

TGSF Y2K ExCom

*Introducing your newly elected officers
for 1999-2000*



Back Row (left to right):

Theresa Sparks, Outreach • Lulu Blau, Vice President

Tianna Marie, Education

Roxanne Canino, Secretary • Nicole Cook, Social

Front Row (left to right):

Leslie Bailey, President • Janis Ryan, Treasurer

Telzey Adams, Outreach • Debra Cook, Social

(not shown, because she was in Japan at the time, Nancy Cupps, Education)

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 Canino
 Treasurer Janis Ryan
 Education Nancy Cupps / Tianna Marie
 Outreach Theresa Sparks / Telzey Adams
 Social Nicole and Debbie Cook

Secretary's Report

As of March 13, 1999

Fiscal Year		Number	% of 1998
1998-1999	Total members	288	100.00
1999-2000	Renewals	122	42.36
1999-2000	New members	12	4.17
<u>1999-2000</u>	<u>Non-renewing</u>	<u>166</u>	<u>57.64</u>
1999-2000	Total members	134	46.53

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 This Issue Telzey Adams

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



FROM THE EDITOR...

Wow! Member of the year! Well of course I'm flabbergasted. It was quite a surprise for me as I had already received recognition from the Secretary (thanks ma'am!) for the work I've done on the Channel. And Madame Veronica was quite the devious one, keeping all mention of it out of the ExCom Minutes, knowing I would discover as much in the course of my job. So to be doubly rewarded with the Ginny Knuth Award for Outstanding Service was indeed quite a pleasure, but a shock nonetheless. As I said upon receiving my lovely plaque, it really was just a matter of being in the right place at the right time, having the right skills to do the job. In truth, I had my reservations when first approached about taking this on (has it really been a year already?), but I came to the conclusion that it would not only be a good thing to do for TGSF, but a good thing to do for myself as well and it's worked out marvelously. So thank you all for giving me this honor. I'll display my award proudly in our office in Oklahoma.

By The Time You Read This...

I'll be gone....*sniff*....it's really REALLY difficult for me to say goodbye to all the friends I've made in San Francisco since I moved here towing a trailer and a cat, with no job (but a place to stay) back in 1993. And now I'm pulling up my stakes again and heading off to Oklahoma (of all places...yes I know!), but this time for entirely different reasons.

When I decided then that I had to live in SF, it was because of the people here (generally tolerant if not outwardly supportive) and the wide variety of resources available to me (and I love the architecture), but in particular a friendly bunch of folks I ran into called ETVC meeting in a place called the Shay Molay. Jane Bolig (I am SO proud of her!) immediately pounced on me and the next thing I knew I was elected to ExCom that following spring.

The Burnout Factor...

Yes I was warned, and it happened to me all the same...got burned out...I dropped out of the group and got lost for a while, concentrating on building my career at Wells Fargo. But I hung around on the fringe of the TG community, not really participating but interested in the goings-on all the same. All the more reason I respect the dedicated people who serve on ExCom, and our Y2K version is probably one of the best assembly of talent and drive that I've ever seen. Support your elected officers people...please! We've got 10 individuals who are determined to make some incredible things happen in the next fiscal year (on YOUR behalf), but they really need you to pitch in.

So maybe it was good 'ol fashioned guilt that made me say yes to being Editor. A little maybe...but as I've finished each issue, I continue to realize that I'm actually practicing what I preach and giving back to the community that helped me reach stunning new plateaus in my transitional development. Yes I'm guilty of quitting ExCom (for a variety of reasons) when the group probably could've used me for another term. But now that I'm back in this capacity, I feel really terrific these days about my contribution. Coming full circle in this fashion means much to me personally and I'm truly grateful for the opportunity. I just hope that the quality of the paper doesn't suffer as I produce it from half way across the country. (Writers out there, send me email!).

Continued on Page 3

Hotline & Voice Mail
415-564-3246

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NEW SITE! GET ONLINE!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Leslie Bailey

Year In Review

At last months social we handed out awards and praise. But our entire membership could not be there so I would like to revisit that theme. I think on the whole that we have had a rather successful year. The newsletter is self-supporting and lively, we enjoyed a very interesting series of education seminars, the Cotillion and Parade entry garnered high reviews, our social and outreach programs were well taken care of, we changed our name to the more fitting TGSF and we are on a much more solid financial footing. Whee!!!

The important thing to note here of course is that we have a lot of people to thank for all this good stuff. First and foremost we need to thank the Executive Committee for all their hard work. This has been a very dedicated group whose sole objective has been to eat each others food, drink each others wine, hold long Sunday afternoon meetings and (in all seriousness) to make TGSF a more successful organization. Many have served for a number of years and all have worked with a high level of self-motivation and initiative. I'm very pleased to have been a part of this group and I personally want to thank each one for the friendship and the working together. Ultimately it's the people feel-good stuff that makes this all worth while.

Ayme Kantz walked away with not only the secretary's award but also the Ginny Knuth member of the year award. Let's say it one more time before Ayme tells me to stop with the praise. Ayme's efforts to publish a quality newsletter more inexpensively and to secure more advertising revenues is a major factor in our improved financial situation.

To the many members who have responded to calls for help with various projects and issues, thank you. To all of you who participate in activities and bring with you your smiling faces, latest outfits and interesting conversation, thank you.

Quite a number of our members have made significant financial contributions above and beyond the membership dues. This year would not have been near as successful without your generosity.

We must also remember and express our appreciation to all our friends who have given to us so generously of their time and talents. I can't mention everyone, but examples of what I'm referring to are Sharon, Trauma, Gerry and Carla who went way overboard to help with the Cotillion. Most of the presenters at our education seminars donate their time. Our advertisers and service providers are very important to our well being and deserve not only our patronage but appreciation.

So, to everyone who has made a difference in any way, give yourself a great big hug and then let's get going in the new year ahead.

Luanna L. Rodgers, MA, MFCC

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From the Editor...

Continued from Page 2

So Why Oklahoma?

I mentioned to a friend of mine the other night how much I was looking forward to surrendering everything I've achieved here in SF to devote my life to a relationship with a man and to be his wife and soul mate, his most feminine lover, his best friend, his "slave" (for those of you into the BDSM scene, you'll know what I'm talking about). And she said, "why would anyone want to do that?"

Well...I've been thinking about that ever since. Yes I've achieved success as a single woman on the go in the happenin' town of Baghdad By The Bay, but to me that's still a lot of residual "male programming" talkin' - the assertiveness, take charge attitude embodied in the business world is hard to shake, particularly having been brought up in it as a male in a previous lifetime (long ago in a land far far away...). And I've experienced success as a woman in the white collar arena and make good money while doing so, but it has ultimately not satisfied what motivates me to be female.

Being a player in the BDSM community, one of the first things I learned is to c-o-m-m-u-n-i-c-a-t-e, and this means digging into the dark hidden places inside us all that we are afraid of facing, and expressing the fears, hopes, dreams, terrors and thrills found there. And for the life of me, I've always had this yearning to be a woman, yet my ideal was that of the perfect woman - in my eyes she's attractive, ultra feminine, sensuous, self sufficient, a loving and giving woman, able to handle the work and devotion needed for a successful relationship (yes it goes both ways, I know). I have this theory that if what Scene people call "vanilla" relationships were to experiment with exchanging erotic power, the divorce rate would go down, but certainly the 'safe, sane and consensual' premises would apply to any relationship. For me personally, it was a coming to grips with meshing my ideal of what I hoped to be as a woman with the intense feelings I get when relinquishing all choice to another, surrendering my power willingly and submissively. In the relationship I am in, I retain my individuality and will undoubtedly find work to help with expenses, but it is also a relationship where I can truly explore and further develop the woman within. I feel well-prepared for what lays ahead of us. Sure I'm scared at times, but he and I have established a deep trust. There is no fear between us and that is all the difference.

So it boils down to the fact that Micheal and I are burning with love for each other and we want to be together, and I'm tired of only seeing him once every four months. I want, no...I NEED to be with him and if moving to Oklahoma is the solution, then believe me my heart is content and I'm looking forward to building a life together. We'll be back for a visit, not to worry. And I'm absolutely thrilled that I have, yet again, another chance to fulfill a dream, with all the inherent ups and downs that will ensue. The brass ring is coming 'round and I'm going to grab it.

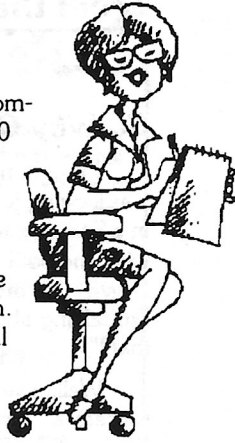
To my dear dear friends here in the Bay Area, I bid you farewell...I shall miss you terribly. And to all of you, I shall no doubt be making observations of TG life in the mid-west in future columns, as I attempt to transfuse some west coast culture into the Bible Belt. Wish me luck! And in the immortal words of our newfound TellyTubby spokesperson, Tinky Winky, may I give you all a " b-i-i-i-g h-u-u-u-g!"

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 monthly meeting of TGSF's Executive Committee was held in Albany on May 2, 1999, at 3:00 p.m. In attendance were President Bailey, Vice President Blau, Secretary Camino, Treasurer Ryan, Outreach Co-Chairs Sparks and Adams, Education Co-Chair Cupps, Social Co-Chairs Cook and Cook. Also present were guests Deborah Camino, Ayme Kantz and outgoing officers RoqueLaurie and Smith. Education Co-Chair Marie was attending to personal business. The meeting was called to order at 3:55 p.m.



Communications and Announcements:

President Bailey showed her appreciation to the outgoing ExCom members, thanked them for their efforts and welcomed the new officers to the ExCom, reviewed the past year and briefly laid out her plan for the future year. Leslie also reported on her trip to California Dreaming and participation in a panel discussion.

Old Business: Veronica reported that Juana had called KQED and secured pledge night participation during Gay Pride Week, June 21-27. President Bailey mentioned the club sellers permit and validity of keeping it. In talking to the State Tax Board, it was determined that the permit is not needed and will lapse. Janis mentioned that a sellers permit is only needed when the organization is normally selling. Debbie asked about the donation by Janet Bowman; where it went. The total of donations for the year did not reflect this. It had not been mentioned in the newsletter. Leslie will address this in the next newsletter. Janis mentioned she is going to "Esprit" in Port Angeles, Washington and wants a letter to present sending greetings from the group. Leslie will provide. Newsletter Editor Ayme asked about the status of membership cards. Debbie will design this card. Nicole asked about the Standing Rules - the status of empty sections. President will correct them. Also copies of the rules will be given to new ExCom members.

Minutes: Janis noted that she is not/did not attend "Cal Dreaming" as stated in minutes. Attending were President Bailey, Donna from DVG, Klanni, and Jamie. Debbie moved for April's minutes to be approved, Nicole seconded the motion, and they were unanimously approved.

President: President Bailey talked to the Design Center and has a tentative date for Cotillion 2000 of February 5, 1999.

Vice President: Vice President Blau had officially signed-up TGSF for the Pride Parade and had obtained a booth. Lulu discussed the Cotillion Post Mortem Report. Attendance was between 319 to 330. A further analysis of the budget summary shows the loss is looking less than \$1000.00 and is more likely around \$600.00. Also, additional income not previously reported has come in. Final figures should be completed in about a week. Lulu apologized for the loss figure. Leslie will report projected expenses (budget) as Cotillion 2000 planning progresses. Lulu said the Cotillion Committee will report to ExCom Committee more often. Nicole said there might be a volunteer to coordinate sponsorships of the Cotillion. Lulu said she will work with Ayme about effective sponsorship ideas. Lulu will also get out ASAP, an outline, and timeline plus construct a judging manual, to ExCom. The next Cotillion meeting is May 9, 1999 at 5:00 p.m.

Lulu mentioned the "Big Shew" at Kimo's is on track and people are signing up as talent. Janis asked if the date is the same as the EOM meeting and the answer is yes. Theresa asked about the Pride Parade. Has an application been put in for all the

transgender groups to march as a block and this needs to be decided. Leslie would like to propose the idea and will bring it up in New Business. Theresa will talk other transgender groups about the idea.

Secretary: Ayme, Veronica and Janis reported on the Newsletter Committee meeting. Janis elaborated on how the next meeting would take place. Veronica had a question about the boxes of records to be turned over to the new Secretary. What is to be kept? What is to be thrown-out? She mentioned new ExCom members should get a set of bulletins. There is lots of other to sort out. Leslie will store some of the materials that mostly reference and archive material to sorted at a later date. Veronica mentioned the workload of the Secretary needs to be lightened up, especially in light of Roxanne's work schedule. Leslie suggested that the Secretaries duties are reviewed and recommendations are brought to the next ExCom meeting. Deborah stated that a newsletter mailing committee should be established, like many other volunteer organizations have.

TGSF ended the year with 295 members of whom 75 were new. Present membership was 121 with one new member currently.

Veronica handed over to Janis any new monies that had been received and (on disk) the membership records. She informed the ExCom that she had sent letters confirming membership (leaving open the question of replacement cards); transferred to Secretary Roxanne all TGSF stamps, stationary, envelopes and office supplies, files, past newsletters, letter templates, the Bylaws, and complete ExCom Minutes from January, 1997 through April, 1999 (as possible reference); distributed a box of miscellaneous documents and items over to Leslie, the key to the TGSF Mailbox. Roxanne now has the key.

Treasurer: Debbie mentioned the Treasurer's report will go to the ExCom tonight and the Monthly Reports will show up in the newsletter. The financial records of the organization were handed over to the new Treasurer Ryan. It was mentioned the rubberstamps still have the ETVC name and that a change-of-name requirement needs to be clarified with Sandra.

Janis, as new Secretary said she wants to change the accounting program to Intuit Quicken 99. Nicole stated that the determination of accounting needs is up to the Secretary, subject to the file transfer requirements stated in the Treasurer's Duties Handbook. A motion was made by Janis and seconded by Leslie to authorize the Secretary to purchase Intuit software for \$100.00 or less.

Education: Education Co-Chair Cupps mentioned that Danae Doyle is the speaker on May 15, 1999, at Kimo's, on the subject of the feminine image. The seminar will be from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The newsletter shows the start time at 1:00 p.m. in error. Leslie mentioned that the last seminar by Will Roscoe "Woman Warrior / Woman Chief: Two Spirt Woman and Their Sisters" was very interesting but attendance was low. Nancy said she would like to continue to hold seminars on a variety of topics that might be of interest to our diverse membership, not just the ones that have drawn large audiences. Nicole suggested a possible job related seminar, dealing with work issues and employment possibilities for transgender people. Most of the group agreed this would be a good topic. Nicole provided a lead for a make-up seminar by Make Up Forever, that could be scheduled in the South Bay area. Nancy noted the June seminar description would need to be finalized by May 15, 1999, in time for submission to the newsletter editor.

Continued on Page 5

Meeting Minutes...

Continued from Page 4

Outreach: Leslie mentioned she submitted about \$200.00 in honorarium and that \$25.00 came from Ann Giles. Sandra said, through conversations with Tianna, that if the organization does not make over \$25,000 in sales that tax forms do not need to be filed. Sandra also said to send to the IRS, Articles of Incorporation as a Non-Profit Organization, with the name TGSF.

Telze mentioned that KQED had sent a letter about Pledge Night and that it will not coincide with any Gay Pride telecasts. Around this time the group is also involved with the "Big Shew" and the parade. Telze will talk to KQED staff about doing a Pledge Night early that week. Telze mention that she has been unofficial photographer for the group and anyone else can do it.

Theresa stated that Sandra had turned over all files on outreach to her and Telze and that everything was in order. Theresa asked the group what other audience's do we want to talk to? Also, maybe we should update the presentation and possibly hold a workshop. It was mentioned Millisa Robertson was coordinating the Hotline. Theresa mentioned that a Workshop Against Homophobia is scheduled at Pinole Valley High School, on May 8, 1999, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and that they were looking for transgender speakers.

Social: Nicole said that she was focusing some attention towards the "The Really Big Shew." It was planned for Kimo's, on June 24, 1999, a Thursday night. Leslie had checked out 131 Supper Club's management to see if she could negotiate a different price for the back room.

Nicole asked if Leslie was handling parade arrangements and who handles the booth. Outreach will handle booth arrangements. Nicole asked about the "Big Shew" name, if there was a reason? Lulu said it was just a "wrap around name" and just something to name the event.

It was also mentioned that The Really Big Shew is also the End-Of-Month social. It was mentioned that the last EOM social was a good event. There were some concerns about the ability of the waiter staff at Blue Muse being able to handle the crowd having dinner. They are being overwhelmed! Attendance at the EOM social is up and the Blue Muse is getting small as a meeting place. Deborah mentioned that the organization should revisit doing a social like the dinner that was held at Bobby Magees, in Burlingame, joint with RGA.

New Business: A motion was made by Janis and seconded by Debbie, to have TGSF march in block with other transgender organizations, in the 1999 Pride Parade. The motion was unanimously passed. Theresa was asked by the ExCom to contact the other TG groups and see if there is a consensus to march together.

Next ExCom Meeting: June 6, 1999, in Sebastopol, Calif, at 3:00 p.m. Leslie mentioned that Jenifer had requested to host an ExCom Meeting at her house in Mill Valley. The next locations look to be Albany, in July and possibly Mill Valley in August.

At approximately 5:17 p.m., Nicole moved to adjourn the meeting; Debbie seconded and the motion was unanimously passed.

GET READY FOR THE PRIDE PARADE!

Volunteers needed now for the June Pride Parade Committee for Booth setup, staffing and teardown, Float construction, Marchers, Safety Monitors - You name it, we need it! Contact an Officer quickly!

Coming Thursday,
June 24th

CALLING ALL TALENT! - IT'S THE REALLY BIG SHEW!



Get ready for TGSF's 7th (almost) Annual Really Big Shew. Since we didn't hold it last year, we thought this year it should be reprised!! Once again, it will be held upstairs at Kimo's Show Lounge. We are looking for talent. . . any talent, whether it be singing, dancing, stand-up comedy, whatever you can do. If you are interested, please call either Lulu Blau (415) 821-6509 or me, Debbie Cook at (707) 824-0860 or e-mail me at nicole@tgforum.com and get signed up!!



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SUNDAY / JUNE 6TH 3:00PM

ExCOM MEETING

The June Excom meeting will be held in beautiful Sebastopol. It should be a really nice day as we relax under the pine and oak trees and who knows. . .we may have some cherries ripe from our tree for you to sample !! As we've always mentioned in the past, if you've been thinking about attending, this would be a terrific opportunity to get out, see Sebastopol and let your voice be heard. We have a number of events coming up, feel free to volunteer for one !! If you need directions, please contact Nicole or Debbie at (707) 824-0860 or e-mail us at nicole@tgforum.com.

WEDNESDAY / JUNE 9TH 8:00PM

MID-MONTH SOCIAL

The June Mid-month will be held at Cafe Mars. They have always expressed an interest in us coming back and it's been a while since we've held a mid-month here, so we thought it was time to do it again !! We've heard rumors that one of our own — Rachel — was invited to do some guest bartending there. Way to go Rachel !! So to show our appreciation, everyone come on down and mingle with us at Cafe Mars. They are located at 798 Brannan (at 7th) in San Francisco.

Another great group to mingle with is TransBay. They will be meeting in Quetzals 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. Who knows. . .you may just see Nicole and I there before we escape to Cafe Mars !! This event starts at 7:00pm.

FRIDAY / JUNE 11TH 8:00PM

TGSF 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 Nancy Anne to confirm.

THURSDAY / JUNE 24TH 8:00PM

THE REALLY BIG BLU SHEW

We're off to Kimo's for the End of Month which should be something fun for everyone. It's time once again for the Big Shew !! With the Pride Parade just around the corner, we decided that we wanted to kick off that weekend with a talent show to end all talent shows. Lulu's Big Blue Shoe will be packed with talents such as your Social Chairs singing live (both in a duet and doing solo's of their own). . .so get there early !! Kimo's is located at 1351 Polk St. in San Francisco. There is a large parking garage one block

South and across the street on Polk that closes at either 1 or 2 a.m. that should have plenty of parking. Hope to see everyone there !!

SUNDAY / JUNE 27TH 10:30AM

LGBT PRIDE CELEBRATION

Please see the separate article on Page 9 for more information about this fantabulouslywonderfullydelicious Parade, Fair and Block Party!

KQED PLEDGE NIGHT

Also sometime in June, look for the KQED Pledge Night, usually held around the third week of the month. This is a great opportunity for us to show the station's diverse viewership that we, too, are contributors to the mainstream community. Check the website or call the hotline for the latest information.

JUNE EDUCATION SEMINAR...

...is cancelled, unless a last minute development arises. Check the website or call the hotline.

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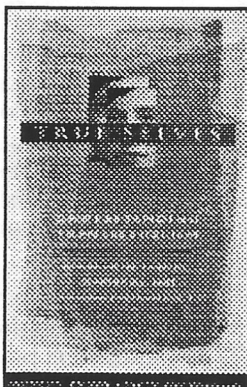
Now Available!

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.



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Calendar of Events - June 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. 510-841-6224

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 Just Rewards Nightclub, 2520 Camino Diablo 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	3 7:00 PM DVG (RCC)	4 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap 8:00 PM RGA	5
6 3:00 PM TGSF: ExCom Meeting	7 8:00 PM DVG	8	9 7:00 PM TransBay 8:00 PM TGSF: MMe @ Cafe Mars	10	11 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap 8:00 PM TGSF: Library / Poker Night	12 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
13	14	15	16	17 7:00 PM DVG (RCC)	18 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap 8:00 PM RGA	19
20	21 8:00 PM DVG	22	23	24 8:00 PM TGSF BIG SHEW!	25 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap	26 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
27 10:30 AM LGBT PRIDE PARADE	28	29	30			

TGSF MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Full Year Membership May 1 - April 30

Please Print / Check all that apply:

New Member Renewal Member # _____ with Family Member

Member Birth Date ____ / ____ Family Member Birth Date ____ / ____

Preferred Name: _____

Mailing Name: _____

Family Member's Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

How did you hear about TGSF? _____

Your Email address: _____

I am enclosing a Check \$30.00 Full Year Membership (Renewals) or Money order for: \$40.00 Full Year Family Membership (Renewals; Note only one copy of the Channel will be sent to this address).

Pro Rate \$ _____ beginning Month: _____

New Members only; See Chart at right)

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JUN	27.5	37
JUL	25	33
AUG	22.5	30
SEP	20	27
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...

DEAR TGSF:

So you are looking for writers are you? Ink stained wretches all, wizened and sad, in garrets languishing. Scriveners of transgender tales.

Can we discuss the crusade to clean the streets, removing trash, removing stalkers? In aid of that crusade: anyone who has had stalker type trouble and is not sure what to do about it, I am more than willing to help (aquatranny@aol.com).

Community United Against Violence (CUAV) is a wonderful source. CUAV's number is 415-333-4357. They will help you with restraining orders, filing police complaints, all the official things. Shawna Virago is the person at CUAV that Theresa worked with when we were trying to get rid of a stalker. Ms. Virago was quite helpful. I don't think that we have rid the community of the stalker but we damn sure rocked his little boat.

One of the biggest impediments we faced in the last stalker hunt was the lack of first hand witnesses who were willing to talk to the police, file charges, get involved in the official workings of the justice machine. I know I am reluctant to place myself in the hands of the gendarmes in the best of circumstances. I would be very much more reluctant to do so if I were attired in Tenderloin battle gear (which is to say: not much). Giving up male privilege, even for an evening, means becoming vulnerable in ways I don't like, in ways that put me in harm's way, be that harm from cops or stalkers. I noticed two facets to the reluctance witnesses voiced. One facet was a belief that the cops would mistreat the person making the complaint. The second facet was a belief that there was not adequate protection from reprisal by the stalker.

Both those fears relate to the criminal justice system. There is a new organization that is dedicated to addressing the police/trans mutual distrust. That organization is called Transaction. Call Shawna Virago at 415 777 5500 extension 302 or Jennifer Rakowski at the same number extension 306. Perhaps the recent award to a TS of \$750,000.00 for a strip search to "determine gender" will cause a shift in police procedures. We may hope.

I think that there was an elephant in the living room that no witness spoke about. That elephant was the fear of outing oneself in a very public way. It is one thing to be at a TGSF function and say "I am a transperson". It is quite another to be in a court of law with possible news coverage, with friends and family, with coworkers and supervisors, and say "I am a transperson, I was dressed in fetish garb and going into a sex club when..."

How can I move forward, effect a stalker as much as he effected me, without resorting to violence or outing myself? It

occurred to me that I might like to visit his job in full dungeon gear and ask if he was available now for the date he wanted so badly the night before. I like the idea, it has a certain street poetry to it, a certain karmic appeal.

Before my shrinker got a hold of me I thought that the danger and disrespect that came with being trans was part of the price I had to pay for this state of being, a cover charge. Slowly it has occurred to me that we don't have to pay extra to be here. By virtue of our being human we have a right to humane treatment, safety of our person, freedom of expression. (Schmaltzy string section begins) No less than the birds and the sky we have a right to be here. And in a sexy skirt thank you very much.

AquaTranny

DEAR TGSF:

Announcing the 7th Annual Circle August 19 - 22 (Thurs-Sun)

provided by **Holly Boswell,
Kindred Spirits**

This is our primary event, celebrating the evolving traditions, ceremonies and visions of Kindred Spirits. Frolic in pristine streams, climb the sacred mountain, soak in hot mineral springs, and enjoy gourmet vegetarian meals. Come share this unique, life-altering experience with *your* kindred spirits. Hosted at the historic Sunnybank Inn in Hot Springs, NC. Information packet will be furnished after you send your deposit of half the fee: \$200/person, \$385/couple. First come, first served. (Partial scholarships are available).

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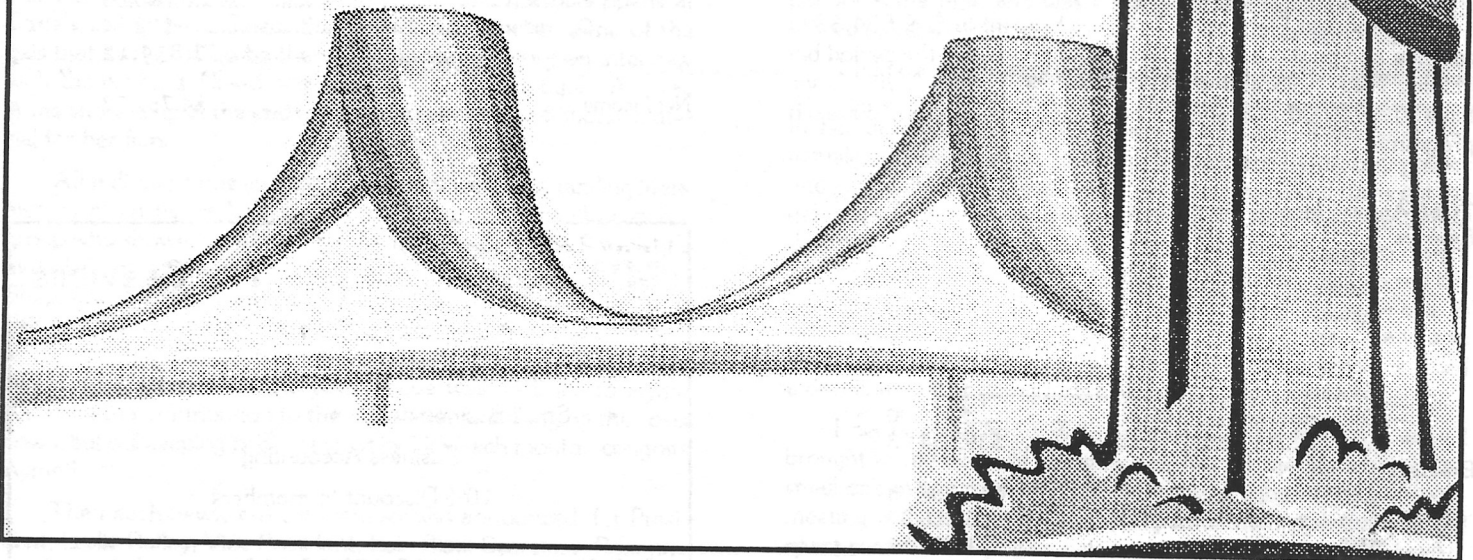
Sunday, June 27

"The New TG Face—Making it up as We Go!" We celebrate the power of cosmetological transformation as Miss TGSF '99 Margo waves scepter and powder puff to bring a happy blush to the up-lifted faces on Market St. this year. There will be a band! There will be a float! So put pigment to palour, grab your haute-ist couture, & get up gettin' down! Sashayin' down the 'main drag' in living technicolor on a San Francisco summer's day makes for one fun Sunday. This year we hope to amplify our presence and our message by linking with dozens of other groups in an unprecedented transgendered sector of the parade. Join us, be there, bask in the glory!

The Parade starts @ 10:30a.m. from Beale & Market—destination, Fair / Party at Civic Center Plaza.

Learn how to 'float': We'll have a focus meeting 2 weeks before the parade, then decorate the float / truck on the day before at a new, under cover, float-building site—all helpers, artists & large scale beauticians welcome! Times & places coming soon. We also need a dozen or two parade safety monitors from our group—monitor training sessions schedule should be available by June 1. For info, or to volunteer, call the TGSF Hotline (415) 564-3246, Leslie Ann Bailey (510) 527-5398, or Lulu Blau (415) 821-6509.

More info & updates will be available on our new website, www.tgsf.org and from the main parade organizers at www.sf-pride.org.



Email TGSF:

President, Leslie Bailey sbalbany@slip.net
Vice President, Lulu Blau Lublu2@aol.com
Secretary, Roxanne Canino roxanne@tgforum.com
Treasurer, Janis Ryan janisr@hishn hers.com
Education, Nancy Cupps nancyc@ix.netcom.com
Education, Tianna Marie tiannatv@hotmail.com
Outreach, Theresa Sparks SFTheresa@aol.com
Social, Nicole Cook nicole@tgforum.com
Social, Debbie Cook moodydeb@yahoo.com
Editor, Ayme Kantz MissAyme@aol.com

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- 3) Adhesive Strips. Designed for Ovals. Use on any form. 3 or more each time, each form. Actually react with skin; \$5/dozen ppd.

New Products (e.g., Nipples, Giant Forms...) soon!

Request Info Packet - Call: **541/267-3134**

Write: Ken Pool's H.E.R.S., 353 5th Street, Coos Bay, OR 97420

TREASURER'S REPORT

Hello Gals here is the end of the year financial statement for the organization. The only difference from last month was the addition of the April Revenues and expenses and a adjustment to correct the amount of donations. We had inadvertently left Janet Bowmanis donation of \$2,000 out of the donation total. After tracking it down we discovered that this donation was never reported in the newsletter, and that's how it got overlooked in last months numbers. Anyway, here we go with the report. The balance sheet as of the end of April looks like this:

Transgender San Francisco Balance Sheet 4/30/99

Assets	
Cash	\$15,391.28
Event Equipment	\$0.00
Decorations	\$1,000.00
Food Service	\$200.00
Office Supplies	\$50.00
Computers	\$0.00
Total Assets	\$16,641.28
Liabilities	
Taxes	\$109.69
Insurance	\$1,512.00
Utilities	\$138.23
Total Liabilities	\$1,759.92
Equity	\$14,881.36
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$16,641.28

The Income Statement shows we brought in \$39,554.63 in revenue and paid out \$26,634.63 in expenses for the period beginning May 1998 and ending April 1999, which indicates we have \$12,920.00 available for our social, education and outreach programs.

TGSF Annual Income Statement 4/98 - 4/99

Revenue	
Membership	\$9,903.72
Cotillion	\$11,915.00
Advertising	\$8,700.00
Donations	\$4,781.91
Social	\$3,204.00
Education	\$750.00
Outreach	\$300.00
.....	\$39,554.63
Expenses	
Cotillion	\$12,058.08
Newsletter	\$6,856.99
Halloween Party	\$1,997.54
Pride Parade	\$497.35
Big Shew	\$0.00
Social	\$517.32
Education	\$727.67
Outreach	\$0.00
Operations	\$3,979.68
.....	\$26,634.63
Net Income	\$12,920.00

The Budget Summary indicates the amount of revenues we intend to receive and the amount of expenses we expect to pay-out over the next fiscal year. It changed a little since last month due to the April 99 contributions and the reassessment of revenues to account for the additional \$2,000 in donations.

Annual Budgets	Revenue	Expense	Profit/Loss
Cotillion	\$11,915.00	(\$12,058.08)	(\$143.08)
Newsletter	\$9,490.91	(\$7,480.35)	\$2,010.56
Social (Halloween/Shew)	\$3,316.36	(\$2,695.00)	\$621.36
Education	\$818.18	(\$793.82)	\$24.36
Outreach	\$327.27	(\$240.00)	\$87.27
Operations	\$25,511.60	(\$4,341.47)	\$21,170.13
Total			\$23,770.60

And for the first time we get to see the report which should appear in every newsletter, the Income statement for the preceding month. Here is the income statement for the month of April 99.

TGSF Income Statement 4/1/99 - 5/1/99

Revenue	
Membership	\$3,115.93
Cotillion	\$465.00
Advertising	\$1,405.00
Donations	\$1,106.91
Social	\$9.00
Education	\$0.00
Outreach	\$0.00
.....	\$6,101.84
Expenses	
Cotillion	\$0.00
Newsletter	\$1,221.28
Halloween Party	\$0.00
Pride Parade	\$0.00
Big Shew	\$0.00
Social	\$0.00
Education	\$0.00
Outreach	\$0.00
Operations	\$92.84
.....	\$1,314.12
Net Income	\$4,787.72

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APRIL - MAY SOCIALS IN REVIEW

By Nicole and Debbie

Our social calendar has been a bit dry this time around with Nicole working all the time, trying to save up enough money to visit the infamous Dr. O, so our write-up may be a little short this time around, however, next month you will probably find us at DVG, SGA and a few other places we haven't visited for quite a while. .

The end-of-month at the Blue Muse was extremely crowded with everyone showing up for the counting of the ballots and the announcement of the 1999-2000 Board Members and awards. Nicole and I arrived at about 7:45 p.m. after picking up our dear and wonderful friend Tianna Marie. We said our round of "Hello's" and while Nicole settled in for a peek at the menu, I handled some Treasurer and Social duties before settling down myself. A group of gals and 1 gentleman from San Jose occupied one of the larger tables next to us and they also brought with them a gal from Stanford named Anne. Now, we should tell you a little bit about Anne and why she was there.

First off, we met Anne for the first time at Carla's about 3 weeks ago. Nicole and I were out for a day of wandering around and happened by Carla's for a bit. When we walked in, we noticed something strange was going on. There were camera's and all kinds of equipment sitting around. We found out that a couple of gals from Stanford University were there to do a film short on the ladies who attend the Thursday Irregulars lunch that happens at Carla's every week. Then, they asked questions of some of the gals that happened to be there. We ended up doing an interview with them and a filmed sequence in Carla's Boutique. Anyway Anne showed up at the end of month to get some additional material for her film.

After dinner came awards. The awards were Outstanding Merit awards given by each chair of the Excom to a member in the group who showed outstanding service to the club. The President's award went to Jane Bolig, Vice President award to Cheryl Sheppard, Secretary award to Ayme Kantz, Outreach award to Telzey Adams and Social award to me, Debbie Cook. Lovely butterfly pins selected by Everette Roquelaurie accompanied each award. The member of the year plaque was awarded to Ayme Kantz for her contribution to the newsletter and bringing the costs down, but still keeping package great looking each month...congrats Ayme!!

Then each newly elected member was announced: for President, Leslie Bailey; Vice President, Lulu Blau; Secretary, Roxanne Canino; Treasurer, Janis Ryan; Outreach Co-chairs, Telzey Adams and Theresa Sparks; Education Co-chairs, Nancy Cupps and Tianna Marie; and your Social Co-chairs, Nicole and Debbie Cook. Congrats to all the new 1999-2000 Executive Committee members!!

The May mid-month at the Thirsty Bear was lightly attended by only about 10 or 11 girls, which surprised me a bit because we received good feedback about holding the mid-month there the last time. Debbie and I arrived with Tianna to, what looked to us to be, a packed room. When we got there, a table of our girls were already enjoying themselves. Several of us had something to eat and enjoyed some conversation with each other. We left around 10:30, so if anyone showed up after that we may have missed them (sorry Lulu).

ON THE THRESHOLD OF A DREAM

by Nicole Cook

If someone had told me a few years ago that I would be working at a large company with 1000+ employees, wearing long hair, long nails, diamond earrings in both ears on hormones with over 20 people who know who I really am and about to transition, I would have scoffed at the idea. Well it happened, and I thought I would share this story with you.

It was not long ago that my impression of what would happen if someone at work found out about my feminine side went something like... the entire staff would laugh until security came in to haul me away. I would then be fired for some rule they keep in the company policy just to get rid of members of alternate communities. I use to guess at what people would say or think including many of the people I work with now that know me as Nicole. Well let's just say I was off by quite a bit.

By the time I told the first person at work many people knew about Nicole, however they were almost all connected to the TG community in some way. I had been out shopping, dining and to other outings quite a bit, but I did not know any of the people in these places. Well I did know 2 of them, but they walked right by me without recognizing me. So my first experience at work was a real first for me.

I cannot over emphasize how lucky I was to have such a great person to be the first non-family/non-TG Community person I came out to. Her response was so great that it helped propel me into the opportunity I currently have before me. The person I am referring to was my boss at the time. I had been planning to tell her for some time and was looking for the right moment. As it turned out she provided me with an unavoidable opportunity.

I think a little detail is needed here. In all the places I have worked, never have I had a boss who was able to make everyone in her organization feel like they were part of a family. It was actually a pleasure to go to work. There were hardly any politics and you really felt like you were part of a team. As it turns out the gal in question wanted to spend some time with her kids before they grew up and were no longer kids. So she decided to resign. She had become a friend and the only way I was likely to see her again was to meet her out of work. If she was going to be able to recognize me, she would have to know about Nicole. She was to leave only a few weeks after she made the announcement so I had a deadline if I was going to tell her.

I decided not to waste any time and the following week I brought in my book of pictures, not one of the big albums, the small one with my best pictures in it. I was scheduled for a status meeting with her so that was going to be my opportunity. I had spent some time trying to determine how to tell her, and finally I came up with something I liked, and incidentally I have used the same method on everyone since.

Continued on Page 13

TGSF Donations - Our Friends Who Give as of May, 1999

A special recognition goes out to **Janet Bowman** for her \$2,000 donation last year. Granted it generated some controversy, but it all worked out in the end and unfortunately Janet was overlooked in the process. Her generosity did much to push TGSF over the top and keep the club in the black when it was struggling financially.

Bless you for caring and thank you!

TGSF OUTREACH

by Theresa Sparks

The official Outreach efforts of TGSF were primarily confined to a panel presentation at the WOAH (Workshop Organized Against Homophobia) Conference held at Pinole Valley High School on May 8th. The workshop was a project of the Center for Human Development, Mariposa Coalition of Contra Costa County, Contra County AIDS Program, the Rainbow Community Center, Pinole Valley High School GSA and Catholic Charities of the East Bay. It was a one-day conference for junior high and high school students and other young people from Contra Costa County. Our workshop was very well attended and consisted of a panel presentation and an extended Q&A session. I would like to thank Margo DuVal (Miss TGSF), Kathy Huffmaster, Yosenio Lewis and Tyler Fong for participating on the panel. In the initial stages of planning the conference, TGSF was asked to provide a panel which demonstrated a diversity in our community, consisted of younger members and was ethnically balanced. I believe we were able to fulfill that objective with three MTF's and two FTM's, an African-American, a Chinese-American and two members in their twenties. I served as the moderator and felt like the chaperone. All-in-all, the presentation went extremely well and I believe we not only answered some very direct questions about transgenderism, but also gave these kids the opportunity to interact with some excellent young role models from our Community.

Throughout the month, Sandra Brewer has continued her outreach efforts by making presentations to groups at various local colleges and universities, with whom she has worked in the past as a representative of TGSF. It is wonderful that she continues to serve our Community, for the remainder of the Spring school semester, by maintaining and nurturing those relationships she has developed over the last several years.

In May, I also received a number of e-mails from members (or possibly not) of TGSF asking questions on a variety of subjects ranging from information about therapists, hormones and specific gender-related topics, shopping in the Bay area, TG-friendly restaurants and other (more personal) issues.

I am delighted to field these kind of questions and will continue to do so as time permits. Those of us who are more visible within TGSF have a responsibility to serve as an informational, spiritual and inspirational resource to others in our Community,

particularly to those having difficulties dealing with their own gender ambiguities. I believe I speak for all of us on the ExCom when I say e-mail us, call us or attend one of TGSF's monthly functions when you have questions, suggestions or just want to learn more about yourself by interacting with others who share this common thread of gender individuality.

Back to Outreach.....sometime during the third week of June, TGSF will once again be participating in a KQED Pledge night. Telzey is organizing the event for TGSF. For more information, contact either Telzey or myself.

In the next several weeks, I will be developing my recommendations for a course of action to increase the Outreach efforts of TGSF. In doing so I will be asking the membership for their suggestions as to how we can make Outreach a more effective tool for educating society about transgenderism and a more effective vehicle to create a spirit of inclusion among, not only all segments of our own organization, but all the other factions of the regional Transgender Community as a whole. I will also be mailing out (or e-mailing) a questionnaire soliciting volunteers for participation in TGSF's speakers bureau. As with the WOAH conference in Pinole, it is important we develop a group of speakers who represent a cross-section of our Community including different age groups, ethnic and racial backgrounds, gender variation (TS's, CD's, MTF's, FTM's, etc.) and geographic location. If you have an interest, in the meantime, send me an e-mail and I will forward to you a copy of the questionnaire.

I have to tell you.....these events (workshops, presentations, panel discussions) are not only extremely valuable in our efforts to de-mystify transgenderism and gender dysphoria but they are really fun, personally rewarding and certainly can make a difference in people's lives. At the Pinole event, the other members of the panel and I all agreed, there were a couple of kids in the audience who asked questions indicating they were dealing with gender issues in their own lives. Just think how you would feel knowing that your presence at such a gathering has helped some young person who is struggling with the same issues you've been struggling with all of your own life. If we are able to make it just a tiny bit easier for someone else to understand themselves and deal with their struggle, at an earlier stage in their life, all the time and effort that has been donated is worthwhile. So, if you are so inclined, give Outreach a shot. I guarantee, you will not be disappointed.

So.....you'll be hearing from me. As always, if you have a suggestion, comment, question or just want to talk, feel free to send me an e-mail or give me a call.

June's Birthdays...

0601	Tannura Morgana	0616	Stephanie Love
0601	Dianne Shephard	0618	Catherine Rose Lurton
0602	Nancy Cupps	0619	Charlotte Homer
0604	Shelly Joye	0619	June Martin
0605	Lisa Lynn Ferguson	0620	Rose Cox
0605	Rachel Miller	0621	Karen H
0606	Trina Martina	0622	Jaimee Adele Bodeen
0607	Amanda Gonzales	0623	Bob Arce
0608	Janet Freitas	0623	Jo Anne Handa
0608	Vikki Freitas	0623	Lynda Wolf
0609	Jo Anne Owens	0624	Lyndi Rivera
0610	Ginger Cookie	0626	Peggy Bernard
0611	Karen Andrews	0627	Melissa Robinson
0611	Kaycee Cole	0628	Stephanie Ann Blythe
0612	Ti Connelly	0628	Rose Ann Cain
0614	Marilyn Jacobs	0628	Jody Rice
0614	Karla Johnson	0629	Lisa Barboza
0615	Lin Fraser	0629	Lynda Gallery

Many Happy Returns of the Day!

New Members since May Issue:

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Anne Russell
Rom Birnbaum
Luccia
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Kran Kilpatrick
Francine Williams



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Threshold of a Dream...

Continued from Page 11

The time came for the meeting and I was ready. I was nervous but determined. I headed for her office and was greeted by her usually friendly smile. I shut the door and told her I had something of a personal nature which I wanted to discuss first. She said OK and I pulled out my picture album. I asked her "Do you think you would recognize me if you saw me somewhere outside of work?" She looked puzzled, (still smiling) and said "I think so". I then opened the book to what I consider to be my best picture, it is a picture of me posing with our dog Misty. I handed the book to her and said "This is what I look like when I am not at work". There was just a moment of silence and she responded "That's great!" Now I don't remember exactly what was said next. I had hoped for a positive response but I did not expect the friendly accepting response that I received. We ended up talking for 20 minutes or so, she looked at all the pictures in the book and I told her about some of the events I had been to. We did actually talk about status for a while but I left her office feeling absolutely wonderful.

There were a few more women in the office that I felt comfortable talking to, and after such a positive experience I decided to tell two ladies who I had been working with. It has been a while so I do not remember the exact timing, but I think it was within a few days of my first positive experience. In both cases I invited the person I was going to tell over to my cube, and asked the "Do you think you would recognize me outside of work" question. Well my second experience was as favorable as the first. I could not believe it!! While we were talking I told her I was dying to find out how she did her eye liner, it always looks perfect. She explained how she put it on and told me what she used, then a few days later she bought me an eye liner pencil like the one she uses and gave it to me. I was really overwhelmed that she was so nice, but it was not surprising, her staff had recommended her for an award that the company gives out. How many people do you know that have had the people working for them band together to get the person an award?

Now you are probably thinking with 2 great coming out experiences that the third would be bad, well think again. The third person I told has become even more of a friend, Debbie and I have visited their house for dinner, and they have been to our house for dinner. Both her and her SO know about me and both work for the company. My third experience was every bit as positive as the first two, and even though I tried to get her secret on how she gets her eyelashes to curl so perfectly, as it turns out they just do that naturally.

After the first three people I begin to lose track of what order I told people in. One thing that was surprising is the number of people who think I should have just taken the job as Nicole to start with. It had always been my perception that people would not have been too accepting of that, but most of them seemed to think there should have been no problem for me to get the job as Nicole. There were a number of interesting items that came up in this process. One lady had done a paper on Transsexuals in college, and seemed to be quite familiar with the terminology and issues. Several had questions about how different I looked when I was dressed as Nicole.

As it turned out I am not the first M2F transsexual to transition at this company. Someone in one of the field offices had gone through the process before. At least two of the ladies I have shared the Nicole pictures with knew this other TS.

There is another interesting story in my subsequent coming out meetings that is worth sharing. The first male I told was the person who took my former bosses place, so I pretty much had to tell him if I ever wanted to transition there. I find it much easier to tell females about who I am and I was a bit nervous about telling a guy. As it turns out this particular guy is a member of the gay community and actually championed same sex partner rights in his last place of employment. He was very cool about who I was and said he would support me however he could. A few weeks later we had a meeting at his house, and he asked me to come early. I arrived about 30 min. early. I met his S.O. and they showed me a picture of them and another couple in drag. Now I admit that situation is hard to beat, to have the first male that you tell about your femme self show you their drag pictures.

Well that's how I got to where I am now. It looks like I will be hired as a full time employee with this company as Nicole (It would actually be difficult to do it any other way now that my drivers license says Nicole). The job will be doing what I have always done and I will be able to use my background to secure a position at the same level I would have had I taken the job as my former self. All of this I would have thought to be impossible just a few years ago. I have tried to come up with what has helped me go this far, and while there are a number of factors (not the least of which is my very supportive wife Debbie), one thing keeps coming to mind. Believe it or not it's skydiving, whenever I get to a situation that will be difficult for me to do (which in this scenario there are many), I just say to myself "If I can jump out of an airplane 14,000 feet in the air, I can do this".

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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Phyllabuster

ABOUT GENDER: HOW WE REAR OUR BOYS

Phyllis Randolph Frye

(Phyllabuster Note: Over the past several years, we have watched numerous shootings in our schools. Why is it ALWAYS boys? As a leader of transgender and gender variant people, I think that our movement may become a part of the solution. When it okay for boys to show a feminine side, much of our socially trained violence MAY be reduced. Consider the following Editorial from www.houstonchronicle.com.)

Reaping What We Sow in the Ways We Rear Our Boys

By Beverly McPhail

TWO words have consistently been used to describe the school shooting in Littleton, Colo. : tragic and senseless.

Although the first adjective is painfully true, the latter is not. The violent episode makes perfect sense to those who have made a career studying violence. Unfortunately, these are often not the so-called experts quickly gathered to serve as the talking heads to fill in between eyewitness accounts and the community's reaction. Often overlooked are the real experts on male violence — feminists.

Feminists have become reluctant experts on the violence that men commit because many times that violence is directed toward women. The violence at Columbine High School and the many other examples of school violence make sense to feminists because a feminist analysis of violence begins with gender and power as the central issues. In their rush for simple answers and quick solutions, other theorists, clinicians and politicians frequently overlook these two core concepts.

These horrific acts of violence have a chilling commonality; that is, they were all perpetrated by white males. Secondly, they were perpetrated by males who felt isolated, powerless, ridiculed and rejected. Although feminism has been successful in expanding the gender-role stereotypes for girls and women, society has been less willing to adapt a more flexible sex role for males. Boys are still taught to be dominant, competitive, detached from others and dissociated from feelings.

This impossible role is detrimental to both the males who adopt it and the boys who resist it. The boys who adopt such a role learn to ridicule and belittle both women and other men who are perceived as weak. It is no accident that boys who do not project these male sex role attributes are called girls and sissies and wimps.

While women are socialized to turn their feelings of powerlessness and anger inward, boys are taught to direct it outward. It is not surprising that even though sexual harassment is a serious

assault on a woman's person, we have yet to have a woman come into an office and shoot all the people who have been unjust and unfair.

Women leave the job, or talk to friends, or take it to the courts. Yet this society has trained males to react differently. Men are taught to defend their masculinity by striking out. Picking up a gun is instant power to men. It gives them the power and control society has taught them they are entitled to. Sometimes they strike out at women in the forms of rape or domestic violence to assert their status; and sometimes they strike out at dominant males and systems that have so aggrieved them.

In looking for answers, the public and media often want to make these boys or their parents monsters or mentally ill, but the chilling fact is often they are pretty normal boys; that is, well socialized males. Although as a society we say we abhor violence, the culture supports and glorifies violence. Not only is violence acceptable, but often in movies and video games it is transformed into heroic and exciting events. Boys learn these lessons when they are given play guns at age 2 and real guns at 12. And when boys begin to act out these destructive roles we say, "Boys will be boys."

Unfortunately, these destructive gender roles are not left in the school yard, but are taken with men as they move onto bigger playgrounds, like the global stage. It is ironic that our president should mournfully state that we must teach kids to resolve conflicts nonviolently while he has ordered constant bombings an ocean away.

The woman's movement brought these issues to the forefront almost a generation ago, and yet the aisles at the toy store remain strictly segregated: bright pink aisles populated with dolls next to fatigue-colored aisles that look like miniature arsenals. And then we wonder why boys are violent.

Yet when attempts are made to change the ways we rear boys and how we define masculinity, the first response is a homophobic one; that is, a fear we will raise gay men. Linking sexism and homophobia is just one link in a very long chain that includes racism, religious intolerance and ethnic rivalries.

As a culture, we divide people based on superficial characteristics such as sex and skin color and make them the "other." Differences that could enrich us are used to divide us. To feel "one-up," the other group is deemed inferior. The next step is to dehumanize, to hate, to hurt.

Although men often subordinate women, men also define a pecking order among themselves. This is why all the quickly proposed solutions to stopping the violence won't work. More metal detectors and security cameras are not the solutions.

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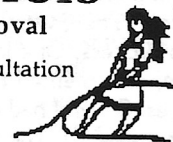
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The answers are complex, with many factors. At the center must be an analysis of power and gender. This overarching theory explains why there are no geographic cures for violence and no place is safe. For the male sex role in American society is taught from Key West, Fla., to Alaska and includes seemingly idyllic towns forever altered in minutes in a hail of gunfire — of which Littleton is just the latest.

For decades feminists have been talking about the gendered nature of violence and how violence is about power. It will be a shame if all that comes from this latest tragedy is making trenchcoats the bogeyman without understanding the angry and conflicted boys beneath their protective facade.

With a feminist analysis, such violence does make sense. While not acceptable, in a context of gender and power it is more understandable. What doesn't make sense is our nation's unwillingness to see how the beliefs we hold — male dominance, intolerance for others and a culture of violence — are seeds we are sowing. What doesn't make sense is the surprise and shock the nation demonstrates when we are merely reaping what we sow.

THE ADVENTURES OF SEBASTIAN COLE

from AOL TCF

Provided by Penni Ashe (penni@gender.org)

According to "Reel Transsexuals" by Gregg Kilday (page 95, *The Advocate*, May 25, 1999), an independent film titled *The Adventures of Sebastian Cole* is due to be released on June 25, 1999. According to the article, the film portrays a "regular-guy stepfather," who "matter-of-factly" tells his family of one's decision "to become a woman."

Says Tod Williams, the writer and director of the autobiographical movie, "I did have a close family friend who was a transsexual." Williams says that experience was the inspiration for the movie.

"I didn't want to play a cross-dressing male," says Clark Gregg, the actor chosen to portray the transforming stepfather. With the character Gregg plays, "what you see is what you get."



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In Your Face

THE ADVOCATE FEATURES TRANSGENDER

Editor: Clare Howell, clare@gpac.org

[New York, NY: 17 May 99] *The Advocate*, a leading gay & lesbian magazine, features the transgender movement in its 25 May 99 issue. Titled 'What is Transgender?' the cover story is a profile of trans-woman Alexandra Billings who stars with Greg Louganis in Larry Kramer's play 'Just Say No,' soon to open in Chicago.

Reports focus on: trans-man Lauren Cameron; medical procedures involved in surgeries and costs; a glossary of terms; a lesbian's reaction to her former lover's transition to male; Sex-change surgeon, Dr. Biber; and whether the transgendered are (or should be) part of the Gay rights movement. Readers are asked in an online poll: "Should transgendered people be a part of the gay rights movement?" (www.advocate.com)

In-depth coverage is given to the relations between the trans-community and The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) over trans-inclusion in the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA). Transactivists Phyllis Frye of Houston, Nancy Nangeroni of Boston, Jamison Green of San Francisco, and Riki Wilchins of New York are quoted extensively.

The most sobering feature, 'The Hidden Hate Epidemic,' highlights the discrepancy between the mainstream's and gay press's reporting of crimes against gays and lesbians and their reporting of transviolence.

It points out that, in November, a month after Matthew Shepard was murdered in Wyoming, Rita Hester, a transgendered woman, was murdered near Boston, stabbed 20 times in the chest. In December, trans-woman Vianna Faye Williams was murdered in Jersey City, stabbed 9 times in her back, neck, and chest. In January, crossdresser Lauryn Paige was murdered in Austin, her throat cut. In February, an unidentified crossdresser was found dead in a Houston parking lot, having been shot repeatedly. In March, Tracey Thompson, a transgendered woman, was found bludgeoned to death in south Georgia.

Major newspapers across the US are still carrying stories about the Shepard murder, yet no mention has made of these trans-murders.

Editorial Commentary

Sarah Fox, Chief Administrator, QUILL

As a transgender activist, I find *The Advocate's* recent poll question, "Should transgendered people be a part of the gay rights movement?" to be rather odd. After all, the people on the front lines of the Stonewall Riot of 1969 were mostly drag queens. Is it right to question whether any group has a right to be included in a movement it helped to start?

While the question posed by *The Advocate* is certainly on the minds of many GLBT people, it perhaps a bit myopic. That is because there are also many transgender activists who are pragmatically assessing whether GLB people would be more of an asset or a liability to the Transgender Rights Movement. I find this

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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.

AN INTERVIEW WITH GWEN SMITH

By Winnie McCroy
Staff Writer, Baltimore Gay Paper

In state legislatures across the nation, the battles are being waged to enact hate crimes legislation—laws that would add an additional gravity to crimes committed against gays and lesbians based on their sexual orientation. Although some of these bills extend protection for the transgender community, this offers little solace to those who are attacked and injured or killed simply because their gender identity expression does not match what society deems 'normal.' More and more, the media reports the tragic and often gruesome accounts of violence committed against transpeople. As seen in widely publicized cases such as that of Brandon Teena, the young transman who was shot multiple times after his hometown newspaper reported on his sex reassignment surgery, the level of violence in these cases is remarkable. This violence permeates the spectrum of society's institutions, as seen in the case of Washington, DC, transwoman Tyra Hunter, who died after emergency medical technicians refused to treat her injuries upon discovering her biological gender.

Late in 1998, Gwen Smith, a transgendered woman living in the San Francisco Bay area, decided that the lives of transgendered persons who had died due to hate and prejudice needed to be catalogued and memorialized in some way. Being a graphic/Web designer and desktop publisher by trade, Smith began collecting these stories and posting them on the Web. The result was a site called "Remembering Our Dead," a catalog of the lives—and circumstances of death—for more than 100 transgender victims of hate-biased crime. The BGP talked with Smith about her work in a recent on-line interview.

BGP: What was the impetus for constructing this site?

Smith: In late November of 1998, Rita Hester, a transwoman in Boston, died from multiple stab wounds in her own apartment. As word of this began to spread, I discovered how few people knew of other losses that came before Rita, especially Chanelle Pickett and Debra Forte, who were both transgendered, and killed in the same area as Rita. I wrote a short note about this, which listed a number of transgender murders and pondered the question "how many have to die before we do something?" As I wrote that note, I began to do my first research into how many transgendered individuals had died in the last few years, and realized that these names needed to be memorialized—that we needed some way to remember those we had lost due to transgender hate and prejudice, so as to not forget why we need to keep pushing for acceptance.

BGP: Did you have a personal experience of violence, or have someone you know be hurt or killed because of their gender expression?

Smith: One of the things I am involved with is the Transgender Community Forum on America Online, and through that I meet thousands of other transgendered individuals. I've talked with many who have been beaten, or raped, or faced any number of indignities simply for living their lives in a manner that feels "correct." Also, it seems that lately there has been an explosion of trans deaths being reported, with eight cases since last August. While I well imagine that some of this is due to an increase in awareness of trans issues on many individuals parts, I cannot also help but suspect that much of it has to do with the same sort of hate rhetoric spewed by the Fred Phelps and Pat Robertsons of the world. Transpeople and gay or lesbian individuals are seen as one in the eyes of those who hate us, and those who are visibly "queer" are often the biggest targets.

BGP: Who was the first transperson you profiled?

Smith: I really don't recall which name made it on the site first. I started off with a number of names, such as Tyra Hunter, and Brandon.

BGP: Where do you get your information for adding cases—through newspapers, TV news, personal stories, police or emergency room logs? Do you accept biographies that other people forward? How do you fact-check your information?

Smith: Most of my initial research came from Internet editions of newspapers, and some of my own collection of transgendered publications from the last five or so years. This was further augmented by some material collected by Dallas Denny of the American Educational Gender Information Service (AEGIS) in Atlanta, Georgia. Even these sources, however, only took me so far. Currently, most of the information is either culled from publications made available to me through the Gay and Lesbian Historical Society of Northern California, or through time spent with other archives. Also, since the launch of the site, I have gotten in contact with other individuals who lost friends and family and are willing to tell me about this, or who have material for the site. I will then often do some fact checking with local newspapers and such, or go into SSI databases to verify dates of death and such. Sometimes it can be a bit of a chore that involves a lot of hunting, as times folks are often a very disenfranchised community. Police records are often nonexistent or incomplete, SSI records may not exist, or may not have names that match those for which the person was known, and some media reports are woefully lacking.

BGP: The profiles on your site give testament to the extreme measures of violence shown in crimes against transpeople. What does this excess suggest as far as the heterosexual world's desire to destroy all evidence of trans existence?

Smith: This is one thing I have definitely seen in cataloging these deaths. It seems like we are often killed using methods that go far beyond a simple killing. One such case is that of Christian Paige, killed in Chicago in 1996. She was brutally beaten about the head and ears, then strangled, stabbed deeply in her chest and breast area between 15 and two dozen times, and finally, burned. Another is Chrissey Johnson of Baltimore, who was found by police naked, with her feet tied together. She was stabbed at least 15 times and had been thrown from the second floor of her apartment to the first. It is almost as if a "mere killing" is not enough. We need to be obliterated, destroyed.

BGP: What about near-death attacks, such as the violent shooting in Baltimore of Leonard "Lynn" Vines, shot six times in the chest and abdomen by teens who told her they "don't want no drag queen bitches on our street." Is there a forum in your site for people who have survived despite the odds, and their stories?

Smith: At current, the site focuses on those who were killed. I am looking at other things to speak of in the future through this site, such as physical attacks such as that of Leonard "Lynn" Vines: I do feel it is important that people do know that not everyone who faces a violent situation ends up dead—but it isn't the focus on this project at current.

BGP: Although they are all horrible crimes, what case has touched you most since you started this?

Smith: For myself, the case of Steven Wilson of Middletown, Delaware was the hardest to research. Steven was a 9 year old child. He (I'll say "he" because, frankly, we don't know what pro-

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noun he would have preferred) liked to play with Barbie dolls and other so-called "girl's toys," and this led to a lot of harassment and name calling by other local kids. In October of 1995, a 15-year-old neighbor boy, Lamont Harden, took this abuse to a new level. He raped Steven, fractured his skull by hitting him with a log, then drowned him. His body was found in a drainage ditch a mile from his home. This story hit me not only because here was a child—a 9-year-old—who was handed a death sentence for not "conforming to gender," but for personal reasons. When I was a kid, I liked to play with "girl's toys," and had a lot of dolls of my own. I also got called plenty of names for it, too. And, yes, at age 8, I was raped by a teenage neighbor boy. I lived, but — especially since reading Steven's story—I wonder how close I came to being a name on someone else's Web site.

BGP: When did you start this? How long did it take to put up? How many hits does your site get?

Smith: I started working on the site, in earnest, in December of 1998, and it reached a stage where I felt it could be publicly released on February 8th. It still gets a lot of work done to it, as information continues to come my way. When the site launched there were 88 cases presented; there are currently 103, and I have leads on an additional five. I am sure there are more still, and always will. I do not have a hit counter on the site, so I cannot tell you how many visits the site receives—but my mailbox has not stopped since it launched.

BGP: Talk a bit about the other sites linked to yours, and vice-versa.

Smith: I've come across a lot of links to the "Remembering Our Dead" site, including from some of the larger trans organizations such as GenderPAC and the International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE), and many transgender and GLBT site directories have included the site. I also provide some links from the "Remembering" site to other related sites. There are a few trans history resources out there, and some pages that focus on specific individuals, such as www.ritahester.org. I've also chosen to link to a number of trans-advocacy organizations not only due to their assistance in the project, but also so that those who view the site can find organizations that are working to make this a safer world for the transgendered.

BGP: Are their other sites like yours on the net, or is yours it, as far as you can find?

Smith: There are a handful of sites that have done similar things. FTM International, GenderPAC, and Transsexual menace have lists of a few trans murders and hate crimes, and a site called the "Page of Rage" (<http://songweaver.com/gender/rage.html>) provides some similar information though includes other non-violent examples of trans-discrimination. There are also some that focus on hate crimes within other communities, or that focus on types of killings, such as police abuses. But the "Remembering Our Dead" site is the first site to go this far in depth into the deaths of individuals killed through trans hate and prejudice.

BGP: How can people access more about an individual profile?

Smith: Each name on the site is linked to a page about the individual. On some pages, I have only included very basic information—name if available, date, cause, and location of death,

my source, and any other notes I may have on the person. Often this shows how little information there is on some of these cases, while in others it more points to limitations on my time as I begin to go into detail on these individuals. I am adding additional information and photos of these people as I get it, and have included articles written by myself and others (such as Katrina C. Rose, Patricia Nell Warren, C. Jacob Hale, and Les Feinberg) to provide a more detailed picture of these people. The goal is to provide a more-detailed portrait of who these individuals were, how they passed away, and any other circumstances that played a part on their story.

BGP: What do you hope to achieve as far as awareness building with your site? Do you consider it a political act?

Smith: My goal is simple: I want to help others remember those who died for simply expressing themselves in a transgendered fashion, and raise awareness that these are people who did not need to die. As one friend of mine put it, I am "giving them a voice." Is it a political act? I'm not sure I was thinking of it as such when I first started, but it has become one. The data I have collected for this site has been used throughout the country and on Capitol Hill to raise political awareness of these deaths, and the need for hate crime legislation that covers these individuals. Even though that wasn't one of my initial considerations with the site, it is certainly one of the things I am most proud of: maybe someday I will find myself unable to add new names to the site, due in part to this information being out there.

To access the site "Remembering Our Dead," visit www.gender.org/remember/



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trend every bit as unfortunate as the antitransgender sentiments held by some of the more conservative elements of the GLB community. While this separationist mentality flies in the face of mainstream efforts by both the transgender and GLB communities to work together, it is a mentality that seems to be growing, and it needs to be addressed.

Part of the undercurrent behind transgender separatism stems from a sense of betrayal felt by many, perhaps most, transgender activists by a few of the more prominent GLB organizations such as HRC. Opinions run strong about relationships such as those between HRC and the transgender community, and I won't pretend to take sides in this heated issue. However, it suffices to say that the feelings of the transgender activists, whether justified or not, are quite real.

That having been said, most transgender activists seem to distinguish between the GLB population at large and the minority of GLB organizations with which they take issue. There is a perception among the transgender community that some of the more conservative GLB organizations do not really represent the attitudes of the GLB community and therefore do not justify any ill will or mistrust of the GLB community at large. Most transgender activists seem to base their attitudes on their experiences locally, and those experiences vary greatly.

In some areas, such as where I live, GLBT people are blessed with an atmosphere of camaraderie and mutual cooperation. While there are stalwart separatists in these communities, like anywhere, they are in the minority and do not dampen the spirit of friendship that exists between the various camps.

Unfortunately, in other areas the GLB population may be largely unaccepting of transgendered people. (Spotty acceptance can even be found in GLBT meccas such as San Francisco's Castro district, where a transperson was recently refused entry into a gay-owned cafe!) In these areas transpeople often find more support and acceptance from the public at large than from GLB people. It is in these areas that transpeople naturally ask themselves whether alliances with the GLB community would be an asset or liability, particularly if the political activism there is largely underwritten by the transgender community. They ask themselves whether time and energy spent quibbling with the local GLB organizations would be better spent educating an already more accepting public.

It is difficult to say where this trend will lead. Many things are happening on the GLBT sociopolitical landscape. The major national organizations continue to blaze trails towards GLBT reunification, with a large, popular following. Also the public at large is slowly becoming more educated about transgender issues, so that transpeople are not regarded as quite as extreme a fringe element in society and, hence, a liability to the national

GLBT organizations. However, government is also getting more conservative, and the difficulties faced in many parts of the country lead to tension and divisiveness between the GLBT camps. Meanwhile, the transgender community is gaining incredible momentum, with young, energized transgender activists demanding and expecting change NOW! Even the dreaded Harry Benjamin Standards of Care to which transsexuals must adhere lends them some biomedical legitimacy, a "perk" not enjoyed by the GLB community. When the transgender movement is progressing in such large bounds, it is very easy for transgender activists to lose patience with a more settled GLB community and say, "We don't need your dead weight dragging us down. We're doing just great without you." (Yes, I've heard such views expressed.) Where all the pushing and pulling and stresses and strains of this complex dynamic will lead is anyone's guess.

I hope, though, that in the pursuit of our common goal of civil rights, we remember what we have to gain by working together. When we bicker amongst ourselves as to why shades of difference between our camps should form the basis for inclusion of one group and exclusion of another, or worse, for the granting of civil rights to one group and not another, we lose all credibility with the public at large. In the end, we all deserve civil rights and an equal place in this society because we are human beings and citizens. The use of sexual orientation as a justification to deny those rights is every bit as wrong as the use of gender identity or expression as a justification. While disavowing our community of one half of this picture may help to win a battle, it will do great harm to our efforts in the greater war. I hope we can all keep our long-term goals in mind, tolerate the differences between our camps, have patience when other camps don't move at the same pace as our own, and work steadily together. One day our efforts WILL pay off, but only if we work together.

REBECCA AUGÉ, Ph.D.

Clinical Psychologist
License PSY 6644

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