

Socials at Diva's a Big Hit!

The Channel

TGSF
TransGender San Francisco
(formerly ETVC)



TGSF TransGender San Francisco is a group for all members of the Transgendered Community. Transgender is used as an umbrella term that includes female and male cross dressers, transvestites, drag queens or kings, female or male impersonators, intersexed individuals, pre-operative, post-operative and non-operative transsexuals, masculine females, feminine males, all persons whose perceived gender or anatomical sex may be incongruent with their gender expression, and all persons exhibiting gender characteristics and identities which are perceived to be androgynous.

The Channel

TGSF (TransGender San Francisco, 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 Aiyana Eveningstar
 Secretary Debbie Cook
 Treasurer Deborah
 Education Stephanie Ann Blythe / Jennifer Antoinette
 Outreach Telzey Adams / Kalani Makaanani
 Social Tianna "Diva" DeVil / Serena Anderson

Membership Report

As of August 15, 2000

Membership 187
 Total Fiscal Year 1999-2000 Membership 279
 New Memberships This Year 18

TGSF (TransGender San Francisco) 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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Newsletter Staff

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 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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WWW.TGSF.ORG
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415-564-3246



FROM THE EDITOR...

Putting all thoughts of non-op conundrums and deviant sexual practices aside, I have some happy news: Mama's coming home!

Having given Minnesota a reasonably honest try-out and observing the lay of the land, I've come to the inevitable conclusion that there's no place like home. Now where'd I put those ruby slippers...?

Funny that. Can't say I really have a home anymore. I don't feel like Los Angeles is home, even though I was born there and my mother and brother still live there. Oklahoma City was never a home even though I tried real hard to make it one - being with Micheal was all that really mattered at the time, but in all honesty I never really liked OK much. And certainly Janesville, Minnesota isn't my home either, regardless of my father's and sister's residence here.

So why do I feel like San Francisco is my true home? I only lived there for six years. I can't explain it, but if home is where the heart is, then truly SF is where I left it. Tony Bennett has got nothing on this girl.

I guess it's because San Francisco is where I really came into my own as a transsexual woman. It's where I experienced my deepest and utter failures. It's where I achieved my greatest successes. It's where, after a decade of this journey, I still find my most loving, trusting and dearest friends. And ever since I left on that bright June day of 1999, I have heard the Siren's call, knowing even unconsciously that I would return some day. And so now it begins again. I am heeding the call. I yearn to stand from whence it originates. I feel deep down inside that it's where I belong and where I need to be. If that isn't home, I don't know what is.

I struggled mightily trying to reconcile the many reasons to stay in Minnesota. I have many new friends, a couple of them intimate ones (it's going to be really hard to say goodbye). I have family here. I could probably, eventually, land a job up here. If I had gotten an offer as little as two weeks ago, I would've taken it and settled down to make a go of it. But somewhere in my heart I knew that wasn't really what I wanted. I would have settled for it, but I knew I wouldn't be truly happy about it. I just know that I'd always be wishing I were back in San Francisco.

Having deluged the white-collar world of MSP with resumes, I actually did have several excellent interviews. But again, as in OKC, the stack of rejection letters began to grow and I never got that second call. Despite Minnesota's liberal politics and media sensation of a Governor, it is sad to say that transphobia is alive and well in the minds of hiring managers all across the mid-west. But we all knew that.

I gave it my best shot and summer's coming to a close. I have concluded that if I don't get out of this small-town, Stepford-Wives-perfect, sweetly oppressive, mosquito-infested bucolic rural nightmare, then I shall truly go insane. I find myself saying "you betcha" far too often and cannot endure another Friday night Fish Fry with the geriatric set at the American Legion. And there's a pig farmer about two miles up the road, and when the wind blows this way, I cannot even begin to describe the smell to you. P-U!

While I have tried to keep a low profile in this teeny town, my Dad let slip one night that he's been hearing comments from other townfolk about my presence here. And this is not the sort of community where one makes waves, so in deference to my father,

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YOUR CHIEF SERVANT

By Nicole Cook

The topic I would like to talk about this month is what I see as the single most urgent issue that I need to address for TGFSF. In a word it is "People".

Whatever we want to get done, we need people to make it happen. The way I broke this down in the ExCom meeting

is in three points as follows:

Membership

Why is our membership lower than the high of 456 we once had? In trying to answer this question I did some research in our past newsletters to see if I could identify what was different then. A few differences were apparent. We now have many more TG social organizations in the greater bay area (TGFSF, FTMI, SGA, DVG, TGIF, RGA, TransBay, The Mid-Peninsula group and a new group forming in the Hayward area just to name a few). While a geographical distribution of meeting places make it easier for more people to attend socials, we need to have some means to communicate and come together to combine our strength. This combined strength is what allows us to: have a say in the way governments are run, get someone (the media) to listen to us when we have an issue, or just to have enough people to produce a large social event.

Debbie and I have tried to work on this issue by being very active in a number of these groups. Along these same lines, there was evidence in some of the older newsletters that we had more joint events with other large organizations. After seeing this, I contacted The Renaissance Transgender Association and IFGE to inquire about our past association with them. This brings up another point, if you are now a member of Renaissance (receive the Transgender Community News Magazine) and you intend to remain a member please email me and let me know (nicole@tgforum.com) we are looking at becoming an affiliate with Renaissance and one of the requirements is that we have at least 3 members of TGFSF who are members of Renaissance. I am already a member. In short I would like to find a way to get "The Membership Clout" back above 400 or higher. Whether this is TGFSF's membership or a coordinated joint membership of all the groups in the area. We need to be able to have all our voices speaking together.

Members willing to volunteer for the Executive Committee

As I look back through the history of the ExCom (which will soon be available on the TGFSF Web Site), we seem to have a burn out situation. Of the 80 people who have served on the ExCom in the clubs history only 10 people have served on the ExCom for 4 or more years. Just in case you want to know who they are, they are:

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Nancy Ann Martine | 10 years on the Executive Committee |
| Telzey Adams | 9 years on the Executive Committee (and still serving !!) |
| Trina Martina Bloom | 7 years on the Executive Committee (and additional years with the RGA and SGA leadership) |
| Evette RoqueLaurie | 6 years on the Executive Committee |
| Lauren Rene' Hotchkiss | 5 years on the Executive Committee |
| Leslie Bailey | 4 years on the Executive Committee |

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From the Editor...

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it's probably best that I move on anyway. And having now decided to come back to the West Coast, again my spirits are lifted. My heart tells me that it's the right decision - I don't know how it's going to turn out: where I'm going to live or if I'll find work, but come Hell or high water, I'm going to make it happen. Instead of the anxiety borne out of resignation, I am now full of a fearful, yet healthy and excited expectation.

So here's the scoop Betty Boop: I pick up my trailer on Saturday, September 9 and once again re-crate my life in cardboard, planning to dope up the cat and hit the road west shortly thereafter, probably that following Monday. I figure 3 or 4 days on the road will find me back in the Bay Area and I'll be staying, initially, with friends in Alameda. I'm timing this trip so I'll have time to set up shop and publish the October issue of *The Channel* without interruption.

And the other exciting thing about coming home is that I have an extremely good chance of getting back on with Wells Fargo, at my old level, even in the same building! I have recently had numerous conversations with recruiters as well as with the woman I hope to replace. She and I have gone so far as to schedule an interview with her boss (an SVP that I personally know), to take place on Monday, the 18th. If this goes the way I think it will, I hope to walk right back into a job shortly after my arrival. Finding my own place to live, however, will undoubtedly be the greater challenge.

Can't really say I was looking forward to a winter in Minnesota either, with every one doing their best Nanook of the North impersonations. Growing up in Southern California, snow was always recreational for me. If we wanted snow, it was just a couple hours' drive up to the Sierras. It's fine for a day, a week tops, but forget about living in it for months at a time. No thanks! Next to bugs, the thing I hate most is being cold. But as the Goddess is my witness, I shall never, ever again bitch about the cold, windy, foggy summers in San Francisco - as long as you guys haven't imported any mosquitoes that is. I swear if I get one more red itchy bite on my tender white flesh it'll be too soon!

So it is in all likelihood that I'll be seeing many of you again at the September End of Month Social. As I write this, I am imagining how good it's going to feel to be amongst my own once again. I get all tingly about the many hugs I intend to share, and I can't make any promises about leaving lipstick traces, ok? It's really going to be wonderful reuniting with my TGFSF family. While my sojourn through the Great Plains has come to an end, I feel incredibly strengthened by taking this side trip. It has redoubled my resolve to focus on getting my life back. Back in the place where I belong - our Baghdad by the Bay, our Mecca. No more long distance relationships for me thank you very much, it's time to get back to business, get back in control. I am eager for this second chance. My heart remains open to any possibility, but I have learned to temper my emotions somewhat. The heart will always continue to rule in my life, but for once my brain is in complete agreement: everything's going to be alright. I'm coming home.

New Member(s) since August Issue:

Vicki Olesha
Jenifer and Constance
Joanna Wilson

Welcome!

EXCOM MEETING MINUTES

The monthly meeting of TGSF's Executive Committee was held in Berkeley at the Pacific Center on August 6, 2000 at 4:00pm. In attendance were President Nicole Cook, Vice President Aiyana Eveningstar, Secretary Debbie Cook, Treasurer Deborah, Outreach Co-Chair Telzey Adams, Education Co-Chair Stephanie Ann Blythe, Education Co-Chair Jennifer Antoinette and Social Co-Chair Tianna DeVil. Outreach Co-Chair Kalani Makalani and Social Co-Chair Serena Anderson were absent. Lynnea Stuart, Roxanne, Rachael Janelle and Teri from Sacramento were our guests.



The meeting was called to order at 4:18pm.

Communications: None

President: A membership renewal drive has been done 2 months in a row and we are receiving good response. We sent out to about 350 people on both mailings.

Nicole has been doing some research on membership from the past when there were 450 members and what the difference was from then and now. One of the differences is that we were affiliated with different groups. Nicole wonders how the ExCom felt about having some sort of affiliation with Renaissance or IFGE. Nicole mentioned the reluctance of being affiliated with Tri-Ess because they have a rather exclusionary policy. Stephanie Ann mentioned that not enough is known about Renaissance and that affiliating with them without losing our identity would be ok. Nicole talked to Renaissance about the possibility and they are interested if not enthusiastic about the possibility. The requirement is that at least 3 members of TGSF need to be subscribed to their group and \$25 will get us affiliation. We get a listing in their subscriptions and also suggest TGSF to those who may be moving to California and are interested in the groups here. There are other benefits, but this is the most significant benefit. Telzey mentioned that we may need to change our Bylaws again because it is mentioned there that TGSF will not be affiliated with any other organization. (UPDATE: Nicole has checked the Bylaws and no such exclusion is listed.) Nicole mentioned that we used to be affiliated with and held joint events with a number of other organizations. This is what was different from the past and present. Nicole asks if there are any objections to the suggestion of being affiliated with other organizations. Nicole makes a motion to approach the idea and take a look at having an affiliation with Renaissance for now. Telzey seconds. Deborah abstained for lack of knowledge about it. Motion passes.

Any issues that were brought up from the last meeting, Nicole is willing to champion them herself, but if anyone would like to pick one out and take the lead on it, just let Nicole know and you can take the ball and run with it. Nicole mentioned that if she takes them on herself, she will be doing them one at a time.

Having an office space in the Community Center was first mentioned by Juana and Veronica. The Community Center is now less than a year from being built and Nicole has submitted an application for office space in the center. We are not committed to anything, but they are aware that we have an interest. Since Nicole is also working on one of the subcommittees of the center, it is known that the rooms will come out initially more expensive than we may be willing to pay. They are going to be a little under half the market rate. We may want to think about what a reasonable amount would be that we are willing to pay. If we were to get an office, we could put a phone in there, flyers, etc. We would most likely share it with someone else - maybe FTM. It would be a

central place for TGSF's stuff. We would also have meeting space. Telzey asks what kind of money we are looking at. Nicole mentioned that she really doesn't know right now, but she guesses it would be \$100 a month or something like that. Nicole suggest that the ExCom think about what would be a reasonable price and we can discuss it at the special topics meeting.

Vice President: Aiyana received an envelope in the mail for East Bay Pride events. They have 3 weeks of events. They have booth space but we may not have the opportunity to have a booth there. The event will be added to the calendar.

Aiyana put out feelers for Cotillion volunteers, but have had little interest. Nicole and Debbie have volunteered to be on the Cotillion committee as well as Roxanne and Deborah. Aiyana will get with Leslie and Lulu to see if they are going to be involved. A Cotillion planning meeting will be set up and Aiyana will get back with everyone.

Aiyana passed along her parade receipts to Treasurer Deborah.

Aiyana has been to Bank of America to be set up as signature authority for checks.

Treasurer Deborah will pass the P.O. Box key off to the Vice President after the meeting.

Secretary: Membership database is continually being worked on and is turning out really nice. A rough structure of the database was loaded onto the computer that was passed off to Treasurer Deborah. A few items were passed off to the Treasurer, receipts found in some things Leslie passed off a couple of months ago. Membership payments and other receipts were passed along. The newsletters from other organizations were passed off to Treasurer Deborah. UPDATE: The box of newsletters from other organizations were delivered to Carla's. UPDATE: Aiyana has the mailbox key.

The TGSF computer was upgraded with a CD-ROM and other software to allow the Treasurer to do financial reports, etc. An internal modem was added so the Treasurer can receive email from the board. It was turned over to Deborah today. An updated copy of the financials were also turned over to the Treasurer.

The website is continually being updated. The term "Transgendered" is now defined on the front page of the site. The auction site is now up and running. The no-frames version of the site is being worked on.

Last month's meeting minutes were approved.

Editor: The newsletter budget is over due to the shortage of newsletters that were printed for us by International Minute Press (IMP). Ayme inserts a note in the originals and asks them to please print 350 newsletters, however, we only received 315 this time around and Secretary Debbie had to go out and make additional copies. IMP is also charging us for 350 copies and Secretary Debbie is in the process of trying to resolve that issue.

Publicist: We received 2 new advertisers for the newsletter. Aiyana mentioned that she would be interested in advertising in the newsletter.

Treasurer: Deborah shows a balance on TGSF's account as \$7,329.40. This is before receipts that were received at today's meeting. Deborah will send a revised financial statement for the newsletter. Deborah asked if there are any bank charges on the account. The bank statement doesn't reflect any fees at all. Nicole mentioned that since we are a non-profit, we have a non-profit account and therefore we are not charged any fees.

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Social Chair: The end-of-month this month is going to be a show a little different from the Big Shew. Jaime Fenton will be the director so she gets more experience for the Cotillion. Many flyers have already been distributed. Tianna attended the Queen of the World pageant and talked with many of the people there and many plan on attending. It should be a big money maker. Flyers have been distributed to Alexis Miranda to distribute amongst the court system.

If we have food at our events again, it is very possible that someone will be scheduled to sit at the door and collect funds as people come in. We took a loss at the Pizza party last month and since we made extra money from the Big Shew it wasn't too bad, but it shouldn't happen again. It was recognized that some members may attend and cannot pay. We don't want to make it a reason for members not to come. We lost \$30.00 at the social. We would like to at least break even. Stephanie Ann mentioned the donation jar that was being passed around and whether or not that does the job. Nicole mentioned that it doesn't work as well. Typically in the past, if someone is at the door, everyone remembers. The problem is that those who cannot pay. We don't want them to feel excluded. Nicole has leaned against the guard at the door taking the money in lieu of passing the donation jar. But, we may have to rethink that when we are supplying food.

The September mid-month is not set up yet, but the end-of-months will continue to be at Diva's. There were a couple of theme's mentioned for the end-of-month - a photo party where we try to bridge the missing photos from 1993 to 1997, the other is a celebrity look-a-like party where you come as your favorite celebrity. Since the Halloween party is coming up, we will put off the celebrity look-a-like party and will do the photo party.

Stephanie Ann handed an information packet to Tianna as a suggestion of a social to hold. It is at the Great Mall and is like a "Chuckie Cheese for Grownups". It's called "Dave and Busters" and we should get with others like RGA or Carla's in the South Bay to see if they would like to join us.

We may hold our Halloween Party at Diva's on a Saturday. Tianna has been talking with Alexis and if we have an open party to anyone who wants to attend, we may be able to use all floors. We would set up on one floor and then anyone can come and go as they please. Anyone who comes into Diva's will pay at the door. It would be a nice change to hold the party in the city. If we set up at Diva's, many problems disappear. . . like having a liquor license. A date has not yet been planned, but it's possibly the 21st of October or the 28th of October. We will know very soon.

Outreach Chair 1: Telzey doesn't have anything at this time.

Outreach Chair 2: Kalani is absent.

Education Chair 1: There was one outreach engagement that was turned over to Kalani. It is the speakers for the Lavender Seniors Pot Luck in Hayward in September.

Dr. Preecha responded to both Stephanie Ann and Nancy Cupps emails. He will be happy to give a seminar but there is a conflict in dates. Stephanie Ann plans to clear that up and have Dr. Preecha come speak on September 17th. Secretary Debbie requests an electronic copy to be sent for the website and Nicole suggests flyers be made up for the event. The San Francisco Library was a suggestion as a place for holding the education seminar, but they do not like that we charge for the events. Stephanie Ann did some research and found that the Women's Building would be a good place to hold it.

Stephanie Ann has contacted people to be on the Post op panel education event and a few have gotten back to her. So far, she is missing a few people to speak for Dr. Menard and a couple of others, but mostly Stephanie Ann is just waiting for contact back. Nicole mentioned sending a message to the TGSF newsgroup for an open invitation to those who would like to be on the panel to speak about their SRS experiences.

Education Chair 2: Jennifer has been in contact with one of the people she would like to bring in to do a hair and make-up seminar. She would like to hold it before one of the end-of-month socials. . . probably this social, but since we are having a show at this end-of-month and it's too late to advertise for it, it probably wouldn't be a good idea to hold it this time. We probably should hold it in September before the social so we can advertise it in the newsletter and with flyers. There could be multiple make-up artists that come in to do make-overs and then have a photo shoot to show off the make-overs. There is much discussion about the space at Diva's and whether there would be enough lighting to do something like that. There is also discussion about how much to charge since it will be an Education event. Also, there is a concern about more people showing up to have their make-up done than there are artists. Aiyana suggests an RSVP beforehand to help determine how many people may attend. Jennifer is going to look at it further and try to coordinate with Tianna to have something set up by next month.

Guest Communication: None

Adjournment: At 5:23pm., Nicole makes a motion to close the meeting, Secretary Debbie seconded the motion, and the motion was passed.

Next ExCom Meeting is on Sunday, August 27th, at 3:30pm. at the Pacific Center in Berkeley. This is an early September meeting due to the Labor Day weekend.

Special Topics Meeting: A couple of good items were discussed at the special topics meeting.

The new Community Center in Fremont is opening and Stephanie Ann has invited a couple of people to attend that discussed the center and events that will be held there, also any implications for TGSF and fundraising in the community.

There was also discussion about the Cotillion Weekend. For the last 2 years, there has been some discussion about there being a 4 day event, but it has never been acted upon. There was discussion about whether there would be enough support for the 4 day event, who should organize the extra events: ExCom or Cotillion Committee, establishing a class host hotel like the Hyatt Embarcadero, having an early check in reception much like the Courts hold hospitality suite, holding a show on Thursday night at Diva's, a wine tasting trip to the wine country on Friday with dinner at Asia SF and dancing at a location picked out by the current Diva Tianna, a shopping trip to the SF center mid-day Saturday with the Cotillion on Saturday night and ending with a Sunday brunch with Miss TGSF 2000, Miss TGSF 2001 and all the contestants. More will be discussed at the Cotillion planning meeting coming up.

Lynnea mentioned that she has acquired a display at the Fremont Central Library to set up a display on transgender civil rights. She is looking for photos of TG's in everyday settings. . . nothing sexual in nature. . . it is a family library. She will write a request for the newsletter looking for photos.

Sunday / August 27th / 4:00pm

EXCOM MEETING

The monthly meeting of the ExCom will be held at the Pacific Center. The Cotillion is just around the corner (can you believe it !?!!?) and volunteers will still be needed for that upcoming event as well as the Halloween Party. 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.

****NOTE**** This is the September ExCom meeting since Labor Day weekend falls on the first week of the month. (Ed. Note: Sorry folks, I wasn't aware of this otherwise I would've printed it in the August issue.)

Tuesday / September 12th / 8:00pm

MID-MONTH SOCIAL - A PUB CRAWL !!

That's the way Darcy would put it! (Where are you Darcy girl?) My Mom called it a 'Pop call'! Which ever you prefer, that's what we're about to embark on for our Mid-month social! A few short hops and stops.

For our first stop, we need to stop in to see our old friends at 'The Blue Muse'! Say hello, perhaps have a drink and chat for a bit. Then off to 'Cafe Mars'! You do remember 'Cafe Mars', don't you! It'll be like old home week! We can let everyone know that we're still around! ('cause we are!)

And for those brave hearts among us, Tuesday is Trannyshack night! Yeah, I know we usually go during October, but why not do a warm up first in September! 'Cause girls just wanna have fun!

The Blue Muse is located at 409 Gough Street, San Francisco; Café Mars is located at 798 Brannan Street (at 7th), San Francisco; Trannyshack is held at The Stud at 399 9th St., San Francisco.

Wednesday / September 13th / 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.

Barbara F. Anderson

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

Clinical Sexologist
Certified Sex Therapist

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Sunday / September 17th / 2:00pm

SRS SEMINAR WITH DR. PREECHA

Dr. Preecha Tiewtranon from the Chollada Clinic in Bangkok, Thailand will be giving his presentation on reassignment and cosmetic surgeries. See the announcement on Page 9 for full details.

Thursday / September 28th / 5:30pm - 7:45pm

EDUCATION - MAKEUP / HAIRSTYLING

Combination Education-Social from 5:30pm to 7:45pm the TGSF education committee has arranged for two hair-styling professional, make-up artist/consultants, Nikki and Victoria, to bring out your best look for the Glamour Shots End of the Month Social at 8pm on the same night following the education event. This event will be held at Diva's on the 3rd floor, and will cost \$5 per person. Diva's does not charge a door cover before 8pm.

The ladies who are interested in receiving a professional makeover and hair-do should come with their foundation ready, light color lipstick and very light color eye shadow, with their hair free of hair spray. Bring a makeover mirror and your favorite set of make-up if you can. The friendly consultants will dispense advice, share with you make-up ideas & suggestions, and answer questions on how to bring out your most glamorous look!

You must RSVP for makovers by calling (415) 564-3246 or by email moodydeb@yahoo.com by the 27th.

Thursday / September 28th / 8:00pm

END OF MONTH SOCIAL - GLAMOUR SHOTS

Pictures, Pictures and more pictures. Here is your chance to get your picture taken and get your pictures into the TGSF album. We will be taking pictures of anyone who want's their picture taken so come dressed to kill (you can take advantage of the make-up event prior to the social too). We will also be trying to fill the gap in our TGSF photo library, if you have pictures of you or the group or both from 1994 to today and you want them in the TGSF photo album (which will be in the TGSF library), bring them in. Diva's 4th floor 8pm

September's Birthdays...

| | | | |
|------|---------------------|------|--------------------|
| 9/1 | Charleen | 9/17 | Lisa Gray |
| 9/1 | Tina Louise Vincent | 9/17 | Michelle Gordon |
| 9/2 | Lauren Olsen | 9/18 | Julie Brophy-Smith |
| 9/3 | Carla Cabana | 9/22 | Sabrina |
| 9/3 | Terri Turner | 9/23 | Frances Frinak |
| 9/5 | Betty Byrne | 9/23 | Sandy |
| 9/7 | Luccia | 9/24 | Juana Smith |
| 9/8 | Melanie Hildebrand | 9/24 | Milton Miskel |
| 9/9 | Jerry Smessaert | 9/30 | Dr. Linda Wetherbe |
| 9/12 | Jennifer | 9/30 | Misty Ford |
| 9/13 | Julia Debeque | 9/30 | Sylvia Hakansson |
| 9/14 | Jenny Lou Cotton | 9/30 | Valerie Genalo |
| 9/17 | Alice | | |

Many Happy Returns of the Day!

Calendar of Events - September 2000

OTHER GROUPS

Pacific Center for Human Growth

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

Rainbow Gender Association (RGA)

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

Sacramento Gender Association (SGA)

Blue Rose Chapter meets 8:00pm the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month in Sacramento. Write PO Box 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, Bisexual, Transgender Alliance in Humboldt County. Meets every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month at 8:00pm in the GLBTA Center at Fourth and "D" Streets in Eureka. For information call the Center at 707-445-9760.

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 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap 8:00 PM RGA | 2 |
| 3 | 4 8:00 PM DVG | 5 | 6 7:30 PM MPTG | 7 7:00 PM DVG (RCC) 7:00 PM SCT | 8 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap | 9 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA |
| 10 | 11 | 12 8:00 PM TGSF: MidMonth Social Pub Crawl | 13 7:00 PM TransBay | 14 | 15 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap 8:00 PM RGA | 16 |
| 17 2:00 PM TGSF: SRS Seminar w/ Dr. Preecha | 18 8:00 PM DVG | 19 | 20 | 21 7:00 PM DVG (RCC) 7:00 PM SCT | 22 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap | 23 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 5:30 PM TGSF: Makover & Glamour Shots Social | 29 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap | 30 |

TGSF MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership Year runs from May 1st - April 30th; \$30 Single Membership; \$40 Family.

Please Print / Check all that apply:

New Member | Renewal Member #: _____ | with Family Member | What Year did you first join TGSF? _____

Preferred Name: _____ Birthdate (Month/Day): _____ / _____

Mailing Name: _____

Family Member's Name: _____ Birthdate (Month/Day): _____ / _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Country: _____

Optional: Telephone: (_____) _____ What Name should we ask for if we need to call you? _____

Your Email address: _____ Website URL: _____

Would you like a link from the TGSF Website to your URL? Yes No

May we use photos of you taken at TGSF events in our newsletter or website? Yes No

Send Check or Money Order to: TGSF, PO Box 426486,
San Francisco, CA 94142-6486, or hand to any Board
Member at a TGSF Social.

Our Readers Respond

DEAR FRIENDS,

I have moved on so it is time to end my membership. But I wanted to thank everybody there for all the help. ETVC and later TGSF was an essential part of my transition. Like so many others, I reached out of my fear and loneliness to a supportive group of caring people.

ETVC gave me permission to be myself and that is what I really needed. I had the opportunity to answer many of my own questions while I answered the questions of many college students on speaking engagements for ETVC. Some "old timers" will remember me as "Denise". I ran the Speakers Bureau and took a lot of pictures. I went through some tough times financially during transition but I kept my family together. We are all doing better than ever and living near Washington DC. All my love, thanks and admiration to the people who chose to volunteer and keep the important work of TGSF going on.

Always,
Hilary Howes

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

| | |
|------------------|------|
| Dusty Prentiss | \$20 |
| Cheryl Sheppard | \$20 |
| Joan Roughgarden | \$10 |
| Joanna Wilson | \$10 |

Bless you and thank you for caring!

*Sacramento Gender Association
Presents:*

*The 5th Annual
Miss SGA Pageant*



When: Saturday, November 11, 2000

*Where: Joseph's Bar and Showroom
1404 Del Paso Blvd.
Sacramento, CA*

Doors Open at 8:00 p.m.

Show Starts at 9:00 p.m.

*Singing, Dancing, Live Music...
Door Prizes...*

Price: Members: \$3.00

Non-Members: \$5.00

*Come join Miss SGA 2000, Nicole Cook as she performs
her final farewell and crowns the next Miss SGA 2001 !!*

LET'S TALK

(The August Channel ran an exchange of letters entitled "Barney Frank, HRC and the Transgendered". It ended with a letter to Mr. Frank from Victoria Gray. Since then, there has been one other reply to her letter and is printed below).

In this letter Barney Frank, a friend of the TG community and a potential ally in our struggle, raises some legitimate issues. It is incumbent upon us to engage this serious person in a serious and open-ended discussion about inclusion of our transgendered brothers and sisters in both hate crimes and employment discrimination legislation. How might the issues raised by him be addressed in legislation? How were they addressed in California legislation? How might we build bridges to the lesbian and gay community and, for that matter, to the straight community? Let us know how you think we can build those bridges? No diatribes, please. The time for stone-throwing and bridge-burning is over.

Vicki Gray

Barney Frank Responds

Dear Ms. Gray,

While I agree with metaphorically separating ENDA from the Violence Against Women Act, I believe that talking about the latter along with the Hate Crimes bill is a matter of apples and apples.

That is, the distinction I make is between protections against violence, and laws against discrimination. Where violence is concerned, there are neither conceptual nor political problems with full inclusion of transgendered people, and I have in the past and continue to support inclusion of transgendered people in the Hate Crimes Act. I have in fact mentioned this on several occasions in discussions of the hate crimes issue before the House Judiciary Committee. Unfortunately, this is probably moot for this year, because the Republican leaders in the House refuse to allow the Hate Crimes bill to come up. In the Senate, the rules allow members to bring up amendments despite the leadership's views, but the procedures in the House are much more restrictive.

Along with Minority Leader Dick Gephardt, I am pressing the Republicans to bring up a hate crimes bill in the House, and if they do, I will press for inclusion of transgendered people.

The problem with a similar inclusion in ENDA relates to the issue of legally mandating that people with male sex organs be allowed to shower, change and sleep in dormitories with people with female sex organs. In most workplaces this does not arise, but a national anti-discrimination bill covers all aspects of all workplaces, unless specific exceptions are written in. There are many workplaces where people shower together at the end of the workday, where there are common sleeping quarters, where there are gym facilities with common shower areas, etc.

Where people have undergone physical changes, there is no conceptual problem, but adding transgendered people with no exceptions means mandating that in these cases where workers do share showering and sleeping facilities, transgendered women with male sex organs would be legally required to share these facilities with other women. There is no chance that anything close to a majority of Congress would support that, and at this point, no consensus exists within the transgendered community of which I am aware as to how to deal with this legislatively.

This is why I differentiate between violence and discrimination, and why I believe we can go full speed ahead in protecting transgendered people from prejudice-induced violence, but why we are not at the point where we can do the same in non-discrimination legislation.

Barney Frank

Upcoming Special Events!

Glama-Rama! is proud to introduce a new exhibit:

ANGELS: THE ART OF DORIS FISH AND MISS KITTY LITTER-GREEN

Sept. 9th - Oct. 7th 2000 at Glama-Rama, 417 South Van Ness (@15th St.) S.F. CA. Opening Party: Saturday, Sept. 9th. 7-10pm

Glama-Rama! is proud to exhibit the art of the late Doris Fish and the late Miss Kitty Litter-Green, two of San Francisco's pre-eminent Drag pioneers.

When examining current drag and performance culture, it's important to look back to find out how we got here. In the 80's and 90's, San Francisco was a hotbed of creativity and inspiration. A new sense of alternative art and expression took hold of the LGBT community and lifted the tired old female-bashing stereotypes of drag and gave birth to a fresh highly stylized uber-femme representation. Out of this environment emerged a few who revolutionized the way that we approach drag and would forever leave their imprint on our art and history.

Doris Fish, primarily known as co-creator of "Vegas in Space", spent a great deal of her leisure time painting. Her bold use of color in her own drag persona can also be seen in her painting. Drawing from 60's Day-Glo style and classic film imagery, the visual impact of her art and drag was refreshing framed against the bearded drag queens of the time. This half of the exhibit was originally shown at GLBT Historical Society of Northern California earlier this year.

Another great visionary of our recent past is the incomparable Miss Kitty Litter-Green. Her bold art and drag still resonates in the performance art community today. Sometimes wearing nothing more than a ripped T-shirt and ballet tutu, she dared to test the boundaries of self-expression. She believed that beauty was an asymmetrical and sometimes surreal form with many facets showing different degrees of the self. Her paintings exemplify that same spirit and celebrate the colorful life that she lived while ushering in a reality that is at once arresting and seductive.

Both artists mostly used themselves as the main subject of their paintings and we get a sense that their life and art simultaneously imitated each other. Please join Glama-Rama! as we celebrate the lives of two very important drag pioneers whose legacy permeates our culture today.

Opening party on **Saturday Sept. 9th** features very special performances, drinks, and snacks. For more information, please contact: Johnny Kat (415) 861-4526.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR COTILLION

Aiyana Eveningstar is looking for a few good girls (and boys!) to help with coordinating various aspects of running the cotillion event.

Especially needed are people who can help with advertising, ticket distribution, and obtaining sponsors. But help in any fashion is greatly appreciated.

Please contact Aiyana at (415) 753-6475 or email aiyanastar@earthlink.net and be involved in the event that is the heart of TGSF.

Sunday September 17, 2pm

SRS SEMINAR WITH DR. PREECHA

TGSF is honored to present Dr. Preecha Tiewtranon from the Chollada Clinic in Bangkok, Thailand as our speaker.

Dr. Preecha will give a presentation on sex reassignment surgery as well as cosmetic surgery and breast augmentation. If you are contemplating any of these surgeries, this is an ideal opportunity to talk with one of the top surgeons in this field without traveling to Bangkok.

Sunday, September 17, 2000 at 2pm, Women's Building Auditorium, 3543 - 18th Street, San Francisco (between Valencia and Guerrero), 2 blocks from BART, and MUNI 25 & 33 stops nearby.

Donation: \$3 TGSF Members, \$5 Non-members

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.

TGSF PRESENTS:

THEIR ANNUAL HALLOWEEN PARTY



OCTOBER 21ST, 2000



FOOD, DANCING, PRIZES !!

COSTUME CONTEST

MORE DETAILS FORTHCOMING...

More Events and Announcements!

LIBRARY EXHIBIT IN FREMONT

A display at the Fremont Central Library on transgender civil rights is reserved for January 2001. We are looking for photos of Transgenders of all types in every day and vocational situations. Only photos of modestly attired subjects will be accepted as the display will be open for view by minors. If you have such a photo you would like to contribute please send to: Lynnea c/o Wendyl Stuart, 38623 Cherry Lane #171, Fremont, CA 94536-4227, or e-mail for information at lynneastuart@hotmail.com.

Coming In October!

GENDER SPEAK - A PERFORMANCE BY TRANSGENDERED ARTISTS

Come witness and enjoy transgendered artists in our communities express their art in an event that celebrates another color of the rainbow we know as diversity.

Come hear voices, view visions and honor art that challenge what is normally known as gender, and much, much more.

Saturday, October 14th, 7:00pm - 10:00pm, Pro Arts Gallery, 461 Ninth Street (near Broadway), Downtown Oakland.

For more information contact: Patricia Kevena Fili at (510) 663-7976.

This event is free to the public. This event is sponsored by AIDS Project East Bay and the Butterfly Project.

October 5-8, 2000

THE 4TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON CROSSDRESSING, SEX AND GENDER

From: Angela Gardner <angela@ren.org>

Just a short note to let everyone know that the 4th International Congress on Crossdressing, Sex and Gender will definitely take place from **October 5-8, 2000**.

We'll be at The Warwick Hotel in Philadelphia, PA, USA. The 4th Congress page is still on our website and it has revised fee schedules to encourage diverse attendance. The final schedule will be on the site within a week or so. We will send another email to let you know when it is up. We're looking forward to an exciting event.

The Renaissance Transgender Association, Inc's website can be found at <http://www.ren.org>

HEY!

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

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

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

Runs Through September 17!

EAST BAY LGBT PRIDE!

Friday, September 1

KICK-OFF PARTY

Sunday, September 3

OAKLAND MARDI GRAS

Saturday, September 2 * Sunday, September 3

PRIDE GAMES

Saturday, September 2

IMPERIAL CORONATION

Monday, September 4 *Labor Day*

BERKELEY PRIDE BRUNCH

Event, Exhibitor, and/or Volunteer info contact 510-663-3980 or ebaypride@gay.net

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The Current Location of the TGSF Library!!

Cosmetics Fem Fashions Shoes

TGSF BALANCE SHEET

Assets

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Cash | \$6,668.03 |
| Event Equipment | |
| Decorations | \$1,000.00 |
| Food Service | \$200.00 |
| Office Supplies | \$50.00 |
| Computers | \$100.00 |
| Total Assets | \$8,018.03 |

Liabilities

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Accounts Payable (Cotillion Expense) | \$1,000.00 |
| Taxes | \$356.96 |
| Insurance | \$0.00 |
| Utilities | \$0.00 |
| Total Liabilities | \$1,356.96 |
| Equity | \$6,661.07 |
| Total Liabilities & Equity | \$8,018.03 |

TGSF Monthly Income Statement

Revenue

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Membership | \$760.00 |
| Advertising | \$0.00 |
| Cotillion | \$0.00 |
| Donations | \$50.00 |
| Social | \$78.00 |
| Education | \$0.00 |
| Outreach | \$0.00 |
| <u>.....</u> | <u>\$888.00</u> |

Expenses

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Cotillion | \$159.10 |
| Halloween Party | \$0.00 |
| Big Shew | \$0.00 |
| Pride Parade | \$0.00 |
| Social | \$212.04 |
| Education | \$0.00 |
| Outreach | \$0.00 |
| Newsletter | \$702.08 |
| Operations | \$150.68 |
| <u>.....</u> | <u>\$1,223.90</u> |

Net Income **(\$-335.90)**

Your Chief Servant...

Continued from Page 3

| | |
|--------------|------------------------------------|
| Nancy Cupps | 4 years on the Executive Committee |
| Erin Souza | 4 years on the Executive Committee |
| Jane Bentley | 4 years on the Executive Committee |
| Kim H. | 4 years on the Executive Committee |

The majority of ExCom Volunteers serve one year. We need to change this. Many organizations have Executive Committees or boards that stay together for decades. I guess I need to find out what made the experience memorable for the people on the list above and make those aspects of service more visible. Or to find out new motivations that would bring more people out as candidates and keep them passionately interested in continued service.

Members willing to volunteer for one time events

In order for us to make a difference in the TG community, we need to initiate and follow through on a wide variety of efforts designed to enhance the transgendered experience. Each of these events and all the duties for these events are important, yet we frequently find that we have not got the volunteers necessary to realize the events full potential. This could very well lead to the burn out effect mentioned above, as the volunteers we have take on more responsibility to insure that the event is successful.

I have witnessed a number of events where one person in particular took on a phenomenal amount of responsibility to insure the success of every event. I will not say she has burned out (since she has already volunteered to help again), but I will say she certainly is a hard act to follow :-)

I guess the thing to say about this item is that I need to find some way to let people know how much fun working on some of these events can be. Yes, there is work and sometimes it is hard to work it into your schedule. But there have been events that I have participated in for TGSF that I would give up things like food and sleep to do again, it really was that positive of an experience.

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.

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This is the first of a series of articles by Janis Ryan in which she shares her observations and experiences as a crossdresser who frequently goes out in public en femme. Your comments are welcome. Janis can be contacted by email at janisr@tgforum.com

THE PASSING LANE

by Janis Ryan

Nobody passes—at least not at all times and to all observers. There are of course differences in the appearance of men and women. And, although in the San Francisco area most lifestyles are tolerated, the abundance of transgendered individuals leads to an abundance of “tranny spotters” as well. But the good news that I have found in two-and-a-half years of going out regularly in public en femme is that once one is able to pass the “first glance” test relatively few people seem to notice or care. What I mean by this is having all of the visual pieces fit together to give the perception of being a woman.

Telling Points

Size matters. According to a report that I heard recently, the “average” woman is 5' 4" tall. Most of us are taller. I'm fortunate that I'm only 5' 8", but many of my friends are 5' 14" or taller, and stand out from the crowd! Likewise, we generally weigh more than the “average” woman. I gradually shrank from a size 20-something in 1995 to a size 16 in 1998, when I joined ETVC. Now I am down to a size 12. Fortunately, one sees women of all heights and weights.

Wigs are noticeable. Most of us wear wigs at least some of the time, but very few women do. I often have my own hair styled and go out that way, but many of my friends can't, due to the length, or absence, of their hair. The best thing is to find hair styles, either with your own hair or with a wig, that suit your face shape and are comparable to those that you see women wearing.

Facial features are noticeably different. Many of my transsexual friends have undergone extensive facial and other cosmetic surgery, but for those of us who only go out some of the time that is not an option. Here corrective makeup, using contouring to bring out one's cheeks and highlighting to minimize the area under one's eyebrows can help. And of course one's beard must be hidden.

Body shape is of course different. We need to enhance our chests and hips, and minimize our waists.

Clothing. Of course we are called “cross dressers” because we choose to wear clothing associated with women, such as dresses and skirts. But in my observations of women in public, 95% of them are wearing pants, and so in order to blend in I am often a “cross-pants-er.” If one is to not stand out in public, it is necessary to wear clothes that are appropriate for the occasion. While we can enjoy dressing up to go to a meeting or special event like our Cotillion, we should dress down to go to the grocery store or library.

Women walk differently from men. They take shorter steps, and of course there is the characteristic movement of their hips. Also, they swing their arms more freely. I have found it useful to imagine myself always wearing a tight skirt and wearing high heels, forcing me to take smaller steps. And by pushing off with the balls of one's feet one can begin to generate some hip movement as well.

Then there is the voice. Women of course speak with a higher pitch, and generally use greater variations of tone, and use their hands more to emphasize what they are saying. Each of us has a different natural voice, but I've found that by speaking from my throat rather than my chest, and talking more softly, I can usually communicate without drawing undue attention to myself.

Tranny Spotters

Who are the best “tranny spotters?” The ones who most often “read” me and try to let the world know are teenaged boys, who are often in groups and trying to impress each other. I've been called “dude” or “sir” or had them say “that's a man” many times. Recently someone loudly made references to Tootsie and Mrs. Doubtfire—I just hope that I look better than Robin Williams did in the latter! Anyway, the best reaction to such comments is to just ignore them. Teenaged girls are excellent spotters as well, since they are generally observant of each other and are developing their own identities as well. Some that I have met have harassed me, while others have approached me and asked sincere questions.

Three-year-old children are also excellent spotters, since they are actively searching for gender differences. I've seen many of them whisper to their mothers the question “is that a man or a woman?” Street people, and people who deal with them such as policemen, are of course trained observers, and occasionally will hassle me.

Learning Opportunities

I have benefited by seminars that I have attended at conferences such as California Dreamin' and Esprit, as well as those given for TGSGF, which dealt the art of passing, and we have many local experts on wigs, makeup, and clothing who have been helpful to me and others in the transgendered community.

Group meetings can be excellent times to practice and learn from others, but we have a tendency to let our guard down when we are among friends. It is best to develop the habit of acting like women whenever we are dressed like them, especially not speaking using our male voices.

The most important thing about being out in public is confidence, which only comes with practice. Anyone will spot you if you look nervous and uncomfortable. My greatest joy as a transgendered individual is just going out in public and just being perceived as a woman.

Seahorse Medical Clinic Joy Diane Shaffer, MD



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ON THE ROAD WITH MADAME PRESIDENT

By Nicole

After the last few months it was nice to get a month where we were not going somewhere almost every day. The slower pace allowed us to do some other types of activities. For example on July 15th a person who I had been in contact with from Orlando Florida (about an hour from where I grew up) was in the area on business and spent the weekend en femme. Debbie and I met Danielle at the Hyatt at Embarcadero center, well Debbie and I started at the Hyatt near Fisherman's Wharf. Then after a call to Danielle we discovered we were at the wrong Hyatt. In any case we met up, had lunch at the Embarcadero Center Chevy's and then did a little driving tour of the town. As it started to get dark Debbie and I headed home, and I think this was the first trip where the "good" car started to give us trouble.

There were two events planned for July 16th but we were not able to go to either one. I really wanted to go to Patti May's funeral service. I had seen Patti May at several events recently, she sat with us at our table for the San Francisco Court Investitures. I remember recently asking her about the hamburger ring that she had worn to a number of events. Patti May was one of the most friendly court people that I had met and she will be missed. The other event was the South Bay Picnic. I had planned to go to this event until I heard about Patti May, however the car kept us from going anywhere that day.

How much pizza do you buy for a TGSF social? About \$100 worth, yep we eat about \$100 dollars worth of pizza at a social. The TGSF end of month social was held on the 4th floor of Diva's on July 27th. For those of you who have not been there the fourth floor is set up like someone's den complete with couches, a big screen TV, a pool table and a full bar (with a rather attractive bartender). While we were there we saw several videos including the last 3 parades (the part where TGSF went by) and the 4 minute segment several of us did for Mornings on 2 just before the Cotillion. A number of people popped out every now and then to go dancing on the third floor. If you have not been to Diva's you really owe it to yourself to check it out. Don't be fooled by the bottom floor, the bottom floor looks like the run of the mill long narrow drag bar (it actually looks better than average if you ask me). But once you take the elevator to the 3rd or 4th floor you are in for a treat. The dance floor (3rd floor) is at least as large as Kimo's but much more classy. The 4th floor is a great place to kick back and socialize. The staff and management at Diva's have gone out of their way to make us feel welcome there. The next few end of month events are planned there so you will have plenty of opportunity to check it out.

A few days later on July 29th Debbie and I headed for the Alameda Ducal Ball. When we first planned to go to this event all we were going to do is walk representing our TG organizations. About a week or so before the event Krystel, the Grand Duchess of Sacramento asked me and Tianna to be a part of her "Best little Whore House in Texas" performance. We arrived early so we could turn in Protocols for TGSF and SGA; this also gave me the opportunity to practice my part in the performance. I was to be one of six working girls. A few of us were there early enough to practice and I was concerned. Not only did the number call for us each to lip sync a small solo part and a chorus but we all were to come together at the end in a can-can style dance, and it was obvious during practice that not many practices had taken place.

When we arrived at the event we turned up three dancers short and after walking in the first act we spent most of the second act training two last minute stand-ins. Lynnea who was there covering the event for TV epic, graciously agreed to play one of the parts. As it turned out I was amazed at how well the performance

went down, we even got the dance at the end right. Some of you may see pictures of me in a hot pink dance outfit with sheer black puffy sleeves, which was at this event.

The car was once again acting up for the August 11th TGSF Mid Month so we were not able to go to the Thirsty Bear. I did hear from Stephanie Ann that there were a dozen or so people at the event. I will see if I can't coax the social Diva Tianna DeVil into doing a write-up for those events that we miss.

The last event we attended was the SGA social on August 12th at Joseph's. For those of you who have not heard, the most perfect TG meeting place (Joseph's) is once again in the midst of a potential sale. While I wish Joseph the best in his business ventures, I would be lying if I said I hope it sells. Joseph's with it's combination bar-restaurant-club setup is the best TG meeting place in the whole greater bay area. Anyway, over 30 girls showed up for the social, notice I said girls and not SGA members. I was walking around handing out SGA membership cards to the members that were there and over half the girls in attendance were not current SGA members. There is a good side to this, about half the girls who were not members were new. This means about a fourth of the girls present were former SGA members who had not renewed their membership. If anyone knows why this is, I would like to know.

Well that's about it for this time around, we have several good events coming up and I hope to see all of you at least at one of them. The TGSF DIVA's 2000 show on August 31st will probably be over before you read this, but there is the TGSF Halloween Party on October 21st and the Miss SGA Pageant on November 11th, so there is no reason not to get out and socialize. There is one other item I wanted to mention, I will be shifting my focus away from these articles and more towards the programs I introduced at the July ExCom meeting (I discussed them in the last Channel). That means we could sure use someone to attend socials and write about them. I am obligated to do them for a few more months (as long as I am Miss SGA) but after that I will not be doing the social review article. So here is your chance to contribute to the newsletter.

SUPPORT FOR TRANS FOLKS AND PARTNERS 510-527-5662 ▼ VALIGL@AOL.COM

WORKSHOP

Sunday, August 20, 2000

Workshop about issues that arise when one or more partners in a relationship have gender identity issues. Open to all trans folks, and/or non-trans partners. Singles welcome.



THERAPY GROUP

Starting September, 2000

For trans folks. A safe place to receive support from peers and explore a variety of issues. Can fulfill the therapy requirement of the current standards of care.

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and REID VANDERBURGH, MA in Counseling Psychology student and female-to-male transman.



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Struggles Remain For Sex Changes

CITY TASK FORCE AIMS TO HELP TRANSGENDERED

By Mike Zapler
San Mercury News, August 7, 2000

Tom Marshall was a successful businessman, a valued executive at a biotechnology products firm who was frequently rewarded with promotions and pay raises. Then he returned to work one day as a woman — his name changed to Sarah, his suits and ties replaced by blouses and skirts — and what was a rapid ascent for him became a slow, downward spiral for her.

Even in the Bay Area — the reputed haven of tolerance, particularly toward gays and lesbians — transgendered people like Marshall say they are victims of pervasive discrimination in employment, housing and other areas. Often shunned by those uncomfortable with their appearance, they say that while gays, lesbians and bisexuals have made civil rights gains, they've been largely left behind.

Did Marshall's sex-change surgery cost her her job? The San Francisco resident can't say for sure. But considering that her work ethic didn't change, she said, it's difficult to explain why else her status at the firm deteriorated. Frustrated, Marshall — a member of a new city task force on transgender rights — resigned from her job in January.

"Officially, they were very supportive of my transition," Marshall said of her former bosses. "But soon after, my relationship with managers, my ability to sell ideas and gain promotions — that all quickly eroded. I was doing great before as a white male, but not as a woman."

The task force recently appointed by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hopes to make the city a model for treatment of transgendered people. Home to an estimated 6,000 to 15,000 such residents, the city is believed to be the first in the nation to sponsor a commission whose sole charge is to advance transgender rights.

Like a handful of other cities — Santa Cruz, Seattle, Iowa City, Iowa, and Cambridge, Mass. — and the state of Minnesota, San Francisco outlaws discrimination against the transgendered. And the state Legislature is taking up the issue. A transgender anti-discrimination bill, sponsored by Assemblyman Fred Keeley, D-Santa Cruz, was approved 41-30 by the Assembly on May 11, and is pending before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

But a statute is one thing. Getting people to follow the law is more difficult, transgender rights advocates say. "We have had protections on the books since 1995," said Mark Leno, a gay member of the board of supervisors who spearheaded the task force, "but a lot of people don't know they exist."

That makes changing stereotypes about transgendered people imperative, task force members say. "People are afraid of what they don't know," said Marcus Arana, a female-to-male transsexual and co-chair of the 17-member task force. "Just look at how we've been portrayed: In 'Silence of the Lambs' we were psycho killers. In 'The Crying Game' we were pathetic and nobody loved us. Basically it's a fairly unrealistic representation."

Not everyone supports the transgender rights agenda. Government should provide psychological help to transgenders instead of "perpetuating a mental disability by granting them rights," said Benjamin Lopez, communications associate for the Traditional Values Coalition in Anaheim. Among other problems, he said the state bill would force school districts to hire transgendered people as teachers to avoid discrimination lawsuits, he said. "This would create an endless stream of catering to a lifestyle and a behavior," Lopez said.

A Wide Spectrum

The label transgender encompasses a wide spectrum, from male and female cross-dressers to "intersexed" people born with part-male and part-female genitalia to transsexuals who have undergone reconstructive genital surgery. They are people who believe they are trapped in the wrong body and can only "be themselves" by dressing as the opposite gender, and in some cases by having sex-change surgery.

But being themselves often means being shunned, transgendered people say. Finding a job or an apartment, riding the bus, and getting medical treatment can be daunting tasks, especially for those who don't pass easily as the opposite sex. Even using public restrooms can be problematic.

Transgendered people say they've experienced discrimination at every level of the workplace, from large high-tech firms to fast food restaurants. Some complain that retail stores shy away from hiring them, apparently out of fear they'll scare away customers.

After seven years as president of the San Mateo County Convention and Visitors Bureau, Marcia Chapdelaine a transgendered woman, left her job late last year. She's since been looking for work as a senior executive at a marketing or a non-profit firm, but has come up empty even in San Francisco's sizzling job market.

"I have the experience, I have the education," said Chapdelaine, whose case made headlines in 1997 when she held a press conference to announce her gender change. "But it's very challenging finding employment as a transgender person. There is a perceived stigma attached. Some employers say, 'I don't have a problem but our customers might.'"

Before her sex-change surgery four years ago, Marshall, who worked at the biotechnology company that she asked not be named, was a self-described "archetypical" white male named Tom — married, athletic, a successful businessman. Her co-workers, she said, initially seemed fine with the operation.

But gradually, Marshall felt things begin to slip. A new boss arrived with whom Marshall said she "didn't click," and some subordinates began responding differently to her. "I was just as tough a manager as a woman as I was as a man," Marshall said. "But that didn't sit well with people. There were literally people who said, 'I got along with him, but I didn't get along with her.'"

"You know I have no problem with this," her new boss would tell her almost weekly, Marshall said — reminders that to her indicated the opposite was true.

After she left the biotechnology firm, Marshall embarked on a lengthy job search. Armed with degrees in chemical engineering and business administration, for the first time in her life she re-

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ceived one rejection after another. After six months and at least 20 rejection letters, Marshall, 43, recently landed a job at a major Silicon Valley high-tech firm, which she said didn't seem bothered by her transgender identity — if anyone even knew. But she asked that the company not be identified.

But the high-tech world is far removed for a large number of transgenders, many of whom live in San Francisco's depressed Tenderloin district, where drugs and prostitution are a common resort. It's to these that transgender Tanya Smith, a part-time worker at the Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center, a dingy two-level office near City Hall, offers advice — as well as free prophylactics and fresh needles.

A transgender and recovered drug addict who spent years on the streets, Smith said she relates to the transgendered clients she advises. Their concerns, she says, are of the immediate, day-to-day variety: finding employment, dealing with landlords who would rather rent to someone "normal-looking," and using public accommodations without being bothered.

Mistreatment by police is another common gripe. A group called TransAction was recently formed to persuade law enforcers to be more sensitive when it comes to conducting strip searches and treating transgenders in jail. "It's one of the main things that needs to be rectified," said Shawna Virago of Community United Against Violence.

Improved experiences

Some transgenders, however, say that police treatment has improved in recent years — a sentiment echoed by the police and sheriff's departments. Both agencies have initiated sensitivity training for new officers, and the Sheriff's Department, in a break from past practice, now tries to house together transgendered people under arrest.

They have also struggled with a seemingly natural ally: the gay, lesbian and bisexual community. "There are people in the community who feel transgender folks are an embarrassment and hold back the struggle for gay rights," said Larry Brinkin of the city Human Rights Commission. "There's a fear that they stereotype the whole movement." Still, some progress is apparent, Brinkin said, witnessed by the fact that many gay, lesbian and bisexual groups have added "transgender" to their names.

Besides engaging in general outreach, the task force, which has a two-year lifespan, plans to issue practical guidelines to public agencies and private businesses on how to avoid discriminating against transgendered men and women. Leno said he will push for legislation to require companies to post the city's anti-discrimination law, and to force businesses vying for city contracts to have policies in place forbidding gender identity-based bias.

But regardless of the target population, Leno and others say any attempt to combat discrimination will come down to public awareness. "The prejudices here are deeply ingrained," Brinkin said. "San Francisco is not utopia, even though many people think it is."

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.

Pat to Patrick

AN INTERVIEW WITH PAT CALIFIA

by Shoshanna Scholar (taken from nerve.com)

In the past, Pat Califia has self-identified as a "a dyke, a feminist, a pornographer, a sadomasochist, a poet, a storyteller, an omnivore, a pagan, a social critic, a sex educator and an activist." Recently, Califia has articulated a new identity, one as a "bisexual transgendered person who will probably be living socially as a man sometime in the next year or two." Here, Patrick Califia, as he now calls himself, speaks frankly about the person he's finding he wanted to be all along. —Shoshanna Scholar

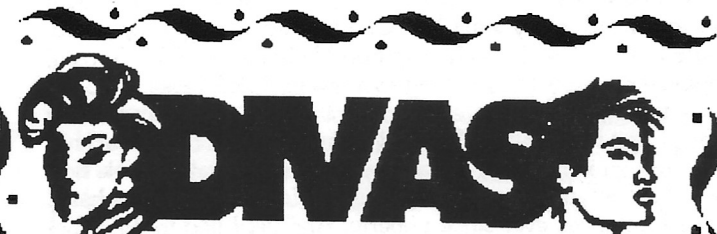
What are the most dramatic changes you've noticed in yourself physically?

My body apparently likes male hormones a lot because I am experiencing some pretty rapid physical changes. The shape of my face has changed. My jaw is more square. I'm getting some facial and body hair. My shoulders and other muscles are bigger, and my hips and butt are smaller. My feet are growing. My clit is getting bigger. My voice is quite a bit deeper, though I still have days when it cracks and goes soprano on me. The testosterone shots — I'm getting one every two weeks — also change the way you smell. I can no longer skip that daily shower or the rigorous application of deodorant!

Are you interested in becoming a man, in calling yourself that? Or would you rather stay at some kind of hybrid-gender stage?

I am taking transition one step at a time. If at any point I don't like what is happening I am giving myself permission to change my mind and stop. My goal is simply to become more comfortable with my physical envelope or container. I am aware that from the outside this looks like "becoming a man." And it's true that when I was a small child I told everyone that I was going to grow up and be a boy. I found puberty extremely traumatic. By the time I turned

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thirteen, I was having excruciating periods and wearing 38DD tits. All of a sudden my body was being read as this sexual entity, "a girl," and I just couldn't relate to that. Since I grew up in a blue collar Mormon family, my discomfort was a great embarrassment to my parents, and I got a lot of verbal and physical abuse that was aimed at making me conform or simply shut up about how much I hated femininity. When I found the dyke community and feminism at age seventeen I was so happy — I found a lot more freedom of gender expression. And I thought I would deal with my physical discomfort by becoming a different kind of woman, by stretching the boundaries of my gender, and by challenging both my own and other people's sexism and misogyny. At the age of forty-six, I think I have taken that strategy as far as I can, and I remain deeply uncomfortable with my body and my gender presentation. I can't tell you that I "feel like a man trapped in a woman's body" because that isn't true. What I feel like is a transgendered person. And what I call myself now is a bisexual transgendered person, who will probably be living socially as a man sometime in the next year or two. I think I'll always be somewhat gender ambiguous. If I pass as a man that will be because straight people think only of male-to-females when they hear the term "transsexual." Nobody looks at short men with beards and wonders if they are FTMs, unless they are San Francisco queers.

Was there something recent that triggered your decision to do this now? It seems that it's something you've clearly thought about since you were quite young.

For a long time I thought that was just because our society is so fucked up about how they want girls to behave. But when I address all that, I am still left with a residual amount of unhappiness that I think is simply gender dysphoria. I don't know why I feel this way. I don't know if I was hard-wired that way or whether it has some other cause. All I know is that at this phase in my life, I seem to be in touch with those childhood feelings of pain, and I want to look for a solution to the misery. A couple of events brought this to a head in my adult life. One was going into early menopause at forty-five. I was having horrible hot flashes, PMS, pain, impaired memory, etc., and my doctor said, "Well, I assume you're ready to begin estrogen replacement therapy," like it was no big deal. I lost it in her office. I started to cry. I realized that I could not put estrogen in my body on purpose. I could not take female hormones deliberately, consciously; I just could not do it. I have hated those substances ever since puberty. And yet I had to do something because living with the menopause symptoms was not an option. I've been much more comfortable on T. I feel like a calmer and more reasonable human being. Men are supposed to be more angry, but I just keep getting more mellow and loving and sweet, and I think it's because I'm happier. This chemical balance just feels right.

Another change that brought this on was my mother's death from breast cancer in 1998. When I first heard of her illness I thought to myself, "I could take testosterone now if I wanted to." I was shocked by what I was thinking. I had never seriously thought testosterone would be an option for me. But I've been realizing that it was horrible for me to take the punishing hatred that my mother felt for my homosexuality. I can't even imagine how shitty she would have been about my being trans. Maintaining any contact with my crazy religious family has been one of the biggest challenges in my life. They are simply ignorant people who have no interest in educating themselves about the world beyond the Zion Curtain, as we call the boundary between Utah and the real world. My dad is still alive, but he's got no moral authority; I don't care what he thinks about my transition. I think it's really sad that it took my mother's death to set me free in this one area of my life. But apparently that's how it was.

I feel like I need to change my body because I am just not an androgynous-looking person. I am short, I've got big tits and a little waist and a big ass. I look very girly unless I dress with great care to conceal that fact. It's always been important to me to have a male persona that I could act out in a private sexual space. That kept me sane for a really long time. Now that male persona wants to have a public life as well. I don't want to have to bind my tits; it's painful and doesn't work. I just want to be able to put on a shirt and tie and a jacket and have it fit right and look right. And I don't want to glue on a mustache. I want facial hair that grows out of my skin and looks like the hair on my head, with the same mix of brown and gray. I want the body that I should have had.

How is coming out as someone who's transgendered different from coming out as a lesbian?

Coming out is always risky; but when you come out as FTM you risk losing your lesbian family or community. That's what I'm facing right now. It's scary to me. As much as I've fought with certain aspects of dyke politics, the lesbian community has been my artistic and spiritual home for twenty-five years. I feel that my lesbian fans have been very good to my work. And I don't look forward to making anyone feel betrayed or sold out. I am hoping

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that at least some of my readers will see that this is something I honestly need to do for the sake of my own happiness, and is not intended as a rejection of lesbian identity or the value of being a woman. I think dykes are cool, and I'll always be a feminist. But I just could not stay where I was and remain sane.

Now that you and your partner have a child, do you consider yourself a father? A husband?

I consider myself to be Blake's father. I am not at all maternal. I can do the mom-things like diapering or feeding or burping the baby — I'm competent and don't mind helping out. But it's been shocking to me to see how very much I prefer turning the baby over to other people to get this kind of ongoing care. I mostly worry about paying the bills, how will he afford college, is the crib safe, that kind of thing. My partner and I see each other as two bisexual transgendered men who are raising a child.

Are the relationships in your life changing in accordance with your gender transition?

So far I have not had any friends reject me or blow me off because of my gender transition. But I'm sure that will come. I'm thinking there will probably be some kind of backlash. But I've never been a particularly popular writer. I've always pissed people off. I think I was supposed to just get older gracefully and become some kind of Revered Divine Ancestress of Leatherdykes, and the thought of that gave me hives. I'd rather drink gasoline. I'm never going to retire and I'll never be an easy writer to follow. Part of this has to do with my sadism, you know. It's about challenging the reader — or bottom, if you will — to keep up and remain vulnerable or accessible to whatever I throw at them. If you're good there's always a reward. And if you're bad, well, you get nothing.

Is your practice as a therapist also changing along with your sex?

Not so far. I've been very fortunate with my supervisor and with my clients. I'm sure it will affect my practice, of course, because our culture teaches us to have very different expectations of men and women when it comes to nurturing and healing. I'd like to challenge the stereotype that men can't be caregivers or can't be gentle or supportive of personal growth. All that is very important to me. What I've noticed is that people come to see me as a therapist if they are afraid of being discounted or dismissed because of their sexuality. The issue usually isn't around sexuality at all. We definitely need more mental health professionals who won't pathologize sex workers, SM devotees, trannies, bisexual folks, people in open relationships, etc.

It seems to me until now your books have been populated by predominantly lesbian characters. Do you think that will change as well?

I've always written about a bunch of different kinds of sex. That won't change. I write about whatever interests me. In so far

as lesbian sex is transgressive and bucks the system, it still seems like a very important area of resistance to explore and promote. I certainly don't intend to forget how to have sex with women, either. Twenty-five years of experience in that field was too dearly won to give up quickly!

Is there anything that especially distinguishes your latest book of fiction, No Mercy?

I think I am just happy with the fact that I'm still interested enough in sex to do a book of porn. I've been progressively more and more physically disabled in the last five years, which makes it hard to keep a sense of joy about my body. I have neuropathy in both my legs (a common symptom of fibromyalgia). For me, it means I have varying levels of burning stabbing pain in my legs and feet and some muscle weakness. I recently got some medical tests which indicated I have some sort of autoimmune illness. I don't know which one, as of yet. And frankly I have to brace myself for more tests, because they are pretty awful and exhausting.

I give a lot of credit for that, for my being able to maintain an interest in sexuality and in all of life's pleasures, to my partner Matt. He is a steady and supportive lover who seems to have unlimited patience with me and with the baby. I don't know what I would do without his loving care and rude mouth.

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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.

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TRANSGENDER AND THE GAY CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

From Scott's NewsFeed

While there are those in the gay community who would like to distance themselves from the transgendered movement, there are also a significant number of us who are vigorously opposed to that philosophy. If you see our civil rights movement as one that seeks justice for sexual minorities, it is impossible to overlook our transgendered brothers and sisters. Personally, I will not support one piece of legislation, nor will I support any group, that does not also seek liberation and justice for the transgendered.

Interestingly, a transgendered spokesperson indicated that bisexuals are welcomed into the community with open arms. Personally, I think the climate is friendlier towards the transgendered.

I think that more and more, our advocacy groups realize that if we do not approach our goal of full civil rights for every member of the GLBT equation, it is not worth having. We are not just gay people in straight clothing. We are here to self identify as having different sexual orientations and, for some, different gender identifications from the heterosexist majority. And we should never stop fighting until we are all treated as first class citizens. The following is from the Salt Lake Tribune and AP:

Transsexuals Enter Civil Rights Fray

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Dana Rivers isn't just a member of a minority group. She's more like a minority within a minority. The former teacher who underwent a sex-change operation to become a woman said she and those in the transgendered community are often ignored — even in the gay world. "We're feeling a little marginalized," she said. "The movement is struggling to find a place."

Hoping to move beyond the stereotype of the drag queen, a growing number of transgendered people like Rivers are trying to make others — including gay activists — feel more at ease. They want those who feel they were born the wrong sex to become an accepted part of a movement that began 31 years ago, when drag queens and gay men held five days of protests to fight police harassment outside Stonewall Inn in New York.

The Stonewall riots became the catalyst for the modern gay-rights movement, and the anniversary is still marked with gay-pride parades at the end of June. "After the Stonewall riot, it was a gay movement and pretty much about gay men. Then the lesbian movement kicked off. Then the bisexual community wanted in, and that was accepted," Rivers said.

The transgendered community — which can include transsexuals, cross-dressers and those who live as members of the other gender but don't undergo surgery — have had a higher profile in recent years. Films like the "Crying Game," "To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything, Julie Newmar" and last year's Oscar-winning "Boys Don't Cry" have examined transgendered issues, as have performers Eddie Izzard and Dame Edna Everage.

Organizers of transgender rights say they are often the target of violence and discrimination, especially when they announce they have begun the transition to life as a member of the opposite sex. Advocates also say transgendered people are discriminated against in court and in health care, and can find employment difficult. They often run afoul of gender-based laws and ordinances concerning identification, presentation or dress.

Promoting anti-discrimination laws is one way the gay-rights movement made its mark after Stonewall, but many in the transgendered community feel those efforts often don't include them. After all, there are "transphobic" people in the gay community as well as the general public, said Graham Segroves, spokesman for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. "There's a real fear, if you're talking about legislation, that including protection for the transgender community will kill the bill," he said. "There's a lot of people who are uncomfortable with that, like they were in the '60s with the term 'gay.' "

Segroves said the difference between the gay and the transgender experiences is that "sexual orientation is a characterization of who are you attracted to, where gender identity is more of who do you think you are." "There is the similarity in that once you identify yourself as a gay man or a lesbian or a transgendered person, you have violated society's primary gender rule. You are not doing what you're supposed to do," he said.

Denise Leclair, 34, a transgendered bookstore manager from central Massachusetts, said it's unfortunate that gay society hasn't always had the best relationship with her community. "I don't see it as being separate issues in the mind of the public at large. They tend to lump us all together. To have any weight as an organization, we should be standing together," said Leclair.

Shannon Minter, a lawyer for the National Center for Lesbian Rights, agrees. His research found that the gay- and transgender-rights movements have been more successful when they have worked together to pass local anti-discrimination laws. "I have very little sympathy or patience for the argument that being associated with transgendered people will stigmatize gay and lesbian people because that is the exact same argument that was used against gays," Minter said.

Riki Wilchins, executive director of GenderPac, a lobbying group that seeks to add gender identity to the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Act, calls transgender justice "the civil-rights movement that middle America is just starting to get to know." "There is a growing awareness among all Americans that gender is a cornerstone of how we express ourselves and interact with each other and ought to be accepted as a civil right," Wilchins said.

While activists work on changing anti-discrimination laws, Rivers' goal is to make people less uncomfortable talking about transgender issues.

Rivers, 44, is a former male teacher who was fired after announcing her decision to return to school as a woman. She has since settled her lawsuit against her former employer and now travels the country speaking to groups about her experience.

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