care without facing the awkward situation of a person who looks and sounds like a man asking for what are considered female procedures.

FWHC Community Service Director Janelle Yamarick said the center will now continue to offer routine gynecological services for female-to-male transgendered people.

### November's Birthdays...

|      |                       |
|------|-----------------------|
| 1119 | Leah Christina Segmen |
| 1120 | Lola Hurley           |
| 1125 | Dale R. Carlson       |
| 1125 | Gary Anspach          |
| 1126 | Meredith Memaran      |
| 1128 | Randall Stone         |
| 1130 | Carol Alexander       |

Many Happy Returns of the Day!

### Email TGSF:

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## IN RESPONSE TO COREN'S DIATRIBE OF HATE

by **Rosalyn S. Montgomery**  
**Founder and Executive Director**  
**Transgenders United for Equality (TRUE)**  
**San Francisco**

From a diatribe from a Mr. Coren of Talk640 radio in Toronto:

*"Well, I suppose it simply had to happen. The Ontario Human Rights Commission has issued a report calling for greater public education on the subject of transsexuals so that we can all understand this poor, persecuted community. In other words, we have to know more about people who want sex-change operations."*

Thank goodness that the Ontario Human Rights Commission has more sense and sensitivity than Mr. Coren. It is obvious from this paragraph alone that he knows little, if anything about transgenderism or anything related to it. The real editor of his diatribe is patriarchal bigotry at its worst. Perhaps if he would open his millimeter wide mind, he might learn something.

*"Education about gender identity is crucial to both transgendered and non-transgendered people", says the report. Funny, I seem to have been doing fine so far without too much information on this, eh, prickly issue. The paper goes on to state that education is imperative because there are so many myths about the subject."*

It is obvious you have never bothered to learn if you had tried. The paper is quite correct, for I, and every other transgendered person on earth has to deal with misconceptions, misinformation and bigotry.

*"For education read clumsy and unbridled propaganda. That the report is based on a radical agenda is obvious to everyone. The only people who seem to be promoting all this rubbish are those intent on smashing gender differences and doctors who make a great deal of money telling mentally ill men that it's okay to want to have your willy cut off."*

Propaganda? Like men are superior to women, women should be barefoot and pregnant, blacks are inferior to whites...need I go on? Funny thing is that once people learn about us, they realize that we are human beings too, and have the same wants needs and desires of others.

What I see here is a very insecure man who is more concerned with maintaining his myth of genetic superiority over those whom he feels uncomfortable with. The thing that really frightens many of the transphobes is that they are deathly afraid of their house of cards crumbling down.

Also, and this may come as a shock to you, but there are also transgendered women who transition to men. We call them FTM (female to male) transsexuals. Brandon Teena was one such person, and there is now considerable debate both within and without the trans community that Joan of Arc may have indeed been a female to male transsexual.

There are also people who are born with ambiguous genitalia. We refer to them as intersexed now, but in the past they were called hermaphrodites. One particularly atrocious thing that happens to these kids is that the parents will arbitrarily select one gender or the other, and there's a 50/50 chance they will screw up.

*"Some fundamental points. There is no such thing as a transsexual. There is no such thing as a man in a woman's body or a woman in a man's body. There are, however, some*

*very sick people whose deep mental illness deserves our compassion and care. Any man who wants to have his genitalia surgically removed and some grotesque imitation of a female organ put in its place requires years of therapy and medication. Or, frankly, needs to put in a hard week's work fifty times a year so that he stops concocting neurotic nightmares and gets on with leading a meaningful life."*

For your information, Mr. Coren, I worked hard for 26 years before a heart attack ended my working life. I did everything society expected from a productive citizen. Despite all this, I led a mediocre, unsatisfying life, despite the fact that I was considered a success by my neighbors.

Three years ago, I finally began transition, and lo and behold, for the first time I felt like I had a huge weight lifted from my shoulders. I promptly returned to school to retain for a new career. I was forced to do this because misogyny and racism s a way of life in the security industry. The mere fact I was living as a female was sufficient to bar me from my old line of work.

I returned to school majoring in Computer Science and carry a 4.0 GPA. Far better than I ever did in my entire academic life. I was working part time as a telephone interviewer to pay my way through school. My plans were cut short when I had a heart attack in 1998.

During that time, I wound up homeless because I was unable to pay my rent while living on a subsistence check until my disability paperwork was processed. I remained in this state for 14 months. During that time, I became involved in transgender activism.

I founded TRUE in 1997, and became involved in politics here in San Francisco. I am also a Founding Board Member of the Transgender Independence Center, a transitional housing and services program for transgendered people. I am also a founding member of TG-RAGE, a direct-action group fighting hate violence. I also have a television show called Tranny Talk. I am the co-host, and I handle the news and politics. I am also actively involved with city leaders here in San Francisco.

Funny I became a greater success as a woman than I ever did as a man.

*"Many of us indulged in fantasies at some time or another, usually when we were very young. Then we matured and put away such childish things. I, for example, always wanted to be a great soccer player, but I simply wasn't good enough. Surgery would have done nothing to alter that condition and surgery will do nothing to turn a man into a woman. These poor wretches will merely become monstrous results of weird science, walking examples of the triumph of technology over common sense."*

**Continued on Page 14**

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## In Response To Coren's Diatribes Of Hate

Continued from Page 13

I may be beating a dead horse here. Suppose, Mr. Coren, you were forced to give up your male life. Say you were in a society that valued femininity above all. You show signs of masculinity. You suddenly find yourself unable to get a job ("can't you act a little more feminine?) or housing, or justice. You can't work, but you do know there are women and men who will pay big money for sex with a masculine male. So you sell your ass on the streets to survive, because welfare isn't enough to pay rent and buy food. Suppose the cops harass you for masculine behavior, after all, masculine acting men in this society are whores. Who knows, you might be forced to give a "civil service discount" blowjob to an effeminate male policeman to avoid arrest and jail.

Some of the more sadistic elements single you out for abuse. "Hey boy...give me a piece!" Also bashing, though illegal, is still trendy. You get ganged up on by 5 or 6 violent people. The cops catch 'em, but the court gives them probation. After all, you deserved it, you sicko pervert!

Society calls you mentally ill and you need to be corrected. You are forcibly detained in a psychiatric hospital, pumped full of estrogens and psych meds and subjected to all kinds of therapies intended to correct your aberrant masculine behavior. Think about it. This is EXACTLY what society does to us. I sincerely doubt you would like it.

"I pity them, but I also oppose them. What they demand is wrong, dangerous and unnatural. That they also want public funding for such gruesome exercises, which they had until very recently, is beyond belief. Next time I meet an unemployed nurse; a child counting the days until life-and-death treatment or an old man on an MRI waiting list, I'll assure them that they have to be more understanding."

Tell that to them as well when you build some kind of new sports complex for overpaid athletes. Far more money is wasted on such crap than a few sex reassignments. I admit I am not that familiar with Canada, but here in the US, our schools and hospitals go starving for funds but we can always manage to build a new stadium for the local football or baseball team. Teams whose players and owners both could easily afford to build their own temples of worship.

"The handful of men and women I have met who are convinced that they were born in the wrong bodies have been profoundly messed up and have had a legion of painful issues with which to deal. The debate over which bathroom to use was in some cases the least of their problems. "Have whatever you want, it'll all be fine." We should not be encouraging them."

We all heard that same logic in South Africa, the Deep South here in the United States. I seem to recall that not too long ago we didn't even allow women to vote. We shouldn't encourage women and minorities...it will endanger the White Male Way.

"This is particularly true because various groups are already making a good job of it. One of the Web sites of the so-called transgendered community tells us, among other things, that, "In the case of the owner of a penis, the discovery that not all humans have on occasions deep anxiety lest that delightful organ of pleasure might be removed. This castration anxiety led to a distancing of the owner of the penis from the caretaker who did not own one, presumably because the person might want to steal it. While simultaneously, the owner of the penis wishes to emulate the other caretaker who by good fortune still owns a penis."

Oh, I see. No wonder a sorry bunch of men want to dress up as women, take hormones to remove body hair, grow breasts and insist on being called Brittany when their real name is George."

Please get real. First of all, I personally know the owner of the site you just mentioned, and her story is one that would be called the American Dream if it wasn't for the fact she is transgendered. She is an engineer for a Silicon Valley firm and a success by every standard we use to define success in America. You never bothered to read her site fully and understand it. You merely used an old trick of using only what supports your line...context notwithstanding. Did you study journalism from Joseph Goebbels?

"This would all be very funny if it wasn't so very sad. For the people involved, for their families, for the taxpayer and for the greater society that doesn't know what is hitting it and why it is happening. Genuine love sometimes means saying, in a loud and clear voice, no, no and never."

It is precisely this kind of poisonous diatribe that puts all of our lives in danger. Transgendered people are 10 times more likely to be murdered than any other demographic group. Suicide is also a problem...for adults over 25, it is about 25%, for trans youth, the rate is closer to 40%.

I spend much of my life mentoring and giving support and love to young trans people who get rejected by their families because they don't fit into somebody's narrow views on gender identity. Contrary to popular belief, gender identity isn't dictated by what's between one's legs. It is in one's heart and mind.

TRansgenders United for Equality (TRUE); 1036 Polk Street, Suite 203; San Francisco, CA 94109-6952; Phone: (415) 928-1237; WWW: <http://members.aol.com/truesf>

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## TEXAS APPEALS COURT SAYS XY VAGINA IS MALE!

By Sarah DePalma  
Director, Texas Gender Advocacy Information  
Network (TGAIN)

This is an official communication from the Texas Gender Advocacy Information Network who is solely responsible for its contents. Public dissemination is encouraged.

The case known as Littleton V. Prang has been decided and it is horrible news for transsexuals in Texas. In the abbreviated version, here is what the court has ruled:

- 1) "Medical science recognizes that there are individuals whose sexual self-identity is in conflict with their biological and anatomical sex. Such people are termed transsexuals."
- 2) "A transsexual is not a homosexual in the traditional sense of the word, in that transsexuals believe and feel they are members of the opposite sex. Nor is a transsexual a transvestite. Transsexuals do not believe they are dressing the opposite sex's clothes. They believe they are dressing in their own sex's clothes."
- 3) "Christie Littleton is a transsexual."
- 4) "Through surgery and hormones, a transsexual male (note the language of the court) can be made to look like a woman, including female genitalia and breasts. Transsexual medical treatment, however, does not create in internal sexual organs of a woman (except for the vaginal canal). There is no womb, cervix, or ovaries in the post-operative transsexual female."
- 5) "The male chromosomes do not change with either hormonal treatment or sex reassignment surgery. Biologically a post operative female transsexual is still a male."
- 6) "The evidence fully supports that Christie Littleton, born male, wants and believes herself to be a woman. She has made every conceivable effort to make herself a female, including a surgery that would make most males pale and perspire to contemplate."
- 7) "Some physicians would consider Christie a female, other female physicians would consider her still a male. Her female anatomy is all man made. The body that Christie inhabits is a male body in all aspects other than what the physicians have supplied."

The court then makes the most offensive statement any transsexual could possibly imagine. "There are some things we cannot will into being. They just are."

"We hold, as a matter of law, that Christie Littleton is a male. Christie cannot be married to another male. Her marriage to Jonathon was invalid, and she cannot bring a cause of action as a surviving spouse."

Last month TGAIN sent an Amicus (or "friend of the court") brief which was accepted by the court. Anticipating exactly this kind of ruling, our brief asked the court to include in its decision a statement suggesting that the Texas legislature needed to pass a law (or perhaps laws) to clarify the issues involved in this case. On page eight of the court decision, the second paragraph reads:

"In our system of government it is for the legislature, should it choose to do so, to determine what guidelines should govern the recognition of marriages involving transsexuals. The need for legislative guidelines is particularly important in this case, where the claim being asserted is statutorily based. The statute defines who may bring a cause of action: a surviving spouse, and if the legislature intends to recognize transsexuals as surviving spouses, the statute needs to address the guidelines by which such recognition is recognized. When or whether the

legislature will choose to address this issue is not within the judiciary's control."

The fact is that TGAIN has made three attempts to get exactly this kind of clarification entered into the Texas legislature. This past session we were told there was no need to have such clarification. As a result the bill died in committee. The Littleton case was exactly what TGAIN was working to avoid. Ironically, this ruling may be exactly what we need to get our legislation passed. The problem, and the blessing in disguise, is that the legislature does not meet this year. This gives us time to devise our strategy, lay the groundwork with legislators across the state, and put on a fullcourt press in the next session. My point is that yes, this decision is terrible. The ramifications on issues like health insurance, employability, and of course our legal status as men or women, and only now beginning to become clear. Anyone who believe gays and lesbians had nothing in common with transgenders need only to see the court's use of DOMA against us.

However, there is hope and that involves all of us in Texas. The time for hiding is over. This court ruling reaches into every closet. There is no hiding place in Texas. Tell your friends about TGAIN. Tell your family. Tell the friends of your family. Tell everyone you know in El Paso, Lubbock, Laredo, Corpus Christi, Austin, Houston, Dallas, Fort Worth, and anywhere else in this huge state. Talk to your friends in PFLAG, the NGLTF, the LGRL, and other transgender organizations. Tell them that TGAIN is committed to bringing the message to the state legislature that our biology is not our destiny. We are not our chromosomes. We have lost a major battle, but the war is only getting started. We will fight back.

A word of caution is in order. TGAIN does not believe in "outing." We do believe, however, that hiding as an excuse to do nothing is no longer acceptable. Never threaten another person with "outing." Talk with your friends. Reason with them as best you can, but never "out" someone against their will.

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