

TGSF Socials = Smiles! ;-)

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



The Channel

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

ExCom 2000 - 2001 Officers

(Fiscal Year: May 1 - April 30)

President Nicole Cook
 Vice President Aiyanna Eveningstar
 Secretary Debbie Cook
 Treasurer Deborah Education Stephanie Ann Blythe / Meredith Memaran
 Outreach Telzey Adams / Kalani Makanani
 Social Tianna "Diva" DeVil / Serena Anderson

Membership Report

As of June 15, 2000

Membership 114
 Total Fiscal Year 1999-2000 Membership 264
 New Memberships This Year 11

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

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 Advertising Debbie Cook / Ayme Kantz
 Contributing Photographers, this Issue: Telzey Adams

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	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

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FROM THE EDITOR...

Location, Location, Location...

Well dear readers, it looks as if I'm going to be in Minnesota longer than I had hoped. The tentative plans for inhabiting a family-owned apartment in Los Angeles have fallen through. Due to the location of the residence and the rents that area fetches, the controlling interests have decided to sink major dollars into the renovations to take full advantage of their income potential. Naturally, they'll be exorbitant, even for that part of town, but well beyond my means. So without a job out there or a place to go, it looks as if I'm here to stay for a while.

Now that I know returning to California at this point is a pipe dream, I at least have a clearer direction to face. And I intend to make the best of it. Résumés are circulating in various hands in Minneapolis/St. Paul, and I'm also applying for positions available on the west coast, just in case. I'm resisting the necessity of signing up with Temp Agencies again, which has worked successfully for me in the past, whatever city I end up living in. Probably because I'm really enjoying all the goofing off I've been doing lately. But I realize that I'm probably going to have to get my tush in gear, and endure all those moronic skills assessment tests anyway. (Yes ma'am, I really CAN type 85 words a minute! They don't call me TurboFingers for nothing!) God I hate having to start over again so soon. Didn't I just go through all this?

Goofing Off?...

Well, perhaps a little. As of this writing, I've been at Dad's house for a little over a month now. I spend inordinate amounts of time alone, upstairs in my office, on the Internet - stereo cranked, the cat keeps wanting in, then wanting out. And I've been chatting with some of the most amazing people lately. And forming meaningful relationships with some of them even though the likelihood of our ever meeting face to face is improbable. But I do have one new friend in the area that struck up at chat online with me, and we actually did arrange to meet for lunch. We've been speaking numerous times each day for weeks now and have formed a real friendship. Her "scene name" is Tess, a collared slave to an incredibly knowledgeable and dominant man in Chicago (she's a GG if you wanted to know). One night she sent me an Instant Message after noticing similar interests after reading my AOL profile. Granted, my profile there is provocative, but it is quite explicit about my interests in BDSM and my transsexuality. We have since become almost like sisters and have been having the most intense discussions about needs vs. wants as they relate to the BDSM lifestyle. We've also been analyzing together my relationship with Micheal (as girlfriends are wont to do) and has helped me to solidify my identity within the lifestyle after the fallout.

Digging In The Dirt...

In the two years I've been Editor, I haven't really talked much about my interests in the kink community with you. Oh most of you out there know that I'm active in that scene as I've mentioned it here from time to time. But I've generally restrained from delving deeper into what drives me, what possesses me to participate in the leather community, as this is a transgender-oriented newsletter after all. But after my separation from Micheal and Oklahoma (a relationship that was founded upon our interests in BDSM), I have been doing much soul-searching this past month since my move here. And it boiled down to what I wanted from the lifestyle versus what I NEEDED from it.

Continued on Page 3



May 2000 - June 2000

ON THE ROAD WITH MADAME PRESIDENT

By Nicole

I guess I could call this the "Proud Mary" month, because it started off nice and easy and it ended up hard and rough. Well at least from a scheduling standpoint.

The first event was the planning committee meeting for the new San Francisco LGBT Community Center on May 18th, which merged with a mass gathering of all the community center volunteers. This event was quite interesting, since it was the first time I was able to meet the other TG people helping out in this effort. It was not surprising that I had never met several of them. The crowd was quite large, but the transgender community was somewhat under-represented.

Three days later on May 21st Debbie and I joined eight other speakers to do an outreach session at the College of Notre Dame in Belmont. Thomas, Mary Ann, Tyler, Andrea, Roxanne, Stephanie Ann, Loraine, Debbie and I showed up on a very warm afternoon to speak to a psychology class for about 2 hours. It was quite interesting since we had such a wide array of different experiences present. We had 2 FTM's, 2 significant others, 1 CD and four MTF's. If some of you are thinking of speaking, you should give it a try. It is really quite rewarding and the audiences have always been very supportive.

Four days later on May 25th was the TGSF End of Month at the Blue Muse. It was time for the run-off election for President. And so sometime during that night I became the new President of TGSF. Again, less than half of the eligible members voted. There were between 20 and 30 people present at the social, and not much more than the election took place.

On May 28th somewhere between 10 and 15 people mostly from SGA went to the TGSF Mid Month social at Six Flags Marine World. Krystal, Gene - Krystal's Regent Duke, Liz, Mary, Julie Ann, Debbie and I stayed together for most of the day concentrating on high G force roller-coasters. We saw the Batman show which was quite under-whelming, and the whale show which was very entertaining. I think we rode Medusa eight times before we left. Several other people had tickets, we did see Suzanne (from DVG) at one point, but we never did see anyone else. I heard later that Jennifer was there, but we did not see her. It was a fun day, and when we left for home we were ready to just lay down and rest.

June 1st was the first meeting of the Transgender Human Rights Implementation Task Force. In this meeting several sub-committees were formed to start working on the issues put before the task force. I volunteered to help on the Employment and Outreach sub-committees, but I am spreading myself thin, so if anyone has some time to contribute to the TG community let me know and I can hook you up with one of the committee chairpersons. By the end of the meeting six sub-committee's had been formed and scheduled: (1) Employment, (2) Education, Outreach,

Continued on Page 11

New Member(s) since June Issue:

Lichen

Mischa Davis

Welcome!

From the Editor...

Continued from Page 2

Many years ago, when I got playfully spanked during some love play and got incredibly turned on, I began to realize I had these feelings - much like what we, as transgenders, go through when we realize and act on being "different." Well I've always maintained that if I could be honest with myself about my gender incongruities, then I could certainly be as honest about what turned me on. And so a quest was begun to learn more about why Dominance and submission, fetishes and perverted activities were so compelling, not only to me but also to many, many others as well. After years of research of legitimate documentation on the subject, and admittedly a lot of personal experimentation, I can now openly and honestly say, and I am compelled to share this with you, that BDSM is not a game to me any longer. It is my life. I confess to you that I crave it, I want it, I desire it, I wish for it always, and yes...I NEED it to make me a complete person, more so (surprisingly enough to me) than having my final surgery.

And it's not just about kinky sex in one's bedroom (or where ever your perversions lead you). Dominance and submission, true power exchange, lays so much further beyond all that. As an Alpha submissive, I have a need to surrender my personal every day life power, my own personal control, into the hands of a powerful, knowledgeable, firm and loving Dominant, be they male or female. It is incredibly centering to acknowledge to one's self, that all you need to make you blissful is to be at the feet of one you adore, totally trusting them to teach you; to guide you to the dark places inside, and lead you safely back again into the Light. And in accepting that power from you, the wise Dominant will undoubtedly wield that control to satisfy his/her own whims and desires, yet all the while holding your gift tenderly, protecting it from true harm, cherishing its rare beauty, and valuing you as his/her most precious possession.

I have always identified as a submissive, but about a year ago I began to recognize again these odd feelings, and something finally clicked with me about why dominants enjoy topping so much; why it turns them on, why they do the wickedly delightful things they do. The best Dom/mes are the ones who want their subs to serve them out of love and respect, and not from fear, and are careful to administer punishment or discipline only as necessary. To have all that power in your hands! When you're standing over your bound, naked and helpless playtoy and realize they have willingly and consensually given you this control over them, it's enough to make you weep at that total trust. It's as if you are now God and free to do as you wish with no recrimination...it's heady stuff!

Continued on Page 18

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EXCOM MEETING MINUTES

The following is a summary version of the minutes. We are still working out the format but the intent is to give you a synopsis of what happened during the meeting and not every little detail. If you want every little detail send us a note via email (preferred) or regular mail and we will send you a copy.

The monthly meeting of TGSF's Executive Committee was held in Berkeley at the Pacific Center on June 11, 2000 at 4:00 p.m. In attendance were President Nicole Cook, Vice President Aiyana Eveningstar, Secretary Debbie Cook, Outreach Co-Chair Telzey Adams, Outreach Co-Chair Kalani Makalani, Education Chair Stephanie Ann Blythe, and Social Co-Chair Tianna DeVil. Treasurer Deborah was absent. Candy Love was a guest.



The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m.

President: A new agenda was introduced. The new agenda introduced the concept of a 1 hour status meeting where all votes are taken followed by a variable length special topics meeting.

There are 2 new positions listed on the agenda. They are Editor and Publisher. They are 2 positions that will be suggested to be added to the ExCom.

Nicole indicated that ExCom member have the autonomy to work within the proposed budget for that position without having to come back to the ExCom to ask for permission to do something. If it is something the person in the position is expected to do, they have the autonomy to do it.

The duties summary for each ExCom member was reviewed

Meredith has resigned. She sent an email to Nicole with her resignation. Thus one Education Position became open.

Nicole introduced a few topics that she feels are critical to the success of the organization. Each of these will be discussed in detail at a later time. These topics are 1) The retention of volunteers (ExCom volunteers in particular), (2) Membership in Sub-Committees, (3) The other thing is membership.

Nicole would like the word Transgendered defined on the website, on the front of the newsletter and every where that we can. Some people still perceive the group as a group for Transsexuals or a group for Cross-dressers. It's very possible that they don't know and Nicole explains that the group is all-inclusive when she hears that, but we should be up front with that.

The next topic is the special election stuff. (There is an article on this topic in the channel where these minutes are published). In short, proper procedure requires the Secretary to provide the ExCom with a set of the Bylaws. Since a set with the special election topics incorporated does not exist, the current Secretary is tasked with rolling in the Special Election topics. In performing this duty several problems were noticed. As a result items 3,4 and 5 will be sent to a newly forming Bylaws Change Committee, and we will be using the May 1st to April 30th membership year until the problems are resolved.

Nicole introduced several programs that she is proposing to have the ExCom implement. They were only introduced at this meeting. They are: (1) San Francisco Bay Area Comprehensive TG Outreach, (2) San Francisco Bay Area Comprehensive TG Education Schedule, (3) TGSF Resource Guide Expansion Project, (4) TGSF Education Grant Project, (5) TGSF Homeless Help Project, (5) TGSF Corporate Sponsorship Project.

Nicole makes a motion to accept the President's Standing Rules introduced in the last Executive Committee term. Secretary Debbie seconds. The duties are voted in 7-0.

Nicole makes a motion to accept the Vice President's Standing Rules introduced in the last Executive Committee term. Aiyana seconds. They are voted in 7-0.

Nicole introduces a revision to the Treasurer's Standing Rules that add a section of reimbursement (a problematic area last term that is not covered by the Bylaws or Standing Rules). Nicole makes a motion that the revisions to the Treasurers standing rules be accepted. Secretary Debbie seconds. The motion passes 7-0.

Nicole proposed that TGSF make a donation to the Pacific Center in the amount of \$500, in response to their making the facility available to us at no charge. The amount Nicole suggested is roughly equivalent to what the Pacific Center would normally get if they were to rent out the room we are using. This issue was tabled for further discussion following some opposition expressed by member Candy Love.

Nicole would like to form a committee that consists of at least 2 ExCom members and at least 5 regular members to review a number of Bylaw changes including the ones from the special election and a number of additional ones that Nicole will propose. Nicole calls for discussion. Nicole makes a motion to create a Bylaws committee. Aiyana seconds. The vote passes 7-0.

Transgender community definition on all communications - Nicole would like to put the definition put together by the San Francisco Transgender Human Rights Implementation Task Force. They have put together a very nice description of the term Transgendered. Tianna wants to add something to description that essentially says that someone who does not meet the transsexual yet may not meet the cross dresser.

Nicole proposes a vote that the mailbox keys are held by the President, Vice President and Secretary. Aiyana seconds. The motion is passed 7-0.

Nicole has asked Carla to host the TGSF library and Carla accepted. If no one has a problem with it, we will set up part of the library on Tuesday where all she has to do is make sure the person wanting to check out the material has a membership card like TGSF, DVG, SGA, RGA or one of her regular members. It should be minimal effort for her to maintain that. There was a discussion on finding volunteers to maintain the library. Kalani expressed an interest but we would still look for other volunteers in the South Bay.

Transgender Human Rights Implementation Task Force - Nicole is on one of the sub-committees. If any of the ExCom members are looking for a good way to use up your time, Nicole suggests that you join one of the subcommittees. Nicole is currently on the employment one. There is an outreach one, and 2 or 3 other ones. If anyone is interested, Nicole has the paperwork.

The new San Francisco LGBT Community Center - Nicole is also working on that effort in the Program Committee. There are multiple committees for that as well. The center will be on Market Street where the freeway overpass crosses. TGSF is looking to do an application for office space there so we might actually have an office next year. That is another good possibility of a place to donate your time.

Jennifer arrived to the meeting near the end of the Presidents part of the meeting. Nicole verified that she was still interested in becoming a Co-Education Chair. Nicole nominates Jennifer to the vacant Education Chair seat. The vote passes 7-0.

Continued on Page 5

Meeting Minutes...

Continued from Page 4

Vice President: Aiyana covered the float building effort. Our float will be the Starship TGSF "Club Freedom" and will carry a club theme with a DJ stand and bar, a dance floor with tables, seats and booths for those on the float or other float riders to sit on. Jaime has a sound system reserved for the float. Tianna wanted to make sure the sound system handles cassette tapes and the ability to use CD for backup. The parade committee is pushing float building this year. The building is on Pier 15 with electricity that we aren't paying for. The truck will be rented on Friday and Saturday. We are in the 87th position out of 250th and are in judging position.

The work site is secured, Telzey has received her pass to get into the booth site area and hopefully, by the middle of the week, all the materials needed for the big parts will be gathered together. There are currently 4 parade monitors for the parade. Jennifer Antoinette volunteered as a monitor so we now have 5. The parade starts at 10:30 am, but for our area (#87) it starts at noon and we need to be in the assembly area by 11:00 am.

Secretary: All non-profit documents are being looked for. Some are in the Secretary's possession, but not all. We will look through the library to see if any documentation can be found. No tax work has been received for the filing of taxes yet. Have not received the boxes of Secretary files from the Outgoing Secretary Roxanne. Will try to get those from her.

Membership Database has been put into an Access Database. It's not completed yet but it is functional. It took in excess of 40 hours to set up the Access Database, but it will be much easier to pass along to the next Secretary.

Correspondence came in to Telzey from Dominican College thanking us for sending Outreach speakers.

Website status is being worked on. The front graphic loaded slowly, but loads much faster now. The Secretary is currently working to fix that. Also, the non-frames version will be more consistent with the frames version of the site. Need Telzey's notebook of past newsletters for a history pages on the website. This will show past Miss/Mr ETVC/TGSF, ExCom members, and award winners.

Approval of last meeting minutes. There were a couple of changes by Nancy Cupps and Deborah which were made and none others. Nicole moved that the minutes be approved. Aiyana seconded. They were approved.

The Post Office was holding mail from June 1999. The Secretary received it in June 2000. There were old memberships and correspondence. The Secretary will be mailing back those old checks.

Disposition of computer owned by TGSF - TGSF is in possession of an old 386 computer with a monitor and a printer. It was offered to Telzey, but she doesn't want it. If no one on the ExCom is in need of a computer, we will put it up for auction on E-Bay and the proceeds will go to the club. Everyone was in agreement.

Items that were donated by Sandra Brewer included some Adult Entertainment Videos that aren't appropriate for the club library. It is proposed to set up an auction page on the website for those who are interested in bidding on adult videos and magazines. It won't be accessible from the main website. Members would have to go to the specific URL set up for it to access it.

The Perpetual Ginny Knuth award was found in the library. It has eluded us for at least 3 years. The Secretary will update the plaque and have the name changed from ETVC to ETVC/TGSF. Also several mailing envelopes with the return address and office supplies were in the library stuff.

We received a nice Thank You letter from Project Open Hand for the \$500 contribution from the Cotillion.

All newsletter articles should be sent to the Secretary. The Secretary is doing the coordination for Ayme now. Pictures go directly to Ayme. The Secretary will also be looking at things that are submitted to see if anything will blow up in TGSF's face if it gets published. Aiyana mentioned that there is a Thank-you letter that will be published in the newsletter for Michelle Garcia and her reign as Miss TGSF.

All announcements should be sent directly to the Secretary as well in advanced of the next ExCom meeting.

Editor: The newsletter did go out on time. If anyone hasn't received his or her newsletter, it is because we haven't received a renewal yet. Notices will be going out in the mail sometime next week. We are over on the budget for the newsletter due to having to switch venues for the Big Shew. Flyers with the change in venue must go out before the event. This is causing an increase in stamps and envelopes. The new venue is at Diva's on the 3rd floor and is \$5 to get in.

Addition to editor duties and corresponding layout cost increase for next 4 months and assistance with expediting advertisers. Ayme, in the past, had 26 advertisers in the newsletter. We were making as much money from advertising as we were from membership. We would like to ask Ayme to help with advertising again. Since she has moved to Minnesota she is in a position to where she is depending to some degree on the money she is getting from TGSF to do the newsletter. We would like to propose for the next 4 months to get her help in getting those advertisers back up. In return, we would increase what she is being paid for 4 months and for 4 months only by \$150. Nicole motions that we ask that Ayme's additional duties include expediting advertisers and that she received an additional \$150 for the extra work. Nicole asks for any discussion. No discussion. Secretary Debbie seconds. Motion carried 7-0.

Treasurer: The financial reports are in the packets that have been handed out. It consists of the Balance Sheet and Monthly Income Statement. The balance sheets show our assets and liabilities to date. The assets are at \$9,000. The Secretary mentions that the Food Service amount may be decreased due to what was used at the Cotillion (plates, forks, knives, etc.). Decorations are the Halloween Decorations. The income statement shows our revenues and expenses for the month of May. We spent more this month, but that is expected to turn around when the renewal letters for membership goes out.

Pending budget changes has been worked on last year. Budget categories were determined by month and a monetary amount has been placed by ExCom chair. The box at the bottom of the last page summarizes what TGSF thinks the annual budget for the Cotillion, the newsletter, Halloween party, Education, etc. If each ExCom member comes up with an event that isn't represented, you need to tell the Treasurer. This is your current budget if it needs to change and you don't let the Treasurer know, it stays the same.

New Signature Card - a signature card was signed at the last ExCom meeting and now we would like to add the President and the Vice President to the card to decrease any problems in getting

Continued on Page 13

Saturday / July 8th / 8:00pm

MID-MONTH SOCIAL

I've received a request from a couple of our girls for an excursion to a place called Annie's Cocktail Lounge. It's located at 15 Boardman Place just off Bryant across from the Hall of Justice. Speaking with the girls, it is noted to be very truly TG friendly. Apparently, it's a small intimate setting. Annie the owner, has actually asked for our presence there!

While I've not actually have been there myself, it comes to us from very reliable sources! (Thank you Aiyana and Dale.) It's also around the corner from the Kandy Bar (a great place to go dancing)! So you can have a little conversation, relax and perhaps a cocktail, before heading out for a late night out on the town! Let's check it out! If there are any other requests for certain venues, let 'the Diva' know and I'll see what I can do to arrange it!

Sunday / July 9th / 4:00pm

EXCOM MEETING

The monthly meeting of the ExCom will be held at the Pacific Center. Although Pride week is over, volunteers will still be needed for the upcoming months. If you are interested, please contact your Secretary or come to a meeting !!

The Pacific Center is located at 2712 Telegraph Avenue in Berkeley. If you need more information, please feel free to contact your Secretary Debbie Cook at (707) 824-0860 or by email at moodydeb@yahoo.com.

Wednesday / July 12th / 7:00pm

TRANSBAY SOCIAL

Don't forget that Wednesday is the day that the TransBay group meets at Quetzals. 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 7:00pm.

Friday / July 14th / 8:00pm

GAME NIGHT

Candy Love has graciously offered her home in Bay Point for game night. . .this includes card games, board games, or whatever the preference of the night is. If anyone is interested in attending, please call first for directions. The phone number is (925) 709-8933. Ask for Charlotte. If you get the answering machine, press *3 to get to her voicemail box. A donation is suggested.

Thursday / July 27th / 8:00pm

END OF MONTH SOCIAL - TGSF PIZZA PARTY!

I told you girls that it would be a 'wild ride with 'The Diva ' as your cruise director! And your quarter's worth is not yet used up, because 'the ride' continues! Join us as we do something a bit different in a change of venue from our usual EOM haunt. This time we will be meeting at 'Diva's (no not my house!) for a pizza party! Don't forget to bring your lipstick, girls for a touch up after you're finished eating! Diva's is a wonderful place located at 1081 Post, between Polk & Larkin. There is a fabulous lounge area, bar and pool table on the 4th floor. This is where we will be. If you haven't been, then this is a must see! If you have been, then I know you'll be there! This area has been provided for TGSF by the 33rd Empress of the Imperial Court of San Francisco, the marvelous Miss Alexis Miranda! Thank you, Alexis! See you there girls!

Happy 4th of July!

July's Birthdays...

07/00	Ellen Elaine Pierce	07/17	Joanne Wilson
07/00	Jasmine	07/17	Juliette Holiday
07/04	Gail Owens	07/17	Ms Bob
07/08	Jessica Ames	07/18	Carmen Gomez
07/08	LeChara Johnson	07/19	Michelle Cole
07/09	Ayme Kantz	07/21	Jennifer Hope
07/09	Leslie Ann Bailey	07/23	Marianne Tai
07/09	Teri Pack	07/24	Gi Gi
07/10	Lorraine Hall	07/24	Kelli Wellington
07/11	Danielle Murphy	07/24	Nicole Harris
07/12	Becky Benton	07/25	Dan Venolia
07/13	Nepenthe Kepner	07/25	Michelle Hofmann
07/15	Chamelle Metzger	07/27	CJ Wick
07/16	Lauren White	07/28	Donna Stickley
07/16	Marie Kochaver	07/29	Kelly Love

07/31 Erin Souza

Many Happy Returns of the Day!

Contact TGSF:

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 or tgsfeditor@yahoo.com

**TGSF Donations - Our Friends Who Give
as of June 15, 2000**

Valerie Cross \$20
Jennifer Hope \$70

Bless you and thank you for caring!

Calendar of Events - July 2000

OTHER GROUPS

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Pacific Center for Human Growth

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

Rainbow Gender Association (RGA)

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

Sacramento Gender Association (SGA)

Blue Rose Chapter meets 8:00pm the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month in Sacramento. Write PO Box 162907, Sacramento, CA 95816 or call 916-364-7212 for meeting locations. Website: www.sga-tg.org; email: www.sga.com.

Diablo Valley Girls (DVG)

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

DVG Rap Group (RCC)

Meets 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month, 7:00pm at Rainbow Community Center, 2118 Willow Pass Road, Suite 500 in Concord. 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

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, Bi-sexual, 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.

Santa Cruz Trans (SCT)

Bi-weekly social/support group for gender-gifted persons serving Santa Cruz and Central Coast. 1st and 3rd Thursdays every month at The Diversity Center, 1328 Commerce Lane, Santa Cruz, CA 95060; (831) 425-5422; 7:00pm

The Mid Peninsula Transgender Group (MPTG)

A support group for the LGBT community that meets at 7:30 pm on the first Wednesday of each month at the Women's Health Boutique, 1115 South B Street, San Mateo. For more information, call (408) 619-2908.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 8:00 PM DVG	4	5 7:30 PM MPTG	6 7:00 PM DVG (RCC) 7:00 PM SCT	7 8:00 PM PacCir: Rap 8:00 PM RGA	8 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA 8:00 PM TGSF: Mid-Month Social
9 4:00 PM TGSF: ExCom Meeting	10	11	12 7:00 PM TransBay	13	14 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCir: Rap 8:00 PM TGSF: Game Night!	15
16	17 8:00 PM DVG	18	19	20 7:00 PM DVG (RCC) 7:00 PM SCT	21 8:00 PM PacCir: Rap 8:00 PM RGA	22 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
23	24	25	26	27 8:00 PM TGSF: End Of Month Social	28 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCir: Rap	29
30	31					

TGSF MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership is for twelve months following payment of annual dues.

Please Print / Check all that apply:

New Member Renewal Member # _____ with Family Member

Member Birthdate (Month/Date): _____ / _____ Family Member Birthdate (Month/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 or Money order for:

- \$30.00 Full Year Membership
 \$40.00 Full Year Family Membership
(Note only one copy of the Channel will be sent to this address).

Send Check or Money Order to
TGSF
PO Box 426486
San Francisco, CA
94142-6486

Our Readers Respond

ALOHA TGSF GIRLS!

By now most of you know that I, Miss TGSF 2000, had moved to help out my boyfriend's sister in a time of need. It was difficult to leave just when I felt like I was getting to know each of you on an individual basis. However as most of us have found out many more times than your average mall shopper, "Life is an adventure of Trials & Errors".

Even though this adventure had brought me to Hawaii, far away from friends and what was beginning to feel like a kindred family spirit, I quickly got involved with the community in beautiful Kauai. I was asked to play at the Hyatt Resort, and booked a concert at the Kauai International Theatre, found a Latino promoter who wanted to act as my manager and agent and get me deal with Atlantic Records and even found employment at a local radio station as a on-air DJ.

However it wasn't long before I began to experience some prejudice and resentment amongst the locals in Kauai for being Transsexual. Suddenly my boyfriend, John and I realized how much we missed San Francisco. With John's sisters life back in order we no longer had any reason to really stay in Kauai. As beautiful as Kauai is, we agreed life in the bay area is home!

I spoke with Lesley and we are moving back and arriving sometime in the middle of July. I regret I could not be there to help celebrate our diversity as a community for the Pride Parade but I am wholeheartedly looking forward to volunteering and offering any support to any future upcoming TGSF events.

I sincerely hope this letter reaches all of you in good health and spirit, and as soon as we are able everyone will be invited for a CD release party! So pick out your favorite Latin cocktail dress and get ready to eat some awesome enchilada's and maybe do a little salsa dancing this summer! Love and miss you all, Hugs n Kisses Michelle and John.

By Michelle Garcia
misstgsf2000@earthlink.net

Ends July 31st!

DORIS FISH EXHIBIT & OPENING

GLBT Historical Society of Northern California presents "PORTRAITS IN DRAG: The Art of Doris Fish" at the GLBT Historical Society, June 15 - July 31, 2000 at 973 Market Street, Suite 400, San Francisco.

The exhibit includes work from various stages of Doris' life as drag queen/personality and ranges from hand painted flyers to major works in oil pastel. Choosing her fellow drag queens as her primary subjects, she also created stunning self-portraits that reveal her sympathetic nature and sense of humor.

Please contact (415) 777-5455 or <GLHSNC@aol.com> for more info and viewing times.

Significant Other Support - East Bay

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

YOUR CHIEF SERVANT

First let me say thank you to those of you who voted for me. It is my sincere wish to live up to the challenge you have put before me. For those of you who did not vote for me, I would like to thank you for participating in the election process. I would also like to ask you not to let your selection process stop with the election. If you disagree with something I said in my candidacy statement, let me know about it. This is your organization and the Executive Committee can only do what you want if we know what you want.

The reason I chose to run for President is simple. When I was coming out someone was in this position (President of TGSF) and their being in this position (and their predecessors being in this position) is what made it possible for me to come out and experience the most fantastic part of my life. Now it is my turn to make sure someone is there for the people who will come out this year and in the following years. I see this position as one of service. In effect I have become your Chief Servant.

In the first Executive Committee meeting of the new term quite a number of items were discussed and a number of plans were initiated. For the first time since the concept of Standing Rules were created we have a full set of Standing Rules to go with our Bylaws. The TGSF library has been moved to a location where it is more accessible, and as I am writing this article more than half of the library has been shelved and placed in order in the new location. Six new programs have been introduced that would increase the amount of work we do for the Transgendered community.

In the midst of all this activity we are about to produce the year 2000 Really Big Shew and our entry into the San Francisco LBGT Pride parade, and the Executive Committee (and some other volunteers) are making it all move along smoothly. Jamie Fenton has taken over the task of producing the Really Big Shew, and Aiyana Eveningstar is driving the effort on our pride parade float. Their efforts and the efforts of our other volunteers is part of what makes this organization a great place to be.

I really feel good about the way the year has begun and I looking forward to a great year for TGSF.

By Nicole Cook

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.

Special Events!

July 16, 2000 / 1-6pm

SUMMER PARTY TIME PICNIC FOR T'S!

It's time to have some fun in the sun and fresh air with a summer picnic and barbecue! The date is July 16, starting at 1 PM and the place is Stevens Creek Park. We have reserved one of the large group sites. Hot dogs, hamburgers and chicken will be provided. Please bring your own drinks (BYOB) and a picnic side dish to share-from potato chips to yummy salads to non-melting deserts. If you want to put something fancier on the grill, bring that, too.

Our picnic site is in the beautiful Stevens Creek Canyon area between Saratoga and Cupertino. We have the site all to ourselves, and it is fairly separate from other areas (there is only one other area anywhere nearby). Parking is right there (there may be a \$4 charge per vehicle, but there was no sign of it last week. If that is a problem, try entering the park from Mt. Eden Road in Saratoga-the site is near that entrance). We have a "pavilion" to sit under with picnic tables, space to play, a volleyball court (someone please volunteer to bring a net and ball), hiking trails, a good size barbecue pit, and best of all, our own bathrooms (flush) (we may have to share them with one other group). There is the creek across the road, and although we are not supposed to, we can wade in it if there is any water there in a month. Bring plenty of sunscreen and a hat!

Suggested donation is \$8 per person at the picnic to cover the cost of the barbecue, charcoal and site rental. Any leftover donations will be held over to reduce the cost of the next big party.

Given that we may have as many as 75 people at the site, we'll need volunteers to help with the grill and other serving, clean up, etc., and we should probably have an informal security group set up. If you are willing to help with any of these, let me know.

Although there are no reservations, coming at the last minute is fine-but please RSVP to Jenny Wolcott so we can keep a count to guide buying food at jwolcott@eldil.com, or 408-323-5366. Carla will also keep a sign-up sheet.

See you all there!

By Jennifer Wolcott
jwolcott@eldil.com or 408-323-5366

New Lighthouse Community Center

TG SUPPORT GROUP IN HAYWARD OPENS THIS MONTH!

We will be opening the Lighthouse on July 8 from 12pm-5pm. Our first transgender support group is July 19 at 7pm, and every third Wed. of each month. You're most welcome to come. Our address is: The Lighthouse Community Center, 1217 A Street, Hayward, CA 94541. (510) 881-8167 or (510) 881-8173

You can also send us (or bring them if you come) flyers of your organization. If you send them, put ATTN: Mike Lopez- resource table. We will also have a booth at the SF Pride Festival. Hope to see you soon maybe!

Mike Lopez

WOMEN'S EVENTS AT PACIFIC CENTER

Here's a list of all the fabulous women's events happening with Pacific Center in July. Join us and bring your friends! So mark your calendars. Directions to Pacific Center at the bottom of this email. Pacific Center is a lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community center in Berkeley. 2712 Telegraph Ave. (at Derby) 510-548-8283 info@pacificcenter.org or www.pacificcenter.org

Saturday, July 1 7:30-10:00pm

WOMEN'S MOVIE NIGHT

How can you go wrong on a Saturday night with lots of women, a lesbian flick and all the popcorn & sodas you can eat! Bring your friends! If you have a suggestion for a movie that you want to see - let us know :-)

Tuesday, July 18 8:00-9:30pm

WOMEN'S POTLUCK.

Bring a dish to share for this casual potluck. It's a great chance to meet new women in a relaxed, safe and sober space.

Saturday, July 29 12noon - 3pm

WOMEN'S BBQ

Place to be determined, contact Amy for more info at 510-548-8283 or amy@pacificcenter.org. It's a lazy summer BBQ with volleyball, frisbee and tons of free food!

Amy Wooldridge
Program Director, Pacific Center
amy@pacificcenter.org

TRANSCENDING TRANSGENDER SUPPORT GROUP

Sponsored by
City of Refuge UCC Outreach Ministries

Facilitators: Janetta Johnson and Portia Denard; Where: City of Refuge, United Church of Christ, 1025 Howard Street, San Francisco CA 94103, (415) 861-6130. When: Every Friday, 6 pm to 7:30 pm. Food and snacks will be provided.

Barbara F. Anderson

Ph.D., L.C.S.W.

Clinical Sexologist
Certified Sex Therapist

1537 Franklin St., Suite 104
San Francisco, CA 94109

Ph (415) 776-0139
Fax (415) 441-0936

May 30, 2000

TGSF BALANCE SHEET

Assets

Cash	\$7,919.69
Event Equipment	
Decorations	\$1,000.00
Food Service	\$200.00
Office Supplies	\$50.00
Computers	\$100.00
Total Assests	\$9,269.69

Liabilities

Accounts Payable (Cotillion Expense)	\$1,000.00
Taxes	\$0.00
Insurance	\$0.00
Utilities	\$0.00
Total Liabilities	\$1,000.00
Equity	\$8,269.69
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$9,269.69

Income Statement

Revenue

Membership	\$710.00
Cotillion	\$0.00
Advertising	\$0.00
Donations	\$200.00
Social	\$0.00
Education	\$125.00
Outreach	\$0.00
Total Revenue	\$1,035.00

Expenses

Cotillion	\$596.00
Newsletter	\$565.63
Halloween Party	\$0.00
Pride Parade	\$0.00
Big Shew	\$0.00
Social	\$40.00
Education	\$0.00
Outreach	\$0.00
Operations	\$298.64
Total Expenses	\$1,500.27

Net Income (\$465.27)

Forming New, Important Committee!

BYLAWS CHANGE COMMITTEE

By Nicole Cook

Some of you may be aware that I had some problems with the way the Special Election was handled. An Executive Committee member proposed the changes, three Executive Committee members organized the election. This goes against my belief that the Executive Committee is there to serve the membership.

I have a number of new changes to propose, but I want you the membership to be a part of the process. At the last Executive Committee, we approved the formation of a Bylaws Change Committee. I proposed that it contain at least two executive committee members and at least three but up to seven of our members to review and recommend the next set of changes.

You are being invited to join this group. While a few meetings may be necessary, much of the work can be done at home or by email. Here is a chance for you to participate in the operations of our organization even if you have a hectic schedule.

If you want to be a part of the Bylaws Change Committee, contact the Secretary (Debbie Cook) at (707) 824-0860 or moodydeb@yahoo.com and let her know. We would like to hold an initial meeting sometime in July, so act now. Remember, this is your organization and the more you participate, the more it will reflect your vision of the future.

EXPANDED HOTLINE HOURS!

Hotline hours have been expanded to include 10pm to 2am. While this may seem a bit late for some of you, it is a great time for those of you that wait until the kids or other family members are asleep to address your transgendered correspondence. Telzey still answers the phone live from 7pm to 10pm. And now Debbie and Nicole answer the phone live from 10pm to 2am.

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.



Incoming President Nicole, with Outgoing President, Leslie

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Continued from Page 2

Training & Community Relations, (3) Law Enforcement and Hate Violence, (4) Housing, Public Accommodation and Social Services, (5) Health and Medical, (6) Charter and Standing Rules.

It seemed like just a few days later (June 3rd) we were in Reno for the Reno Court Coronation. We did not have the cash to stay overnight, so we drove up and got ourselves invited into Liz and Mary's room to change. This Coronation was much like many of the other Coronations we had been to. We were able to walk in the first Act, which gave us some time to explore before we had to drive back. The Coronation was held at the Reno Hilton, this offered plenty of opportunities for the people visiting Reno to get some TG exposure. These opportunities did not go unused. Before we left Debbie and I went out into the casino to see what our luck was like. We were noticed by several people, about like you would expect a 6'7" (in heels) girl to be noticed in a formal gown, wearing a tiara and "Miss SGA 2000" sash. But when Debbie and I started holding hands, I think we caught the attention of half the guys in the casino.

From this point on it might look like we were at an event every day. That's because we were at an event almost every day. Like I said at the beginning of the article, from a scheduling standpoint it became "Hard & Rough". So in the background you should be hearing "rolling, rolling, rolling on the river..."

On June 8th the first meeting of the TG Task Force Employment sub-committee was held. Four of our members were present Marcia, Lynnea, Tianna and I were among the nine members of the committee. This committee will be working on making it easier for members of the Transgendered community to find and retain jobs, development of instructional material for employers for TG employees and providing notification to employers on the non-discrimination policies in San Francisco with regards to the Transgendered community. We are currently in the process of defining specific deliverables and a timetable for their completion.

There were only about 16-18 people at the June 10th SGA Social. Most of the girls joined us for dinner. Probably the best news from the meeting was Janet's return. Janet was wearing a stylish "Suit of armor", she looked like she had just come from the opera :-). It was not a big meeting, several of our members were at a coronation up North.

Now I usually don't cover these, but the June 11th TGSF Executive Committee Meeting was quite uplifting. Even though the meeting went close to four hours. We were able to get a lot done and there was quite a bit of positive energy in the room.

A few days earlier we had picked up half the TGSF library from Jo Ann & Geri Handa's. We spent most of the day on the 12th dividing the boxes, taking inventory of the library and making sure everything had a label. On June 13th we loaded up 7 boxes of library books and headed for the new library location at Carla's. All the books were placed on shelves at Carla's based on the indexing system already set up on the books. It was warm but the books are there now. On our way back we stopped at Jo Ann & Geri's again to get the other half of the boxes.

It had been blazing hot for two days so on June 15th I put on an exercise outfit (cotton lycra shorts & a jog bra) and we headed for our really cool float building spot at Pier 15. It was of course very cool, it was a good thing I brought a change of clothes. We were already in the city for a Community Center Program Com-

mittee meeting, so at about 8pm we headed for the pier. For the next 5 hours we worked on building one of the back corners of the float. I was amazed that it took that long. Finally at about 1:30am we headed for home. I told Debbie, that I would show her a side of the San Francisco nightlife she had never seen before :-)

The June 16th TGSF Mid Month at Jezebel's was also quite interesting. Jezebel's has three levels and takes up two of the typical long narrow buildings most city bars are built in. I saw at least 12 people there, but more were showing up as we left. The main floor has two pool tables and a bar, and was playing music in the loud range (even for me). The lower room had a sofa set up, and we were able to go down there and talk. It looked like the top room was being set up for an art exhibit. We met the manager and he was quite nice. If it were up to me I would have another mid month here in the future.

The reason we left early from the Mid Month was so we could be at the Sacramento Freedom Festival the next day (June 17th). We arrived at noon and wo-manned the SGA booth until the Festival ended at 6pm. There was entertainment for most of the day, and while we could not see the stage we could hear the music. We were running a raffle at the booth and so we were trying to pull in passers by to get them interested in our prizes. We covered most of the appropriate ends of the wardrobe spectrum. Liz was wearing one of her "Woman about town" outfits, and pulling in a number of perspective rafflers. I was wearing a fluorescent yellow bikini top and pink shorts (I was wearing the bikini bottoms too, but I thought that a thong might be a bit much so I left the shorts on). Krystal popped in from time to time giving the booth a regal effect. Trina was there in the morning, and Julie Ann was in the booth with us for most of the day.

On June 18th we were back at Pier 15 to build the other back corner of the TGSF Float. This time Aiyana and Misha joined us. By the time we left, both back corners of the float, the DJ booth and several chairs were done. The next time we arrive at the float building the truck should be there and we start turning it into the TGSF "Club Freedom" space ship.

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THE SPECIAL ELECTION

By Nicole Cook

I suspect some of you have read through the minutes and have seen the discussion on the Special Election in there and are saying "What's up with that? That happened months ago", so I thought I would do an article to fill you in.

One of the first duties of the Secretary is to provide the Executive Committee with a copy of the Bylaws and Standing Rules so the Executive Committee knows how to perform their duties. It sounds simple, however, we realized that the Bylaws were never revised after the special election and the last copy of the Bylaws the old Executive Committee had were the pre-Special Election Bylaws. Hence, the new Secretary was faced with the job of incorporating the Special Election changes into the Bylaws.

The first thing the new Secretary realized is that the old Executive Committee never received a copy of the changes after the election. Each of us received a copy as part of the election but we voted and sent the ballot back in. Thus, we had to go to the last pre-election proposal and use it as a basis of what was in the special election. In addition, the new Secretary has a fiduciary duty to the membership per the Bylaws. In this instance that means she must perform due diligence in the roll in process (make sure there were no omissions, inaccuracies or misrepresentations etc.).

As you recall there were five issues on the special election ballot. The first two, which had been a subject of an earlier vote were straightforward and were incorporated into the Bylaws. The third item, the elimination of the membership year, was a bit more complicated. The third item would eliminate the concept of "the membership year", however section IV.D.1 of our Bylaws (voting eligibility) makes reference to "the membership year" and was not modified by the special election. If we were to implement the third item as is, it would result in an unworkable version of the Bylaws. As a result we cannot implement the third item until the revision has been made and voted on. Unfortunately, the discussion on the third item does not stop there. After receiving the database, the Secretary and I reviewed the work necessary to support the change in how we collect dues, and we have concluded that it is unimplementable. We have put over forty hours of work into the membership database (in a two week period), and have determined that it is approximately twelve times more difficult to maintain the membership database using the approach indicated by the third item in the special election.



*A TGSF Veteran
Caught at the May
Social*

NEW LIBRARY LOCATION

By Nicole Cook

I am sure some of you have been thinking that you would like to be able to go somewhere and leisurely browse through the TGSF library on the day of your choice. Well now you can. As of June 13th the TGSF library has been moved to Carla's Salon & Boutique, 128 Race Street, San Jose, CA. Carla has graciously agreed to host the library. Anyone can read the books while they are there. Anyone with a TGSF, DVG, RGA, or SGA membership card can check books out (there will be a refundable deposit required).

About half of the library was put on shelves in Carla's on June 13th. We expect the remainder to be there by the end of the month. The library includes just about every well-known book with a transgender topic, a series of photo albums, newspaper article scrapbooks, and video's. Right now we are just set up to check out the books.

If you would like to find out when Carla's is open you can call her at (408) 298-6900 or visit her web site at www.carlas.com.

If you recall, I said I was "on the fence" with the third item in my review of the issues prior to the election. However, at that time I had no idea of what additional work the Secretary would have to do in order to implement the proposal. The need to manually sort the newsletters every month to support year round renewal notices, by itself makes the proposal unrealistic for a volunteer team. You will see in another article that I have begun the effort to form a Bylaws Change Committee. This issue will be sent to that committee along with the new Secretary's and my concerns. In the mean time, we are using the same "Membership Year" system that we have always used. Since memberships were taken beginning in February based on the Special Election results (even though the changes had not been made to the Bylaws yet), we had to make some adjustments. In short, anyone who joined in February, March or April will get one, two or three free months (respectively) of membership. This syncs us back up to a May 1st to April 30th membership year.

The last two issues will also be delayed and turned over to the Bylaws Change Committee. As it turns out, one or more of the statements made in the material that went out with the election materials was false. One of the statements in question indicated that the California Corporations Code required all organizations like ours to have a person with a title of "Chief Financial Officer". This statement is false. There is no such requirement. Since the statements in question were likely to be primary factors in the decision making process for these topics, the right thing to do would be to provide the membership with the correct information. The Executive Committee does not want to be in the position where it looks like we "pulled one over" on the membership. The changing of titles to more formal titles like CEO, CFO, and making all Executive Committee members Directors (all of which were approved in the special election), carries with it some implications as to what these people can do. These implications were never disclosed as part of the election process.

Well that about covers it. You now have the low down on the Special Election topics. If you feel strongly about what should happen, you are invited to become part of the Bylaws change committee.

ExCom Meeting Minutes...

Continued from Page 5

checks signed. The Treasurer and President will have the authority to change the account. The Treasurer, Secretary, President and Vice President will have signature authority.

Nicole makes a motion to fill out the signature card as stated and also that the Secretary has the authority to go to the bank on Tuesday to get this in place. We will contact Deborah on Tuesday. If for any reason she cannot get to the bank, Secretary Debbie will go in and take care of it. Aiyana seconds. Motion passes 7-0

Accessibility of Treasurer during pride month - the Treasurer cannot make herself scarce during this month. She is the primary conduit for getting repaid. We have 2 major events going on that will require money. If she needs to go out of town, and we can get the bank cards set up, then the Secretary can step in for her. We don't need to put the ExCom in the position like Dray was in several years ago. She used a lot of money from her personal account and it took a while to get her paid back.

The Sacramento Ducal Ball is coming up in July. Secretary Debbie would like to propose placing a half page ad in their ducal program and will cost approximately \$50. Debbie asks for an OK from everyone.

Stephanie Ann inquired about a final total for the Cotillion. We do not have a total yet due to not having the back records. There is still a \$1,000 account payable that Janis has mentioned is there and until it can be identified, will remain an account payable.

Social Chair: The Big Shew - Jaime called her status into Nicole. Nicole has been talking with Alexis Miranda about the new venue. Essentially, we are at Diva's 3rd floor. They are guaranteed \$140 for their expenses. They are supplying their sound person and someone working the bar. It is a bigger venue and there is a dressing room. There will likely be a rehearsal on the 19th before the event at 7 p.m.

Game night used to be handled by Nancy Anne. Candy Love has asked to hold game night at her home in Bay Point on the second Friday of the month. This is really great !! It will be listed in the newsletter next month.

The July Mid-Month has not yet been determined exactly, but Tianna has thought about the Thirsty Bear. Aiyana has a venue that may work for the mid-month. She will give Tianna the information she needs to check it out.

The July End-of-Month can be held at the 4th floor of Diva's. There is a big screen TV, a pool table and a VCR to play videos. Tina's only issue with that is that there might be a few members who aren't comfortable with getting out to a place like Diva's.

Tianna mentioned that she attended the Gay Asian Pacific Alliance banquet with Kalani in Japantown. Tianna had an opportunity to speak with many people there. They gave TGFSF a big plug and had Tianna stand as Miss TGFSF and speak. She gave a big plug for our Big Shew and invited everyone to come and participate.

Outreach Chair 1: New Flyers for Outreach Events - Nicole wondered if Telzey had updated flyers for the Pride Parade booth. Telzey has some and will make extra copies to pass out. Nicole has some flyers that she will be updating but not before the parade.

Pride Parade Booth - all materials for getting into the booth area were received from Aiyana. Telzey has a banner, but some have mentioned that it can't be seen very well.

Help Line Update - It would be a nice idea to publish when the helpline is staffed in the newsletter so that people who are waiting for their kids to go to sleep can call and get someone from 10:00pm - 2:00am. There are not many calls that come in. It would be nice to have a couple ExCom members on the hotline.

Outreach Chair 2: Speaking Engagements this term are unknown at this time. In the future, Kalani should know what they are. Also it would be a great idea to know how many speakers are participating this term and how many venues are asking for speakers this term.

A speaker orientation class should be held. The last one held was during Sandra's term about 2 years ago. It is suggested that we do one of these in conjunction with an Education seminar. Maybe August would be a good time to do this.

Piggyback of the Sacramento Gender Association Outreach Program on our Programs - SGA had an outreach program before and it has been suggested to them that they start back up again and piggyback on our established program.

Education: Stephanie Ann admits that holding Sister events would be a great idea. She will be taking information from the Pacific Center's phone room of the other organizations in the area.

A thought for a planned education event is one on Self defense. It was determined that would be a good idea. Aiyana asked about a makeup seminar.

Tianna mentions an idea of a seminar about how to dress properly for different events. An overall makeup and dress. Maybe 2 or 3 people could do something like this.

Adjournment: At 7:45 p.m., Nicole made a motion to end the meeting, Social Co-Chair Tianna seconded the motion, and the motion was passed.

Next ExCom Meeting is on Sunday, July 9th, at 3:30 p.m. at the Pacific Center in Berkeley.

Luanna L. Rodgers, MA, MFCC

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REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE -

TRANSGENDER FINGER LENGTH RESEARCH PROJECT

Men and women have different finger length patterns. While overall finger length relates to one's postnatal hormonal environment, the relative lengths of the index and ring fingers is determined by one's exposure to testosterone during fetal development. Researchers have long thought that sexual orientation and gender identity relate to prenatal testosterone exposure.

Recently, Terrance Williams et al. (Breedlove lab, UC Berkeley) published their findings that lesbian women have male-like finger length ratios, suggesting lesbianism is associated with prenatal testosterone exposure. While the data were too weak to be conclusive regarding gay men, they showed evidence that each successive male birth is associated with higher prenatal testosterone exposure. It is now well known that male homosexuality occurs more frequently in men with two or more older brothers born to the same mother. The Williams et al. (2000) findings are good evidence, at least for lesbianism, that sexual orientation is biologically determined during fetal development. Their paper was considered quite important and was published in one of the oldest and most prestigious scientific publications, *Nature*.

Williams et al. (2000) did not look at the finger lengths of transgendered individuals in their study, for lack of access to the transgender community. Dr. Sarah Fox, a neurobiologist and transsexual woman, is conducting a similar study to determine whether there is evidence of prenatal testosterone exposure in female-to-male transsexuals and of a prenatal testosterone deficit in male-to-female transsexuals. These findings would be largely consistent with prevailing theory but would be the first experimental evidence of any prenatal biological factor underlying transsexualism.

Because the finger length differences are small and subtle, large numbers of subjects are needed in order to tease out population differences. Based on the Williams et al. findings, Dr. Fox estimates that she will need data from approximately 120 male-to-female and 120 female-to-male transsexuals. She therefore needs the help of transgender leaders throughout the country. She has already been promised access to Dr. Marc Breedlove's control data from nontransgendered, heterosexual men and women.

If you are associated with any transsexual group, Dr. Fox invites your participation in her study. She has set up the following web page with instructions as to how small groups can participate: <http://www.iwaynet.net/~sarahfox/finger1.htm>. Participants will need to fill out a short questionnaire and have their hands photocopied. Dr. Fox will then take measurements from the photocopies.

The success of this project depends on the willingness of transsexuals to participate in the study. All individual information will be kept confidential, as per the ethical guidelines established by the American Psychological Association. Results will be published in a peer-reviewed scientific publication such as *Nature*.

Although Dr. Fox has not yet been able to collect much data, her data appear promising, exhibiting the expected trends. In fact she reports one finding that already indicates a biological factor of unknown causational relation to transsexualism.

FAQs:

Can I participate in this study if I am not part of a group of transsexuals?

No. Dr. Fox is concerned that data accepted from individuals

may not be reliable. Her fear is that some transsexual women and men may try to "help" her study by sending in photocopies of genetic female and genetic male hands, respectively. Collection of data in group settings will establish some level of accountability.

Is Dr. Fox also collecting data on crossdressers and other transgender groups?

No, not currently. There are very good theoretical reasons to suspect biological factors underlying transsexualism; however, there is considerably less reason to suspect similar biological determinants for crossdressing. For this reason, Dr. Fox's initial efforts will focus on transsexualism. If the study is later expanded to crossdressers, Dr. Fox will collect those data herself at one of the national conferences.

Why is it important for Dr. Fox to do this study?

Establishment of a biological basis for transsexualism is important for the transgender civil rights movement. Why? It is important for us to show that transsexualism (and hopefully by inference, transgenderism) is immutable and is not a choice we make to follow some "alternative lifestyle." The importance of this concept is quite evident from a quote by Assemblyman Keeley, Speaker pro-tempore of the California Assembly, with regard to a bill currently in the California legislature that would add gender expression to the state's antidiscrimination laws:

"I'm carrying 2142 because I believe that when decisions are made about employment and housing, they should be decisions that are not based on discrimination; they are not based on immutable characteristics that a person has, which is to say whether they are a man or woman, African-American or Asian American, young or old. We've made a decision in this country that we will not discriminate based on these immutable characteristics."

The most immediate impact of a strong scientific defense of biological determinism would be to nullify a clause in the Americans with Disabilities Act, which excludes transgenderism not of a biological cause. The more significant and longer-range impact would be to nullify the "choice" argument that is so commonly wielded against us, thus opening doors for us, putting us on the same conceptual plane as racial minorities.

How can I contact Dr. Fox with other questions?

Her email address is sarah@gendernet.org

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Obituary

LEE BREWSTER

New York Times

New York – Lee G. Brewster, whose Greenwich Village boutique became a bazaar for transvestites from the city's Avenue A to faraway Abu Dhabi, died last Friday in Manhattan, where he lived. He was 57. The cause was cancer, said Antoinette Scapinato, a friend and employee.

Mr. Brewster's 5,000-square foot store in a loft at 400 West 14th St., Lee's Mardi Gras Boutique, sells size 30 dresses and size 15 studded platform shoes.

"Lee's will turn you into the girl you've always wanted to be," New York magazine said in an article last year.

Mr. Brewster sold racks of corsets, satin gloves and fishnet tights, but he was as interested in making a point as in making a profit. For years, he staged elaborate parties for cross-dressers. In the early '70's, he financed a successful legal challenge to overturn a New York City ordinance that allowed people to be removed from public places for being gay.

Even in the years when many gays condemned public cross dressing as unnecessarily provocative, Mr. Brewster urged men who felt like wearing feather boas to wear them.

"I need to get their attention so they listen to me," Mr. Brewster said once, referring to the public. "I need to let them know that I'm there."

Mr. Brewster made his own statement in white stiletto heels, form-fitting gowns, a silver-sequined maxi coat and lush false eyelashes. But he preferred to be addressed in the manner of old-time drag performers, rather than using the female names now used by many transvestites.

On Oct. 31, 1969, Mr. Brewster announced at one of his parties that he would start his clothing business, which he described as the first devoted to cross-dressers. Mr. Brewster's shop prospered before movies like "Mrs. Doubtfire" and "La Cage aux Folles" seemed to make drag almost mainstream, and opening it was a bold step in 1969.

At first Mr. Brewster filled only mail orders, but soon so many people were knocking on the door of his Hell's Kitchen apartment that he opened a store around the corner. Some customers, including Lady Bunny, the founder of Wigstock, the cross-dressing festival held every Labor Day in Greenwich Village – as well as the costume designers for "Tootsie," "The Birdcage," and "To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything, Julie Newmar" – do not mind being seen in the store. But others are touchier.

"Half of my clients are respectable-looking businessmen," Mr. Brewster once told The Village Voice.

Mr. Brewster also founded a civil rights organization called the Queens Liberation Army, and in the 1970's and '80's published Drag Magazine.

Mr. Brewster helped persuade the New York City Department of Consumer Affairs to remove the term "homosexual" from the list of people who could be removed from any public place. Though it was seldom enforced, he felt the regulation gave police the legal authority to harass gays.

Mr. Brewster is survived by his sister, June, and two brothers, James and Ted, all of whom live in the Baltimore area, and another brother, Sam, who lives in Dayton, Ohio.

"For want of a better phrase," Scapinato said, "he was really the mother to us all."

In Review

EDDIE IZZARD IN CIRCLE

by Janis Ryan

British comedian Eddie Izzard is currently touring Canada and the United States with his stand-up comedy act *Circle*. He describes himself as a "male tomboy" or "male lesbian" who "fancies women."

In radio interviews to Terry Gross on *Fresh Air*, and Sedge Thomson on *West Coast Live*, he freely answered questions about his life. He described his need to dress in women's clothing, how he remained "in the closet" for many years, and how he gradually came out to his family and friends. He believes that men should have the same clothing rights as women.

In being "out" as a crossdresser Izzard is different from some other well-known performers who feature a female persona in their acts. South African Pieter-Dirk Uys used the character of Evita Bezuidenhout, a middle-aged white Afrikaner, to comment on apartheid as well as post-apartheid era there. Australian Barry Humphries portrays Dame Edna Everage, an outrageous lady whose goal is to recruit all of us as "possums" in her empire. But each of them describes himself as an actor playing a role, not as a crossdresser.

For his interview on *West Coast Live* he was wearing what was described as a "cat burglar" outfit—a long-sleeved black tee shirt and black pants. But Izzard replied that his high-heel shoes would impair his job as a burglar! His sunglasses were pushed up on his head, Hollywood style, and his long fingernails were painted with silver nail polish.

I was able to see *Circle* at the Curran Theater in San Francisco. In the show was wearing makeup, and had his hair spiked somewhat. He wore on a short black jacket with white trim, and black pants with shiny black stripes on the side, and feminine boots with what appeared to be 6-inch heels.

What was remarkable is that even while wearing heels he energetically ranges over the entire stage. His wide-ranging topics included Charleton Heston and the NRA, the IRA and Northern Ireland loyalist groups, Pope Paul II, mad cows and monkeys, dolphins and seals, Aristotle and Venn diagrams. Also discussed were WW II movies and *Private Ryan*, Jesus coming to earth in the age of the dinosaurs, and the cannibalistic nature of the Last Supper. In a brief encore he portrayed Darth Vader in the Canteen on the Death Star. Somehow these disparate pieces fit together for an entertaining show.

His shows have been playing to sellout audiences, which travels to Los Angeles and New York. According to his web site, "this tour marks the first time IZZARD has performed in such cities as Boston, Chicago and Philadelphia, proving his comedic genius translates beyond the cosmopolitan audiences of New York, San Francisco and Los Angeles."

He feels that the transgender community needs to "get its act together" in order to attain recognition. I believe that his openness is helping us gain that recognition in the wider community.



Janis is caught at the Social too!

Phyllabuster - A Good Friend Makes the Break on the Job

MY LIFE

by **Brenda Thomas, Houston**
brenda@brendat.com

As many of you know I am very active in the HIV arena in Houston and sit on three different boards for HIV services (as Brenda) plus volunteer at Bering Spiritual Support Group as a facilitator. About three weeks ago there was an announcement that Bering United Methodist Church as looking for a part time person to do data-entry. Well having been unemployed since March, I decided I would let them know that I was interested in the position. Well when the phone call came to come for an interview it happened to be a day when Brenda was attending a meeting - so I went to Bering and made my application. Two days later I was called to come in and take a computer test (so to speak), again I went as Brenda due to my meeting schedule. The next day the call came wanting to know if I was interested in the position, because if I was, they were interested in me and the job was mine.

So, since the last couple of weeks of May, I have been working for Bering Memorial United Methodist Church as the Business Assistant as Brenda. I can tell you this, it is like no place I have ever worked before. Quiet, peaceful, everyone gets along and everyone is extremely helpful to each other. People actually say good morning to you and show appreciation for the work that you do. Last Friday they asked my to come in for a few minutes on my day off and I said OK, it was for a birthday celebration for Marilyn (the pastor) and myself - what a treat. Today, when Les came in he brought me my desk nameplate (another surprise).

So what am I trying to say. Working as a female is a totally new experience to dressing on occasion. There is the wardrobe thing (can't wear the same things to work that I wear to the Palm Beach Club), so it was some minor expense to acquire some new clothes (appropriate to wear to work in a church on a daily basis) like I really needed an excuse to buy more clothes - RIGHT. It also take a little longer getting ready to go to work each day, what with hair and make up on a daily basis. Would I change it - NEVER.

The love, acceptance and encouragement that I have received at Bering has been unparalleled. I am proud to say that I work there and proud to count the people there as my friends. Being the business assistant I have to deal with many people on a daily basis - from church members, to suppliers, to contractors, volunteers, etc. I have not yet had a negative experience with anyone whom I have dealt with - another delight.

A few days ago Troy forwarded me an e-mail from Lynn Johnson who was coordinating the Pride Service at Bering and he was wondering if Troy new of a transgendered person who could participate in the service. So naturally I volunteered. The service was Sunday night the 11th. It was one of the most moving experiences in my life. The love, compassion and acceptance that was felt in the church Sunday was unbelievable. Total strangers walked up to say thank you and introduce them selves. All during the ceremony there was reference to gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgendered and NEVER ONCE was transgendered or bisexual left out. Every speaker, every minister stated gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered. I was just disappointed that more people from out community could not have been there.

Living mostly full time has some great rewards - do I recommend it for every one - NO. I am sure that others will agree with me that there needs to be a soul searching prior to this lifestyle. Each person has to be ready to make the transition and must be willing and able to deal with the negatives (if and when they come).

Phyllabuster - Some Republicans are Better Than Barney Frank

A REPUBLICAN VOTE

From the **Washington Blade, June 9**
By **Katrina Rose (textkatrina@aol.com)**
St. Paul, Minn.

Rarely do I write in praise of any Republican. Any Gay, bisexual, or transgendered person who is even considering voting for George W. Bush this year is in dire need of mental counseling.

Having said that, I feel the need to write an addendum to the credit given, in the Blade's May 26 article on retiring State Sen. Alan Spear, to former Minnesota Governor Arne Carlson regarding the enactment of the transgender-inclusive 1993 Minnesota Human Rights Act. Carlson not only was the governor who signed the act but, as a state representative 18 years earlier during one of the first efforts to pass anti-discrimination legislation (and at the behest of transsexual rights activists), he first introduced the language that is now part of Minnesota's definition of "sexual orientation." This language, "having or being perceived as having a self-image or identity not traditionally associated with one's biological maleness or femaleness," makes Minnesota unique among the states that have sexual orientation employment anti-discrimination laws.

Transgender rights advocates keep being told by those who oppose transgender inclusion in the proposed federal Employment Non Discrimination Act that once sexual orientation is covered, then gender identity will follow. Of all the state anti-discrimination laws that started out non-transgender-inclusive, none have seen transgender inclusion follow (although it has happened with a few city ordinances; and, among states, California is making an earnest effort this year.)

Democrat as I am, liberal as I am — if it came down to a choice in any contest between Republican Arne Carlson and Democratic U.S. Rep. Barney Frank (Mass.), Carlson would get my vote.

AUCTION

By **Nicole Cook**

Hi girls, Sandra Brewer donated a number of items to the group last month. While some of the items can be added to the library, there are several items that would prove to be challenging to maintain in the library. So what we are going to do is hold an auction. The items in question are adult movies and magazines with a Transgendered theme. What we are proposing is to list the items on the web site by title. Members (only) can then view the titles and bid by email. The emails will be held in confidence, and deleted at the end of the auction. The auction will last for about 1 to 2 weeks. During the auction, current high bids (amount only) will be updated and posted. All proceeds will go to TGSF. Now if you are worried about my knowing that you are bidding on these movies, don't be. Let's just say I was looking at the covers of some of these items and I know the people on them by name.

Am I happy that I made the decision - YES - would I do it again - YES - Do I enjoy it - YES. I am waiting for another job to come available, I will probably be working at least part time in that position also as Brenda. For me this is the culmination of a lot of things that I have worked for over the years, and I intend to enjoy it, savor it, and live it for as long as I can.

PS - yes, there is a LARGE part of the community that does care! - Brenda

Phyllabuster

(Karen Kerin giving them the fits — well done! I am so proud of Karen. She is making folks DEAL with us. Brave person! And long-time friend. Phyllis)

KERIN'S CONGRESSIONAL BID TESTS GOP ON GENDER, ISSUES

RUTLAND HERALD, June 8, 2000

Box 668, Rutland, VT, 05702

By DIANE DERBY Staff Writer

MONTPELIER - Karen Kerin wants people to just get beyond the issue of sex. In the days since Kerin became a known GOP candidate for the U.S House, the woman who was once a man has been dogged by questions about her sex change. Frustrated that such weighty issues as the federal budget and international trade have been obscured by those questions, Kerin went on the offensive Wednesday, challenging the media to turn its glare away from the transgender issue.

"There's an awful lot of speculation right now and I think it's unfair," Kerin said, criticizing the media for challenging her explanation that the sex change was the result of cancer treatments. Noting that she recently gave permission for a reporter to speak with her doctor, she added, "I can't imagine people being so intrusive."

Kerin also challenged reports that her candidacy has not been well received by the state Republican Party. "The GOP has not repudiated me and I certainly have not repudiated them," said Kerin, who described herself as a longtime party stalwart.

There may not be any repudiation going on, at least not publicly, but Kerin's entry in the race to unseat Rep. Bernard Sanders, I-Vt., is certain to put the state Republican Party in a tight spot. The party that wants to be seen as embracing a "big tent" philosophy may see its own limits tested with Kerin's candidacy, and just how far the Republicans go to embrace that candidacy will be seen in the coming months.

But Kerin's entry in the race also points up a weakness within the state GOP itself: If politics is a game, there aren't a lot of players sitting on the bench. Kerin stepped in, she said, because no other Republican was preparing to challenge Sanders, a 10-year incumbent. Kerin said she made her interest in the race known to Patrick Garahan, the state GOP chairman, as early as last February.

Garahan, who Kerin described as "open, honest and honorable," didn't try to dissuade her, but did express hope that one of the candidates in a prior race would step in to run again, she said. When no other GOP candidate emerged, she officially announced her candidacy last Saturday.

"I just don't think we should let someone like that run unopposed," said the 56-year-old Kerin, who was raised in Montpelier as Charles Kerin and graduated with an engineering degree from the University of Vermont in 1971. Kerin, who underwent the sex change in the early 1990s, went on to attend Vermont Law School, graduating in 1997. She has not been admitted to the bar.

As director of a South Royalton based non-profit group known as the World Institute of Human Rights and International Law, Kerin said she is anxious to run a campaign focused on issues such as the budget and arms treaties. Her biggest criticism with Sanders and the current Congress, she said, is one of fiscal restraint - or what she claims is a lack thereof.

"The youngest generations have every right to be disgusted and discouraged over their future being mortgaged with still growing national debt," she said in a campaign statement.

Kerin, who four years ago married a woman she met in law school, said she is opposed to the state's new civil unions law

because it creates a "separate but equal" status for same-sex couples. Kerin was granted a marriage license because it was determined that her birth certificate still lists her as a male.

But on a larger scale, she said government should not be involving itself in the issue at all. While churches should do as they see fit in cases of marriage, the government's only role, she said, should be to record marriages in the same way it does land deeds and other contractual agreements - for legal purposes only. "The problem is that what we really need to do is decouple the police power aspects" of government, she said.

For his part, Garahan said his conversations with Kerin were based on the political reality that Sanders will be a formidable candidate, even for the strongest Republican candidates. That much was witnessed, he said, in 1994 and 1996, when John Carroll and Susan Sweetser lost their bids to unseat Sanders.

Garahan said that was the message he tried to relay to Kerin. "From our perspective, I have had several talks with her about how difficult the race was," Garahan said, adding that Sanders has "a real capacity to raise money."

Garahan said it was the same kind of conversation that he has shared with other candidates who expressed interest in taking Sanders on, and he said Kerin's sexuality was not a factor in those discussions. But he agreed that the issue will be a hurdle in Kerin's race, especially since questions have already surfaced over her reason for the sex change.

"The problem that she's got and we have is that those issues overwhelm what would be a normal candidacy," he said. "Those are inevitable. The stories that have been written so far seem to focus on her transsexuality."

Garahan said the race will depend on how the media treats the issue, and whether Kerin can put those questions to rest and move on to the issues that relate to Congress. But Garahan, who earlier expressed interest in using the civil unions issue as a litmus test in legislative races, said Kerin's candidacy points to the difficulty that party leaders have in working with would-be candidates.

"It's very dangerous for the party chairman or leadership to do anything other than give people advice," Garahan said. "Ultimately if you attempt to use any influence you have, it's counter-productive."

Garahan, however, was recently criticized by GOP gubernatorial candidate William Meub, who said Garahan and other GOP leaders tried to talk him out of a primary race against Ruth Dwyer. But Kerin's candidacy could inspire at least one other Republican to join in the Sanders race and face Kerin in a primary. Jack Long, who ran unsuccessfully against Sanders as both a Democrat and a Republican, said he is rethinking the race in the wake of Kerin's candidacy. "I don't think we are at all well served by having Karen Kerin out there attempting to carry the Republican banner," Long said. "She can't do it and I don't think she ought to do it."

Long predicted that Kerin would not be able to get beyond the issues of her sexual identity. "People are just stuck there trying to figure out what this person is all about," Long said. "We do need a credible candidate."

But another GOP member, Jack McMullen, was more accepting of Kerin's candidacy, saying the party should be grateful that she has stepped forward. "I would argue we are better off having a candidate express the issues than no candidate," said McMullen, who lost his primary race for U.S. Senate to dairy farmer Fred Tuttle, in a race that proved embarrassing to the state GOP two years ago.

As for Kerin's personal history, McMullen said, "Vermont should be a place of all places where that could be accepted and maybe the Republican party should be given some kudos for having that wide of a tent." "She certainly has a daunting task," he added.

Continued from Page 3

I suspect that my own dominant feelings spring forth from the masculine energy that still lays there – my “residual male programming.” The soul-searching I have indulged in has revealed to me that there’s nothing I’m ever going to be able to do to make it go away and disappear entirely. So I’m going to stop wasting my time trying, and learn to express that energy. As such, since I need D/s in my life...in a 24/7 relationship...the Dom/me I am fortunate to find one day, I hope, will reward me with a slave of my own to play with from time to time.

Truth In Packaging?...

The people in the groups I belong to are enthralled, captivated and curious about my presence among them. Both men and women alike find my non-op status titillating and desirable. And as a self-confessed Exhibitionist, I enjoy the attention and the notoriety that status affords me. Suddenly, I like being a non-op transsexual woman – even more so than I ever have before! In an incredibly short span of time, I have plunged headlong into the local scene and have managed to enjoy some of the most satisfying psycho/sexual encounters, enriched with real value and true meaning. And it’s due in part to acknowledging that dominant energy trapped deep within me.

And having expressed that energy – bang! Suddenly I am no longer floundering in the Ocean of my Life, thrashing about for a lifeline. I have my head above water. I can’t see the shore, but I’m swimming in the right direction. In recognizing and acting on my ability to “switch,” there is now the whole other half of the spectrum to explore. And actually, I have Tess (and her Master) to thank for that. But with their help, I learned a much more valuable lesson on my recent introspective journey.

When Tess and I first chatted, I initially mistook her interest as one of a sub seeking a potential Domme. Naturally I was flattered and began flirting. An exchange of photos took place and I was further intrigued as she was pretty. And then she told me she was “BBW” (for those needing a translation, Big Beautiful Woman). When she divulged this to me, I reacted to the stereotype and thought then that I would probably not be attracted to her after all, and would not desire her as a submissive. I’ll admit to you now that I’ve always held a person’s looks high on my criteria list. She also told me that she was collared by a Master, but by then we had made a date to meet. Needless to say, by the time we met for lunch I was hugely embarrassed at my breach of protocol, but somewhat relieved that I was “off the hook” because I would find her unattractive and so pose no threat to their relationship.

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.

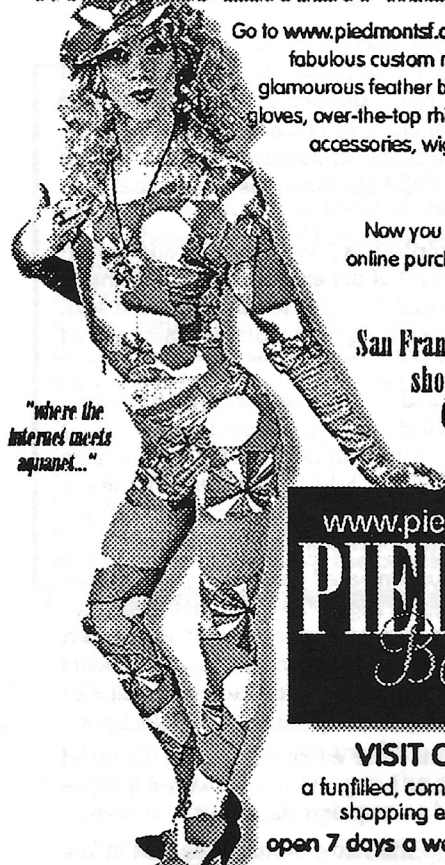
Write to Jenni at www.aluckywife@aol.com and explain a little about your situation.

Well we met...and I was enchanted. She was so open, and giving of herself, reassuring, attentive, smiling...a sensuous mouth, and brilliant flashing eyes, and this oh so romantic drawl of an accent that made her just adorable. We had a delightful meal and shared many things together about our lives and interests. I couldn’t have asked for a nicer time. And I went home that afternoon and had to reflect on my prejudicial expectations of Tess and how it had all changed in the time it took to eat a salad and drink three glasses of wine.

And what a delight it has been for me to truly appreciate a stranger’s inner beauty for what it is. And I grimace now that I had the capacity to be so shallow. If it took leaving San Francisco and journeying through this time and space with Micheal and Oklahoma, and led by my heart again to Minnesota, to appreciate, respect and come to love anybody regardless of their weight, their skin color, or their gender, then it has all been worth it. Just today Tess said to me: “I think we all want to be loved for who we are, not what we are. And if transgenders are finding that to be a problem for them, they should first look inside their own hearts and clean up the cobwebs first...you said it best with what goes around, comes around.”

Today, I find Tess breathtakingly beautiful...and yes, desirable. And the lesson I learned? A surprisingly simple one: Don’t judge a book by its cover. I implore all of you to dust off your own book covers and take a good look inside. You’re not necessarily going to find anything kinky in there (lord knows there’s enough of that on the Internet!). But if you can come to know and understand - to love, desire and even need the story, the person within - and express him/her outwardly with happiness, and in the true joy of being alive - surely it all comes back to you.

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