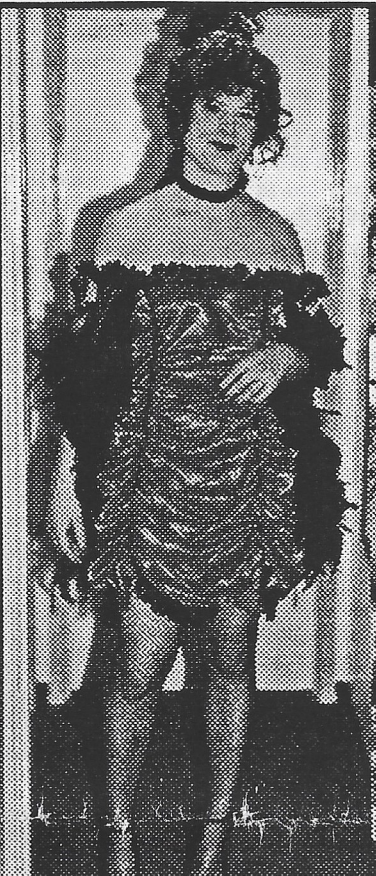
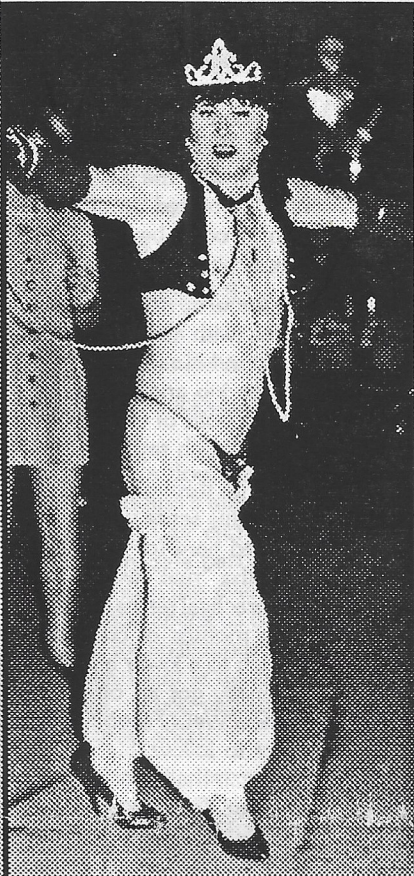


TGSF Halloween '99!

TGSF's The Channel
Transgender San Francisco
(formerly ETVC)



The Channel

TGSF (Educational TV Channel, 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 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 Telzey Adams
 Social Nicole and Debbie Cook

Membership Report

As of November 12, 1999

Fiscal Year		Number	% of 98-99
1998-1999	Total members	292	100.0
1999-2000	Renewals	193	66.0
1999-2000	New members	37	12.7
1999-2000	<u>Non-renewing</u>	<u>99</u>	<u>33.9</u>
1999-2000	Total members	230	78.7

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

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

Newsletter Staff

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

Ad Rates

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

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

Hotline & Voice Mail
415-564-3246



FROM THE EDITOR...

So I guess it's time for a little reflection on this past year, now that it's coming to a close. Parties to go to and people to see and food to eat - all that's still looming on the horizon, but what about how we got where we are right now? Well for me, I went through a LOT this past year. In particular, I remember that fabulous Cotillion we had last February and what a good time I had (sprained ankle and all - you'll recall it gushed buckets of rain that evening). But it was a lonely evening ultimately, with me pining for a man half a country away. And for months I agonized over how he made me feel every time I thought of him or could be with him, versus how living in San Francisco and working at Wells Fargo made me feel.

Of course you all know by now that the love I felt for him won out over living in Mecca (with all its faults - no pun intended). And in June my cat and I found ourselves transplanted into the heartland of America with no job and having to start over, but with a future wide open for the both of us. Well at least for Micheal and me - my cat didn't have much say in the matter.

Like all couples we go through our highs and lows, but underlying our relationship is this sense we both have of having fulfilled a dream we both worked hard for years to achieve. But love will only get you so far in the "real" world...well it'll get you farther than you think, but in practical terms, it was a piece of work to find a job out here. Three months of crankin' resumes and reading rejection letters do much to a lower a gal's self-esteem, but with a little perseverance I finally got an offer for a job I've absolutely fallen in love with. I knew Wells Fargo had spoiled me rotten and it was a pretty tough act to follow, but it's funny how things work out. I like this job so much that now I'd have to think twice about leaving Oklahoma - wow! That's a switch. Even if I had a chance to go back to California right now, I'd probably have to turn it down.

Much as I may hate to admit it, I guess I've learned to call Oklahoma home for now. There's a lot going for the state - redevelopment of the downtown area (it's exciting to be part of the new energy taking place there), the weather is great (still have yet to break out my heavy overcoat, which was practically a constant companion in San Francisco no matter what time of year it was), the cost of living is much lower (and so are the salaries, but it's all relative) and in general the people are polite and friendly. Granted there are some stupid laws and practices still on the books in Oklahoma but with a little thought and foresight, one can accommodate them into your daily life, or ignore them altogether (which could prove to be unwise, but having grown up in California, things just seem more reasonable and progressive out there).

While I don't consider myself to be an in-your-face activist for the transgender cause, there's no doubt that I'm visible to neighbors, friends and co-workers. And that's quite alright. I've taken Theresa Sparks' words to heart and am putting a face and shining a positive light on the word "transsexual," just trying my best to look presentable, be friendly and live each day as if it were my last. I see no point in getting up in the morning if I can't be happy with myself for choosing to follow my heart and live my life as the woman I've always wanted to be.

Continued on Page 3

WWW.TGSF.ORG
NEW SITE! GET ONLINE!



PRESIDENT'S POTPOURRI

By Leslie Bailey

Millennium Cotillion

As you read this, your Cotillion Committee is hard at work preparing for the Millennium Cotillion that will celebrate our community and San Francisco.

Date: Saturday, January 29, 2000

Place: San Francisco Design Center Galleria
101 Henry Adams Street, S.F.

Time: Doors open at 6:00 p.m.

Light meal served till 7:45

Program starts promptly at 8:00

Benefit: Project Open Hand,
National Breast Cancer Research, TGSGF

For ticket information see the enclosed flyer or call Miki at 415/381-2651.

The Cotillion is without a doubt one of the nations annual premier transgendered events and it takes place in one of the countries most TG friendly cities. Our current venue is fabulously elegant and is located in a very safe part of town with lots of parking. If you have never attended this event or if it has been a while since you last attended, come check us out. If you're from out of town or out of state, come for an extended weekend and enjoy our monthly social on Thursday night at the Blue Muse restaurant and the rest of the local scene. If you regularly attend, then you can look forward to another great show.

We are working to expand the scope of this event while at the same time to maintain the caliber of the show. It is important to continue to develop the Cotillion not only as a fine evening for ourselves, but to extend the outreach value into the surrounding community. With that in mind we are working to bring sponsors on board in an effort to increase the financial benefit not only to our own organization, but also to the two charities with which we are partnering.

Also with a view to insuring the financial success of the event, we have increased the premium table ticket price to \$40, kept the regular table ticket price at \$30 and introduced a limited number of patron tables at \$100 per person, which will include a few special perks. General admission tickets (at the door) will be \$35.

Debbie And Nicole

Once again Debbie and Nicole have done an absolutely bang-up job with the Halloween party. What can you say except, many times, thank you. We also appreciate Carla who is such a tremendous and generous friend to our community for letting us use her facility.



Enormous Moving Sale!
BUY 1 GET 1 FREE!

- Designer, Ready to Wear & Vintage Clothing
- Leather, Spandex & Vinyl
- Costumes & Theatrical
- Personalized Service
- Evening Appointments / Minor Alterations Available
- Wardrobe Coordination

Let us help you be all the things you dream!

510-797-5066
120 J Street / Niles District
Fremont, CA 94536

You Want It? We'll Find It!

From The Editor...

Continued from Page 2

When I look back, not only on 1999, but the last decade, I see that it wasn't easy to break the chains that held me. As with any adult decision, there were consequences. When I finally decided that I was going to be happier living my life as a woman instead of the continuing lie of life as a man, the first consequence was that I lost a wife and best friend of ten years. Cherished possessions were given up, thrown away or they just plain vanished. I ended up starting life over from scratch - new places to live, new jobs to work at and this new and strange person called Ayme with no real identity and no real experience to fall back on. I went through the "adolescent" period of inappropriate clothing and comportment; lots of trial and error in building a wardrobe, cosmetics, interacting with others, overcoming phobias. There were difficult decisions and hard lessons learned, heart-breaking disappointments and ecstatic achievements. Overall, it hasn't been easy - damned difficult if you ask me. Why anyone in their right mind would throw all that security away is beyond me. But God I'm happy! I love being a girl! (hey I may be 43 years old, but it's still a thrill to feel "girly" even though I'm very much a woman now).

Two years ago I reached a major plateau when I felt the time was right for a bit of surgery, and had my breasts augmented. Granted there are other elective processes I should have chosen first (electrolysis for one), but I felt this was a better bodily expression of how I felt inside. After recuperating and my breasts finally "settled" and softened (about eight months after the surgery) I can now look at myself in the mirror and know in my heart that it was nothing radical at all. It was a natural extension of who I was - they feel as if they'd always been there, and had always been a part of Ayme, just now much more prominent (mama mia!). Bigger breasts have their consequences too, mainly on my wardrobe - alterations help a little, but it's kinda back to the drawing board again. Not that I'm complaining or anything - being able to buy low-cut, cleavage-revealing blouses and dresses is definitely something I can get used to! (And Micheal, of course, has no complaints whatsoever!).

I guess it all boils down to how life changes and how one adapts to that change. Realizing the truth of my life and then taking steps to live my life within that truth has made all the difference in the world to me, regardless of the discrimination I may face, or the open-mouthed stares, or the whispers and giggles behind my back. To me, those that ridicule me have yet to face their own life's truths and if they want to learn more about how I faced mine, then I'm happy to tell them. Otherwise, it's entirely their problem and I've got my own glorious life to live thank you very much.

And there's really no telling how things'll turn out. But I'm most fortunate in that Micheal and I both realize that as long as we're together, then no matter how things evolve it'll be alright. And that's an incredibly powerful feeling - that sense of trust and love and acceptance. I'm one of the lucky ones, but if there's anything I think about in terms of a year-end review, it's that I certainly wish as much love, support, good fortune, luck, blessings and guidance to you all as I've enjoyed these past twelve months. Merry Christmas to you all, and remember you may party your brains out this New Year's Eve, but the Millennium doesn't start 'till 2001. Guess we'll have to put off Armageddon for another year, eh?

Significant Other Support - East Bay

Questions or concerns about your partner's crossdressing? Please call Julie at (925) 937-8432, e-mail Julie39@ibm.net or write to: Julie Freeman, PO Box 272885, Concord, CA 94527-2885.

ExCom Meeting Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the TGSF Executive Committee was held on Sunday, November 7, 1999 at the home of Education Co-chair Nancy Cupps in Los Altos, California. Notice of this meeting had been given to the members present at the previous ExCom meeting, and personally to the other members of the ExCom. Other members were invited to attend in the November newsletter and on the TGSF web site.

President Leslie Bailey called the meeting to order at 3:50 p.m.. Also present were Vice President Lulu Blau, Treasurer Janis Ryan, Outreach Chair Telzey Adams and Education Co-chair Nancy Cupps. Not present were Secretary Roxanne, Education Co-chair Tianna Marie, and Social Co-chairs Nicole and Debbie Cook. Janis agreed to take the minutes of the meeting.



Announcements

Janis announced that she and Stephanie Ann had attended the Miss SGA Pageant in Sacramento the previous evening. TGSF was well represented, with Telzey as a judge and photographer, former Miss ETVC and President Erin Souza as a co-mistress of ceremonies, and Nicole Cook as a contestant, with Debbie Cook also participating in a joint talent performance. Several other members who had been at the TGSF Halloween Party were there as well. The winner and Miss SGA 2000 is Nicole Cook!

Leslie announced that a Special Dinner Outing will be held at the Cliff House in San Francisco on Saturday, November 13, to celebrate the birthday of Debbie Cook.

Janis announced that the group had received a request for information from a member of the San Francisco Public Health Department whose job is to specifically assist persons in the transgendered community. She will send the information and a copy of our newsletter, and forward a copy of this letter to Leslie.

Janis also announced that she had received a letter requesting information from a person out of state who is apparently below 18 years of age. She gave this letter to Leslie to answer.

President's Report

Leslie stated that she did not have much to report, and deferred to Lulu to report on the planning activities for the Cotillion.

Minutes

Lulu raised some questions on the reporting of the tickets for the Cotillion as reported in the minutes. She felt that this information needs to be corrected to give accurate information on prices and the locations at which they can be purchased.

Janis noted that in the discussion of proposed bylaws changes there had been discussion of allowing the ExCom to provide for a one-time, shorter term of membership in the Standing Rules. On a motion by Lulu, seconded by Telzey, the minutes were unanimously adopted as corrected.

Vice President's Report

Lulu presented a copy of the Cotillion Contestant Handbook for examination by members of the ExCom. The previous Cotillion planning meeting had been held on November 2 at her home, and the next meeting will probably be held there on November 16.

She presented a press release which had been prepared by LeChara, and suggested some corrections.

LeChara has established a forum on TGNexus, a Delphi site, to allow for exchange of information among the people participating in Cotillion planning. It is necessary to obtain a user name and password from her at lechara@hotmail.com to participate.

Sponsorships have been established at the levels of \$2500 or more for Gold, \$1500 or more for Silver, and \$500 or more for Bronze. A concise list of benefits for sponsors at the various levels needs to be established. Lulu discussed the changes that had been made to the proposal previously presented to the planning committee by Leslie, and felt that any changes must be made with the approval of the committee.

Aiyana has been working with two potential groups regarding catering for the event. An advantage of working with caterers is that they, not TGSF, would be responsible for any Sales Tax. Project Open Hand will also be contacted about possibly participating with the catering.

A ticket voucher, 100 of which were prepared in advance of the Halloween Party, was presented. It will be available for purchase until the actual tickets are printed, and will be redeemable for a ticket either in advance or at the will-call table. Mickey is coordinating the ticket sales.

Six people have been approached to date as potential directors. Many have scheduling conflicts, although some have offered to help to a limited extent. Several candidates as judges have been approached. There are seven contestants for Miss TGSF confirmed to date, with the possibility of three additional ones.

Nancy Cupps agreed to serve as Technical Coordinator for the Cotillion. She, Janis, and Leslie agreed to meet with Margaret regarding technical facilities at the Design Center.

Lulu presented the proposed distribution of the proceeds of the Cotillion. Leslie noted that in prior years other than 1999 an amount had been paid to the designated charity recipient whether or not the Cotillion made a profit. Nancy moved to direct Treasurer to allocate \$500 each from TGSF funds to Project Open Hand and Breast Cancer Research, which will be paid regardless of the proceeds of the Cotillion. Any proceeds between \$1000 and \$1500 will go to TGSF, and proceeds in excess of \$1500 will be divided evenly among the three groups. The motion passed unanimously. JoAnne has been actively selling ads for the Cotillion program.

Old Business

Janis presented a resolution with the final proposed changes to the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of Educational TV Channel, to be presented to the membership for voting by mail and in person at a Special Meeting to coincide with the End of Month Social Meeting on January 27, 2000. The proposed changes, to be submitted separately, will:

- Change the name of the corporation from Educational TV Channel, or ETVC, to TransGender San Francisco in the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws,
- Change the term of membership to begin when person pays annual dues, and continue for twelve calendar months following that,
- State certain specific duties for the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer in the bylaws, and provide that additional duties will be specified in the Standing Rules,

- Add a provision to clarify that the ExCom constitutes the Board of Directors of the corporation, pursuant to California law,
- Officially call the Special Meeting for January 27, 2000, and
- Appoint an Elections Committee consisting of the Secretary, Treasurer, and member Stephanie Ann to conduct the election, in accordance with our Bylaws.

After correcting a typographical error in the printed resolution, Lulu moved and Nancy seconded that the resolution be adopted. The motion passed unanimously. At 5:05 p.m. Lulu departed to attend to personal business. Janis noted that in accordance with California law the Executive Committee meeting could still proceed.

Secretary's Report

Janis presented a letter from Secretary Roxanne, stating that she could continue to serve as Secretary by preparing the minutes of the meetings that she attends. She indicated that she would need to limit her duties as Secretary. She would be able to continue to prepare the minutes of the meetings that she attends, pick up and distribute mail periodically, and serve on the Elections Committee for the proposed Bylaws changes only to assist in the final counting of the votes at the Special Meeting. She requested that Janis be given the task of sending out letters to new members.

Janis indicated that she agreed to assuming the additional duty herself. However, she requested that the other members of the ExCom cooperate with her, and allow her to schedule her time by preparing requests for funds in advance, and not unnecessarily delaying activities such as the obtaining of tax permits.

Treasurer's Report

Janis presented a preliminary set of financial reports for the month of October. There had been several last-minute changes to the reporting of expenses and income for the Halloween Party that she had not had time to incorporate. Final reports will be circulated to the members of the ExCom, published in the newsletter, and posted on the TGSF web site.

The final expense total for the Halloween Party was \$2,602.90. On a motion by Telzey, seconded by Nancy, this expense was approved unanimously. Janis will prepare and file the Sales Tax statement for the party. She estimated that the amount of tax to be paid will be \$172.

Educational Committee Report

Janis reported that she had been at the previous Educational Seminar on Saturday, October 30, with the topic "The Transgender Family and Family Issues." The presenters were Marcia Perlstein, Clinical Director, and Zhav Doherty, Co-Facilitator of the Transgender Parents Group. Both are with the Alternative Family Project in San Francisco. Once again the turnout was disappointing: in addition to Janis, Tianna, and the two presenters only one couple was present.

Nancy began a discussion of the disappointing turnout at recent Educational Seminars, and the failure of them to break even financially. Janis assured her that this did not pose a financial problem to TGSF, and that it is important to hold educational events whether or not they make money. There was a discussion about

potential topics, and several people suggested that some seminars might be held on weekday evenings rather than Saturday afternoons. Nancy announced that the next Educational Seminar will be hosted by Tianna on Saturday, November 13 at 1:00 p.m., and will feature Luanna L. Rodgers, MA, MFCC speaking on "Living La Vida Loca - Transgender Dating Issues."

Outreach Committee

Telzey presented Janis with a check for \$25 representing an honorarium from the Sonoma Junior College District. Telzey also presented a list by Diane Giles of the outreach presentations that she had made. Telzey also mentioned a TV Epic. Telzey requested that she be given the newsletters that TGSF receives from other organizations. Janis gave her the ones that she had recently gotten from the TGSF Post Office Box.

Social Committee Report

It was announced that Mid-Month Social will be held on Wednesday, November 10 at Aunt Charlie's, 133 Turk Street in San Francisco. As Leslie had previously announced, a Special Dinner Outing will be held at the Cliff House in San Francisco on Saturday, November 13, to celebrate the birthday of Debbie Cook. Also announced was that the End of Month Social will be held a week early due to Thanksgiving. It will be at 8:00 p.m. the usual location, The Blue Muse Restaurant, 409 Gough Street in San Francisco.

New Business

There was no new business.

Adjournment

The next ExCom meeting will be held on Sunday, December 5, at 3:00 p.m. Janis offered to be hostess for this meeting, and suggested that it be held at the Buttercup Kitchen restaurant at Third and Broadway in Oakland. Telzey said that she had eaten there, and offered to be co-hostess. Nancy indicated that she was familiar with the location, and that it was convenient to the Oakland City Center BART Station. Additionally Leslie indicated that another member had offered to serve as co-hostess of an ExCom meeting, and she will contact her about participating as well. Janis will obtain the information about renting the private room at the restaurant.

A motion to adjourn was made, and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

December's Birthdays...

12-	Robyn Burton	1214	Sandra Brewer
1203	Sheila Faulkner	1217	Paula Dancer
1203	Elizabeth Walters	1218	Susie Parrish
1205	Mary Anne Sales	1220	Barbara Lokker
1206	Allie	1222	Cami Lynn
1207	Rachel Andrews	1222	Kathy Moore
1207	Natasha Price	1223	Kim Hraca
1209	Gabrielle Thomas	1223	Cynthia Young
1210	Nancy Kramer	1223	Toni Martinez
1210	Jeri Smith	1223	Gabrielle Taylor
1211	Billie Cox	1224	Janis Roemer
1212	Linda	1228	Nancy Ann Martine
1213	Tammi Meehan	1229	Charlene Marie
	1230	Erika Faust	

Many Happy Returns of the Day!

Sunday / December 5th / 3:00pm

EXCOM MEETING

The December ExCom meeting will be held at someplace new. Janis and Telzey have graciously offered to hostess and co-hostess the meeting to be held at the Buttercup Kitchen restaurant at Third and Broadway in Oakland. A few of our ExCom members have eaten there and it is conveniently located near the Oakland City Center BART Station. If anyone is interested in joining us at this location, please feel free to come on down and join us in making and planning the future of your organization!

Wednesday / December 8th / 8:00pm

MID-MONTH SOCIAL

We will be visiting the Lunacee Lounge again in the North Bay. The staff of the lounge has expressed an increasing interest in having our group visit again since the last time we had visited in April. There is no special event happening this time around (there's normally an Open Mic show on this night, but because of the holidays, there will not be one), but please come out and support this very supportive venue.

The Lunacee Lounge (<http://www.lunacee.com>) is located at 815 W. Francisco Blvd. in San Rafael. It is almost exactly where the 101 and 580 freeways come together, just west of the intersection. Here are the directions from the south: Take US 101 North. Take the I-580 exit towards Richmond Bridge/Francisco Blvd. (this place is not hard to find . . . you can see it from the freeway.) If you get into trouble, find the on-ramp to the 101 going back south. The Lunacee lounge is about 20 yards from this on-ramp.

Parking? Well, since we are not in the city, the venue actually has it's own parking lot. The Lunacee Lounge does not serve food so you're on your own there. See you at 8:00pm!

If you don't feel like coming to the North Bay to join us, don't forget that Wednesday is the day that the TransBay group meets at Quetzals. 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.

Friday / December 10 / 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.

Thursday / December 23rd / 8:00pm

END OF MONTH SOCIAL

It that time of year again . . . The air is crisp and cold, a light rain falls upon SF and a great group of gals gather to exchange gifts at the annual TGSF gift swap. You don't have to bring a gift, but if you do, try not to spend more than \$10. We will have the same fun game as last year when we held the swap.

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.

Project Open Hand Event!

Monday, December 13

EIGHTH ANNUAL HAND TO HAND LUNCHEON

Project Open Hand's Eighth Annual Hand to Hand Luncheon will be held on **Monday, December 13, 1999** at The San Francisco Marriott, 55 Fourth Street. The Skyy Vodka Martini Reception will be from 11:30 a.m. to noon, and the lunch will be from noon to 1:30 p.m. Hank Plante, Anchorman of KPIX-TV will be Master of Ceremonies.

Tickets range in price from Presenting Sponsor tables of ten for \$35,000 to Individual Tickets for \$200. All donations in excess of \$50 per person are tax deductible. Proceeds will provide hot, nutritious meals, groceries, and nutritional education and counseling for men, women, and children living with AIDS in San Francisco and Alameda Counties.

For further information, please call 415 447-2417. Reservations are requested by Friday, November 26, 1999.

(Ed Note: Project Open Hand, for as long as I've been involved with TGSF, has been one our favorite organizations to support. It's also been my personal experience that it's also one of the most fun and rewarding organizations to devote your time to, if not just your dollars. Please go to this Luncheon, en femme and en masse. You'll love yourself afterwards. - Ayme)

New Members

since November Issue:

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

Encourage a Friend to Join!

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 - December 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	2 7:00 PM DVG (RCC)	3 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap 8:00 PM RGA	4
5 3:00 PM TGSSF: ExCom Meeting	6 8:00 PM DVG	7	8 7:00 PM TransBay 8:00 PM TGSSF: MidMonth Social	9	10 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap 8:00 PM TGSSF: Library / Poker Night	11 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
12	13	14	15	16 7:00 PM DVG (RCC)	17 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap 8:00 PM RGA	18
19	20 8:00 PM DVG	21	22	23 8:00 PM TGSSF: End Of Month Social	24 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap	25 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA Merry Christmas!
26	27	28	29	30	31 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap And A Happy New Year!	

TGSF MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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AUG	22.5	30
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OCT	17.5	23
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DEC	12.5	17
JAN	10	13
FEB	7.5	10
MAR	5	7
APR	2.5	3

Our Readers Respond...

THE CREATION OF A HALLOWEEN PARTY

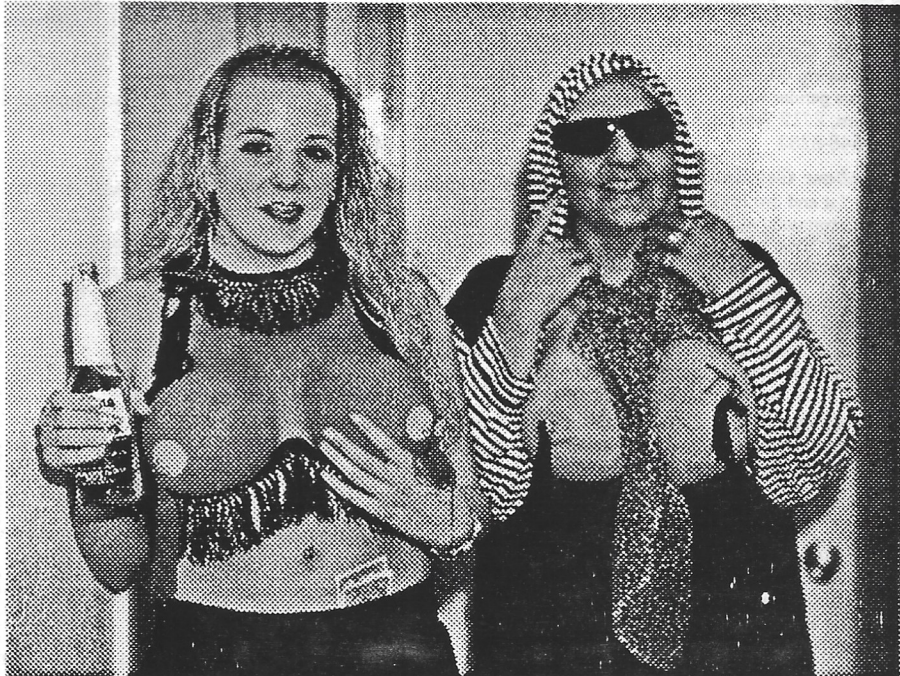
By Nicole & Debbie Cook

By now some of you may be wondering "Just what goes into a Halloween Party?" Well I thought I would break it down into phases and run through them with you. I'm sure after reading this article you will have an appreciation for what a fun and exciting event this is to produce.

Chapter 1 - The Planning — Our story begins months in advance of the scary event. Since we would like to serve alcohol and that requires working with the government we have to start early. Getting the one-day permit in San Jose is a two-part process that starts at the police department and ends up at the ABC Dept. (Alcoholic Beverage Control I Think). Each stop requires a payment. Determining the venue is also a task for the planning phase. When we first began the planning for this year's event both Carla and the Billy DeFrank center were scheduled to be closed. It was not until August that we knew they would once again be available to us. Then there are the tickets, flyers and the website. Everything must be designed or revised, printed and distributed to our sales points. We have to find the sales points first and guess how much they will sell so we know how many tickets to give them. We code the tickets so we can keep track of sales before and after the event.

Chapter 2 - Coordination — Bringing everything together at the same hour on the same day is not something that happens automatically. As we get closer to the event the number of hours which must be spent on the event grows. Volunteers are needed and it is nice to know how many you have up front. There is more

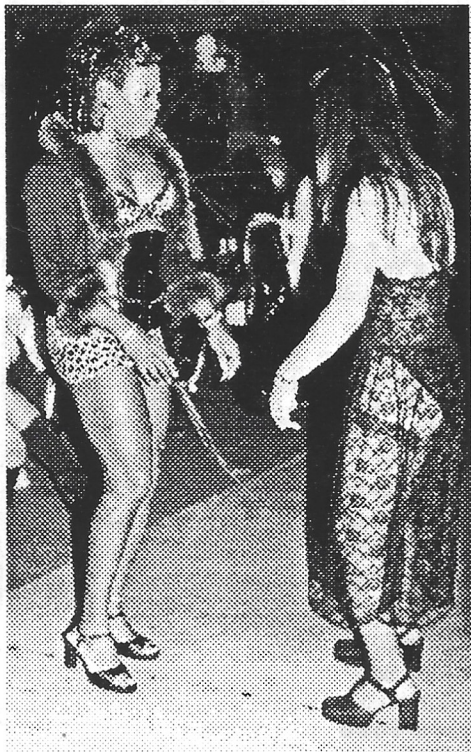
than 1 area to set up so it is also nice to have volunteer coordinators for each area. Some food can be prepared early and some other parts of the food can not. The club is on a budget, so renting equipment has to be timed. We have to ask: What is the latest we can pick up the equipment and the earliest we can drop it off and still give us enough time to use it? Let's not forget that the equipment has to be reserved in advance. If you wait until the last week someone will have



already reserved the equipment that you found in the planning phase (as some lady hosting a different party found out the day we picked up the burners). Ticket distribution and advertising comes in here again. While it is nice to get the flyers out well in advance, the tickets need to go out when people are getting ready to buy them. It's time to visit all the local TG clubs and provide them with tickets. It is also very nice to get mentioned in the newsletters of these clubs (thank you Donna and Tina Louise). We also have to take a look at cooking. Cooking a lot of food in a short period of time requires non-standard cooking vessels. I use vessels here because at some point pots and pans get too big to be referred to as pots and pans, they become vessels.

Chapter 3 - The Week Before — As we enter the week before the event at least three hours per day are going to the event. All of the TGSF storage containers are in the living room, some of them are partially unpacked. Since the stuff has been in storage for a year we have to check to see what condition everything is in. It is also time to figure out how to construct the bar. The bar is a special challenge since we don't want to end up storing an entire bar from year to year. So most of the elements of the bar need to be sponsored so it all has a home at the end of the event. It is time to complete the shopping list that was started in the planning phase. Since we have the storage containers open we know what we have and what we still need. Then they all have to be re-packed as efficiently as possible to fit into the van on Thursday.

Chapter 4 - Wednesday - Shopping — We are now at P minus 3 and counting. Most of the day is now spent on party setup. A half day long shopping trip had us visiting just about every grocery & warehouse store in the area. This is where Debbie is a real magician. She can look at something and know where you can buy it for the cheapest price. Everything but the perishables are purchased on this trip. Now the dining room begins to take on the ambiance of a stock room (matching the now packed living room). Some early cooking preparations are made and storage accommodations are addressed. Then the first of the cooking begins.



Continued on Page 9

Our Readers Respond...

Creation of a Halloween Party

Continued from Page 8

Chapter 5 - Thursday - Cooking & Loading — The party machine now goes into high gear, Ten hours of cooking chores, even the stuff that gets finished on Friday and Saturday will go into the marinade today. I will do what I can but Debbie is the real magician here, she has all the cooking skills. The kitchen now begins to match the dining room and the living room. Regular dishwashing cycles are made to keep clean dishes available for the next batch. Near the end of the day we head out to pick up the equipment. First stop is to get the van to hold everything, and then we head for the party equipment suppliers. No problems until the last one, they have accidentally sent the equipment to the wrong store. We will have to deal with this tomorrow. When we get home, Debbie returns to cooking and I begin to load the van. There is just enough room so packing efficiently is very important. The living room is cleared out first; the storage containers that were packed earlier in the week are loaded. Then the bar and groceries not being used in the current cooking effort go into the van. The house begins to clear, and there is room on the dining room table to let the cookies cool. The equipment goes in next. Oh yes, we forgot to pack our stuff, quickly our clothes and costumes are pulled together and placed in the van.

Chapter 6 - Friday - The Drive & Setup — P minus 1, the food is loaded and we head to the last equipment place. The re-



maining equipment is of course larger than the remaining space in the van so a bit of reorganizing takes place. After a few minutes of reorganizing, all the equipment is in the van and we are on our way to San Jose. The two-hour drive down to San Jose provided us with an opportunity to sit back and rest. The van had air conditioning and smelled like food so the environment was not bad at all. When we arrived at Carla's we began the unloading process. All the decorations and bar fixins were unloaded into Carla's reading area. About half the food was moved into Carla's refrigerator. The remainder of the food went with us to our hotel room that had a kitchenette. After a nice dinner at the Tony Roma's in San Jose we began carving pumpkins. After about 8 pumpkins we took a bath and went to bed.



Chapter 7 - Saturday before 5:30 - Orchestra of Chaos — We woke up as late as we could (9:00am) so we would not be dead at the end of the day. We had breakfast and arrived at Carla's before noon. Amazingly enough a volunteer was already there, this was a good start (way to go CJ!). Debbie began the kitchen setup, I began the bar setup and CJ worked on the remaining pumpkins. As we approached 2:00pm we opened the door to the Billy De Frank center. CJ and I did some preliminary moving of furniture while we waited for additional volunteers to arrive. By 2:30 we had at least 6 volunteers. Kalani, Heidi and Tianna were now helping set up the Billy De Frank Auditorium. By 3pm Krystal and Tina Louis from SGA were also assisting. From 1 to 3 the kitchen help grew. Angela, Monica, Leslie and Chelsea were all doing their part in the kitchen. There were a few more girls helping out but alas I don't remember who they were.

Chapter 8 - The Event - As the clock approached 6pm. Participants began to arrive. Fortunately we had someone at the door (thanks Janis) to collect tickets. Many of our early volunteers had now left to get ready for the party. Most of the preparations were ready so Debbie and I headed back to the Hotel to change into our costumes. An hour later we returned, the music was already going (thanks Michelle) and we went immediately to getting the food out. The burners were lit on the serving table and the first trays were on their way to the auditorium. The pumpkins had to be lit and our rather elaborate boiling cauldrons had to have their ingredients (wood, Dry ice, hot water & green glow stick) combined. The best surprise was the bar, I was worried that I might be behind the bar all night, when we returned from the hotel Debra Darling (Who knows how to bar tend) was behind the bar. (THANK YOU

Continued on Page 10

Creation of a Halloween Party

Continued from Page 9

DEBRA!!!) As it turned out Debra womaned the bar for most of the event.

People were hungry and were eating fast, so fast we were worried about running out of food. We left our volunteers in charge of the food and Debbie and I headed to Safeway (in costume) for some emergency food. We did seem to be turning heads in the grocery store, I am not sure why :-). When we returned it was time to get the voting underway for the best costume. The ballots went out and the announcement was made. After replenishing sodas & food service supplies the votes were collected and counted. It was time for the first round of presentations and door prizes. After the door prizes were handed out and the announcement of the category winners was made (Most Original - Mary D. ; Most in Theme - Nicole Cook; Most Exposure - The Outrageous Miss DiDi Mau, Scariest - The CGNIE Grand Duchess (more like a Countess that night) Krystal Powers, Sexiest - Stephanie Anne, and Most Elaborate - Debra Darling). A few rounds of the big cauldron to collect votes and we were off to count votes again. The winner was announced (Congratulations Mary !!). At this point Debbie and I went to the party, we had something to eat and danced. Then we looked for somewhere to sit down and rest for a bit and listen to the music. As the clock struck 1:00am the lights came on and we worked on cleaning the auditorium. I was impressed by the number of cleanup helpers we had. We had the auditorium cleaned up in less than an hour. At this point there was a quick drive to the hotel and all I remember is the back of my eyelids.

Chapter 9 - Cleanup the day after - We woke up on Sunday around 11am, we had some breakfast and arrived at Carla's at about 1pm. Two volunteers met us there to help on the day after (THANK YOU Kalani and Tianna !!). All the decorations, Bar supplies and Food service equipment was organized, cleaned and packed. Then everything was loaded into the van. The process took around 3 hours and then we were off to return the van and equipment. When we arrived home we unloaded the food service rental stuff into Debbie's car, and everything else into the living room, then we returned the van. The next morning all the food service equipment was returned.

Chapter 10 - Post party Work - As I am writing this (on November 11th) some of the Halloween decorations are still in the living room. All the tablecloths were washed, packed and stored. The decorations were inventoried, stacked so they would not be damaged and stored. We made a trip to San Jose last week to pick up the wall decorations, which we left for the Billy DeFrank center to use at their Halloween party. We hope to have everything packed up today.

So there it is, the effort that goes into producing a Halloween Party. You now know all the information necessary to produce a Halloween party, and since Debbie and I will not be running for the Social Chair positions next year, you may end up needing to know this information. So plan to have fun, don't work too hard and let us know when you need all the supplies.





OCTOBER - NOVEMBER SOCIALS IN REVIEW

By Nicole and Debbie

The Halloween Party on October 23rd at Carla's in San Jose was a lot of fun. If you want to know the details read my article called "The Creation of a Halloween Party" in this issue of the Channel. The short version is: The category winners for the costume contest are Most Original - Mary D. from Sacramento ; Most in Theme - Nicole Cook; Most Exposure - The Outrageous Miss DiDi Mau, Scariest - The CGNIE Grand Duchess (more like a Countess that night) Krystal Powers; Sexiest - Stephanie Anne, and Most Elaborate - Debra Darling. The winner of the Best Costume was Mary D. from Sacramento.

The Miss SGA Pageant on November 6th was held at Joseph's in Sacramento. There were 50 or so people in the audience and five contestants. I can try and give you an idea of the flavor of the show, but since I was a contestant and Debbie was in the back helping me change it will be a back stage account of the event. The reigning Miss SGA Tina Louise performed many times throughout the show, changing outfits as many times as the contestants. Several members of the CGNIE (The Sacramento Court system) also performed.

There were five contestants, Trina, Liz D., Lady Cathy, Nicole (Me), and Jennifer. We maintained the same order of appearance throughout the event. The contestants began by modeling their daywear. Most of the contestants were wearing shorter daytime dresses, but I wore a 1-piece bathing suit with accessories found only on one of the women in the James Bond films. The contestants did their talent next. Trina performed a lip sync number, Liz performed a sequence similar to Krystal's Peg Bundy act, Lady Cathy performed a lip sync to a popular tune, Debbie and I performed a Duet to Cher's "All or Nothing" and Jennifer performed a lip sync number. Sorry I can't be more specific, but remember I was in the back when I was not on the stage. The next thing the contestants did was model their eveningwear. I know I was wearing a black velvet dress with a scarf, I believe Liz was wearing a very nice blue dress, Trina was wearing a beaded Ivory dress, Lady Cathy wore a lovely patchwork dress and Jennifer wore a nice flowery dress.

It seemed like only minutes between outfit changes, but that's what being nervous does to a person :) It was then time to change for the question. Debbie helped me into yet another outfit. . . a long skirt with a slit up the side and a smaller skirt underneath with a black top that had a glittery dragonfly on it and a butterfly belt that dropped off the left hip. I was just about ready to go for the question and relaxing without any shoes on when Debbie and I were called to the stage. I frantically looked for some shoes to wear and Debbie and I rushed off to the stage. Much to our surprise, we were presented with a lovely gift and a Certificate of Appreciation for all we do to help the TG community. It was a really nice surprise !! As soon as we left the stage, off everything came and the back-up outfit was utilized (I was hoping not to be seen in the same thing twice). So in a matter of 10 minutes, I was

changed into another outfit — a black, gold studded skirt with a matching jacket — allowing Tina Louise and I to complete for number of outfit changed in a matter of hours.

Once I had finished changing, it was then time to go outside to stand on the balcony of the restaurant because all 5 of us would receive the same question and the judges did not want us to each hear the question and responses until it was our time to come out to the stage. According to Debbie, everyone did an excellent job of answering the question presented that went something like "The year 2000 is presumed to be a turning point in the TG community. What is it that you would like to do in order to make a difference for SGA ???" Everyone that answered leaned toward better communications between the community and members of the TG community. I based my answer on Unity of all the groups in the area (SGA, TGSF, TGIF, RGA, TransBay, etc) as well as FTM's, CD's, TG's and DQ's.

Once the question was done, it was time to run to the dressing area to change into yet my final outfit, a lovely dark blue evening gown with a beaded front. Debbie was tailing me trying to get to my hair, which was twisted into a bun with glittery butterflies clipped around it. Everyone else remained in their evening gowns for the final presentation of the crown and sash. All contestants were called out to the stage and while we all held hands, the second runner up was announced. . . it was Lady Cathy !! We were all very happy for her. Next was first runner-up and it was. . . Liz D !! Great !! Everyone was applauding and congratulating her. Finally, the announcement of Miss SGA 2000. . . and it was. . . me !! I was very surprised and caught off guard. I was presented with my crown and sash as well as a bouquet of blue roses and my court and I took a bow. Tina Louise and I had pictures taken together for a little bit and then it was back off to the dressing room to change into some comfortable clothes for the long drive home. Debbie and I were exhausted and couldn't wait to get home to drop into bed. It had been a really long day.

We attended the TransBay meeting at Quetzel's on November 10th. About 10-15 people were present while we were there including some people from the Creating Change event in Oakland. This worked out well. It gave us a chance to get something to eat and socialize a bit before the mid month. I did hear some rumor about a TG girl being thrown out of "Polk Street Station" the place across the street from Kimo's. If anyone knows about this I would like to know more. And since we would not want a business in that area to get a bad reputation unnecessarily, please visit them if you have a chance so we can see how friendly they are.

The TGSF Midmonth on November 10th was held at Aunt Charlie's in the Tenderloin. Unfortunately the event was not that well attended. The owner of the bar was there (dressed en femme) with her SO. They had printed up welcome flyers for us and engaged in conversation with all the girls who attended. The bar itself is decorated quite impressively and they were showing videos of the drag shows they hold on Saturday nights. I would have liked to see more people there since the owner showed such an interest in having us, however I can understand the neighborhood being a hindrance for some people. The only other thing I will mention is that Aunt Charlie's is definitely not a smoke free environment so those of you who like to smoke may want to visit and those of you who are sensitive to smoke may not.

HEY!

\$10 Bucks Per Issue Gets You An Ad Like This...!

Tall, feminine, graceful closet CD seeks Big Sister to help with shopping and makeup tips. I live alone so it's helpful if you can come here, but I can certainly travel. SF Area. Call (415) 000-0000.

Up to 40 words only \$10.00. Send text of ad and Check or Money Order to TGSF's PO Box, ATTN: Editor. Reach out and come out!

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.

WHAT DO TEXAS TG FOLKS DO WITH LITTLETON?

by Phyllis Randolph Frye

I've been asked that question a lot this past week by many of my clients and by many who hired other lawyers to get their Texas documents changed. The legal answer and the personal answer are both the same. I am not sure at this time.

Much depends on other things. Will Ms. Littleton's lawyers request a rehearing en banc (before the full court of appeals rather than the three-judge panel)? As such is discretionary, will it be granted? Will Ms. Littleton's lawyers request a review by the Texas Supreme Court? As such is discretionary, will it be granted? Will Ms. Littleton's attorneys discover and push any 14th amendment Due Process claims to the U.S. Supreme Court? As such is discretionary, will it be granted? Since I was neither hired nor consulted by Ms. Littleton's attorneys, I do not know at this time.

While it was pending, I tried to lay a case with the media of how stupid such a decision (as the one that actually came through) would be. My hope was that media coverage would so embarrass the court that the next review would cause the stupidity to be considered. In my opinion the San Antonio paper has done well, but media across the state and nation have been mostly silent thus far.

My guess is that anyone that I have taken through to get their identification sex marker changed along with their name change still has a valid order. That is because their identification sex marker was argued as a public safety need. What if my person broke the law? Wouldn't it be easier for law enforcement to look for the correct gender presentation? They were also argued totally out of the closet both on paper and before the judge. My orders do not need to be reviewed for any failures to disclose to the court.

As to correction of birth certificate for both surgical and non-surgical transsexuals, those who live in the jurisdiction of the 4th Court (Bexar County and surrounding) are holding orders that do nothing, for now anyway, until we see what happens later. Do not throw them away. Let us wait and see. For those that I did in the jurisdiction of the 4th Court (Bexar County and surrounding), but who no longer live in Texas, the answer is I do not know. It depends upon the jurisdiction where you live and how they will respect your order. For those who live in or who got their orders from other parts of Texas, again, I do not know. It depends upon how the Appellate Courts in those jurisdictions would rule.

WHAT EVERYONE NEEDS TO DO IS GET OUT AND GET ACTIVE!

I can hear it now, "On, great, there she goes again, trying to shame us into coming out." Yes, that is correct. If you are in the closet, you just cannot cry and gnash your teeth because other people are not protecting your rights. If you do not like to fight, well guess what. The bigots just brought the fight to your front door. Grow up! If you do not come out and fight, the bigots are going to bust down your door and do whatever they legally wish in the name of religion, morality and conservatism. This has become a political fight. Surely for those of you still in the closet, you do not think that the two justices had the "law" in mind when they judicially legislated you out of your genital status. It was politics, pure and simple. And for each of you who continues to stay IN, to stay uninvolved and to vote for candidates running under the banner of religion, morality and conservatism, you just reaped what you have been sowing!

What can we do now?

A. Around the nation, I hope you will take this and the bullets below and use them to write to your local papers, television and radio stations.

B. Around the nation, I hope you will take this and the bullets below and use them to contact and come out to your local elected officials for your city, state and nation. Tell them you are one and that you vote and that you want to talk to them.

C. If you are in Texas, send an e-mail to TGAIN at rhost@flash.net and join. TGAIN is the political TG organization for Texas. It is the state organization of It's Time America. It is headed by Sarah DePalma, a long-time activist and trusted friend of mine. Sarah was with me when we took the ENDA-inclusion fight to the HRC in October 1995. She organized the TG-inclusive fight with the Texas LG groups and won.

D. If you are not in Texas, contact TGAIN at rhost@flash.net and send money. Then send some more money. No, it is not tax deductible. If you want to protect your future surgery, then open up your surgery fund and send some money! If you want to protect your past surgery, then send some money! If you are not TS, but see the writing on the wall, send money.

We need to present to the non-transgender world just how stupid the decision is and how it will adversely effect non-transgenderers. Yes, that is correct. If we approach #1 and #2 above with an "oh, poor us transgenderers, getting screwed" we will lose because most folks do not care about us. But if we tell them, "do you understand how you just got screwed too?" then we get their attention.

I have included the following bulleted articles because they say so much better than I do, what the ramifications of the Littleton political mindset is to non-transgenderers. They are part and parcel of this letter to you. If you reprint my letter without the following bullets, you will miss most of the issues. "2. Web sites for the full Littleton decision texts" is short and contains what it says. "3. LGBT local response possibilities in San Antonio on Littleton decision" has lots of good ideas of taking the new "religious, moral and conservative" law and CRAMMING IT DOWN THEIR THROATS! "4. Meet Mrs. and Mrs. — this can happen in other states also" is another observation of how we and the Lambda Legal folks could use "religious, moral and conservative" law and CRAMMING IT DOWN THEIR THROATS! "5. Apology from Long-time Critic in light of Littleton" is from one of the many who have hated me over the years for yelling at them to come OUT. "6. Littleton ignores results of Humane Genome Project" is another excellent presentation of how stupid the decision is.

I wish to say two more things. First: WHERE IS THE LAMBDA LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATION FUND? Why aren't they getting into this? If they think this applies to ONLY transgenderers, they need to think it out again. (See bullet #4 below.) This decision can effect us all. I hope that you are giving them hell for their transphobia, and I hope you raise the pressure up another notch. They belong in this fight!

Second: Before you send me a go-to-hell letter for pushing you OUT, please note that the Littleton decision does not effect me. I am married to a woman. We still have a same-sex relationship because I am XY and she is XX. The economic situation does not effect me either because I am self-employed and have paying clients to whom I am OUT. My family is fine with me as I am. So are my neighbors and so is my God: I am OUT to them also. In short, I have nothing to gain or to lose by pushing you OUT, except to know that I have continued to do what I think will free good people who deserve to be free. You deserve to be free. You will NEVER be free if you do not come OUT!

**Now Sets Out To
"Win the Hearts Of The Nation"**

**TULSA RESIDENT CATIA LEE LOVE
WINS MISS GAY AMERICA 2000**

Reprint from the Gayly Oklahoman

"When you've captured one of the biggest titles in female impersonation the only thing left is to win the hearts of the nation." So says 29-year-old Catia Lee Love, who made Oklahoma's gay communities proud last month when she captured the title of Miss Gay America 2000 during the national competition held in Washington, DC. The contest is an equivalent to the Miss America pageant, only this one is for gay men who enjoy performing as women.

This is the 28th year for the national contest and the second time an Oklahoman has walked away the big winner. Oklahoma's Jacquelyn Devaroe was a previous Miss Gay America winner, and today, Devaroe creates designer fashions for these larger-than-life beauties. In fact, Catia wore one of Devaroe's stunning gowns during her recent walk down the runway in the prestigious Lincoln Plaza Hotel. Preliminaries were held in the Ziegfield Theater.

Catia (pronounced Ca-TE-ah) lives in Tulsa and won the title of Miss Gay Oklahoma earlier this year. As a former Air Force brat, she has traveled extensively. Born in Dayton, Ohio and living in Washington, D.C. until the age of five, Catia and her parents were also stationed in Houston; London, England; Boca Raton, Florida; and San Antonio, Texas. While her parents eventually transferred to Tulsa, Catia remained in San Antonio for several years before joining her parents.

Her father died last year of cancer, but her mother was able to fly to Washington for the final night of competition, getting to see her talented son win the national title. It was a very emotional time, Catia said, noting, "We both cried." Winning the title has been a long, hard road, filled as much with disappointment as anything else, she said.

"I entered my first contest when I lived in Texas. That was in 1993; the Miss Fiesta contest in San Antonio. It was tough. I had all these people telling me 'Oh, don't worry, you'll win,' but there I was, surrounded by all these Texas legends. It shouldn't surprise anyone to know I came in dead last."

But, today, Catia can laugh about the experience. "It's hard to break into the pageant system and win, but I guess now I've shown everyone that my being there wasn't just a fluke." Catia says the importance of competing isn't just about winning but more about learning and learning quickly. "What I've learned is to listen to other people's ideas about what will work," she said, adding, "And, for me, that isn't always easy."

But it has evidently paid off, as Catia won the Miss Gay America title on her third attempt. During the 1998 Miss Gay America pageant in Charlotte, North Carolina, Catia placed in the top ten, winning overall talent. Last year in Little Rock, she won second alternate. With seven national ballroom champion titles under her belt, Catia credits the discipline of ballroom dance for helping her win, along with the help of her easygoing, handsome husband, Ross Reynolds. The two have been together for three years, meeting shortly after Catia moved to Tulsa.

Catia describes Reynolds as her sounding board, prop person, bellhop, and chauffeur, among other things. "I don't know how I would get along without him," she said. "He sees things from a different perspective than I do and has great ideas, even though I don't always listen."

Reynolds describes Catia as a "perfectionist," and, if pushed, will admit she occasionally drives him crazy. But he just as quickly says he loves Aron (Catia's real name is Aron Harvey), the contests and the chaos they bring. "I enjoy every minute of it, and to be honest, I can't get enough," he said.

Driving from city to city and state to state, Catia and Reynolds spend many hours on the road, relishing their time together and the scenery, saying the contests have given them opportunities they might not have had otherwise.

The traveling, Catia said, will leave them little time for anything else this year. Both work part-time for Pizza Hut, which allows them the time off they need, and Catia's performances bring in enough money to help them get by. She typically does four shows a week, a schedule she plans to keep. "In addition to doing some shows and benefits in Tulsa and Oklahoma City, I will try to keep doing four shows a week - I'm just not sure where they will be," she said with a laugh.

Catia performs weekly at two popular Tulsa bars - Renegades on Tuesday nights and the Silver Star on Wednesdays. "I have to travel all over the country to participate in preliminary contests, but they are typically on Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights, so I don't anticipate any problems with that schedule," she said.

Renegades and the Silver Star, along with Parties Plus, St. Michael's Alley, and Angles, helped sponsor Catia's trip to Washington, which cost in excess of \$13,000. Each year, participation in the Miss Gay America contest has gotten more expensive, she said. "It's amazing how quickly it can stack up. And you don't even realize just how much you've spent until you get home and start adding up all the receipts."

Continued on Page 16

Cotillion 2000

Saturday

January 29, 2000

San Francisco

Design Center

Galleria

101 Henry Adams

Street, S.F.

Doors open at

6:00pm

Light meal served till

7:45pm

Program starts promptly at

8:00pm

Benefit: Project Open Hand,

National Breast Cancer Research, TGSF

For ticket information see the enclosed flyer

or call Miki at 415/381-2651.



**TGSF Donations - Our Friends Who Give
as of November, 1999**

There were no donations for the period.

Won't you consider a tax deductible gift?

"A HAZARD WHEN COURTS DABBLE IN SCIENCE"

by Tere Prasse, Paralegal, San Antonio, Texas,
tere@amclinet.com

Many followers of the Littleton v. Prange case thought it was humorous; the Texas 4th Court of Appeals was to rule on the validity of the marriage of Christie Littleton to her spouse of seven years. Littleton had filed suit in the Texas 288th Judicial District Court (98-CI-15220) against her spouse's doctor alleging malpractice resulting in the death of her husband. The defendant's attorney asked the trial court for summary judgment, maintaining that Littleton could not be legally married to her spouse under Texas Family Code; therefore, she had no right to bring suit as next-of-kin. Based on one document entered in evidence (Littleton's original Texas birth certificate), the court granted the defendant's request. Littleton appealed.

Littleton's original birth certificate listed her gender as "male." Subsequently, Littleton had undergone extensive medical therapy and treatment at University of Texas Health Sciences Center to alter her physical characteristics and social role to that commonly accepted by society for females. All accepted standards of medical care and treatment protocols were followed. Eventually, a Texas District Court issued an order declaring her gender to be "female" under the guidance of the Texas Health and Safety Code for amendment of gender marker on her original birth certificate. The Texas Courts had declared her legal status and social role as female, and thus entitled to be legally treated as female under all Texas law. This is quite common procedure in Texas. Each pleading includes a medical affidavit stating that the pleadant meets standards of medical protocol for amendment of gender marker in accordance with Texas code. Historically, the courts have deterred to medical protocols rather than attempt to rule on the validity of scientific complexities of gender determination.

The status quo of gender determination in Texas was dramatically changed with the Texas 288th Judicial District Court's granting of summary judgment and subsequent affirmation by the Texas 4th Court of Appeals. The 4th Court's Chief Justice Phil Hardberger ranged far afield in his opinion concerning determination of gender, oddly twisting his rationale to fit into the context of the federal Defense of Marriage Act. He stated that since Littleton's original birth certificate indicated "male," gender determined by our Creator is immutable. Chief Justice Hardberger acknowledged various factors which contribute to a scientific determination of gender. He actually named four but missed three others commonly accepted by medical science. Finally, he concluded based on assumption, since there is no evidence cited of Littleton's actual genetic makeup, that Littleton's chromosomal configuration was XY, and therefore, Littleton's marriage was illegal under Texas Family Code, again presuming that Littleton's spouse also had an XY chromosomal configuration, despite no evidence substantiating the assumption cited. Chief Justice Hardberger's entire opinion seems based on assumption and consideration of only one factor of determination of gender.

The 4th Court's ruling and content of opinion is dangerous because it draws the courts into unstable ground dabbling with medical science, ruling what is valid in science and what is not valid in science. We've seen it all before. It dates back to the "Scopes Monkey Trial" and ranges through the science of when life begins. It becomes even shakier when the court creates new law based on its interpretation of just what is scientifically valid and what is not, and also includes reference in a religious context that a "Creator" has deemed our gender to be immutable. Two justices of the Texas

4th Court of Appeals have overturned existing Texas code and procedure in favor of their interpretation of science combined with an unknown, unproven religious assumption.

Many people responded to the Littleton case with a shrug and a "so what, it doesn't affect me." Well, this ruling affects everyone in Texas. The 4th Court has stated that marriage is only valid between an "XX" person and an "XY" person. The effect is that the 4th Court has mandated new law which now requires all county clerks to validate chromosomal makeup of individuals seeking marriage licenses before the clerks can legally grant a license. Failure to require the chromosomal check would place county clerks in contempt if a license were granted to couples with any other chromosomal configuration than one individual "XX" and one "XY." Additionally, the 4th Court substantively annulled Littleton's marriage of seven years. If the courts are to annul one marriage based on the new law of chromosomal determinations, then all marriages under licenses granted in Texas must be examined for legality. This is a clear extrapolation Chief Justice Hardberger cites for compliance with the federal Defense of Marriage Act.

Thousands of marriages in Texas will have to be dissolved since not all will meet the strict "XX" married to "XY" criterion. Medical science has identified many chromosomal combinations, yet the 4th Court has only identified two chromosomal combinations which constitute a valid marriage in Texas. Chief Justice Hardberger interpreted the Texas Family Code to infer that man equates to "XY" and woman equates to "XX" making those two the only valid chromosomal combinations for marriage.

As we begin to examine the 4th Court's new determination of gender and its further ramifications, it becomes rather alarming. Marriage is not the only thing affected. Any official document generated in Texas must now rationally follow the 4th Court's methodology for gender determination. This includes birth certificates, death certificates, driver's licenses, identifications, employment forms, agency tracking of gender demographics, and on and on. Potential impacts boggle the mind. We will have to have entirely new law governing virtually all aspects of our lives even remotely relating to our gender. Insurance law, family code, and even criminal code will have to be amended. Not only is the legal impact formidable, but the final potential economic impact is astronomical. What the 4th Court has done is move gender from the simple binary determination of either "female" or "male" to a multiple gender identification requirement covering all possible chromosomal combinations identified by medical science. One hates to even think how employment and anti-discrimination law will be affected.

Did Chief Justice Hardberger and Justice Angelini have any clue whatsoever when they made their ruling in the Littleton v. Prange case? Justice Lopez in the final analysis had it right when she entered her dissenting opinion on the ruling. Oh, I'm sorry, but we'll have to do away with our old beloved binary gender specific nouns and pronouns in the English language too—they are no longer legally sufficient or accurate in Texas.

NEW ONLINE SO LIST!

New online mailing list for wives and SOs of crossdressers and men who consider themselves to be transgendered; no topic off limits. Attitudes range from complete acceptance to really struggling. Open to women only—no crossdressers please! Women need a place where they can feel safe to discuss these issues. Write to Jenni at www.aluckywife@aol.com and explain a little about your situation.

LITTLETON IGNORES RESULTS OF HUMANE GENOME PROJECT

By Jull Goins-MacLean at unity_in_identity@usa.net, Minneapolis, MN

(NOTE: This was sent to the San Antonio paper covering the case. Please respond to unity_in_identity@usa.net.)

I guess that it's safe to mention that you're probably aware of how the Littleton decision takes our culture down the slippery path of genetic theory, as applied by legal theory. When you mix that much theory in one room, things are going to get messy and ugly.

In legal theory, the Littleton decision opens the public policy issue for chromosomal sex karotype testing, which is the procedure used to determine the combination of X's and Y's (or any surplus or lack thereof) in an individual. Interpreting the 4th Circuit's legal opinion would require all heterosexual couples choosing to marry to undergo a mandatory chromosome blood test to assure that the man really is sex karotyped as "XY" and the woman as "XX". And because the Littleton case is technically interpreted as a retroactive decision, all currently married couples in the 4th Circuit's jurisdiction would have to submit to the same test, which would probably be administered at their next annual physical exam.

At face value, this policy would preserve the spirit of the Littleton decision. However, to enact the procedure on all couples would be cost-prohibitive to the state (which would provide the test using public funds), as this test isn't cheap. Furthermore, every 500th individual statistically has a sex karotype other than what they assumed (like actress Jamie Lee Curtis, who is understood to be genetically "XY" and insensitive to androgen, the hormone that develops masculine traits), which could leave a lot of people fuming over their null and voided marriages, since marriage between two people of the same sex is illegal under DOMA, the so-called Defense of Marriage Act.

How many? Well, according to Encyclopedia Britannica, the 1994 estimate population count for Texas was 18,291,000. Being generous, let's assume that half of the state is married. If every 500th person's sex karotypes aren't kosher with what they assumed to be true, then there are 18,291 marriages in Texas that could be legally challenged in probate proceedings, insurance beneficiaries, spousal benefits, tax credits for married couples, hospital visitation rights and countless other perks that married couples receive.

And with that many court-annulled marriages, Texas would have over 36,000 (far larger than the size of New Braunfels!) ticked off citizens, to say nothing for their offspring. This technicality would be used by any insurance company willing to play hardball to avoid paying out on their policy.

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Furthermore, the decision brings into question those people who discover after testing that their sex karotype isn't "XX" or "XY", but instead is something like "XXY" (Klinefelter's Syndrome), "X0" (Turner's Syndrome), "XYY", "XXX", "XXXY", "XXYY", et cetera. There are over 14 sex karotype varieties. For instance, those men who have Klinefelter's Syndrome sometimes figure this out when their sterility keeps them from having children.

If the Littleton case is interpreted to decide who a person is allowed to marry based on their chromosomes, with whom can these people—remember, 1 out of every 500 people—legally consummate a marriage? If the court decides to discriminate who can marry whom on basis of chromosomes, what other ways can the law legally decide policy based on segregation of one's genes? Could people predisposed to have, say, Alzheimer's Disease, be banned from seeking executive decision-making professions? It's a scary—but conceivable—prospect.

These matters will have to be addressed in detail as we catch up with the revolutionary advancements in genetic theory and parse the findings of the Human Genome Project, which has almost finished mapping out our genes. All things considered, give Christie Littleton a break. After all, do we know what her sex karotype is?

TREASURER'S REPORT

by Janis Ryan

Due to all of the last-minute changes to the Halloween Party figures plus transcribing the ExCom meeting minutes have left me with no time to finish a full financial report by this month's [December] deadline. I will have both October and December reports for the January 2000 Newsletter.

Our Current Bank Balance 10/31/99 \$11,963.89

Note: The detailed reports for October will be posted on the TGSF Web Site at <http://www.tgsf.org/treasurer/fin1099.html> and will appear in next month's newsletter.

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GLBT JOURNALISTS NEED TO FORCE "STYLE" CHANGE TO GET TG PRONOUNS CORRECT

(Phyllabuster Note: As you can see, AP still thinks that the correct way to report on Ms. Rivers is in relation to what they think she has between her legs. The last time I checked, that is what dogs do when they meet. If an AP comes around lifting my skirt before an interview, I'll crown the ass-hole.

There is a way to fix this problem of media using the wrong pronouns. It is called a "style book." If transgenders will join, and get active, and pressure the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association, 1718 M Street NW #245, Washington, DC 20036, (w) 202-588-9888 or (f) 202-588-1818, exoffice@aol.com on this issue, something might change for the better.

Another way to fix it is to contact AP about what a lousy job that Mister Jennifer Coleman did. See if HE likes that!

Another way to fix this is to send lots of "thank you" e-mail to Diane Sawyer on "Good Morning America". This morning, when Ms. Sawyer reported on this story, she got the pronouns correct and gave Ms. Rivers her dignity.

BTW Dana, good for you. Kick the sonsabitches for \$150 grand. Good for you. There was a day when you wouldn't have gotten a cent. Now the sonsabitches are paying for your lawyer, your surgery and at least a one-year cushion. Invest it my friend. Things are changing. Let me know where you land and how things go in the future.)

TRANSSEXUAL TEACHER DROPS LAWSUIT

© The Associated Press, By Jennifer Coleman

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) - An award-winning high school teacher ousted from his job after announcing he would undergo a sex change operation has resigned and settled his lawsuit against the school board for \$150,000, his lawyer said Monday. The Center Unified School Board voted in September to fire Dana Rivers. Rivers challenged the dismissal, and the board placed him on paid leave pending a January administrative hearing. Rivers, who taught at the school for eight years, said he hopes to get a teaching job elsewhere. "I will move on and find work where I am valued as an experienced exceptional educator," he said in a statement. The settlement includes \$15,000 for legal costs, said his lawyer, Maggie Geddes.

Rivers, formerly known as David Warfield, was an award-winning journalism and history teacher at Center High School in Antelope. The board voted to fire Rivers after parents complained that he talked to students about his decision to become a woman, sexual abuse he experienced as a child and issues concerning gender identity. Rivers denied holding such a classroom discussion, and contends the board sought his dismissal because of the sex change. District officials did not respond to a message left at the superintendent's office Monday afternoon seeking comment on the settlement.

Still pending is a discrimination complaint Rivers filed with the state labor commissioner. Rivers is taking hormones to prepare for an operation next year that would complete his transformation into a woman. He said he has a disorder that causes people to suffer extreme discomfort with their sexual identity.

In ballpark figures, Catia reports her gown cost about \$4,000, props and clothing for the talent competition about \$2,500, creative fashion (which she designed herself) cost over \$800, and the hotel was over \$1,000. The rest of the money was used for hair, makeup and hose; hiring dancers; and renting a U-Haul to transport all the props. Competition is not easy and it's definitely not cheap, she said.

Benefits, like the one held during the recent Mr. Tulsa Leather contest at the Silver Star, also help offset the expenses. "That was a really fun show," said Catia, laughing as she thought back over the evening. "It was the first time - to my knowledge - that we had two different activities pulled together for one event. Everyone acted as though they had a good time; I know I did. The men were very obedient - we liked that."

When asked what her plans were for the immediate future, Catia said she would be making her first official appearance as Miss Gay America during a benefit for Tulsa CARES at the Silver Star on Wednesday, November 5. After that, it is off to Little Rock, where she will spend the weekend learning the protocols of office, getting to know the contest promoters, and receiving her appearance schedule for the coming year. "It's going to be a whirlwind," she said.

When asked if there was anywhere to go from here, after winning the national title, Catia just laughed, saying, "No, there's nothing higher. So my plans are to travel the country, appear at preliminaries, and win the hearts of the nation." It may have been uttered in jest, but this talented, articulate beauty has already won ours.

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