

Celebrating With DVG Style!

The Channel

TGSF
TransGender San Francisco
(formerly EFG)



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 2001 - 2002 Officers

(Fiscal Year: May 1 - April 30)

President Aiyana Eveningstar
 Vice President Rachael Janelle
 Interim Secretary Nicole Cook
 Treasurer Stephanie Ann Blythe
 Education Ally Grillo
 Outreach Kalani Makanani
 Social Tianna Marie DeVil

Membership Report

Current Membership as of:

10/15/01 172

Due to recent events, current Membership data is being recovered, and will be updated as soon as possible.

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.

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

Newsletter Staff

Editor Ayme Michelle Kantz
 Advertising Inquiries to TGSF Excom
 Contributing Photographers, this Issue: Rachael Janelle

Ad Rates

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

Personal ads from TGSF members: \$10 for up to 40 words per issue. We will not accept ads with a sexual objective. Ad deadlines are the 15th of every month. Send ad copy and check or money order to TGSF, Advertising Dept., PO Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486. Please support our advertisers, and tell them you saw their ad in *The Channel*!

WWW.TGSF.ORG
NEW SITE! GET ONLINE!

Hotline & Voice Mail
415-564-3246



FROM THE EDITOR...

Boycott Diva's!

I'm a little cheesed-off at Diva's, the popular club/bar/hangout in San Francisco. It's alright I suppose. The previous owner (of Mother Lode fame) made sure "us girls" were welcome and made to feel safe. And there's certainly no reason to feel unwelcome at Diva's. But since the recent change of hands, I'm beginning to think that the new management doesn't give a shit about the transgendered community. They're only out to make a buck off the novelty we represent.

Just what does Diva's have that separates it from the other dives in the Polk Gulch? Us, that's what. WE are the draw; the reason why the cheap house liquor flows and the doors stay open. WE, the transgendered - you and I, the cross dressers and transvestites, the transsexuals and the prostitutes - are the reason why anyone goes there in the first place. And I'm talking about the fringe element that finds our world alluring and desirable - our "admirers," the Trannychasers. And the out of town rubes looking for an illicit thrill.

You'd think Diva's would treat their star attractions a whole lot better. But what do they do? They charge us the same \$7.00 cover on the weekends along with everyone else who patronizes the joint. I think that sucks. They should be letting us in for free! Or at the very least, a token cover of a couple bucks. I feel exploited when I go to Diva's now. Don't you?

If you've ever been there, have any of you been happy with the clientele on any given night? Do you feel comfortable enough without having to worry about getting hit on? (Unless that's why you go there, of course.) About the only reason I'll agree to go there is because I smoke...one can surreptitiously cop a cig at the bar and no one bats an eye. Personally, I'd rather save the cover for a call drink and wouldn't mind stepping outside for a puff.

But other than that, I can't think of any good reasons why anyone should continue to support Diva's until they cut the girls some slack. If you want my opinion, AsiaSF is an infinitely better establishment (albeit a tad pricier at the bar, but not by much), with a classier mix of people including a lot more straight women and couples. They serve very tasty food too, if you've got some disposable income. I'd classify it as nouvelle Asian-California fusion cuisine that looks like it's prepared for Lilliputians and costs a bazillion dollars. Pretty to look at though. They've also got a roomy dance floor/bar located downstairs with some cozy side areas. And they don't charge a cover.

Whereas the atmosphere at Diva's is subdued, gloomy and sleazy, AsiaSF is charged with the hubbub of people enjoying themselves, in a well-lit space that smells wonderfully of garlic and money, and leaves you infused with a certain sense of savoir faire. Not to mention the snazzy lipsync numbers the waitresses perform ev-

Continued on Page 3

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.



Rachael Janelle with Julie (from Fresno) at DVG Anniversary Party

TGSF
 wishes You and Yours
 a
Happy Thanksgiving

Transcending Transgender Sponsored by
City of Refuge UCC Outreach Ministries
 A support group facilitated by 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.

From the Editor...

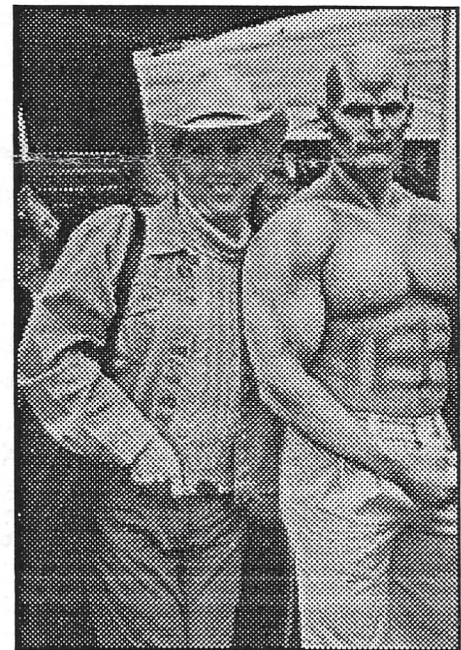
Continued from Page 2

ery half hour or so. It's so much classier and cleaner at AsiaSF, that when I walk out of Diva's now I feel like I have to have a hot shower. So do our community a favor, and stay away from there - and tell the management why. Half-off for the girls or we'll take our business elsewhere!

So Why Is This Rag Late?


Well, I'll tell you why: it's because our ExCom has been whittled down to the bare minimum because of defections or resignations or whatever (not the least of which was the sad and sudden parting of Janis Ryan). And the remaining members are swamped trying to pick up the slack. Didn't any of you bother to contact the President or VP and offer to help?

This issue went out late because of last-minute calendar confirmations and my willingness to postpone publishing until everyone had a chance to submit their articles. Believe me, it bugs me to no end that the deadline isn't observed more stridently so I can get the paper to the printer on time, but considering circumstances, it's understandable. Or at least I hope you feel that way. So pitch in and help, will 'ya? There's lots of things that need doing, and not enough people doing them. I'm issuing a warning: if you don't want this club to fold altogether, you **MUST** respond!



Our swingin' VP and hunky friend at Castro Street Fair!

Wendell Debele M.S. (T.C.M.) Dipl. L.Ac.
 (aka Aiyanna Eveningstar)



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TGSF ExCom MEETING MINUTES

August, 2001

Called to order at 4:00pm. In attendance were President Aiyana Eveningstar, Vice President Rachael Janelle, Secretary Janis Ryan, Treasurer Stephanie Ann Blythe, Education Co-Chair Ally Grillo, and Social Co-Chair Tianna DeVil.

Minutes of the July 1, 2001, ExCom meeting were approved.

President's Report: Venues for the 2002 Cotillion were discussed. It was agreed to check out the Russian Center. Other venues considered were Fort Mason and the Scottish Rite Temple in Oakland.

Vice President's report: Rachael discussed plans for the 2002 Cotillion. She wants to have Tianna and Aiyana as the producers. After discussion whether to move the date to the Saturday of California Dreamin', a motion was seconded and approved to retain the late January, early February date. Rachael proposed that the talent portion of the Miss TGSF competition be changed to a presentation portion. This would allow a contestant to make a presentation about her hobbies, activities, whatever she feels best at, or perform. The motion to change talent to presentation was seconded and approved.

Secretary's report: Janis discussed the need to file a fictitious business name statement to use the TGSF, ETVC, and Educational TV Channel names and to update the city tax filing. Then a new checking account can be opened in the TGSF name.

Membership summary as of July 31, 2001:

| Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep |
|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 257 | 220 | 206 | 207 | 186 | 176 |
| Change | -37 | -14 | +1 | -21 | -10 |
| 100% | 86% | 80% | 81% | 72% | 68% |

Newsletter status: August issue sent 31: 166 copies to members, 11 to friends, 45 to groups, 8 to advertisers for a total of 230. A total of 280 copies were printed.

Janis discussed the web site status. She proposed addition of ExCom agendas and minutes, membership status, treasurer's reports, and articles from past issues of The Channel. It was generally agreed that most of these items are already published in The Channel and do not need to be posted on the web site.

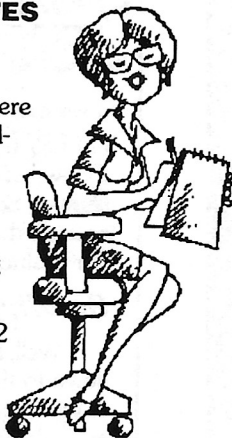
Treasurer's report: Bank balance as of August 4, 2001, is \$1021.98.

Social Committee report: September events being considered by Tianna are mid-month social at Jezebel's and end of month social at AsiaSF.

Educational Committee report: Ally reported on plans for an educational seminar on hormones and hormone replacement therapy scheduled for Saturday, September 8, 2001, at the Women's Building. The October seminar will be presented by CUAV on safety. It is scheduled for October 6, 2001, at the Women's Building.

Outreach Committee report: Kalani reported that an outreach presentation at DeAnza College is scheduled for October 8, 2001. She also has a request from College of Notre Dame for speakers.

Old Business: Janis proposed changing the statement of purpose which appears on the cover of The Channel each month.



A rewording of the statement was discussed. Further action will be taken at a later date.

New Business: Janis presented fee waiver requests which were approved without discussion.

Next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, September 2, 2001, at 4:00pm in President Aiyana Eveningstar's office. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30pm.

TGSF ExCom MEETING MINUTES

October, 2001

The monthly meeting of TGSF's Executive Committee was held in San Francisco at the home of the President Aiyana Eveningstar, on Sunday, October 7, 2001 at 4:00 p.m. In attendance was President Aiyana Eveningstar, Vice President Rachael Janelle, acting Secretary Nicole Cook, Treasurer Stephanie Ann Blythe, Outreach Co-Chair Ally Grillo and Social Co-Chair Tianna DeVil. Outreach Chair Kalani Makanani and Social Co-Chair Savannah were absent. Jaime was a guest.

The meeting was called to order at 4:10pm.

Minutes:

There were no changes to last month's minutes.

President's Report

The final payment in the amount of \$500 was sent off to the SF Design Center. Aiyana is awaiting the new proposal for next year's Cotillion.

A postage machine had been mentioned in the past to help with the mailing of the newsletters. With having to hand stamp each newsletter \$.57 there isn't just one stamp to put on the envelope any more, 3 stamps are required. Aiyana will check into getting one to help make it easier as long as it isn't too much money.

The ExCom needs to start recruiting members to fill the empty spaces on the board. With the Cotillion getting closer, and only 6 people on the ExCom now, the board is being spread thin. Not only that, but we need to try to get more of the past members renew their membership. Nicole will make sure Aiyana gets a copy of the renewal letter sent out last year as well as a set of labels of members who haven't recently renewed to mail the letter to.

Aiyana will be working on the two notices from last month, the Franchise Tax Board notice and the insurance notice. Rachael emailed Aiyana with a phone number of someone in San Jose that she deals with that may help up get a deal on insurance.

Everything was removed from the storage unit and now resides with Aiyana.

Vice President's Report

Rachael presented a projected budget for next year's Cotillion. Using the budget set up by Nicole last year, she made a few changes but it is still about \$2,000 in the red. A few other things can be scaled back to help alleviate the over-budget amount.

As far as ticket requests, there has been a commitment from FTMI, the Gay Pride Board has purchased a table, the Wellness Center. We are doing well so far.

Rachael also mentioned visiting the printer to have some initial handbills and flyers printed. So far we saved at least \$400 this year compared to last year. Kevin is still set to print the programs as he does each year.

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ExCom Meeting Minutes...

Continued from Page 4

30 invitations were mailed out to those who wish to advertise in either the newsletter or the Cotillion program.

It is being requested by TGSF that a proclamation be made by Mark Leno, the Supervisor of San Francisco, that the day of the Cotillion be TGSF or transgender day in the city of San Francisco. Rachael will talk with Nathan who is a representative close to Mark Leno about this and whether it is a possibility or not.

A set of labels has been requested by Rachael for the December time frame to be able to send out a Merry Christmas letter to many of our current and past members and to invite them to the upcoming Cotillion. Also an extra copy of the table layout that was created last year is needed. Nicole will try to get an electronic copy to Rachael and Aiyana.

There will be another Cotillion meeting on October 9th.

Acting Secretary's Report

Nicole thanked former Secretary Debbie Cook for helping to restore the membership database. Nicole also thanked Stephanie Ann for supplying excellent financial records to help in the restoration. We have a current membership of 182. The main concern is that we don't have addresses for 13 members. Based on the records Stephanie Ann provided, there were 14 new members and no information could be found on them. After receiving the renewal forms that were in Janis's possession, we were able to find 1 address, leaving us with 13 unaccounted for.

The membership year was again brought forth for discussion. During the year Nicole was President, it was suggested that the membership year remain from April 00 to May 01 to save the Secretary a significant amount of time in figuring out the renewals. Since Nicole is acting Secretary, for the time being, she indicated that she is only willing to support the April - May membership scheme since the other scheme is about 12 times more difficult to maintain. Nicole expressed a concern about either finding a champion (willing to perform the duties of Secretary) for the new method or arranging for the members to vote the old method back in to the Bylaws.

Nicole asked Jaime Faye Fenton to change the password for the website so that it could be updated. Rachael gave Nicole a page to update the website with for the Cotillion. As soon as Nicole can get access to the site, it will be updated.

Treasurer's Report

The bank account is currently at \$587.92. TGSF has received a \$500 donation from Dr. Sanguan to be placed toward the TGSF Education fund. This is the fund that will help to provide members of the transgender community schooling through the SF City College. There was a discussion on how to maintain the funds collected for this program until they are used. The money just collected from Dr. Sanguan will be placed into the TGSF checking account; however, it was noted that at some point in the future this money should be put into a separate account. Nicole has offered to send a letter to the President of the Community Center to inform them that we are formally initiating the education fund and that we would like to do this in cooperation with the Center. A motion was passed for Nicole to initiate that letter to the Community Center.

Education Committee Report

The seminar on security issues went well. There was a turnout of 6 people, which was pretty small.

The next seminar will probably be a voice seminar. Aiyana mentioned that Michelle Garcia had once expressed an interest to help people with their voice. Ally suggests that maybe we should look into getting a professional voice trainer as well as Michelle to help out. With Trannyfest in November, there will probably not be an education seminar next month, but one should be scheduled for December.

Another idea for a seminar is that Denae Doyle is doing a dance seminar that may be of interest a little later on.

Social Report

A discussion was started regarding Savannah not participating in the Social Co-Chair role as originally voted in to do. After more discussion, it was determined as it has always been that setting up social events really needed 2 people to participate. Thus, a motion was made to remove Savannah from the Co-Chair position of the ExCom and to try to fill the vacant spot.

Tianna had been thinking of a nice mid-month or end-of-month social gathering in November with the holidays coming up. We could visit The Cliffhouse again. We definitely had fun last year. It is suggested that we should have separate checks so that everyone will have the chance to pay for their portion of dinner fairly. Nicole recalls 2 year's ago when an extra event was set up to celebrate Debbie's birthday at The Cliffhouse. We ended up paying much more than our portion of the bill and although many of those who joined us were very conscientious about paying their share, others didn't volunteer tip or drink money.

Another idea is a dinner just for TGSF. This might be an idea in December. We could make up plates and sell dinners to the group. Aiyana has offered her home for the dinner.

Outreach Committee Report

With the Outreach Chair absent, Aiyana will make sure to contact Kalani to find out if there are any details of outreach sessions happening soon. Nicole mentioned that she, along with Debbie and Thomas Kennard, had recently done an outreach session at Cal State San Francisco.

Announcements

The Cotillion planning meeting will be held at 7:00pm October 9th at Aiyana's home.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Adjournment

The next ExCom meeting will be held on Sunday, November 4th, 2001 at 5:00pm at the home of President Aiyana Eveningstar 2071 10th Avenue, San Francisco. Aiyana made a motion to close the meeting and seconded by Rachael the meeting was adjourned.

Barbara J. 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

Sunday / November 4th / 4:00pm

TGSF ExCOM MEETING

The next TGSF ExCom meeting will be held on Sunday, November 4, 2001 at 4:pm, at the office of President Aiyana, 2071 10th Avenue in San Francisco. All TGSF members are welcome to attend.

Tuesday / November 13th / 7:00pm

TGSF COTILLION PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

Held at the office of President Aiyana, 2071 10th Avenue in San Francisco. All TGSF members are welcome to attend.

Thursday / November 29th / 7:00pm

TGSF END OF MONTH EVENT

An Evening at the Cliff House. Tianna has made reservations for 15-20 people on behalf of TGSF. This is your chance dress to the nine's for this event. The Cliff House is an elegant eatery, famous for its view, poised as it is on the edge of the Great Highway. If you arrive early enough, be sure to visit the Mechanical Museum located on the lower level - an amusing collection of antique mechanical games, musical devices, and risqué moving pictures.



Two more happy Tgirls at DVG's Anniversary Party

DRESS FOR DINNER ??

Private crossdresser and wife looking to make friends with similar couple (35-45) for dinners at home in San Francisco. Bring your wit, sense of humor, and favorite dress, and lets have some enjoyable evenings. Anyone out there ??

Michaelsfsf@hotmail.com

(Paid Advertisement)

November Birthdays

- 11/1 Erin Cadiz
- 11/3 Tracey Jaquith
- 11/6 Andrea Drane
- 11/8 Heather Robertson
- 11/11 Ann Grogan
- 11/12 Katie Kearney
- 11/13 Debbie Cook
- 11/15 Marcia Chapdelaine
- 11/25 Sandy Campbell
- 11/25 Glinda Corner
- 11/28 Randall Stone
- 11/30 Carol Alexander

Cosmetics Shoes Nails Wigs Fem Fashions Lingerie Cosmetics

Nails Wigs Lingerie

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Serving the Cross Gender
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**The Current Location of the
TGSF Library!!**

Cosmetics Fem Fashions Shoes

Calendar of Events - November 2001

OTHER BAY AREA GROUPS

Alameda T's (A-T's)

Open to all gender expressions and their significant others, at the Lighthouse Community Center in Hayward. Meets every first and third Tuesday, 8:30pm - 10:30pm; Info call: 510-881-8167 or email Rebecca Martin: becca@tgforum.com.

Pacific Center for Human Growth (PacCtr)

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. Mail: 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: sga@transgender.org

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 CDs and TSs; 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 GLBT 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 - (408) 619-2908.

Central City Hospitality House (CCHH)

288 Turk Street, SF. 415-749-2167. Facilitated TG discussion group every Monday, 5:00pm - 6:30pm.

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

| | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|------------------------|--|---|----------------------------------|
| | | | | 1 7:00 PM DVG (RCC) 7:00 PM SCT | 2 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap 8:00 PM RGA | 3 |
| 4 4:00 PM TGSF: ExCom Meeting | 5 5:00 PM CCHH 8:00 PM DVG | 6 8:30 PM A-T's | 7 7:30 PM MPTG | 8 | 9 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap 8:00 PM TGSF: Game Night! | 10 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA |
| 11 | 12 5:00 PM CCHH | 13 7:00 PM TGSF: Cotillion Planning Meeting | 14 7:00 PM TransBay | 15 7:00 PM DVG (RCC) 7:00 PM SCT | 16 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap 8:00 PM RGA | 17 |
| 18 | 19 5:00 PM CCHH 8:00 PM DVG | 20 8:30 PM A-T's | 21 | 22 | 23 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap | 24 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA |
| 25 | 26 5:00 PM CCHH | 27 | 28 | 29 7:00 PM TGSF: EOM @ Cliff House | 30 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap | |

TGSF MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership Year Renews Annually at Sign-up Date / \$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

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

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

Member at a TGSF Social.

Our Readers Respond

HELLO FROM A TRANS RETIREMENT HOME IN MINNESOTA

Hi I am Danielle. I own an apartment building in Philadelphia burbs with my Mom. I have found a real need for our community. That need is the care that is needed by our disabled and elderly transgendered people. I was able this past summer to spend 40 days in Brooklyn, NY rebuilding transyhouse. That has been a safe home for over 100 trans people who have passed through it for the last 8 years. I was able to redo a roof and fix a barn as an extra room and pour a concrete slab and build an addition with decks and an extra room. This venture showed me that just cause I am a womyn I can still do work considered to be, mans work.

After spending that time there, I was able to go to a trans woman's home in Conn. and help her with turning her attic into two extra bedrooms. She since has taken in a F2M with AIDS.

Finally I am here in Minnesota. I met another trans womyn, who was purchasing an old medical center built in the early 80's under a deed for contract. Together we are getting a mortgage and are going to be paying off this deed for contract. We are presently working on a shower for wheelchairs and a giant tub and putting in an extra toilet. This building has 14 bedrooms. It has 4 toilets and with the baths we are working on it will have a giant tub and a wheelchair shower. There is also a kitchen that is like a nurse's station. That we will use as a snack kitchen. There is another room that has a large room with many cabinets that we are converting into a giant kitchen. This only needs a stove and a refrigerator and a sink. The plumbing is right below it and it has 2 small sinks already. Each bedroom has a sink and a night stand. Then we have another room that is a library room. It was used for all the previous medical books that were used here. Then we have another room that can be used as an additional shower and dressing area. Then we have another room that could be used as an examining room in case a DR was called in to see someone. It has its own bathroom too.

The floor plan is a H pattern. The building also has a video store in the front. This was just rented to two lesbian womyn in the last 2 months. (no lease yet) They have offered to let our tenants work there to keep active. The building is 65 feet by a 100 feet. It has concrete floors and a concrete roof. This concrete roof will allow for expansion and a future auditorium. A place to maybe play indoor basket ball and many other uses. The basement also has a large heated space to be used as a recreation room. That is where we want to put in a pool table and a ping pong table. We just purchased another hot water heater. It with the other gives us a total of 120 gallons of hot water. We have central air and hot water radiant heat that is built into the walls.

The town has a population of 1200. The town is situated along the third biggest lake in Minnesota. Lake Minnewaska. This town is considered a tourist town. This town is 2 hours west of Minneapolis. There is a nice hospital here too. Here is that web site <http://www.scmcmorris.com/>. The adjoining town has a web site too. Here it is: <http://www.glenwood-starbuck.org/>.

This is hopefully is going to be just the first start in running care homes for our own people. This building just has the numbers going for it. I think many areas of the country have numbers ready to blossom into permanent trans safe homes. 14 bedrooms at \$250.00 a month with everything included except the medical doctors. That equals \$3500.00 which the mortgage is only \$650.00 and the expenses will be another \$1200.00 we still have room for free rooms for those who can't afford paying any money. I think eventually we can get these set up in at least 5 or 6 quad-

rants of the USA. This office has DSL and is very big with presently 2 computers and room for another 3. If these people were living here to help rather than barely making it elsewhere it wouldn't be a shame. The numbers add up here. Plus Minnesota is already transgender protected and safe too. Any way I went to home depot last night and we acquired over a \$1000.00 worth of shower building supplies. All the tiles and backboard and fixtures and plumbing and some electric. This is for a wheelchair accessible shower. To tell you the truth. I am having a blast being able to do what I love for those who I love with all my strength. That is the reward. Just 2 hours west of Minneapolis. Right next to one of the 3 biggest lakes in this state. Buffalo running around out here too. On farms of course. giggle. Probably a great place to go ice skating and cross country skiing later this winter.

This is just what 2 trans womyn are doing. I wanted to let all know that this kind of thing could and should be done in other areas of the USA.

I was contacted by a student who is finishing his degree in psychology. He is going to apply for a grant to work under the local hospital and do counseling here. There are many ways trans people can get involved with projects like this. Some may just be doing a fundraiser and bringing your butt here to enjoy the wonders of this area and bring some free labor or whatever you may have to offer.

We anticipate having the baths done in 10 days and the kitchen done by October 25th. That would leave a Halloween opening for tenants to start moving into here. I was already contacted by 3 who want to move here in the next month. These are people coming from distant states. Others local to Minneapolis also want to come here and live out their days with the love of those who can give them the respect they need as non ops pre ops or post ops.

In time we will have a few homeless people come here to live for free and start learning a trade. That trade will be the caring of our elderly and disabled. These people tend to have little incomes. These little incomes put together add up to a much easier way of life. Plus the benefits of respect as a trans person.

Please feel free to join our venture. Please don't just have a voice but have something to add. Opinions are like. well ... you know.. but those who want to give real help are greatly needed for this venture.

Right now I have another group focusing on this idea in the Catskills on NY. The have found an old motel. I have offered to use my apartment building in Philadelphia, PA.. see site >>>><http://hometown.aol.com/patriplexsale/<<<<> as a potential 1031 exchange. I presently have 66k in equity. In a like kind exchange I may have more value for someone wanting to vacate their isolated property for a property in a less isolated area such as mine is located.

After this winter we should easily have this property filled and running smoothly. Then we want to purchase a farm maybe in Tennessee. This will be another place to put mobile homes and such. We also want to have at least a 100 acres to be able to hold a transgendered festival. This festival site with housing could also be able to be a fundraising type of festival that could help to finance the land and help many with low income housing.

The point I am getting at after having once held 6 mortgages and even had an agreement for purchase on a 200 acre farm that I eventually bought in Virginia. These ventures are quite feasible. It just takes a person with the ability to listen to the spirits above and want to take risk by trusting in a dream. bye love Danielle / Danielegrl@aol.com.

Special Events This Month!

November 13-18, 2001

"GENDER ARMAGEDDON: THIS IS THE FUTURE"

THIS IS THE FUTURE"

SF's 2001 Tranny Fest Week Celebrates The Sweet Complexities Of The Transgender Experience

Tranny Fest, North America's first film festival and cultural week dedicated to generating positive media images of transgendered people lands in San Francisco again in full force, unleashing over 30 groundbreaking films.

Tranny Fest week will feature a variety of performances, panel discussions, and parties. The week will climax in a glamorous explosion coined "The Transgender and Transgenre Cinema Film Festival". Over the course of the film festival, audiences will be treated to over 30 finger-snappin', groin-bumping, tear-jerking, heartwarming, gut-bustin' mix of experimental, documentary, drama, and pornographic films.

This year's event offers an out-of-this-world, sci-fi vibe and is themed, "Gender Armageddon: This Is The Future". Sci-fi fans, as well as Trans and their fans, will have the opportunity to partake in a magnificent multi-galaxy costume contest hosted by the stunning Empress Alexis Miranda, of the renowned Imperial Court System of San Francisco. Tranny Fest proudly boasts a diverse blend of cultures in all programming, including as many genres as genders.

Scheduled Events

SCIENCE-VS-FICTION OF THE TRANSGENDER VOYAGE - A PANEL DISCUSSION

Tuesday, November 13, 8-9PM

Good Vibrations Retail Store, 1210 Valencia Street, San Francisco; Admission: Free

This stimulating and thought-provoking panel discussion will shed new light on the breakthroughs in science, the law and the media within the transgender community. Reception to follow directly after panel discussion.

Distinguished Panel Includes:

- Shannon Minter, Senior Staff Attorney at the National Center for Lesbian Rights.
- Ana Maldonado, Primary Care Clinician at Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services. Serving Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and questioning women in the Bay Area.
- Machiko Saito, Filmmaker, Producer and Director of the video "Pink Eye" screening at this year's Festival.

Moderated by Sel J. Wahang Ph.D. candidate in the dept. of Performance Studies, New York University, and managing editor of GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies. Additional panelists TBA

SCHMOOZE FEST

Wednesday, November 14th, 7:30PM - 9:30PM

Lexington Club 3464 19th St. bet. Mission and Valencia Streets, San Francisco

A mixer celebrating the "Lesbian and Bi-identified Transwoman" Everyone welcome. Meet the Tranny Fest stars, filmmakers and friends and chat it up at the Lex. Hors d'oeuvres and refreshments provided. 21 and older please. Admission: Free

Tranny Fest Film Festival

Saturday, November 17 & Sunday, November 18th.
Schedule to be announced. Films to be presented all day and night.

Over 30 films and videos will be featured at the historical Roxie Cinema, 3117 16th St. @ Valencia Street, San Francisco

Saturday night includes the Multi-Galaxy Costume Contest hosted by the Flaming Futuristic Empress Alexis Miranda of the Imperial Court. Come to the screening in full, sci-fi regalia and win a prize!

Additional Highlights of Tranny Fest

Tranny Fest Hub

The Lexington Club, 3464 19th Street in San Francisco, is the official "Tranny Fest Watering Hole" for the week of the festival.

Tranny Fest Snack Shack, Trans Youth Art Display and Trans Video Lounge

Meet, Greet and Be Mary! For the entire week of Tranny Fest, the official "Tranny Fest Snack Shack and Trans Video Lounge" will be located the Bearded Lady Café, 485 14th Street at Valencia Street, San Francisco. Open M-F 7:00AM - 7:00PM; Weekends 9:00AM - 7:00PM.

Films to be announced. For more information, to request a screener tape for Tranny Fest, or to set up an interview with the producers or directors, please contact Andrea Burnett @ 650.589.1962 or visit www.trannyfest.com.

Special Note From the Producers

All events at Tranny Fest are scent-free spaces. Please help others that maybe allergic to scented products join in the fun by refraining from wearing scented products. For more information on scent free products please feel free to check our website www.TrannyFest.com Thank you for your consideration.

About Tranny Fest: Established in 1997, Transgender & Transgenre Film Festival in San Francisco is a weeklong celebration of the sweet complexities of the Transgender experience. Tranny Fest includes panel discussions, performances and parties, and is dedicated to generating positive media images of transgendered people. Tranny Fest attempts to portray the totality and richness of transgendered lives. Tranny Fest strives to be inclusive of the various racial, ethnic, cultural, gender, gay, lesbian, and bisexual communities, which make up the larger transgendered/queer community. Tranny Fest is based in San Francisco where it produces a yearly film festival and a week of events celebrating Tranny culture and through collaboration with community-based non-profit agencies provides outreach and education to and about the transgender community.

Festival Directors: Christopher Lee and Alison Austin

Contact: Andrea Burnett, Publicist

Tranny Fest: Transgender & Transgenre Film Festival

584 Castro Street #273, San Francisco, CA 94114. Tel. 650.589.1962 / andrea@andreaburnett.com, or www.TrannyFest.com

More Current & Future Events!

November 2-4

RETREAT WITH VIRGINIA MOLLENKOTT, AUTHOR OF OMNIGENDER

The following came in from Rev. Denis Moore at MCC church in San Jose—contact him directly if interested at denismor@pacbell.net

I wanted to remind you about our upcoming retreat with Virginia Mollenkott. The theme is going to be "Spirituality and Gender: Seeing with Inspired Vision." The retreat is November 2-4 and the cost is \$180 for the weekend, including meals Friday night through Sunday noon. The retreat is over about 1:30pm Sunday. The early registration deadline is October 1st, after which the cost goes up to \$200. The latest we can sign people up is October 15th, if we still have room.

Hope to see you and others from the TGSV group there.

— Rev. Denis

Coming in January, 2002

TGSF EDUCATION SEMINAR

On Saturday, January 12, 2002, please join us for an educational seminar on facial plastic surgery. Our guest speaker will be Dr. Brink of San Mateo.

Those members of the community who've had this sort of surgery and would like to relate their experiences are urged to contact me regarding the possibility of a place in the program.

Time: 2 p.m. Place: Women's Building, 3543 18th Street, in the Mission neighborhood of San Francisco.

For more information, contact Ally Grillo at (415) 682-9272, or via email at agrillo@zeus.sjsu.edu.

Host Hotel for Cotillion 2002

Holiday Inn Golden Gateway

1500 Van Ness Avenue San Francisco, CA 94109
415-441-4000

The rate will be \$99.00 for a single room per night

Please mention TGSF to insure hotel rate

Hotel deadline January 6, 2002

A hospitality suite at the host hotel all day Saturday.

Sunday January 27, 2002 will be a post-celebration brunch

Carla will be doing make-over and nails
all day Saturday at the host hotel

Contact Carla at 408 298 6900 for appointments

California Dreamin 2002 & 2003

DEAR FRIENDS:

It is with regret that I advise you that California Dreamin scheduled for April 18 to 21, 2002 has been canceled due to recent social, political, cultural and economic developments. We are planning to be back in April 2003, perhaps in concert with the IFGE annual meeting scheduled for the west coast.

On behalf of Joan Goodnight and myself, we want to express our gratitude to the many volunteers, presenters, vendors, suppliers and attendees who gave their time, energy and enthusiasm to forge many fond memories of California Dreamin. In particular we would like to acknowledge the support of: IFGE, TGSF, RGA, PPOC, DVG, SGA, TG Forum and other gender groups.

Among the reasons for our decision are: The high level of airport security, identification checks, and luggage inspections may deter some attendees from attending California Dreamin due to fears of discovery. The deepening economic slowdown (recession?) has diminished discretionary income for many potential California Dreamin attendees.

Again our thanks to everyone who opened their hearts, minds and creative souls to make California Dreamin a wonderful and magical experience for everyone involved. Please feel free to share any thoughts and ideas you have regarding California Dreamin, and we will forward to you the dates and location of California Dreamin 2003 as soon as they are finalized.

As always, may all of the positive energy in the universe shine gently upon your beings, and that each of you find the peace and happiness you so richly deserve.

**All the best,
Marcia Chapdelaine**

Cotillion 2002

TICKET SALES LOCATIONS

San Francisco

Marlena's - 415 864 6672

Piedmont Boutique - 415 864 8075

Wellness Center - Tita Aida - 415 292 3420 ext 348

San Mateo

Women's Health Boutique - 650 357 9236

Fremont

"I Love It" Boutique - 510 797 5066

San Jose

Carla's - 408 298 6900

For information or questions contact:

Rachael - 408 619 2908, or Aiyana - 415 753 6475

Cotillion2002@email.com

Takin' Care of Biz...

TGSF BALANCE SHEET

(September 19, 2001 through October 19, 2001)

Assets

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Cash | \$947.23 |
| Event Equipment | |
| Decorations | \$1,000.00 |
| Food Service | \$200.00 |
| Office Supplies | \$50.00 |
| Total Assets | \$2,197.23 |

Liabilities

| | |
|--|------------|
| Accounts Payable (Cotillion Expense) | \$1,351.88 |
| Educational Fund | \$600.00 |
| Taxes | \$0.00 |
| Insurance | \$0.00 |
| Utilities | \$0.00 |
| Operations | \$0.00 |
| Total Liabilities | \$1,951.88 |
| Equity | \$245.35 |

Total Liabilities & Equity \$2,197.23

Monthly Income Statement

Revenue

| | |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Membership | \$0.00 |
| Advertising | \$0.00 |
| Cotillion | \$0.00 |
| Donations Received | \$0.00 |
| Social | \$0.00 |
| Education | \$521.00 |
| Outreach | \$0.00 |
| | \$521.00 |

Expenses

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Cotillion | \$0.00 |
| Halloween Party | \$0.00 |
| Big Shew | \$0.00 |
| Pride Parade | \$0.00 |
| Social | \$0.00 |
| Education | \$0.00 |
| Outreach | \$0.00 |
| Newsletter | \$304.69 |
| Operations | \$124.00 |
| Donations Paid | \$0.00 |
| | \$428.69 |
| Net Income | \$92.31 |

TGSF DONATIONS

*Our Friends Who Give
as of October 19, 2001*

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Rebecca Martin | \$43.00 in memory of Janis Ryan |
| Jo Ellen Fisher | \$500.00 for the TGSF Education Fund on behalf of Dr. Sanguan Kunaporn |

Bless You and Thank You!

CONTACT TGSF!

ExCom Members

President

Aiyana Eveningstar ayanastar@earthlink.net

Vice President

Rachael Janelle rachael_janelle@hotmail.com

Interim Secretary

Nicole Cook nicole@tgforum.com

Treasurer

Stephanie Ann Blythe steph628@tgforum.com

Education

Ally Grillo agrillo@email.sjsu.edu

Outreach

Kalani Makanani kalani@tgforum.com

Social

Tianna DeVil tdevil@serious.com

Other Email Addresses

Editor

Comments and submissions to the TGSF newsletter
The Channel.

Ayme Kantz MissAyme@aol.com

Or tgsfeditor@yahoo.com

Webmistress moodydeb@yahoo.com

Comments and suggestions concerning the TGSF
web site www.tgsf.org

Information nicole@tgforum.com

Requests for information concerning TGSF and up-
coming events

Calendar nicole@tgforum.com

Submissions of descriptions of upcoming events of
TGSF and other groups for publication in The Chan-
nel, the calendar on the TGSF web site, the TGSF
Telephone Hotline, the TGSF email list, and shar-
ing with other groups.

SF TG Civil Rights Implementation Task Force

WE NEED YOU!

Howdy folks,

Since the summer of 2000, San Francisco's Transgender Civil Rights Implementation Task Force has been involved with several major changes in city police and such, as it relates to transgendered people. There has also been work done outside the task force by members and assisting organizations, which has completed some task force goals.

These include some of the following:

- Adoption of San Francisco's employee health benefit for transgender care. Including the fact that now many insurance providers in the area are writing that same benefit into their HMO packages, to compete with the city plan.
- Passage of the Employer Notification Law, which requires ALL city businesses to post an HRC (SF Human Rights Commission, not the national GL lobbying organization of the same acronym) posted outlining the city's non-discrimination policy — including trans people.
- Adoption by the police commission of recommendations to implement sensitivity training for all SF police officers and policy protocols. This includes a commitment to create a joint HRC and Police Commission task force to implement the above recommendation.
- Development of sheriff's department protocols for housing trans inmates, via the HRC.
- Formation of the transgender political caucus, as well as seeing local LGBT political organizations (like the Alice B. Toklas club) actively include "transgender."
- Hiring new transgender staff members of HRC, including having a staff member of same solely dedicated to transgender issues.

This has been a lot of work, but we still have many exciting and valuable possibilities on our plate. This is where you come in.

As with any city task force, people move on. Because of this, our task force is in dire need of new people. We are just shy of not being able to hold a quorum, and have found it difficult to get this for the last couple meetings.

We would love to see our job through, and have a commitment to serve our community. If you would like to help us see our goal, as well as having a desire to help "give back" to others in your community, then please consider joining us.

It would require you to attend at least one official meeting a month, the first Thursday of the month. In addition, you may wish to attend the workgroup meeting, held the third Thursday of the month.

There are openings through the Human Rights Commission, the Mayor's Office, and through the Board of Supervisors. We are *especially* looking for FTMs, and transpeople of color, ethnic heritage, youth or senior, at risk, or other minority populations.

If you are interested, please contact me for further details and I and others will assist.

Cheers,
Gwen Smith

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.

The Vice President Report And Comments ONLY 87 DAY UNTIL COTILLION 2002!

Time is flying by, and the cotillion planning is almost done. We are still working on some details regarding the event and the show/pageant portion. I'm getting more excited than I am already am. I went to Carla's Saturday to drop off tickets and she sold a table in 20 minutes. Wow! If you plan to attend get your tickets soon. I've got Great news. We our up to 6 maybe contestants, which is two more than last month. If you are interested in being a contestant please contact me before December 15, 2001. The theme for the Cotillion 2002 is "An Evening with Friends" but it is also a TGSF fundraiser event to help our community. We hope to make enough extra money to donate to some the following organization; Project Open Hand, AIDS Emergency Fund and Api Wellness Center.

The Holiday Inn hotel on Van Ness Ave will be our host hotel for the event. I have arranged for special rates, see the ad in this month's *Channel* for more details. We will also have two hospital-ity suites on the 26th floor of the Holiday Inn, all day Saturday. Carla will be doing makeovers and nails Saturday at the Hotel: contact Carla for appts at 408 298 6900 if interested. I could still use some help if you are interested please contact Rachael at 408 619 2908 or e-mail. Well that's about it for the Cotillion.

I did attend and have a great time at DVG fall dinner party at Burke's in Walnut Creek October 13, 2001. The DVG ladies are a great group and I like to thank Donna Freeman for letting me pass out cotillion flyers at the dinner and her assistants in selling tickets for the cotillion.

On the other side of groups I terminated my paid membership to TGSB/TGSV early this month. I have and will continue to support any GLBT group with my time or donations that will benefit the transgender community. Only one thing I ask from any one is that you respond to me in a timely manner (not before I have to quit the group) and it is thoughtful to other transgender groups meeting and needs.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving to you and your family.

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.

We can help!

- Tax preparation- Businesses and Individuals.
 - IRS Representation.
 - Offer in Compromise.

IRS Experience

Call Natasha at
415-377-3024
for your personal appointment.

PISS OFF

One year after SRS I think I am learning how to pee. You laugh? Easy enough for you, buddy. Whip it out, point and shoot. But I've got this sawed off shotgun. No barrel. No sight. I could just as easily hit myself as any target.

The first few months, while I was swollen, just a spray came out, but at least it sprayed down. Some little of it wet the inside of my thighs, though not much. With healing, came less of a spray, more of a stream; or rather, streams. All of them were slanted, most downward, except for one that shot horizontally, sometimes against my thigh, sometimes right between the lip of the commode and the toilet seat, wetting the back of my pants.

What was I doing wrong, keeping my legs parted? I tried whizzing with them closed. By George it worked. Everything went into the bowl, nothing out onto the floor or my clothes. Sure, some errant, gravity-defying trickle inevitably migrated up my backside, but was easily sopped with toilet paper. No problem, except now I couldn't seem to position my day pad so it didn't abrade the skin between my vagina and my anus. It took awhile to make a connection between the pee and the scratchy pad.

Oh, yes, even though I'll never have a period, I wear a pad. Every day. Because I discharge every day. It comes with the territory, I guess. The lube I use for dilating doesn't stay inside, but trickles out in yellow drips. Nasty stuff that can crust on your pants and itself cause painful abrasion. I clean myself out by douching, but not too frequently because that can dry the vaginal canal, or so I've been told. (Much of what I know about my vagina isn't knowledge but hearsay, garnered from other post-ops based upon their experience or what they read on the Internet.)

Sometimes, after exercise, I find blood on my pad. My Kaiser doctor tells me to keep an eye on it, but as long as I have no itching or pain not to worry. Maybe it's time to ask my surgeon what he thinks.

But we were talking serious urine, so let's get back on course. About a month ago I was taking a pee before entering the shower. Why? I don't know. Peeing in the shower is such a comfort. Whoosh, down your leg and down the drain, the water washing you clean. Maybe I had involuntarily started to squirt while testing the shower temperature, which was still cold, and so plopped on the pot so as not to flood the floor. (Ah, yes, involuntary peeing, they didn't tell you about that?) Anyway—how do these things come about? Why did I open my legs as wide as I could while arching my spine and pressing my butt against the toilet seat? Sweet mystery of life, I don't know, but it was the right thing to do, because now the pee, though, as usual, streaming in its usual crossfire, all fell into the bowl. The trail between vagina and anus was dry as a cactus needle. Of course, I still sopped with toilet paper after, as everyone must, to catch the pee that clings to the pubes, but otherwise I was dry. Dry!

The payoff for my butt was immediate: No more abrasions because the residue dried pee, with all the nasty stuff pee contains (which is why our bodies don't want it in the first place), wasn't there to harm my delicate skin.

One month later, something again is not right. No matter how thoroughly I blot, I arise from the throne damp between my thighs and with pee dew clinging to the front of my pubes. I don't know what to do, but I'll come to me, perhaps in a wet dream.

STEALTH AND PASSING

by Susan Blewitt

I cannot understand the choice of so many transsexuals to live in stealth. Who wants to live in untruth? I sure don't, and I fail to understand how anyone in his or her right mind could, assuming that he or she was mature and of good character.

It is true that I do not pass well. However my attitude toward stealth is not a rationalization of this inability. Thanks to Dr. Ousterhout's work on my face, coupled with the fact that at 5'8" and 135 lbs. I have a favorable body for female presentation, I get considerable feedback from mainstream people to the effect that I make an attractive lady. I think it is very possible that within a couple of years I will be able to pass fairly well, for the cause of my inability to pass is voice and behavior, which can be learned, rather than pronounced male physical qualities; and I am quite new at female presentation, having done it for the first time on an airline flight last January 28 when I flew from Chicago to San Francisco for my January 31 surgery date with Dr. Ousterhout. Thus, while I am lousy at passing I am not resigned to fact that this will always be the case.

If I become passable, which is not terribly unlikely, I will want everyone who knows me, even casual acquaintances, to know that I am a transsexual woman, not a genetic woman. I will want this primarily because in a general way I prefer living in truth, and secondarily, though still very importantly, because I feel I owe this particular truth to others. I feel it would be disrespectful of others to allow their false belief that I was GG to go uncorrected - I feel that this would be a betrayal of their trust.

I know that having people think I was a GG and being treated as such by them would be pleasant to my ego. Though I do not pass well I have passed often enough to be acquainted with this pleasure. But this ego pleasure that living in stealth would provide would not be worth the lessening of my character that it would entail. I would lose self-esteem. I would not love myself as much. And, regarding my relations with others, I want to be regarded by them as a person who has a sense of honor, a person who can be counted upon in this way. Thus, when what I stand to gain, i.e., the ego pleasure that stealth would bring, is weighed against what I would lose in obtaining this, the intelligent choice is clear.

Thirty years ago, when "impersonating a woman" was a crime in every state, when being clocked would likely mean a trip to the county jail, the extreme importance attributed to passing was rational, as was the choice of transsexuals to live in stealth. But public attitudes toward behaviors that fall under the rubric of sexual deviancy have changed enormously since those former times. Thirty years ago it was excusable for a transsexual to keep her friends in the dark about her past. If a friend were to learn the truth about her he or she would not feel betrayed, for he or she would understand that powerful social forces rendered such betrayal necessary. However today those social forces are no longer so strong as to render such conduct excusable. Today most mainstream people would feel that their trust had been betrayed if they were to discover the truth about a woman friend who was a transsexual living in stealth, and their esteem of her character would sharply drop.

I think that in large measure the thinking of the TG community regarding passing, and especially regarding stealth, was formed in earlier times when there was a truly powerful stigma to contend with, and this thinking has not caught up with the better conditions of the present day. Apart from that consideration, I cannot understand the choice of so many transsexuals to live in stealth. I assure you I personally have no such desire. And I am confident that my feelings regarding this matter are not a mere rationalization of my inability to pass.

Looking Back in Time:

AN INTERESTING HISTORY LESSON

From Newsweek, December 5, 1966

"A Change of Gender"

What is sexual identity? Physical maleness and femaleness, of course, are both set at conception, dictated by the chromosomes. But, in fact, the distinction between the sexes is more than physiological. Each parent establishes a psychological pattern of gender identity that makes a boy become a man and a girl a woman. The boy, for example, follows his father's image and develops an aggressive personality and an interest in sports; the girl plays with dolls and helps in the kitchen. But some apparently normal boys and girls, whether through a subtle imbalance in their hormone systems or the inability to identify with the proper parent become transsexuals, victims of a seemingly uncontrollable desire to live as members of the opposite sex.

The best-known example of transsexualism is the slender ex-GI named George Jorgensen who shocked the world fourteen years ago when he went to Denmark for surgery to change his sex from male to female. Jorgensen was castrated, a procedure that some physicians and psychiatrists regarded as an act of mutilation. But today, many doctors are convinced that if the transsexual cannot be cured psychiatrically, then his or her desire for change should be achieved surgically. And last week, The New York Times revealed that Johns Hopkins one of the nation's most reputable medical institutions, had opened a Gender Identity Clinic which was making a thorough study of transsexualism and had already "converted" two physiologically male men into women. "If the mind cannot be changed to fit the body," explained plastic surgeon Dr. John E. Hoopes after the story appeared, "then perhaps we should consider changing the body to fit the mind."

Suicide:

Hoopes, who heads the Hopkins clinic, estimated that there are several thousand transsexual men and women in the U.S. at present. While nearly all transsexuals appear to be physically normal members of their sex, the abnormality in behavior often becomes apparent at the age of 4 or 5. Transsexuals are distinct from transvestites; while transvestites derive erotic pleasure from donning the clothes of the opposite sex, transsexuals do so simply to carry out their desire to switch sexes. "You would probably never recognize a transsexual as such," says Hoopes. "I cannot state too emphatically how completely these people assume the role of the opposite sex." Since the role is not reality, he adds, perhaps three in every ten transsexuals commit suicide, and many others, unable to obtain surgical help, mutilate their sexual organs.

The Hopkins Gender Identity Clinic offers a way out for some of these unfortunates. Before establishing the clinic, Hoopes and his nine clinic associates (including two psychiatrists, two psychologists, a gynecologist, another plastic surgeon, a urologist and a pediatrician) cleared their plan with clergymen and lawyers. The surgery is considered legal on the ground it is necessary for treatment of a pathological condition. The patients merely sign the usual surgical release before the operation.

Crusader:

The clinic opened last July with no publicity. Most of the patients it sees are referred by the Harry Benjamin Foundation, an organization established by New York endocrinologist Harry Benjamin, author of the definitive text "The Transsexual Phenomenon" and a longtime crusader for more realistic attitudes toward the problem. Funds for the clinic come from the Erickson Educational Foundation of Baton Rouge, La.

Currently, the clinic staff screens two applicants a month, nine out of ten of them males who wish to become females. Each applicant receives exhaustive physical and psychological testing. (As part of the clinic's research into the causes of transsexuality, the family histories of the applicants are also studied in detail.) Only those who show no evidence of psychosis and who have long lived as transsexuals are accepted as candidates for treatment. There is already a waiting list of more than 100.

Those selected for sex change receive regular doses of sex hormones; the female hormone estrogen, for example, will diminish a man's body hair and usually helps develop breasts and rounded hips, while male hormones have the opposite effect on the female transsexual. Surgery for male transsexuals involves a three- to four-hour, operation during which the testes and penis are removed and an artificial vagina constructed, often from the sensitive skin of the penis. Later, the breasts may be artificially enlarged by injecting polyethylene plastic (the same procedure used by some topless dancers to build up their measurements). According to the clinic, men who have been surgically transformed often marry, and claim to have orgasms, although they are, of course, unable to conceive. So far, at Hopkins, five females have undergone surgery to become males. In these cases, a hysterectomy is carried out and, in a later operation, the breasts are removed. A penis may be constructed by means of a skin graft from the patient's abdomen, but it cannot fulfill a normal sexual function.

Clinic Aims:

In the last few months at Hopkins, sex-change surgery has been performed on two men in their 20s, one white and one Negro. Both are planning to marry men who are aware that the operations were performed. "They are pleased with the surgery and have no regrets," says Hoopes. (Ex-GI Jorgensen, a neatly coiffed blonde who calls herself Christine, now lives quietly in Massapequa, N.Y., and is writing her autobiography.)

Despite this apparent initial success, the clinic aims to determine the underlying causes of transsexuality and whether sex-change operations are the best method of handling this disorder. For this reason, patients treated at Hopkins will be followed for years to determine how well they adjust to society.

Some psychiatrists object to sex-change surgery because they believe transsexuals are deeply disturbed homosexuals who wish to change gender to resolve their conflict. Says Dr. Charles W. Socarides, a New York psychoanalyst specializing in the treatment of homosexuality: "Such operations are doomed to ultimate failure because they do not change the basic underlying conflict." For his part, Hoopes still is not sure, in his words, that "these people are happier and more useful citizens following surgery and other therapy than they were before." He is open-minded about transsexual surgery; he hopes other hospitals and the public will be too.

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NTAC APPLAUDS SUMMER OF TRANSGENDERED SUCCESSES

A host of recent advances in transgender inclusion to non-discrimination and hate crimes law prompts NTAC, the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition, to praise the bravery and dedication of workers around the country. Rhode Island, Houston, Pennsylvania, and others have recognized the need to pass trans-inclusive legislation and have embraced the challenge of enacting such laws.

RI Takes The Lead

Rhode Island became the second state in the nation (after Minnesota in 1993) to adopt a statewide non-discrimination law that clearly prohibits discrimination against transgender people in employment, housing, credit and public accommodations. The law, passed July 17, 2001 amends all of the state's non-discrimination laws to ensure that transgender people who face discrimination may seek redress.

"The passage of this long overdue law is a crucial step in the struggle to make clear that discrimination based on gender difference and stereotypes is wrong," says Kate Monteiro, the president of the Rhode Island Alliance for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights (RIALGCR), the statewide driving force behind the law's passage.

The statute adds the phrase "gender identity or expression" to Rhode Island's non-discrimination laws and defines gender identity and expression in broad, inclusive terms.

"This is a tremendously important law that will ensure the protection of transgender people's basic rights," said Jennifer Levi, a staff attorney at Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD) who helped draft the bill. "Far too often, we have seen courts exclude transgender people from protections under existing laws for unprincipled reasons. No more will this be the case in Rhode Island."

NTAC lauds the efforts of RIALGCR and GLAD in their commitment to ending discrimination and ability to forge coalition and consensus.

Houston In The Pink

Houston's city council recently approved an ordinance that protects city employees based on sexual orientation, or gender identity. The July 25 vote was historic in one sense: it is the first legislative protections covering "gender identity" anywhere in the state of Texas. It was also the first transgender rights victory in which NTAC was actively involved.

In 1998, Mayor Lee Brown enacted an executive order, which defined sexual identity in a manner that covered transgenders similar to Minnesota's more subtle language on non-discrimination. Two months later, that executive order was subsequently forced into legal limbo from a suit filed by opposing city council member Rob Todd.

This time, however, there was no guesswork involved. City Council passed the amendment to the city employment non-discrimination ordinance by a 10-4 vote, with one absence. The newly amended city employment ordinance now adds "sexual orientation and gender identity" to the other categories in which discrimination will not be tolerated.

Pushing forward with the non-discrimination vote was a gutsy move on the part of Mayor Lee Brown - especially coming just months before citywide elections. But the mayor never faltered in his commitment to equality.

"The Constitution guarantees that we all have the same opportunities, the same rights," Mayor Brown stated during a press conference after the historic vote. The non-discrimination ordinance, he added, was "the right thing to do."

"I'm proud to be a Houstonian, and I'm very proud of my city right now!" gushed an ebullient council member, Annise Parker. "And I'm proud of the courage that the mayor and at least most of my colleagues exhibited in voting for what was right." Parker, the catalyst for the GLBT non-discrimination push, has been unwavering in her support for inclusion in her work on city council.

NTAC highly praises the heroic efforts of Mayor Lee Brown, Council Member Annise Parker, and the People for a Fair Houston Committee.

Victory In Pennsylvania State Senate:

The Pennsylvania Senate passed fully inclusive hate crimes legislation in a stunning and unexpectedly strong vote of 32 to 15. The Pennsylvania House of Representatives will vote on the issue in the next legislative session.

Individual members of SPARC (the Statewide Pennsylvania Rights Coalition) worked with PAGALA (the Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Alliance for Political Action) to pass, in one legislative house, historic pro-active legislation protecting the rights of its lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender citizens. Importantly, the bill contains what may be the most inclusive language of any hate crimes bill in the country. Bill 1493 adds "actual or perceived ancestry, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, gender, or gender identity" to the existing Ethnic Intimidation Act, broadening protection beyond the basis of "race, color, religion, or national origin".

The victory is particularly sweet because many individuals and elected officials contributed to this extraordinary effort. In all, gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgenders, progressives, democrats, and republicans worked doggedly for the bill's success. All twenty Democrats and twelve of thirty Republicans joined together in a bipartisan effort.

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THE EDUCATION OF HELEN SHAVER

Christine Champagne

Before she started playing male-to-female transsexual Erica Bettis on the new series "The Education of Max Bickford," actress Helen Shaver admits she had some concerns about whether she could pull off the role.

"If I thought about it too much, I'd go, 'Well, this is ridiculous. Why am I playing this? How can I possibly do this? How can I pretend to know the specifics of the experience when I can't?'" she says. "On the other hand, I thought, 'I can bring my humanity to it. I can bring my experience of perceiving myself one way and being perceived by the world another way.' That's something we all share as human beings."

For those of you who haven't checked out "The Education of Max Bickford" yet (the show airs on CBS Sundays at 8 p.m. ET), Shaver's character is a 40-something professor at an all-female school. She has just returned to work after an 18-month absence during which she underwent sex-change surgery. Originally Steve, she is now Erica. Among those adjusting to the change are her best friend and fellow professor Max (Richard Dreyfuss).

Take Action! Another Woman Fired for Crossing Gender Lines!

Fight Gender Stereotyping in the Workplace!

Protest Bumble and Bumble's Firing of Dawn Dawson!

If you ask the prestige hair cutting salon Bumble & Bumble what gender has to do with cutting hair, they might say "Everything." At least, that's what hair stylist Dawn Dawson says they told her when she was fired — allegedly for having hair too short and looking "too hard" for their upwardly mobile New York/New Jersey clientele.

According to the federal lawsuit filed by her attorneys at Leeds, Morelli and Brown, Dawn was repeatedly genderbashed at Bumble and Bumble's trendy New York salon by coworkers who called her "Donald," harassed her, and called her too "butch."

According to Dawn, a feminist and lesbian, things finally came to a head when she was told her new close-shaved haircut was a problem: she was reprimanded, and shortly thereafter fired.

Said Gina Reiss, GenderPAC's Managing Director, "Dawn's case is reminiscent of Darelene Jespersen's recent firing in Reno, NV, for refusing to wear make-up. When corporations focus on how women look instead of how well they perform their jobs, it sets back gender equality in the workplace for all Americans."

Says Dawn, "If you try to deviate from what society thinks you should be, if you try to better yourself, they push you down as hard as they can, especially if you cross gender lines."

Send Bumble and Bumble's owner, Estee Lauder, a message. Call, write, email or fax them now, and tell them *** "All Americans deserve safe, fair workplaces where they're *** judged on the quality of their work, not on their gender."

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To prepare for the role, 50-year-old Shaver, who you may recognize from her starring role in the classic 1985 lesbian-themed flick "Desert Hearts" as well as films such as "In Praise of Older Women" and "The Color of Money," consulted with a therapist who works exclusively with transitioning transgender people, garnered historical information on transsexuals through some the staffers at the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) and read various books (she says "Trans-Sister Radio: A Novel" by Chris A. Bohjalian is a must-read).

Shaver notes that it wasn't as if transgender people weren't on her radar screen before she took the part. "I have a good friend who is a male-to-female transgender woman. We've been friends for 15 years, since shortly after she completed her transition. She and I sat down and had a long talk [before I began this role]. But over the 15 years, we've had many talks on many different levels in terms of her experience."

As Shaver researched her role, she found herself pondering what it was like to feel as if you were born into the wrong body. "After I'd accepted the role, and before I did the pilot, I was sitting in the bathtub one afternoon, and I realized how much I have always loved my femaleness, how comfortable I have always been with my body. ... And I thought, 'What if I had all of these feelings, and when I touched myself there was a penis there? And what if for 45 years that was my reality? And what if after all that time I came to a place where I was willing to and probably had no other choice but to make the big physical changes, and now finally for the first time I was getting into the bathtub, and when I touched myself my body felt right for the first time in my life?' What an amazing moment that would be."

As we've seen over the course of the first few episodes of "The Education of Max Bickford," Erica has adjusted well after surgery and is looking and feeling great. Shaver says on future episodes we'll see Erica deal with her ex-wife (Steve was once married to a woman), and it won't be long before she starts dating again. (At this point, Shaver doesn't know whether Erica will show an interest in men or women.)

When asked what qualities in Erica she most admires, Shaver cites the character's lack of bitterness ("she took all of this angst and discomfort and friction in her life and directed it positively") and sense of humor.

"One of my favorite lines in one of the episodes is when Max is going on and on about his father and how he disappointed his father and blah blah blah. Erica is sitting there, and Max says, 'So I'm the world's worst father, and the world's worst son.' And she says, 'Oh, you're just like the rest of us. You're doing the best you can, and besides I believe I qualify as the world's worst son.' She's sitting there in a pink dress and says that," Shaver says, laughing. "I think it is brilliant."



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CA Gov. GRAY DAVIS SIGNS AB25

SACRAMENTO (October 14, 2001) – Today, Governor Gray Davis approved Assembly Bill number 25 with his signature. The new law is the largest expansion of domestic partners rights in the country. It will add several new legal protections to eligible couples that register in the state of California as domestic partners. AB 25 was sponsored by CAPE, California's statewide gay and lesbian lobbying organization, and authored by Assemblymember Carole Migden. The new law provides partners –same-sex couples and opposite-sex senior couples– with more legal benefits and stronger protections beginning January 1st of 2002.

Jean Harris, Executive Director of CAPE, praises the Governor's approval of AB 25 saying, "Poll after poll reveals that a majority of Californians support basic rights for gay and lesbian couples under domestic partnership. Passage of AB 25 is a swift and fair response to strong support, which is demonstrated widely throughout the state. While this is the largest expansion of domestic partners rights in the country—only a handful of protections the state and federal government offers to married spouses are included in AB 25, over 1,700 are not."

The law will give registered couples several basic legal and financial tools. Partners will soon have the legal right to make life and death decisions on each other's behalf. As enacted under AB 25, domestic partners who register with the Secretary of State will have the ability to:

- Relocate with a domestic partner without losing unemployment benefits.
- Use sick leave to care for an ill partner or the child of a domestic partner.
- Be exempt from state income tax the health benefits provided to domestic partners.
- File disability benefits on behalf of an incapacitated partner.
- Make medical decisions in the hospital or act as a conservator.
- Sue for wrongful death as well as seek damages for negligent infliction of emotional distress.
- Administer a partner's estate.
- Bequeath property to a domestic partner using the statutory will.
- Adopt a partner's child using the stepparent adoption process.
- Continue health benefits for surviving partners of government employees and retirees.

Additionally, AB 25 requires health plans to offer domestic partner coverage to businesses and associations similar to coverage offered to dependents of employees and subscribers. This requirement will assist small and medium-sized employers that decide to offer domestic partner benefits to their employees.

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Perhaps the most remarkable efforts of all was the consistent and vocal support for inclusive language to protect the entire sexual minority and disabilities community. No portion of the population was sacrificed to achieve a partial victory in this struggle.

"I think what became very clear, very quickly was that the Senators came to understand that they were either going to vote for the GLBT community or against the GLBT community," said transgender activist Mara Keisling of Harrisburg. "The specific language was never really at issue which I think is the way it should be. They've denied us our rights for decades, how dare we even think about letting them define who we are."

"Pennsylvania has taught the country an important lesson that even in one of the most politically and religiously conservative and rural states in America it is possible for everyone to achieve equal rights," said Steve Glassman of SPARC.

NTAC congratulates SPARC, PAGALA and WGTE on their inspirational work and their historic success.

Nationally the transgender community has enjoyed a number of successes, and work continues in other locales, which may provide even more victories. In light of the tragedies of September 11, 2001, however, there have been questions about whether any future rights attainment – or indeed the basic civil rights we already enjoy – will take a back seat to the nation's concerns for security.

Underscoring those concerns, a number of politically religious leaders have attempted to exploit the nation's emotional distress – trying to affix blame to the GLBT community, among others, for incurring the wrath of God. The efforts to incite negativity and hatred toward us continue to escalate. While supporting the national efforts at unity, we must remain vigilant of those who might take advantage of this opportunity to halt or erode our civil rights. As our country prepares to battle terrorism from abroad, we must also prepare to battle those who would oppress or terrorize their own citizens from within.

NTAC, the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition, is a 501(c)4 political advocacy coalition working to establish and maintain the right of all transgendered, intersexed, and gender-variant people to live and work without fear of violence or discrimination.

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GAYWATCH: SEX UNKNOWN

Christine Champagne

The complex issue of gender identity is explored in NOVA's "Sex: Unknown," which aired on PBS stations nationwide Tuesday, October 30, from 8 to 9 p.m. ET. (Check local listings for additional showings.)

The program centers on the famous case of David Reimer. Born a boy in 1965, psychologist John Money convinced his mother, Janet, to raise him as a girl after a botched circumcision left the child — then known as Bruce — without a penis. She went along with the plan, and in 1967 Bruce was dubbed Brenda and forced to live as a girl.

Dr. Money acted on the theory that gender identity is not cemented at birth — that it can be affected by how we are raised. There were many critics of that assumption, and they ultimately felt vindicated when an adult Brenda assumed the name David and began living as a man. The show fully explores David's amazing life story, relying on the BBC documentary "The Boy Who Was Raised a Girl." Interviews with David, his mother and various medical and psychological experts were repurposed from that project and combined with new material.

NOVA's Stephen Sweigart, who is gay, produced the show and spent months researching David's case and that of other intersex children. "It was one of the most difficult research assignments I have ever been given and certainly one of the most emotional kinds of research pieces I've done," Sweigart says.

One of the most shocking revelations in "Sex: Unknown" is that Dr. Money's theory still carries weight today and affects how intersex children are treated at birth. "I was shocked to hear about what is surgically done to children today to make them look normal," Sweigart says.

It should be noted that David was not born an intersex child, therefore, the subject of intersex children and the surgery they routinely undergo is not the focus of "Sex: Unknown." "One of the things I struggled with in the research and even had to write a memo about to myself was that this film is about brains. It is not about genitals," Sweigart says. "This film looks at: Is there a difference between male and female brains? Is there a physical difference in the neural structure between males and females? And can we glean anything from that as far as what makes men and women behave differently?"

Dr. Money is generally painted as a villain in the media, but Sweigart doesn't see him that way, and struggled to bring balance to "Sex: Unknown." "What he was doing and what he believed was based in science. Now, it may have been misguided. He might have been an egomaniac. He certainly wasn't the nicest person in the world. But he's not the personification of evil." To put Dr. Money's work into context, Sweigart included an interview with Anne Fausto-Sterling, a biologist and historian at Brown University.

Sweigart admits that despite his efforts to be fair, he likely didn't succeed. "It's interesting," Sweigart says, "because people who watch my version of the film continue to think that John Money is evil personified. There wasn't a lot I could do about that. When you look at the outcome and look at the fact that he didn't confess to the failure of the case, there's really no way to make him look good." Sweigart attempted to get an interview with Money for "Sex: Unknown," but he refused to go on-camera.

We do get to see David tell his side of the story. In early interviews, he wouldn't show his face, Sweigart says. But we see him full-on in this program (as well as in a recent interview on "Dateline NBC"). "As time has gone on, he seems to have relaxed his reluctance and feels that it's doing the world some good to hear his story," Sweigart says. "I admire him a great deal. I think he shows incredible sensitivity and depth."

After watching "Sex: Unknown," viewers will likely be left with a lot of questions. "The original BBC film [concluded], [Money] was completely wrong. It's all biology in the end," Sweigart says. "But that isn't true either. ... I hope what [our interview] with Anne [Fausto-Sterling] brought to the table was, it's not one thing or the other. It's a mixture of both."

Davis Signs AB 25...

Continued from Page 17

Finally, this measure will change present law to allow opposite-sex couples to register as domestic partners if one or both of the partners are over the age of 62.

Jean Harris adds, "California is leading the country in instituting protections for gay and lesbian couples without a court mandate. In Hawaii and Vermont, both legislatures were compelled by their state courts to extend equal benefits to same-sex couples. CAPE applauds California's state lawmakers and Governor Gray Davis for addressing this important issue plainly and openly. CAPE seeks to ensure basic rights for all Californians. There are still thousands of rights denied to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Californians and CAPE is tackling these issues with state lawmakers continuously. Nevertheless, today is a substantial leap forward, which is something to celebrate."

For further AB 25 and domestic partnership information, please go to <http://www.calcape.org> http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/bill/asm/ab_0001-0050/ab_25_bill_20010926_status.html http://www.ss.ca.gov/business/sf/sf_dp.htm

CAPE sponsored AB 26, which established California's current domestic partners law. It created a statewide registry for lesbian, gay and senior couples that guarantees hospital visitation rights and extends health benefits to partners of state employees. Since the enactment of AB 26 in January of 2000, CAPE has been lobbying state lawmakers to add more legal and financial safeguards to increase the rights of domestic partners substantially.

CAPE—the California Alliance for Pride and Equality is the golden state's only nonprofit, nonpartisan gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender statewide lobbying organization. CAPE's mission is to ensure the dignity, safety, equality and civil rights of LGBT people and all Californians. CAPE has over 200,000 donors, volunteers and supporters in California and is the largest and fastest growing statewide LGBT organization in the country. For more information, please visit our websites at www.calcape.org or www.raiseamillionvoices.org.

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