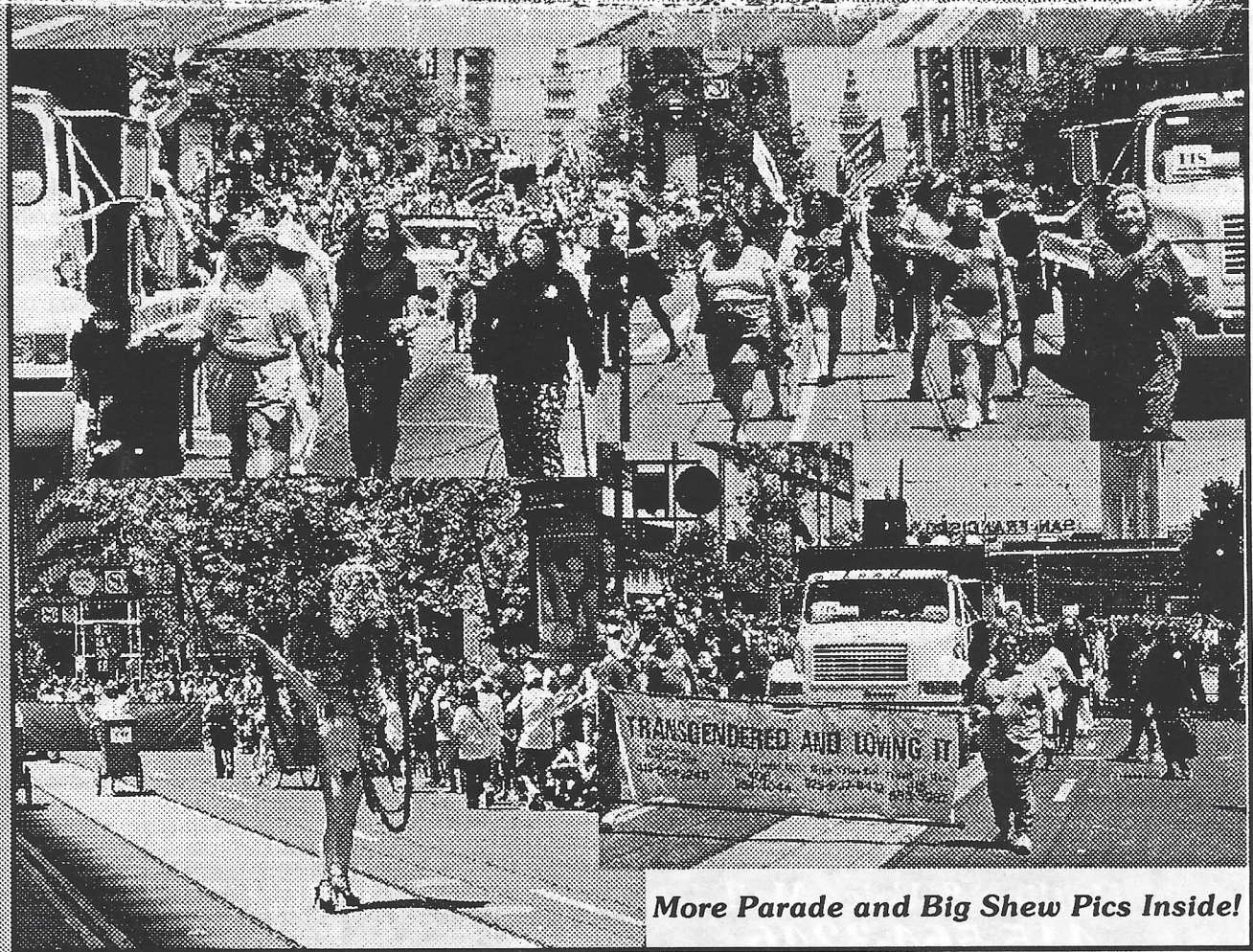
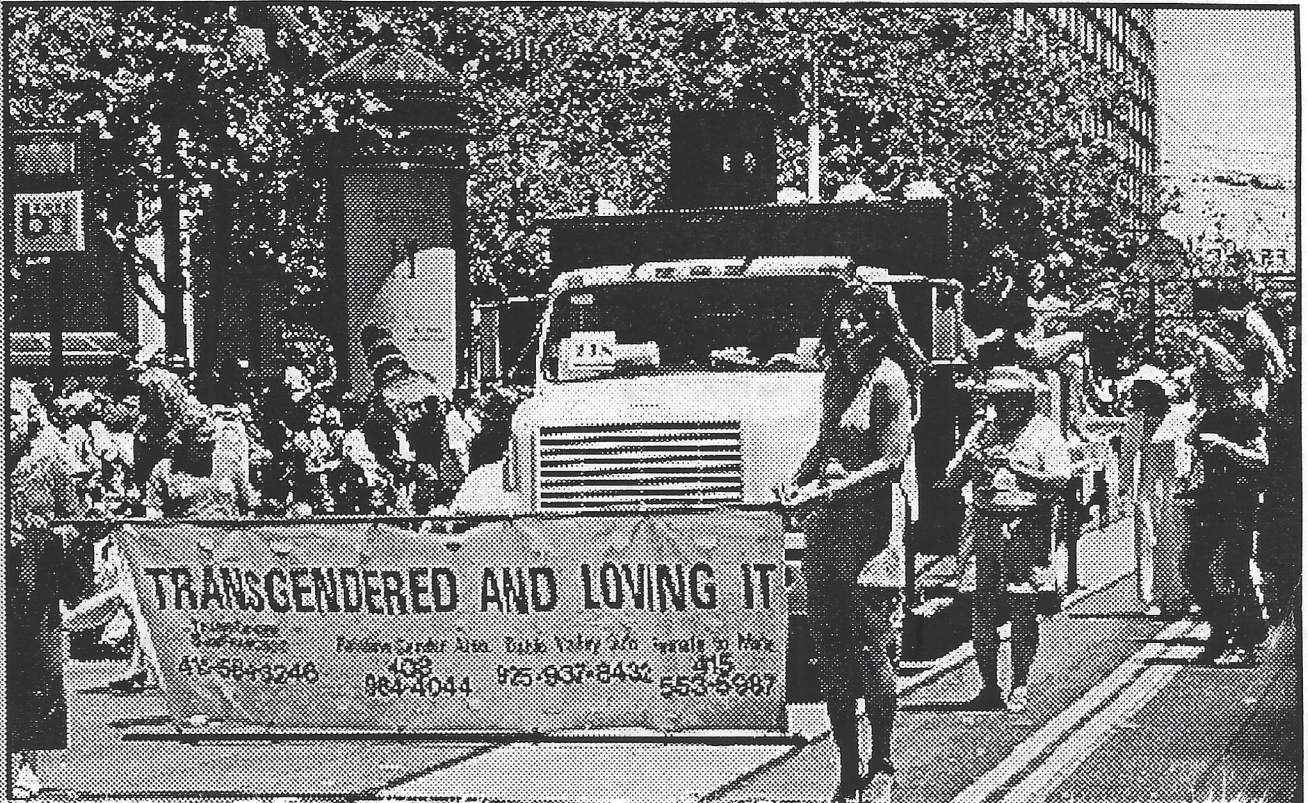


TGSF On The March!

Channel
TGSF
Transgender San Francisco
(formerly FTVC)



More Parade and Big Shew Pics Inside!

The Channel

TGSF, Inc., a non-profit corporation, is a non-sexual, membership based organization serving the educational, social, and recreational needs of gender-gifted people, their spouses, significant others, family members, friends, and professionals in the helping services. For details about TGSF programs, membership, article submission guidelines and classified ads, please write to TGSF Secretary, PO Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486.

ExCom 1999 - 2000 Officers

(Fiscal Year: May 1 - April 30)

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

Membership Report

As of July 15, 1999

Fiscal Year		Number	% of 1998
1998-1999	Total members	289	100.0
1999-2000	Renewals	168	58.1
1999-2000	New members	17	5.9
<u>1999-2000</u>	<u>Non-renewing</u>	<u>121</u>	<u>41.9</u>
1999-2000	Total members	185	64.0

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,
 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...

Lots To Learn About Being A Woman...



I was surfing through AOL's TCF (Transgender Community Forum), checking out the news when I came across a recent story about a middle-aged 6-foot-3, 280-pound man who dresses as a woman (and has been undergoing hormone injections in preparation for a sex change operation) who was found guilty (battery) of punching a woman (5-foot-5) in the face at a nightclub restroom, breaking her jaw. The man and his attorney claimed he was acting in self-defense and struck the woman out of fear after a crowd of hostile women gathered in the restroom. Apparently he was in one of the stalls that night when some women outside began yelling obscenities toward him and saying they were sick of "drag queens" using the women's restroom. When somebody then kicked in the stall door, "out of fear" he punched the person. The man's attorney said the woman was intoxicated and kicked open the stall door while the man was inside. He argued that the woman was responsible for her injuries and that the man was only defending himself. But the Assistant State Attorney (this happened in Florida), noting the size disparity between the man and woman, said he had no right to blindly swing at whoever came through the door.

Now I'm just paraphrasing the article as it was written so don't get your panties in a twist about my use of the word "man" instead of "TG." But what I found interesting about this situation is the way this trans-person reacted "out of fear" and started swinging. I'll call it "residual male programming."

In Beverly McPhail's insightful article ("Reaping what we sow in the ways we rear our boys" - June99 issue of *The Channel*) she reiterated that while girls are socialized to turn their feelings of powerlessness and anger inward, boys are taught to direct it outward. 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.

How does one overcome residual male programming while transitioning from male to female? Apparently in this case it's not the hormone injections nor the counseling he/she must be undergoing to qualify for surgery. I, myself, can attest to the difficulties of thinking, acting and responding like a female in even the simplest situations. It's more than just wearing pretty clothes and makeup. It requires more than a conscious effort. It must become instinctual, but even after eight years of living full-time and popping my little purple pills, it's still almost impossible for me to overcome my past sometimes, and I find myself reacting instead of responding. I am fortunate and grateful to have a lover who will point out my fallibilities to me when this occurs and it really brings me up short. I have to evaluate why I said or what I did was typically male and try to learn how to re-tool my emotions to that of the feminine instinct. It's bloody difficult. And in the case above, residual male programming landed this unfortunate trans-person in jail.

Is this feminine instinct something that can be taught and learned? Is it more than practice, practice, practice? How can we attain a state of mind that's "naturally feminine?" Are those of us who transition later in life doomed to forever emotionally react as male, despite our best efforts to the contrary? Any of you out there care to share your own difficulties or solutions?

Continued on Page 3

WWW.TGSF.ORG
NEW SITE! GET ONLINE!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Leslie Bailey

I was in the closet way too long. A friend asked me the other day, "why are we proud to be transgendered and why do we celebrate it? Why not just do it in private and not bother neighbors, family and friends?" I wondered if it was that hard to understand.

When I ran this by my counselor we arrived at an observation that should have been quite obvious. When you are different in some way from the accepted model or norm you have to learn to manage that difference. No matter how obvious or secret the difference you have to learn to manage it every day. No matter whether that difference is racial, religious, sexual, gender identity, a non-masculine hobby or a non-feminine interest, you have to learn to manage that reality in the face of real or perceived opposition. It is actually pretty logical that those who feel and think of themselves as normative frequently don't get it. As long as our uniqueness doesn't harm anyone, it is quite normal to want to be contented about who and what we are. They simply haven't had to deal with it.

The Pride Parade and Celebration this year was again a very significant and fun event. Our thanks to all who worked so hard to make it happen and all who came out and walked with us. I have to mention in particular Telzey and Theresa who headed up our booth, Jamie Faye who again took care of the audio system and Lulu, Aiyana and her friend Lichen who led the effort to build the float (and what a fun float it was). The band was again dynoomite with Erika on keyboard, Dale on sax, Andrea on drums, Janet on bass and John on electric guitar.

To walk up Market street as part of something that was really happening and pass over a quarter million cheering onlookers is a real thrill. The real satisfying aspect of it all of course is that most of that large throng did "get it." Or maybe the real satisfaction was the good time everyone had in making this happen. Or maybe it was the fact that the pigeons missed me (but that's a story for another time).

From The Editor...

Continued from Page 2

Oklahoma - A Dry State

OK, so what's up with 3-point beer? You can't buy "real" beer at the supermarket here like you can in California. What's available (cold) in the markets is almost always domestic and half-strength and really not worth drinking. If you want the real thing (what they call 6-point), you have to buy it at a liquor store, but they are not allowed (by law) to chill it. They're only open until 9pm and of course they're closed on Sundays. For football fans (me!) this means planning ahead and stocking up before the big game, and of course waiting for your fridge to chill the product. And when the temperature is consistently in the high-90's and you get a craving for a tall cold frosty one, you either have to be prepared ahead of time or suffer. It's totally lame and just another of my gripes about the mid-west, along with the lack of sidewalks.

But I must say in Oklahomans' defense that whenever I've made eye contact with passersby (smiling of course), almost invariably I get a "how're 'ya doin'" or at least an acknowledging nod. The folk out here can be downright friendly, more so I've noticed than what I experienced in the Bay Area. Despite the size of the city, there's this small-town feel wherever I go that's kinda nice, 'ya know? I get this sense of deja vu all over again particularly in light of movies like "To Wong Foo..." where the drag-queen set finds themselves in small-town America, finding love and acceptance there. Maybe there's hope for the red-necked yahoo after all...

Everyone Loves A Parade

Lots of Big Shew and Pride Parade pictures this issue! From the looks of things, ya'll had a faaaabulous time and I'm truly sorry to have missed it. We had a much more modest affair out here, but full of cheering people nonetheless. No organized group of TG's marching I'm afraid and that was disappointing, but a lot of the parade entries made a point of acknowledging transgender involvement at Stonewall thirty years ago. For a first-hand perspective of that momentous occasion, please read Roy McCarthy's story on page 13.

Got an announcement? Gripe? Idea? Write, people, write! Email me or any ExCom officer or use the PO Box. This is YOUR newsletter after all. The group relies on its membership to make it what it is, so you only have yourselves to blame if this paper isn't up to snuff, or an event isn't what you expected. Get involved. Join a committee. Attend a seminar. Place an ad. Send a donation. Sign-up a new member. Go to a social. Come out at work or to your family. Fire off a letter to your elected representatives.

TGSF offers you a wide variety of resources and activities, and I'm here to tell 'ya that type of support is sorely lacking out here and I miss it terribly. You don't know what you got until you lose it, and the threat of the Religious Liberties Protection Act (read and take action! See story on page 12) serves to illustrate this point. Take advantage of what you have available in the Bay Area - the largest and most successful independent TG organization in the country! Get out and get active.

Talk to you next month...

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.

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.

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EXCOM MEETING MINUTES

The monthly meeting of TGSF's Executive Committee was held in Albany, Calif., on July 11, 1999, at 3:00pm. In attendance were President Bailey, Vice President Blau, Secretary Camino, Treasurer Ryan, Outreach Co-Chair Adams, Education Co-Chair Cupps and Social Co-Chairs Cook and Cook. Also present was TGSF Member Stephanie Ann. Not attending because of a work commitment was Outreach Co-Chair Sparks. Education Co-Chair Marie was attending to personal business. The meeting was called to order at 3:50pm., due to late arrival of Roxanne and Nancy.



Communications and Announcements: President Bailey announced that she has reserved one table at the ISE Coronation - Alameda County, and will buy a second if there is interest and asked if Miss TGSF should attend? The event will be at the Hayward Centennial Hall. Leslie also reminded the ExCom of the Aids Walk on July 18. Lulu reported that the Ducal Coronation, SF, would be in September; specific date is unknown. It is on the required list for Miss TGSF. Lulu also mentioned that the Trannyfest is getting organized for October and that she went to see "Senator Swish," starring Trauma Flintstone. Stephanie Ann mentioned that the DVG Dinner Dance is October 9, 1999, at Boundary Oaks Golf Club and they need 40 people for a room charge. Telzey mentioned that A Clean Well Lighted Place For Books will have a "Audrey Style" Look-A-Like Contest on Friday, July 30, at 7:30pm. Janis reported that several people are arriving from outside the country with an interest in the transgender community. The Secretary thanks Nicole for recording the announcements.

Old Business: Janis reported she has made a sample release form for photographs, including those taken at meetings. The concern is both for the website and the newsletter. Leslie said that a revised form should be introduced at the socials for the release of photos. There was discussion among the ExCom as to whether to apply the release to the both the website and the newsletter. It was decided that the release would only apply to photos be posted to the website because the photos in the newsletter are of TGSF "regulars" who have no objections to photographs. Also the Social Co-Chairs announce at meetings the intention of taking photographs. Anyone's desire not to be photographed will be respected. Nicole made a motion for a release form to be made for the release of photos of individuals at TGSF functions, that may be posted to the TGSF website. Janis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Lulu asked if the release could be in every issue of the newsletter. Leslie said any member could call or ask for one from the ExCom. The release may be posted in the website at a later date.

Minutes: Lulu mentioned two corrections to the June 6, 1999 ExCom meeting Minutes. The correct title of the 1999 Pride Parade is "The New TG Face; Making It Up As We Go." Also, the vote by ExCom Members on the design of ID cards was not unanimous, as Lulu had voted on another design. The record of this vote is changed to not unanimous. Janis updated member status to show 151 current members; 150 members have not at this time renewed and there is one new member. With the noted corrections made, Debbie moved for the June minutes to be approved; Nicole seconded the motion and they were unanimously approved.

President: President Bailey noted that again this past month's activities to be reported involved mostly work of the Vice President. Leslie thanked Vice President Blau for all the work she had done on parade and Big Shew planning. Leslie also thanked the

many other volunteers who helped. Janis said the next parade should have more information at an earlier date for TGSF participants such as maps of parade and booth location

Vice President: Vice President Blau is working with Nicole on the Standing Rules for the VP. Lulu was concerned about a version sent to the ExCom, by Nicole. Nicole explained she was just concerned with liabilities as her reason for sending the draft standing rules and the issue was addressed. Lulu also thanked the many volunteers who worked on the parade and noted the efforts of Stephanie Ann, who was attending the meeting. Lulu agreed that planning for the Pride Parade should start early and that we need more volunteers. Nicole reminded the ExCom that the Big Shew is and was planned around the same time as the parade. Janis noted that this years transition of ExCom officers and commitments of some of them to reorganization of duties, plus the lack of specific skills of some members to do float work caused less to be done. Lulu said the club should do an inquiry into skills and interests of members. An inventory of these skills could be kept for use in calling on volunteers. Lulu also mentioned we should look into a budget for next year's parade.

Secretary: Secretary Camino stated that she was away for most of June and she was getting caught up on the mail. She will do a better job next month. Janis was given a key to the PO Box to help speed the processing of membership renewals and newsletter advertising. The mailing of renewal notices last month to all members, including to people who had sent current dues, inundated the Secretary with mail of concern. As mentioned in last month's newsletter, this was too much for an individual response to each. Roxanne will try to communicate to the TGSF membership in the next newsletter. Roxanne made a \$35.00 donation, in the name of TGSF to the City College of San Francisco Community Organizers Training Corps (COTC) Foundation for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender studies. A reception was held for participants at City College on June 24, the night of the Big Shew. The donation was acknowledged by CCSF Board President: Lawrence Wong. Roxanne was in San Diego, Calif. the first part of the month and visited the "Brass Rail," listed in TG Forum and found it to have a friendly crowd. Roxanne looked at the TGSF list and had questions as to content and conduct. It has also not been very active. Roxanne has not had the time in June to work on TG Forum e-mail problems and will work with Janis to resolve them. Current TGSF membership is at 151 of whom one is new.

Treasurer: Secretary Ryan has posted the current figures and they will be provided in her report in the newsletter. Currently \$16,420.00 is in the bank. Income reported included \$350.00 in honorariums, \$570.00 from membership renewals, \$317.00 from the Big Shew and \$120.00 in donations. The Final expense report on the parade is not in yet. Costs of the newsletter are going up a bit because of more content and the distance of the Editor from SF. Janis has made up a reimbursement form for club expenses of ExCom. She said request for reimbursement should be turned in ASAP. Janis said the organization needs to have a substitute procedure for officers on vacation, that do not have a co-chair. The renewal notice snafu resulted in "stacks of them" being returned with photocopied checks and renewal forms. Some of them were returned with checks. The ExCom agreed to give these members the option of a refund or the next year's membership prepaid. Nicole asked how TGSF renewals compare with last year? Janis said she would contact Veronica about how this can be gathered from the spreadsheet. Lulu also requested a comparison of renewals from this year to last. Actual current membership is at 176, with 14 paid into next year. Debbie said she needs the newsletter printing count to be finalized. Leslie also asked how many

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should be printed each month. Janis asked what information about TGSF that she could give to advertisers. Leslie said only the standard demographics, but not specific information about members.

Education: Education Co-Chair Cupps explained the purpose of the seminar scheduled for Saturday, July 17, 1999 at 1:00pm, titled "You Don't Have To Be In the Closet." She and Tianna Marie are trying to reach out to the many TGSF members who have not attended socials or other club events. Nancy invited fellow ExCom members and others who could listen to the concerns of closeted members and try to offer advice that might help them get out in the near future. A follow-up seminar with guest speakers from CUAV was planned for August 14th. Janis expressed enthusiastic support for the purpose of these seminars, stating she had recommended them to people she had been corresponding with by email.

Outreach: Outreach Co Chair Adams mentioned that seven people attended the last KQED Pledge Night. Telzey said the parade booth was open from 9:00am to 7:00pm and that two requests for speakers came in. Telzey has a short video of the parade. Some people have commented to Telzey that there should be signs on the parade float truck. Telzey thanked Trina, Joanne and Jerry Handa and the many others who helped with this year's Pride Parade. There are no current speaking engagement requests mainly because of the summer months. Telzey said calls to the hot line concerning advertising would be directed to Janis.

Social: Social Co-Chair Nicole Cook mentioned that progress is being made on the next Halloween social and the date looks to be October 23, 1999, at the Billy Defrank Community Center and Carla's. The July Mid-month Social is at the Lilo Lounge and the End-of-Month Social will be back at the Blue Muse, where names of candidates will be taken for a fashion show, to be held in September. Nicole does not have specific details because of it not being coordinated by Social Committee. The August End-Of-Month Social will include a fashion show by "I Love It Consignment" and will hopefully be held at Kimo's on August 26. Nicole mentioned someone will need to take notes on the Mid-Month social as her and Debbie will not be able to attend.

New Business: The next ExCom Meeting will be on August 8, 1999, at 3:00pm. Someone will need to check with Jennifer Hope to see if she still wants to host it in Mill Valley. Lulu will host the September ExCom Meeting on the 12th, at 3:00pm. The October ExCom meeting will be in Sebastopol on the 12th. Leslie noted she had to make an executive decision regarding the TGSF insurance policy, involving automobile use. Because the source for a rental truck for the Pride Parade float refused to rent it for that purpose, another source had to be found. Leslie had no problem finding another rental source, but they needed additional liability insurance coverage placed on the vehicle. Leslie placed the additional coverage on the truck/float and TGSF made the parade.

Leslie has talked to two people about being involved in the newsletter, to do submissions and local reporting and she asked for approval of ExCom to pursue. Lulu is still looking for a press liaison person. Leslie again asked who would be involved in this year's Aids Walk.

Next ExCom Meeting: August 8, 1999, possibly in Mill Valley, Calif., at 3:00pm. At approximately 6:42pm, Nicole moved to adjourn the meeting; Debbie seconded and the motion was unanimously passed.

MY FIRST PARADE

by Stephanie Ann

At the May end of month social Lulu asked for volunteers to work on the TGSF float for the GLBT Pride Parade. My right hand shot up and I exclaimed, "Me, me, I'll do it!" Since this was going to be my first parade I wanted to do everything in a big way. This year everything would be modular with everyone building parts at home. We would all show up on the day before the parade, slap all of the modules on the back of the truck, and be out of there by 5:00pm to go party! So what really happened on that fateful day? Things had taken an ominous turn the day before when Leslie tried to rent the truck she had reserved two weeks before. "Ya can't drive the truck in no parade." She did manage to find a truck but was a little bit late getting to Pier 26 where we were to do the construction. But then, everyone was a little bit late getting to Pier 26.

Finally enough of the ladies had arrived so we could get down to some serious float building. Most of us were dressed in guy drag, so for added effect, we made up boy's names to call each other. It was lots of fun to go around saying things like, "Hey Hank, you done with that router?" or "Bill, we need that chain saw over here real quick!", and "Anybody know how to weld these titanium tubes together?" Some of the girls were so handy with power tools that you would think they must have been "building house" rather than "playing house" when they were growing up. And just where did Leslie learn to drive a truck like that? They don't teach that in Brownies.

Well, our modular plans were not quite fulfilled. Soon the afternoon shadows grew longer. Our 5:00pm deadline had long since become a memory. As the evening breezes off the bay spurred us to work harder to stay warm, things finally started to take shape. Our theme of "The New Transgendered Face - Making It Up As We Go!" emerged. The float portrayed a vanity table with a mirror and lights covering the back of the cab. Scattered about the table were eyeliner and eyebrow pencils, mascara brushes, combs, and pots of foundation and blush. A hair brush would serve as a bench for Miss TGSF and her entourage to view and wave to the massed humanity along Market Street.

As the hour grew late I scuttled off into the night as Lulu and Leslie would labor far past the witching hour. Many people had contributed their labor for our cause. Janis, Nicole, Debbie, Teri, and Chelsea all spent many hours with us. The biggest contribution came from Aiyana and her friend Likken who made many of the props beforehand and then constructed the ones that needed to be fashioned on the spot. Without Aiyana and Likken and their vehicle full of tools, generators, paint and supplies there would have been no float. Many thanks to them for their unselfish efforts. And thanks to everyone else whose contribution, big or small, made it possible.

Continued on Page 8



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Sunday / August 8th / 3:00pm

TGSF ExCom MEETING

Do you have some extra time? Looking for a meaningful project to participate in? Or would you just like to help TGSF? We have a number of programs we would like to implement this year to better serve the club. You can participate in a project that only lasts a month or so (no long term commitment). One way to do this would be to show up at the ExCom meeting and say "I want to do something". The August Ex-Com will be at Jennifer's house in the North Bay. If you want to go email (nicole@tgforum.com) or call me (707 824-0860) and let me know, I will arrange for you to get the directions to Jennifer's house.

Wednesday / August 11th / 8:00pm

TGSF MID-MONTH SOCIAL

A review of our membership records indicates that we have as many members in the East Bay as we do in San Francisco. With this in mind we decided to try a Mid month in the East Bay. The location for this event will be at the Pyramid Brewery in Berkeley. The Pyramid Brewery is located at 901 Gilman (corner of 8th and Gilman) in Berkeley. The Pyramid Brewery serves food and parking is available.

And lets not forget that this is also the day that the TransBay group meets at Quetzals. If you can't make it to the East Bay for our gathering, try to make it to this event. Quetzals 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 7:00 pm.

Friday / August 13th / 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 to confirm.

Saturday / August 14th / 1:00pm

TGSF EDUCATION SEMINAR: YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE IN THE CLOSET (PART II); COMING OUT OF THE CLOSET SAFELY.

Education Co-chairs Nancy Cupps and Tianna Marie would like to invite TGSF members, friends, family, and others to a follow-up of the seminar held on July 17th. We'd like to hear from those of you who have ventured out for the first time since our last meeting. We'd love to hear about your experiences and answer new questions you might have. Tina D'Lelia (Hate/Violence Project Co-ordinator) and Shawna Zirago (Hate/Violence and Domestic Violence Advocate) from CUAV (Community United Against Violence) will be our featured guest speakers. They will address concerns we all have about hate crimes against gay, lesbian and transgendered people, and will provide useful advice about how to deal with confrontations and how people perceive you. With the rising crime rate against those of us in the Rainbow Community,

this is definitely a subject we should be aware of. Your questions and concerns will be welcomed. Whether you come "dressed" or in drab if it's easier for you, you will have an opportunity to learn more about enjoying your life safely and to the fullest extent possible! We all deserve that! Upstairs at Kimo's, Polk & Pine Sts, SF. Donations Appreciated.

Thursday / August 26th / 8:00pm

TGSF END OF MONTH SOCIAL

It's time for a fashion show again and Jo-Ann from I Luv It has agreed to once again sponsor the event and provide us with the outfits. We would like to have 8 or 9 models this time, so here is your chance to strut your stuff and be the fashion model you always wanted to be. There is however some homework. If you are interested in modeling contact me (email nicole@tgforum.com or call me 707 824-0860 and let me know), you will need to stop by at I Luv It prior to the event to get fitted for outfits. If you have read my articles on visiting I Luv It you will know that this is hardly a chore. It is actually one of the funnest events you can go to if you like trying on clothes.

The End of Month Social / Fashion Show will be held at our usual meeting place, The Blue Muse 409 Gough Street in San Francisco. Park in any of the local parking lots on either side of the restaurant.

New Members since July Issue:

Bernie Peterson

Allie

Hilary Howes

Welcome!

Now Available!

1999 RESOURCE GUIDE

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

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

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

Calendar of Events - August 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 8:00 PM DVG	3	4	5 7:00 PM DVG (RCC)	6 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap 8:00 PM RGA	7
8 3:00 PM TGSF: ExCom Meeting	9	10	11 7:00 PM TransBay 8:00 PM TGSF: MidMo @ Pyramid Brewery	12	13 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap 8:00 PM TGSF: Library / Poker Night	14 1:00 PM TGSF: EduCom Seminar 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
15	16 8:00 PM DVG	17	18	19 7:00 PM DVG (RCC)	20 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap 8:00 PM RGA	21
22	23	24	25	26 8:00 PM TGSF: EOM Social	27 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap	28 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
29	30	31				

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: _____

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\$40.00 Full Year Family Membership (Renewals; Note only one copy of the Channel will be sent to this address).

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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,

First let me say I am thrilled to hear you've changed your name from ETVC. It is by such acts of unity and solidarity that we will advance our mutual cause: to win the rights, respect and dignity deserved by all of us as human beings who want to be free to truly express ourselves however we do so.

I want to thank you for your participation in the LGBT Pride Parade. You had such a great float and it was a pleasure to march along with you with my GG girlfriend (with the flamingo-colored hair). The transgendered people of the Bay Area have a great resource in TGSF, and I want you to know this is one transsexual who appreciates what you are doing. Keep up the great work!

Christine Beatty

My First Parade...

Continued from Page 5

The day of the parade dawned bright and clear. Your TGSF president slept on the float to guard against predation by denizens of the night. Some five minutes after Leslie awoke she returned to the place where her head had lain through the night and found that pigeons roosting far above had sent their own wake up call. Where is that covered in the TGSF officer's manual?

Teri came knocking on my door early. We put on our finest frocks and headed to the BART station. All the dire predictions of gridlock on freeways and bridges due to the parade, X Games, Giants-Dodgers, and sundry other Sunday activities only served to fill the BART cars to overflowing. In due course we arrived at Embarcadero Station and hurried to fresh air and an unmistakable electricity in the air. As we made our way to the float's location on Spear Street, we saw Roxanne from Sebastopol and then Heidi and Monika from Mt. Shasta. Finding these dear friends so quickly, I knew this would be a special day.

We found the float and then I looked for someone who looked in charge. I had signed up to be a contingent monitor but did not know whom to report to. Stephanie Thomas did likewise and found herself in charge of the monitors. I agreed to be the wheel monitor for the left rear wheel. Such power and authority I would wield, guarding that wheel from any and all enemies, foreign and domestic! Now it is time to march! I take my position and we are rolling. Did we forget anything, leave anyone behind? Oops! Someone important, like Margot. But we did not move far and we soon had her aboard.

As we made the turn from Spear Street onto Market Street, the crowd awaited, focusing all eyes on us. Our float's all-TG band cranked up the music and the crowd began to rock and roar. Too soon we reached Eighth Street and it was over. Now we made our way through the crush of humanity at Civic Center Plaza and found the TGSF booth which Telzey literally anchored as the afternoon gales swept through. Refreshments awaited us and we had a chance to bask in the glow of a magical experience.

Upon my return home I played the tape of Channel 20's parade broadcast. If you did not see DiDi Mau's performance or Janis Ryan's depiction of Every woman, you must get a copy of that tape. So did I have fun? You bet. How about you? Oh, and that wheel I monitored the whole way? It made about 1,076 revolutions and no one laid a hand on it.

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

Cheryl Sheppard \$20.00
Dusty Prentiss \$20.00

Bless you for caring and thank you!

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TGSF FINANCIAL REPORTS

June 1 through June 30, 1999

TGSF Balance Sheet

As of 6/30/99

ASSETS

TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts	16930.42
Other Assets	0.00
Computers	0.00
Event Equipment	1200.00
Office Supplies	50.00
TOTAL Other Assets	1250.00

TOTAL ASSETS 18180.42

LIABILITIES

Other Liabilities	0.00
Insurance	1512.00
Taxes	109.69
Utilities	138.23

TOTAL LIABILITIES 1759.92

OVERALL TOTAL 16420.50

TGSF Cash Flow Report

6/1/99 through 6/30/99

INFLOWS

Honorariums	350.00
Meeting Donations	120.00
Memberships	570.00
Show Income	317.00

TOTAL INFLOWS 1357.00

OUTFLOWS

Bank Charge	4.00
Office	28.37
Parade Literature	30.15
Parade Rentals	287.79
Parade Supplies	131.73
Post Office Box	54.00
Postage and Delivery	284.90
Printing and Reproduction	225.54
Supplies, Bus	3.25
Telephone, Bus	44.42

TOTAL OUTFLOWS 1094.15

OVERALL TOTAL 262.85

TGSF Net Income and Expense by Function

5/1/99 Through 6/30/99

Educational	350.00
Membership	570.00
Newsletter	(502.74)
Operations	(138.49)
Parade	(421.42)
Social	405.50
OVERALL TOTAL	262.85



Gee, Al, two thousand dollars doesn't buy much of a sex change these days, does it?

Outreach...

MAN CONKED WITH BOTTLE, SLURRED IN APPARENT MISSION GAY BASHING

Examiner Staff Report, Thursday, July 22, 1999,
©1999 San Francisco Examiner

A San Francisco man took 11 stitches in his head and ear after a stranger bashed him with a bottle and used an anti-gay epithet against him and his companions outside a Mission District bar.

San Francisco police are investigating the early Wednesday morning incident as a possible hate crime. Saul Contreas, 29, Alexandra Cruz, 23, and a friend - all transgendered people - had just left the El Tin Tan bar on 16th Street and were crossing Rondel Alley, between Mission and Valencia, around 1:45 a.m. when one man in a group of three called out the slur in Spanish, according to the police report.

The suspect also yelled at Contreas and Cruz in Spanish to "go back to where you...came from..." police said. Then, according to police, the stranger walked up to Contreas and hit him in the head with a bottle, before running away toward Mission Street. "He was screaming bad words, he was harassing (Saul)," Cruz said Wednesday. "I think he was homophobic."

Cruz, who shares a Mission District apartment with Contreas, said she'd lived in San Francisco for 11 years and never before experienced such harassment. "A couple of days ago, this happened to another friend of mine inside a club," she said. "I'm scared it's going to happen to me next." The suspect was not identified and had not been apprehended by late Wednesday afternoon, police said. Contreas was treated at St. Luke's Hospital.

Theresa Sparks Comments...

Just a warning to everyone, for what it's worth...In my new "profession," I am in that area nearly every night (around 16th/17th & Mission/Valencia) and observe the groups of people (nearly all Hispanic men) hanging out around Este Noche glaring at the transgendered women who go there. This is not a good area for us to be in, in the late evening or especially at bar closing time. Even the girls who go to Este Noche never venture far from the bar itself unless they are in large groups. Never-ever walk around in this neighborhood alone!!!! I would be surprised if this kind of TG bashing doesn't happen regularly in this area and is just not reported.

Merely a word to the wise from your friendly trans-Taxi driver...don't be foolish and go looking for trouble because, in this area of the Mission, if you do it often enough, trouble will find you. One of these days I'm going to publish a list of dangerous areas for us...based on my nightly adventures. These districts are not limited to the Mission either. Late at night, the Castro, parts of SOMA like Folsom and Harrison Streets (between 5th and 10th Streets), areas of the Inner Richmond and (predominantly yuppie) areas like Chestnut Street around Steiner can also be very dangerous. Of course, certain streets in the Tenderloin and Polk Gulch aren't good either, but those areas aren't just bad for TG's. They can be dangerous for anyone out walking alone. So be careful out at night, keep your wits about you and always, always, always travel in groups or, at a minimum, with a friend.

LAVENDER LAW 1999

Lavender Law 1999 will be in Seattle, 22-24 October.
SAVE THE DATE! For information, contact Spencer Bergstedt
at LavLaw99@jmslaw.com.

October 15-17, 1999

1ST INTERNATIONAL DRAG KING CONFERENCE & SHOWCASE

Over the past five years, FTM (female to male) drag has gained great popularity in communities across the United States, and throughout the world. For nearly three years, H.I.S. Kings of Columbus, Ohio has wooed local audiences and wowed those in surrounding states with their amazing shows. H.I.S. Kings, a drag troupe of over 20 members, Fast Friday Productions, their production company, along with Student Gender and Sexuality Services at The Ohio State University are thrilled to host the 1st International Drag King Conference and Showcase in Columbus, Ohio.

This conference has been designed to draw together an international array of people interested in many aspects of drag king culture. This event presents a unique opportunity to bring together performers, fans, photographers, writers, filmmakers, students, theorists and activists of drag king culture. It will include academic and non-academic workshops, paper presentations, panel discussions, and open forums which will create an environment for creative and enjoyable networking and dialogue on a wide range of topics related to FTM drag.

Description Of The Program And Possible Topics For Roundtable Discussions/Paper Presentations

On Saturday, October 16th, the morning session will consist of four concurrent panels of presenters with common interests. These panels may consist of academics, authors, filmmakers, performers, photographers, or anyone who has a short prepared presentation to share. Please send an abstract (or description of your project) of *no more than 500 words* by email to: qu1ery@aol.com or ddonnatroka@hotmail.com. Suggested topics are:

- The connections/disconnections between drag kings and the FTM transgendered community
- The connections between performances of masculinity and race, class, age and ethnicity
- "Female masculinity"
- Reception/rejection of drag kings by larger society
- Dyke community's response to drag kings -a discussion of where the line between a drag king's parody of misogyny and actual misogyny or "femme phobia"?
- Possible co-optation of drag kings by mainstream
- Feminist response to drag kings
- Deconstruction and reconstruction of masculinity by drag kings and "men's groups" (i.e. promisekeepers)
- Connections/disconnections between sexual identity/orientation and FTM drag. Does the orientation/sexual identity of the performer matter?
- Connections/disconnections between butch/femme roles and FTM drag
- Different ways in which kings address/avoid femininity
- Gay male response to drag kings
- Lesbian feminist response to drag kings
- What are the many definitions of drag?
- Connections/disconnections between spirituality and gender performance/drag kings

- Relations between day-to-day "gender performance" and stage "gender performance"
- Is there a different category of gender performance/gender fucking that transcends/is outside of "kinging" and/or "queening"
- Intention and appeal of those participating and/or witnessing FTM drag. Why is it enjoyable? Where is the pleasure?
- Connections/disconnections between FTM drag and MTF drag in regards to appeal, intentions, political statement, cultural acceptance
- Connections/disconnections between drag and power; how does doing/viewing drag change and or affect: ones relation to power in both personal and political space, body language, the relationship to one's body, the perception of one's "gender politics"
- Investigation of cross cultural representations of cross dressing women or FTM drag
- A discussion of spectrums of masculinity that are performed; from gay masculinity to straight masculinity. do most kings perform straight masculinity? Why?

On Saturday October 16th, the afternoon session will consist of the "Drag Kingdom Science Fair" which features interactive booths "manned" by drag kings who will help you experiment with a drag king identity first hand. Explore facial hair application, binding techniques, or learn the best way to pack.

Concurrent with this event will be two panels. The first panel "Different Kings, Different Lives" will be a personal experience panel featuring kings from around the world. Here we will discuss how region, race, class, age and identity (among other things) affect different kings. The second panel "Is FTM drag political?" will discuss whether or not the act of performing and/or living FTM drag is political and if so, in what ways.

Participants who are interested in taking part in either of these panels/discussions please contact Donna Troka at donnatroka@hotmail.com or (614) 263-6616 or call Julie Applegate at (614) 262-3125.

For more information on the conference, dragdom or the showcase, or if you have questions or suggestions, please contact: Julie Applegate, Conference Coordinator, (614) 262-3125, qu1ery@aol.com; Donna Troka, Conference Coordinator, (614) 263-6616, donnatroka@hotmail.com, or write: Fast Friday Productions, PO Box 82591, Columbus, Ohio 43202. Also visit H.I.S. Kings web site at: <http://www.members.tripod.com/~fastfriday/>

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JUNE - JULY SOCIALS IN REVIEW

By Nicole and Debbie

It was a big month for TG events. The Big Shew, Float building for the parade, the party in the Castro, and the GLBT Pride Parade. The party weekend began on Thursday night June 27th. More than 40 people showed up for an excellent exhibition of the talents hidden within our club. In all 21 performances from 13 different performers. Just about every aspect of night club performing was seen, Didi performed several burlesque numbers, Erin and Lulu provided comedy, Dale & Michelle performed several musical numbers, Tianna and Kalani danced, and just about everyone sang. Among the performers were 3 guests including the reigning Emperor and Empress of San Francisco and Trauma Flintstone. Debbie and I performed two numbers as duets and Debbie did one number as a solo. All the performances were entertaining and the mix of dancing, singing and comedy kept the show hopping. From Tianna's lap dance to the Emperor and Empress's near professional performance, the audience was treated to a show that was definitely something not to be missed. Debbie and I had a lot of fun performing and we are looking forward to doing it again next year.

Debbie and I went home Thursday night but we were back in town Friday night. We got a room at the Best Western Americana on 7th street at Minna. The staff was very friendly and some of the tourists seemed to appreciate having the flavor of San Francisco right in the hotel. The hotel was in a perfect place, we were able to walk to Market (1 block) and take the Muni train to the Castro and BART to the start of the parade. Since we were going to have a full day on Saturday, we decided to take it easy Friday night so we had room service delivered from Tony Roma's and we watched "The Matrix" on the TV in our room.

We began Saturday by heading for the bay to help out in the construction of the float for the parade, we took BART down market a few stops and walked the rest of the way to the waterfront. We were heading for Pier 26 and I remembered seeing Pier twenty something over by the Fog City diner so we headed North of Market. When we reached the area between Pier 23 and Pier 27 we asked someone where Pier 26 was at. That's when we found out that the even numbered Pier's are South of Market. So off we were again walking down the Embarcadero with an ever growing crowd of younger skateboarding type people. As we crossed Market street and got closer to Pier 26 we could see the tower built for the X-games a few Piers further down the road. Finally, over an hour after we had intended to arrive at the float we found where Leslie and Lulu had set up float building operations. Stephanie Ann, Janice & Aiyana had already arrived and were working on the giant make-up parts for the float. While we were there building giant eyeliner and lip liner pencils and a giant mascara, Chelsea showed up and started work on the lights for the mirror. We worked on the float for a few hours and then we were off to get ready for the party in the Castro. Rumor has it that several of the die hard float builders remained until after midnight finishing the float.

We returned to our room via BART, showered and dressed for a night time street party of magnificent proportions. At about 7:30 we headed just down the street to The Line Up for an excellent Mexican dinner and a few Margarita's. I also had this unbelievably delicious desert which consisted of ice cream inside a fried pastry. We took our time eating and by about 8:45 we headed back for Market street. After our experience last year, of not being able to get back to our hotel room easily, we did some investigation and discovered that the underground Muni train has a station

at Castro & Market (right in the middle of the party). So we got on the Muni train and headed for the Castro. By the time we arrived, the party was already in high gear. The streets were packed and everyone seemed to be having a great time. We visited a few clubs looking for Sex on the Beach (it's a drink). We were on our way back up Castro when we found Melanie, Tianna, Rachel and Tracy (Q). For a while we explored the party with Tianna and Rachel. For those of you who have not been to this event, it is a must see part of the GLBT Pride weekend. Well we did not want to be too sleepy at the parade so around 11:30 or so we headed for the Muni station. As it turned out, there was a train waiting as we entered, we stepped on and we were back at our hotel room in less than 10 min. after leaving the party. Wow, what a difference from last year.

We woke up Sunday and headed to a little breakfast place on Market. After eating breakfast we returned to the hotel room and moved our stuff to the car. We checked out but we left the car there since it was 1 block from where the parade ended. Then we walked to Market and took BART to the start of the parade. We came out of the BART tunnel at Market and Spear, then we hiked the 3 plus blocks down Spear to where we found the float. The efforts of the midnight float builders paid off and a very nice looking vanity table sat on the back of the truck with a band warming up amidst the giant articles of make-up.

I decided to do the parade in 5 inch heels so I switched shoes and got ready to march. Rachel, Tracy (Q) and Nikki all arrived on roller skates (an idea I might try next year). Didi was at the back of the float changing into her outfit which consisted of 6+ inch heels a 3+ foot head-dress and less than a square foot of fabric to cover body parts. Tina Louise was there from Sacramento (Miss Sacramento 1999), Chelsea decided to represent DVG with a well crafted sign (as good as the SGA sign she made the year before). Heidi and Monika were in town from the Lake Shasta area and along with Janice, Debbie and myself, assisted in carrying the "Transgendered and Loving It" sign during the parade. We took several pictures of the parade which went up Market Street from Spear to 9th street. The crowd was large and very supportive. A number of girls commented on my heels, expressing concern for my feet including one female police officer who said "It takes a strong woman to go this far in those shoes". As I mentioned before we had a live band on the float which included Andrea on drums, Dale on Sax, Erika on keyboard, Janet on Bass and another gal on guitar which unfortunately I do not know by name. In addition, our entire court was on the back of the float waving at the crowd. I have a number of pictures of Tianna and Serena warmly greeting the festive crowd.

As we neared the end of the parade I decided not to go to the booth (where I hear Telzy and Trina had prepared for people interested in knowing more about our organization). It would seem my feet had reached a point where they were no longer prepared to provide function to my body. So with blisters on the bottom and top of my feet, I switched back to my flats and we headed to the car. Even through the pain of my feet at the end of the parade, I could not help but to think about what a great time we had.

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.

Quill Emergency Alert

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY PROTECTION ACT (RLPA) — HR 1691

by Sarah Fox, Quill Chief Administrator

Imagine this scenario: A co-worker tells the company — your boss/supervisor — that they object to you, your sexual orientation, your crossdressing, your gender-role.... that they object to *you* because you are GLBT, and that there is a Federal Law which would require the employer to therefore fire you, or your landlord to evict you because of this objection. There is such a law now working its way through Congress.

Jay Sekulow, Chief Attorney for the Christian Coalition (Pat Robertson) and head of a group called the ACLJ, brags openly that this law would enable Christians to rid the workplace and our schools from the "gay agenda"; that "employers would not be able to violate [Christians] firmly held religious beliefs." that a Christian who was offended by the presence of a GLBT or perceived GLBT co-worker would be able to have that person fired.

There's a bill speeding its way through Congress that would shred much of the protection against discrimination provided by the dozens of local and state GLBT civil rights laws. It carries the title — Religious Liberty Protection Act (RLPA)—and it prohibits states from "placing a substantial burden upon a person's religious exercise." Conservatives like the RLPA—whose author is GOP pitbull Charles Canady of Florida—because it strengthens the place of organized religion in society. Liberals like the bill because it would protect minority religions in, for example, the wearing of beards, turbans or yarmulkes, or taking off religious holidays not celebrated by employers. Nearly half the original sponsors are Democrats. And RLPA is backed by a coalition of some seventy religious, professional and political groups from across the spectrum.

But now the American Civil Liberties Union, originally a strong supporter of RLPA, has withdrawn from that coalition after careful study of the bill, charging — as ACLU legislative counsel Christopher Anders puts it — that RLPA is "a devastating piece of legislation on sexual orientation, marital status and the like that would upset the balance of civil rights laws at the state and local level." And a number of original RLPA sponsors—including liberal Democrats Jerrold Nadler, William Delahunt and Robert Wexler—have taken their names off the bill because of their concerns about how it would affect local gay rights laws.

Many religions teach that homosexuality is a "sin" and an "abomination" that can never be condoned. RLPA would grant those claiming such beliefs a religious liberty exemption from gay rights ordinances and would also permit other forms of bigotry. While the limits of RLPA would ultimately be decided by the courts, on its face the bill would permit people to cite religion as a reason for discriminating not just against homosexuals but also against people with other differences of which they disapprove on some ostensibly religious grounds. Thus, as the ACLU put it in testimony before the House Judiciary Committee in mid-May, "If RLPA becomes law, an applicant for a job or housing may have no state law protection against having to answer such questions as: Is that your spouse? Are those your children? Are you straight or gay? Are you HIV-positive?"

Judiciary Committee member Nadler offered an amendment that would prevent RLPA from overriding local civil rights laws. But it was recently defeated on a voice vote in Judiciary's constitutional subcommittee. That's why all major national gay rights and AIDS organizations oppose RLPA in its current form, as do the American Nurses Association, the National Organization for Women, the Feminist Majority, Women Employed and the National Catholic AIDS Network. Sadly, the Beltway liberal lobbies are divided on the issue. For example, People for the American

Way, apparently having forgotten how much gay money it raises, continues to support RLPA and opposes the Nadler amendment, preferring—as its legal director Elliot Minberg explains—to seek a "compromise" when the bill reaches the Senate and to rely on the courts to sort it all out.

This argument is doubly flawed. In the first place, the Nadler amendment is already a compromise, for it would still allow discrimination against gays in owner-occupied housing, small businesses and religious-run institutions. Second, the track record of our conservative courts on such cases is discouraging. The US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, which covers the Western states, recently ruled in favor of a landlord's claim that compliance with a local civil rights law protecting unmarried couples from discrimination based on marital status "burdened" the landlord's religious beliefs. The court thus called into question all local rights laws not motivated by what the decision called a "firm national policy" against specific forms of discrimination (like the constitutional protection against race discrimination). There is, of course, no national civil rights law protecting gays. Courts in Massachusetts and Minnesota have also held that there is a religious liberty defense against state civil rights laws. Moreover, if RLPA passes, the gay movement could be bankrupted by the costs of defending against court challenges to gay rights laws, which Christian right groups testified to Congress they would bring.

RLPA is opposed on states' rights grounds by some thirteen "libertarian conservative" GOP Congress members and by a few conservative groups. But Democrats are disunited: On gay issues a floating bloc of Boll Weevil homophobes and timorous swing-district Dems usually provides from forty to eighty votes against us. Democratic House Judiciary staffers predict that if the House votes on RLPA without the Nadler amendment, it will pass easily.

There's no time to lose. The full Judiciary Committee again defeated the Nadler amendment and favorably voted out RLPA on June 23, and the bill could be brought to the House floor within days. RLPA's chief Senate sponsor, Judiciary Committee chairman Orrin Hatch, has promised to schedule hearings on the bill in July. Contact your member of Congress today, and insist on a vote against RLPA (HR 1691) unless it includes the Nadler amendment.

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I SURVIVED STONEWALL

A First-Hand Account From 'Big Roy' McCarthy
(interview by Vanessa Edwards Foster at
moonflowrr@aol.com)

To think that it has been 30 years since that night in June that all this has happened.... We've made a lot of progress, but there's a lot more to be made. The fight continues on – and I'm right out there!

Opening Night

I had a most unusual beginning – an initiation to the riots. I was asleep! I was across the street...my childhood sweetheart was fixing to start his first year at Columbia University – he was a psych major. I was spending the summer with him, and I was upstairs in his apartment sound asleep; and his apartment was right across the street from Stonewall Inn. He comes running upstairs saying "Roy! Roy! The queens are rioting across the street! The queens are rioting!"

So I go running down, following him.... By the time we got down there, the paddy wagon had just pulled up. The queens were just starting to come out and someone had just thrown a high heel. There may have been coins or what-ever, but I was there within a couple minutes after the festivities started. I did see high heels flying! The queens – the transgenders or the crossdressers – were yelling something from across the street by the paddy wagon; they were yelling at the cops. We were cheering on the transgenders – the crossdressers – it just sort of snowballed from there.

Setting the Stage

You gotta understand...where everybody's head politically was at that time. We're talking late 60's – 1969. Were talking about a period of time when it was not only okay, but fashionable to riot against authority thanks to the Vietnam War, and...to the Civil Rights riots a year before, [and when] Bobby Kennedy and Martin Luther King were assassinated – we had rioting in the streets. We were rioting and protesting the Vietnam War all along, and we had Moratorium Day every October in the 60's – I think it was around October 17, somewhere around the middle of October. We would have the anti-Vietnam War Moratorium march, which almost always turned into rioting. Later on in the summer of '69 we also had Woodstock.

In the gay community – now when I talk about the gay community, people have to understand I'm not talking about male homosexuals. I am old school; and when I talk about gay community, the transgenders were a part of it. We never ever considered them not! Bi-sexuals, crossdressers, were never ever not considered a part of it! We were all gay! I'm kind of sad that all this division and fracturization is come about. Back then in the gay community we were kinda pissed off that everyone else was getting their civil rights and we weren't. We were tired of the police busting in and dragging us out just because we were out there to have a good time.

And even the crossdressers were pissed off because by law they had to have at least three articles of clothing on them that were according to their birth gender. That all these things set up to...guarantee that we would have a record. They would tell us to go across the street, and we would follow the police orders; and there would be another cop across the street waiting to give us a ticket for jaywalking. We were tired of gay people being locked up in psychiatric hospitals and getting tortured! We had our own Auschwitzes and Dachaus! And we were just pissed off about all of that! And it had to end!

It was obvious with the paddy wagon there they were just doing another one of their Saturday night raids. It was hot and it

was humid that night, and none of us were really in the best of moods that night. We had just buried Judy Garland that day in Forest Lawn out in Hollywood – our icon! We were kinda pissed off.

The First Acts

At first the cops cleared out Stonewall Inn. Those that weren't gonna get loaded up in the paddy wagons, the cops were telling them to go home. We started taunting the cops, and...they saw the crowd that was starting to gather. The crowd this time was getting bigger and bigger and we started pressing in on the police, and they got scared. They took refuge inside the Stonewall Inn, and barricaded themselves in-side. It was after that that somebody had pulled up a parking meter outside there from Christopher Street and smashed in a window. I got by one of the police cars – the NYPD patrol cars – and I was at the back and I start shaking up and down on the back. Then we started rocking it from side to side, up and down from the front and back, see-sawing the front and back and rocking it from side to side. Next thing...we ended up turning it over on its roof. We crushed its little 'bubble-gum machine' it had on top. By now there was a huge crowd, and somebody somewhere had tossed a Molotov cocktail, and I helped set the cop car on fire. By this time it was only 20 minutes from the time I first arrived down there... And there was a huge crowd!

The Emotion

Back then I wasn't as big as I am now – I was 5'-7", about 130 pounds. I was a 19 year old male prostitute. In '69, I was a prostitute; because I'd been kicked out of home and I was living on the streets and I had to survive. The Stonewall Inn was made up of the dregs of the community. Transgenders and transsexuals were not allowed in many of the gay clubs. And the Stonewall Inn was mostly prostitutes and drug addicts, and drag queens and transgenders. It was not your respectable gay club.

But it was those of us who had nothing to lose, and stood up, and everybody joined in afterwards. We were all very tight knit, very tight knit. It wasn't like we were giving verbal support to the queens who were getting locked up in the paddy wagon. It wasn't just some sort of spectator thing like at a football game – this was something from our heart, deep down in-side.

The Climactic Fray

By this time we could here cop cars coming like crazy from every which direction, and riot police were showing up. I was looking around for my boyfriend, my lover. I saw there was this leather-jacketed, NYPD motorcycle cop who had my boyfriend in a headlock. Now my boyfriend was wearing these John Lennon granny glasses which was very popular at the time. And [the cop] had him in a headlock with his baton hitting him in the face with the bottom end of the baton, and blood was coming from my boyfriend's face. He was my first love, puppy love, fierce love.

I lost my mental capacity for reason. I jumped on the back of that cop and I took the baton from that cop and – with some strength from somewhere – the adrenaline got me going where I was able to take the baton out of the cop's hand and I was beating on the cop. I know I got about three or four hits on the guy and the next thing I knew – bang, I'm seeing stars and I'm on the ground! Then there's blood coming all down my face, on the left side! A cop on horseback came up behind me and whacked me in the head with his night-stick. That was one of the TPF – Tactical Patrol Force.

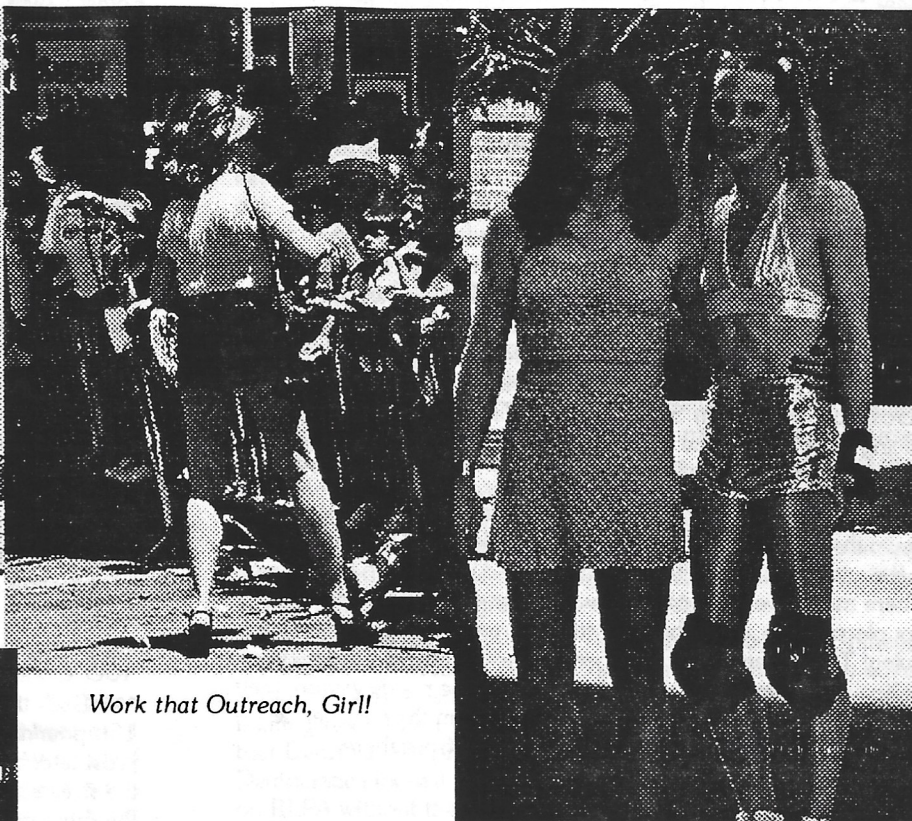
This was before there was such thing as a SWAT unit. They used Tactical Patrol, and they were on horseback, and they used those police to disperse riots and...that's what they did on me, and

Continued on Page 15

More Parade Pics!

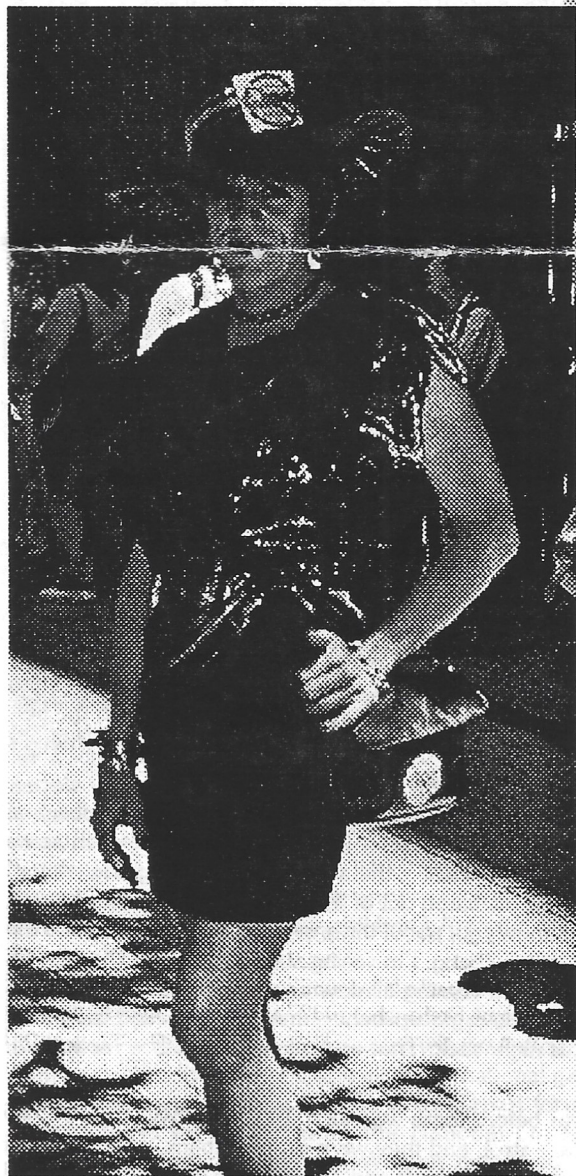


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I Survived Stonewall...

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I was really bloodied. A piece of my skull got chipped off and wound up on Christopher Street. To this day I've got a place in my head where a piece of my skull is missing – a little chip off the old block!

Salvation During Battle

It was four transgendered people who saved my butt! At the time they were called crossdressers as opposed to drag queens. Drag Queen was a regular guy – gay or straight – who dressed up as a woman to perform a show. Crossdressers – or transgendered as now – were 24 hours. Transvestites would dress up to go out to a club, be they did not necessarily were performers...they would just dress up to go out to a club.

There was like one on each arm, my arms and my legs, and then they carried me down to a basement place where they helped patch me up. There was some tear gas that had been shot at us, and in fact one of the canisters...I do remember the canister going off not five, six feet in front of me when I was out on the street. I got a full face, full throttle... I told the transgendered person "get a bucket of water... and just dump it on top of me." That's the best first aid [for tear gas]: a bucket of water.

The rioting went on for about three days. I never was able to find my boyfriend until after...later on the next week. I found out that a piece of glass from his eyeglasses... got punctured in through the eye and lodged in the brain. He is now in a psychiatric hospital up in Maine. He's beyond repair. His parents refused to bring charges against the police at the time because they said 'this was God's judgment upon us.'

In fact no charges were ever brought against any of the demonstrators. We were all originally arrested and charged with drunk, and rioting, and disorderly conduct and all that. But Mayor John Lindsay... stepped in and ordered that charges not be brought against any of us, and we were all released. When I say 'we,' I mean the other people – I was never in jail myself.

The Antagonists

To this day I have no affection for Henry Hay and the Mattachine Society. To have us arrested, and to tell us to "Quiet down! Don't rock the boat!" I'm sorry! I try to be inclusive, and I know there are other issues that people care about. But basic fundamental of the right to be, and the right to love who I feel attracted to, is basic and most important and overriding of everything else. The Mattachine Society was afraid that if we rioted, we were going to throw the clock back 20 years – if that was possible!

The Mattachine Society is equivalent to our modern-day Log Cabiners. The Mattachine Society was a group of self-hating, self-loathing gay folks who felt that we were all emotionally underdeveloped or something – sub-human in some way. These were a bunch of yellow-bellied cowards who were frightened in little corners, who didn't want us to upset the apple cart. Who thought at that time that if we didn't create any kind of a mess...if we just did things quietly and applied for disability – let the psychiatric people say we did not develop emotionally enough or psychologically, that there was something wrong with us mentally or emotionally because we loved people of the same sex or the same gender... or because someone who was a male and always identified as a female wanted to really pursue that. Obviously that person was wacked-out. And it was just as strong with transsexual, transgender people. Sexual [Reassignment] Surgery was started in the 50's or something, it was not new by the time the riot came around. How-

ever, there was a lot of kids who were sexually trying to [reassign] themselves in back rooms and hallways because of fear...and because there was just nowhere else for them to go. However, thanks to the Mattachine Society telling everybody we're sick, we're mentally ill – that was hard enough for gay people...but for transgendered and transsexuals, where could they turn to? Avenues of positive help were not open, even though they did exist. And guys who wanted to be female had nowhere to turn. They felt so disgusted with themselves, they tried to sexually [reassign] themselves with a razor blade, and clean towels and a needle and thread. It just did not work! This was the same period of time when abortions were still illegal, and many women were getting it in back alleys and the butcher shops. A lot of guys hemorrhaged to death in their bathrooms, and died in back alleys....

And the Mattachine Society wanted us to stay that way. I think it's also important to understand that most of the people in the Mattachine Society were middle-class, and upper-middle and upper class people economically. So they had a lot to lose, and they saw us as a threat. The Log Cabin is in essence, the modern day Mattachines. The Mattachine Society did not speak for the gay community. Just like the Log Cabin does not speak for the transgender community. They never have, and they never will.

The Final Act

For the next two nights there was rioting going on. Yeah, I was there! I was out there, bandaged-up head and all...just screaming along with everyone else. We were just a big mob in the street...and there was this park – I think it was Christopher Park...right there at the end of Christopher Street – right there at the end of three days was born the Gay Liberation Front. Of course everything back in those days was called the Liberation Front! You know, we were all Liberation Fronts. And so, before there was a Gay Political Caucus there was a Gay Liberation Front.

And in those early days – I shouldn't just say transgender inclusive because nobody was excluded – the whole thing of Gay Pride Parade and everything...of that night...was started by, was all about the transgenders! Gay people – gay males – we joined in. But it was started by transgenders. Now even though we joined in within five or ten minutes, it was still five or ten minutes later! We joined in...it's important for people to understand. To join in means somebody else was already there. And that was the transgenders. Somebody said it was a brick – I say it was a high heeled shoe, who knows if it was a pump or a brick...or a pumped-up brick? It was called "The Hairpin Drop Heard 'Round The World." That's how

Continued on Page 17

August's Birthdays...

0801	Tracy Foiles	0819	Suzanne Taylor
0802	Nicole Mossinger	0820	Jeannette Heulin
0803	Angel Louise Grant	0820	Roxanne C.
0803	Cheryl Sheppard	0821	Esmarelda Alvarez
0807	Debra Bolle	0823	Joyce Jones
0808	Linda Phillips	0824	Denice Gee
0809	Billie Jean Hall	0826	Kay Mathews
0811	Mary Elicker	0827	Joesanne
0813	Susan Seger	0827	Louise Warren
0813	Andrew Firebaugh	0827	Sabrina Evans
0814	Kran Kilpatrick	0827	Lulu Blau
0814	Charlene Merlot	0828	Evelyn Perry
0816	Gail Stern	0829	Lea Lee
0816	Casey Cole	0831	Bardi DeTro
0817	Deborah Booth	0831	Darcy Leopard

Many Happy Returns of the Day!

TS SETS TEL AVIV ON FIRE

Provided by Brenda Lana Smith R.af D. (Brenda-Lana@blsmith.freeseerve.co.uk)

Dana International is the darling of Eretz Y'Israel (she's even popular among the Orthodox).

Here is the new Israel in a glossy plastic nutshell. The following story does not sound real, but it happened just a few months ago. At an army base in charge of launching troops into Lebanese Hasbeya territory, a soldier came to his commanders and told them he felt trapped inside his male body and wanted to become a female. The commanders didn't hesitate to tell him: if that's what you want, no problem, you can become a female soldier. The next few months went by smoothly. The new soldier started wearing makeup and lipstick, and her commanders virtually forgot about her. That is, until the day she came back to them and said she now felt ready for the Operation. This was a little too much. The answer was: no operation during your service.

Has Israel gone crazy? Has the Holy Land become trannie heaven? The answer is more yes than no. It's not as perfect as this article may lead you to believe, but there's no denying the fact that most Israelis have recently accepted the option of transsexuality. Not that they would like their son to go through the process, but if someone else feels like doing it, it doesn't bother them. As a matter of fact, it's easier for them to accept the transgendered than to accept lesbians and gays. When the pop star Dana International goes on a talk show and starts to explain that she feels more like a gay man than like a Natural Woman, most people prefer not to get hung up on the details. She has breasts and long hair that's enough for them.

They love her. Within three years Dana International has not only become one of the most popular singers in Israel (and well-known all over Europe), she has also played a major role in what might be called the Big Israeli Gay Megillah. After Dana's historic victory in the 1998 Eurovision Song contest, thousands of Tel Avivans stormed Rabin Square, where, overcome with national pride, they danced the night away, waving the Israeli flag side by side with the rainbow flag for the first time. This week, when Dana sings at the Gay Pride Festival, the first ever to be officially sponsored by a mayor of Tel Aviv, she will be performing in front of thousands of gays and straights in an event that represents a flamboyant new twist in the Zionist saga.

The new mayor of Tel Aviv is an example of this seismic shift in Israeli attitudes. Ten years ago, Ron Huldai was a cocky pilot who became the principal of a famous Tel Aviv high school after finishing his army service. Everyone predicted a rosy future for him in politics, since good-looking retired pilots are a very popular breed in Israel. But then Huldai gave an interview to a local paper in which he said, "Guys kissing that's disgusting." That was a big mistake.

Ever since the mid '80s, gays and lesbians, scattered throughout the Israeli media, have been firing back at anyone who insults gay people. These are people who ordinarily take delight in bad-mouthing each other most of them don't even talk to one another. But whenever there is an attack from outside, they fall in as brave soldiers and work directly or behind the scenes to ruin anybody who is a homophobe.

It took Huldai a week to start apologizing for his blunder. But even two years later, when he ran for the Labor primaries in Tel Aviv County, he learned that "those homoim" have a long memory. Huldai really tried. When his campaigners called up registered voters and came up against gay awareness, Huldai would personally call back, promising to become a gay-rights fighter.

It didn't get him elected to the Knesset, even after he met all the available gay activists in town. But two years later, when Huldai decided to run for mayor, he found one man who be-

lieved he had really changed. Adir Steiner is a sweet, intelligent young man. His longtime boyfriend, Doron Meizel, was a pioneer and a high officer in the army medical corps, who came out to his commanders in the late '70s. Meizel died of cancer a few years ago, and Steiner fought the army in order to become an "official widow" (which means a lot of money in Israel). He won.

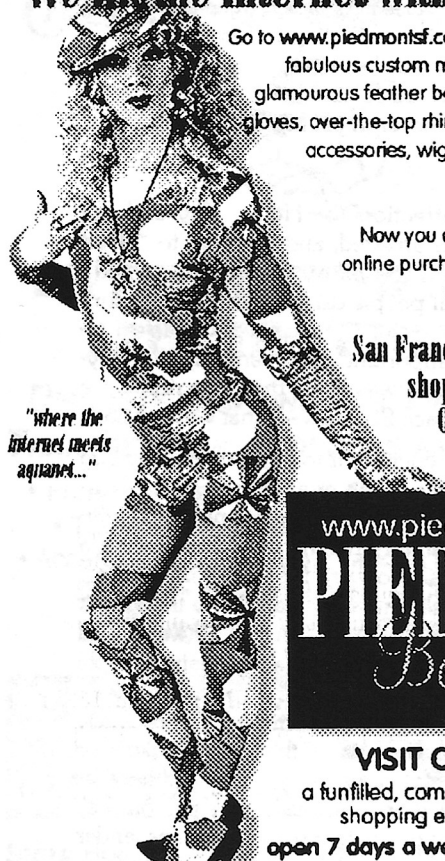
Steiner decided to help Huldai's relationship with the gay community, which by then had become a test case for all of Huldai's liberal views. They were very successful together, and after Huldai's victory last November, Steiner was appointed municipal spokesman, the first openly gay official in the country.

After all this, it was not too hard to convince Huldai to endorse Tel Aviv's gay pride celebrations. For two weeks now, the city has been full of signs screaming "From Tel Aviv With Pride" (in Hebrew, pride Ca'avah rhymes with love Cahavah so it's even more dramatic). Of course Dana International will be at the center of these festivities.

A quick morning-pink flashback: Dana started as a fragile Yemenite boy from a poor background. When she decided to change her sex and become a singer, not one record company would sign her on. At the beginning of her career, even parts of the gay community resented her, arguing she was an obstacle to assimilation and yuppie boredom.

But Dana was determined, and, more important, talented and heartwarming. She has become such an icon in Israel that even ultra-Orthodox Knesset members no longer attack her (since she's popular even among some of their voters). It is difficult to explain to strangers why Dana is such great fun. But if you write to your congressman, she may get an American recording contract and show the Jerry Falwells that an Israeli trannie can be more than a woman or at least more than a woman to me.

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THAI BEAU - BEHIND THE DOOR IN GAY BANGKOK

Provided by Brenda Lana Smith R.af D. (Brenda-Lana@blsmith.freeseve.co.uk)

He doesn't know whether to kiss them or kick them. Sometimes he does both. As a transvestite he is nothing unusual in a nation inundated with drag shows. Undefeated in 30 domestic bouts, he is a talented kick-boxer, but not extraordinary in the country that invented the sport. It is his audacious combination of makeup and body blows as vicious as any seen in an arena that draws the crowds.

Parinya Kiatbusaba is a symbol of Thailand's ambivalent attitude toward homosexuality. It's not that the gay population is hidden away behind closed doors. Hardly. Compared to the U.S., where the only place you're likely to see a drag queen kick ass is on The Jerry Springer Show, Thailand seems like a bastion of hedonistic abandon.

In 1995, the world's first all-gay village, Flower Town, was built in the central mountain area. Cross-dressing and openly gay men are key ingredients in most popular television shows. Several Bangkok gay neighborhoods would put Chelsea and Greenwich Village to shame. Newspapers carry commitment ceremonies alongside traditional nuptials. Fairly explicit letters to Uncle Go, an iconic gay advice columnist, have been published for 25 years. All this is not so surprising in a nation that has a history of homosexual inclusion going back to Buddhist scriptures, centuries before anyone had ever heard of Stonewall, perhaps even before the days of Siam's reign over much of Southeast Asia.

Thailand is a land of myths, its own and those imposed on it. Foremost among these legends is that the Buddhist belief in karma explains the apparent acceptance of homosexuals by the Thai people. In a country of 60 million that is over 90 percent Theravada Buddhist, the prevailing state of compassion is a direct contrast to more puritanical Western notions of same-sex liaisons as a sin born of free will. In Thailand, homosexuality is considered a consequence of deeds done in a past life. Such people will never reach nirvana, since they live outside the norm. Nonetheless, homosexuality is considered part of a person's character rather than a sin freely chosen. Yet this sympathetic attitude should not be confused with open-armed acceptance.

Anecdotes in academic journals and advice columns suggest that Thai lesbians face far more resistance than their male counterparts. Double standards abound. Despite karma, the Thai patriarchal structure has a much more casual attitude toward male sex, regarding experimentation as one way of releasing pent-up energy, while seeing women who do the same as a direct challenge to male control. Women are treated like property, their bodies and lives highly regulated by men.

The "Land of Smiles" image hides a much more complex system of repression and stigma. Thai culture is imbued with a deep sense of avoiding shame at any cost. In a society ruled by outward appearances, what happens in the bedroom is considered private as long as everyone adheres to strict rules of decorum and etiquette. Subtlety is nurtured from childhood, when nuances are hammered home during language classes and reinforced throughout a lifetime of class-based training. Conformity is the norm and anyone who stands out stands way out.

Continued on Page 18

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.

I Survived Stonewall...

Continued from Page 15

CBS News covered it, and ABC News covered it, and it was in Time Magazine.... "The Hairpin Drop Heard 'Round The World": I guess that was the first Gay Pride slogan!

Final Memories

My favorite memory is the moment I first went out the door, and I saw the queens and the trans-genders being loaded up in the paddy wagon and somebody – finally – threw a high heel! It was that moment – it was such a liberating moment inside, it was so freeing! It felt so good – finally, we're not taking this shit no more! Pardon my french! We weren't going to take it any more! No more! Over! This is it! No más!

I have heard, that people went around to a bunch of different gay clubs...saying "Out of the clubs, into the streets!" Or "Out of the bars, into the streets!" I think that's what somebody told me was being said. I mean, I don't know because I was already in the street! That was the defining moment.

It feels special in some ways, and in other ways it feels like an accident of history. Thirty years later, I am so saddened by knowing where the community is at now; in which transgenders and transsexuals – in many cities – are excluded from the Pride Parade. Many transgendered and many gay people do not know the role that transgenders [played]; how important... We would not have Gay Pride Parade if it was not for the transgenders. We would not have Gay Pride Week! We probably wouldn't have this show (After Hours). Everything had its birth with transgenders and transsexuals finally standing up!

Some people call Harry Hay (founder of the Mattachine Society) one of the 'great founders.' He was the founder of nothing! If anything, he held us back! And to tell us "Don't make waves...!" Well just remember this: if you don't make waves, you ain't going nowhere! And we had to go some-where, because this could not continue. The hypocrisy of it all was really astounding. Which is why, for thirty years, I have always been there for the transgendered people because quite literally, you saved my butt! And helped patch me up! Nobody's perfect. Sometimes, in spite of themselves, by accident they get it right!



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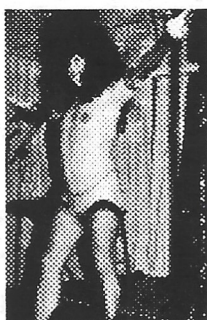
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...Hey you may find her outrageous, but I'd have her on my team anyway!

Thai Beau...

Continued from Page 17

Sensitized to the most minute social signals, the typical Thai gay man is careful to keep a low profile, in the belief that discretion doesn't negate his sexual identity. Kannat Jaiyindee, a gay Bangkok businessman, says the more ostentatious display of kathoey behavior (the colloquial Thai term for transvestites, gay men, and others outside traditional hetero boundaries) "scares people too much. It pushes people further behind the door." Thais use doors to describe the status of someone's sexuality. Someone who opens the door is out and someone who shuts it isn't.

Jaiyindee doesn't see much solidarity among Thai gay men. "They just stand there saying, 'I'm too pretty. I should go home and stand in front of my mirror and make love to myself.'" He is also wary of the larger social climate. "There is now pressure building in some uptight groups," Jaiyindee says, referring to a recent action by Thai prime minister Chuan Leekpai requesting that TV stations all of which are government owned cut down on shows featuring transvestites and transsexuals "to prevent innocent youngsters from imitating unfavorable examples." Another measure, to ban gay students from enrolling at the national teachers college, failed.

The last time a local antigay movement reared its head was more than a decade ago. Ironically, it was fueled by Buddhist writers who echoed Western sensibilities, attributing the oncoming AIDS epidemic which would mark Thailand like a bull's-eye to gay men. But times have changed. The Bangkok Gay Festival media launch in March was a clarion call to the nation's homosexual population including "toms" and "dees," the preferred Thai terms for butch and femme lesbians. For an entire month leading up to a grand parade in October, the city's premiere gay venues will offer various events. Creative director Pakorn Pimpton, a backup dancer for a Thai pop singer, says that not only is there no harassment from official quarters: "The police are taking care of this parade. Some are even gay."

Nong Tum, as the kick-boxer Kiatbusaba is affectionately known, is the object of praise, fascination, and sympathy. He is torn between two desires: becoming a great fighter and becoming a woman. Losing his last bout in Tokyo on June 10 might push him to hang up his gloves. In that fight, he became the first man to wear a top support for breasts enlarged through hormone injections. At 18, he needs to get his parents' consent to get the sex-change operation. His physicians have rejected him, saying he should try to live as a woman first before going through with the procedure. Besides, in Thai culture, it's more advantageous to be born a homosexual man than to become a woman.



"Cocktails For Two" Cast Laugh It Up!