

Leather & Lace A Big Hit!

TGSF's The Channel
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 2001 - 2002 Officers

(Fiscal Year: May 1 - April 30)

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

Membership Report

Current Membership as of:

4/30/01 251
 5/31/01 213
 6/30/01 198
 7/31/01 196

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 and
 Telzey Adams

Ad Rates

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

Personal ads from TGSF members: \$10 for up to 40 words per issue. We will not accept ads with a sexual objective. Ad deadlines are the 15th of every month. Send ad copy and check or money order to TGSF, Advertising Dept., PO Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486. 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...

On behalf of the ExCom, it is with the most profound sense of shock and sadness that I must inform you of the death of our Secretary, **Janis Ryan**. After being summoned by concerned friends, the Berkeley Police entered her apartment on Monday, August 27, 2001 only to confirm the worst.

I have no details as to when she died, nor as to any cause. If any of you are interested in attending a Memorial Service for Janis, our Vice President, Rachael Janelle, has agreed to accept calls (voicemail) at (408) 619-2908. This is a tragic loss for TGSF, and will have a deep and lasting impact on our community at large. I can think of very few people who were as tirelessly dedicated to our cause as Janis was.

You will notice that this issue of *The Channel* is missing the ExCom Meeting Minutes from last month, as well as a list of September's birthdays, the list of New Members, and the Membership Report (and I apologize if this causes any inconvenience). Janis, of course, played probably the most vital leadership role for TGSF, because as Secretary she was responsible for recording, transcribing, compiling and reporting the business of the organization. Obviously she was unable to do that this month. But before she passed, she did send me a Letter to the Editor (please see Page 6). As her last words to us, I think they speak well for the determined, energetic and empowered soul she was.

To close on a practical, but necessary note - I'm sending out the call now to you, the Membership, to please consider stepping forward and volunteer to take on the hugely important job she has left behind. Our Leadership has been devastated by this heavy blow. Your support is needed now, more than ever.

VESTAL VIRGINS WANTED!

Dear Diva and the Vestal Virgins have been invited to do a command performance of the Snow Scene from *The Nutcracker Suite* for the upcoming Imperial Court Coronation. Empress Chablis has requested the performance to open the evening; the theme of this year's coronation is "Winter Ball". Well-known artist Stephen has designed beautiful romantic costumes for the dancers.

In preparation, Dear Diva (as Prima Ballerina Madame Pisdeyova) will be conducting a **TRANNY BALLET CLASS** beginning Sunday, September 2, 2001. The class will be held every Sunday afternoon from 4:30-6:30pm at the Jon Sims Center for the Performing Arts (1519 Mission Street, between South Van Ness and 11th Street) in Studio #1. The class will last one hour, and the second hour will be dedicated to learning and rehearsing choreography.

Dear Diva appeared with the Virgins at last year's Pilgrimage to Emperor Norton's grave by his widow, Empress I Jose, the Widow Norton. They presented *Pink Flamingo Lake* to rave reviews. The event was the official swearing in to office of the new Emperor and Empress. Empress Chablis was so moved by the performance that she immediately requested the command performance at her Coronation in March, 2002.

Continued bottom of Page 3

EXPANDED HOTLINE HOURS!

Hotline hours have been expanded to include 10pm to 2am. It's 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.

Tranny Ballet Class!

taught by PRIMA BALLERINA MADAME PISDEYOVA

EVERY SUNDAY
4:30- 6:30 pm
beginning Sept. 2

tuition:
SEPT-FEB \$100
or
10 classes- \$65
or
\$10 PER CLASS

MEN WELCOME!
BIO-GALS WELCOME!
ALL AGES!
NO PREVIOUS TRAINING!

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TIGHTS
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BALLERINA HAIR STYLE



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FOR THE
PERFORMING ARTS
Studio #1

1519 MISSION STREET
(between So. Van Ness
& 11th Street)

For information
contact:
DEAR DIVA
(415)928-3482
deardiva@mindspring.com

AT LAST!
YOU TOO
CAN BE A
BALLERINA
AND DANCE
BEFORE
ROYALTY!

In preparation for a COMMAND PERFORMANCE for her majesty
Empress CHABLIS
at the Imperial Court Coronation

Cost for the class is minimal. Tuition for the entire period (September-March) is \$100 (this is for 24 classes! making the cost per class just \$4.17 per class!!!!). For those who want to participate yet are not able to commit every Sunday afternoon due to their busy schedule, a 10-class card is available for \$65. Payment per individual class is \$10. Those who attend the class regularly will be well prepared to do a fantastic performance.

No previous dance training is required, and you don't even have to be coordinated. This class is a chance to develop your talents in dance, keep in shape, have fun with your community, and become the Prima Ballerinas you all are inside! Everyone is

welcome, though the main group will be made up of members of the Transgendered community. But boys, bio-gals, leather daddies, bears, schoolteachers, librarians, Mayors, etc., are all welcome to join.

Emperors and Empresses from all across the country have inquired how this group of drag ballet performers can be engaged to perform at their coronations. It is the aim of Dear Diva is to develop a group to be hired out to perform at these functions around the country. Over time this group will develop a repertoire of several ballets.

Join in the fun, support the community and have a blast!

Sunday / September 9th / 4:00pm

EXCOM MEETING

The next TGSF ExCom meeting will be held on Sunday, September 9, 2001 at 4:00pm at the office of President Aiyana, 20271 10th Avenue, San Francisco. All TGSF members are welcome to attend.

Saturday / September 8th / 2:00pm

A TGSF EDUCATIONAL FORUM

HORMONES AND YOU: PERFECT TOGETHER?

Is hormone therapy in your future? Is it in your present, or past? Or are you simply curious about hormones, these powerful substances that will give you some of the secondary physical characteristics of the gender of your choice, and perhaps also change you emotionally?

Regardless of your answers to these questions, we hope to see you next month at the Women's Building in San Francisco's Mission neighborhood. Steve O'Brien, M.D., of the East Bay AIDS Center, will speak on the effects of estrogen and testosterone, and we know you'll have plenty of questions for him about what hormones can and cannot do. At this forum you will learn the basics about an important component of gender transition.

The Women's Building is located at 3543 18th Street, San Francisco, and only a few blocks from the 16th Street BART station.

Thursday / September 13th / 8:00pm

TGSF MID MONTH EVENT

Holy Cow again - and again! We had such a great time here in July, that we want the sequel! A reminder, Holy Cow is open on Thursdays from 8:00pm - 2:00am so be prompt. Located at 1535 Folsom at 11th Street.

Thursday / September 27th / 7:30pm

AN EVENING AT ASIA SF - MADAME BUTTERFLY

Here's a change! For the EOM this time we're going to visit our Asian sisters at the wonderfully exciting Asia SF! Home of Cal-Asian Cuisine and Gender Illusionists, the girls here are talented and beautiful, and the food is a divine fusion. There are a couple of shows that night hosted by the vivacious and lovely Tita Ida, one at 8:00 and again at 10:00pm. We want to make the 8pm show, so come early!

Fabulous food, good drinks and a high energy crowd upstairs. Downstairs there's a nice dance floor and bar while we wait to be seated for dinner. Asia SF is located at 201 9th Street corner of Harrison. See you there, girl!

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!

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



Five Pillar Oriental Medicine

2071 10th Ave. SF CA
 Acupuncture • Tui Na • Herbs
 Diet • Qigong

Message for Appointment:

(415) 753-6475

(415) 661-3712

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

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Serving the Cross Gender
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 and understanding.

**The Current Location of the
 TGSF Library!!**

Cosmetics Fem Fashions Shoes

Calendar of Events - September 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@tforum.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
2	3 5:00 PM CCHH 8:00 PM DVG	4 8:30 PM A-T's	5 7:30 PM MPTG	6 7:00 PM DVG (RCC) 7:00 PM SCT	7 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap 8:00 PM RGA	8 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
9 4:00 PM TGsf: ExCom Meeting	10 5:00 PM CCHH	11	12 7:00 PM TransBuy	13 8:00 PM TGsf: MidMonth @ Holy Cow	14 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap 8:00 PM TGsf: Game Night!	15
16 Ms Bob @ Different Light	17 5:00 PM CCHH 8:00 PM DVG	18 8:30 PM A-T's	19	20 7:00 PM DVG (RCC) 7:00 PM SCT	21 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap 8:00 PM RGA	22 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
23	24 5:00 PM CCHH	25	26	27 8:00 PM TGsf: EOM @ Asia-SF	28 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap	29
30						

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 Member at a TGSF Social.

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

Our Readers Respond

DEAR TGSF:

"Avoid generalizations—they often lead to dangerous stereotypes." That is one of the guidelines for support groups such as those at the Pacific Center in Berkeley. Unfortunately, generalizations based on incorrect facts have been much of what certain authors, especially "Shirley Faire," have been writing in this newsletter.

I know that in any group for any purpose those of us who become actively involved in running it become the targets members and others who disagree with what we are doing, trying to do, or how we are or aren't doing it. I believe that this newsletter should reflect the widest range of opinions as possible. But there comes a time when we have to stop attacking each other and get on with the work. There are several specific assertions in the August article by "Shirley Faire" and one from another article that I feel that I have to reply to.

"Today you stage no transsexual seminars..." That is not true. Other writers have decried the lack of educational seminars in the past, but that is changing. In fact, the next scheduled seminar in September deals with hormone replacement therapy. The announcement for it appears in the August issue of *The Channel*, and has been publicized since last July on the TGSF Web Site (www.tgsf.org) as well as in a brochure mailed to all members, advertisers, and local groups that we correspond with.

Past seminars have included a presentation on sexual reassignment surgery and a panel discussion by post-ops. Others have been targeted at the entire TG community, including coming out, family issues, photography, presentation as a woman, transgendered people in Native American culture, and safety. The latter one will be repeated in October.

"[You] have no outreach to other communities..." Again this is false. Our Outreach Committee, in addition to providing speakers to colleges and universities throughout northern California, has participated in presentations to a wide variety of groups. These have included a conference for youth groups in Concord, the *Lavender Seniors* in San Leandro, and the *Lighthouse Community Center* in Hayward. TGSF is represented at many of the events in the Court System throughout northern California and Nevada. And of course for many years ETVC/TGSF has participated in the biggest outreach event of them all, the *Pride Parade* in San Francisco.

Barbara F. Anderson

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

Certified Sex Therapist

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

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

Another inaccuracy that I feel that I must correct is in both the statements by "Shirley Faire" and by Debra Darling of *Emerald City* in Seattle. "Shirley" says, "you've comfortably settled into being your true selves: crossdressers who just want to play girl on their days off." Debra says, "[t]he TG network of clubs, TGSF included, was created by, is run for, and is run by, primarily CD's. Either CD's who will always be CD's, or TS's who are CD's for now, while they discover what they really want to do." Yes, both *Emerald City* and ETVC were created by crossdressers, but both were created as inclusive organizations. ETVC/TGSF has consistently had a wide range of people both on the ExCom and in other leadership positions, ranging from those who identify as crossdressers, those who identify as transsexuals, spouses and significant others, and those like me who are somewhere in the gender spectrum. I invite "Shirley" and others to attend a meeting of our current ExCom and see for themselves the diversity that we represent.

Finally, I agree with "Shirley" that the TG Community "has made history in San Francisco over the past year." I know—I was at the Board of Supervisors meeting where health benefits for transgendered employees were approved, and reported on it here. I don't think that I "had my nails done" that day. But bear in mind that TGSF can not act as a political organization, endorse political candidates, or lobby on issues. Those are roles for individual members and other organizations.

Rodney King, the victim of the videotaped beating by members of the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, said it best; "Can't we all get along?" The goal that I see for TGSF is to remain a group that is relevant to people who are in the process of "coming out," continuing to provide support to them by those of us who are "out," and representing ourselves as we are to the GLBT and other communities. Can't we all get along, and together engage in the efforts to make these things happen?

Janis Ryan

Coming in September!

**HORMONES AND YOU:
PERFECT TOGETHER?**

An Educational Forum

Is hormone therapy in your future? Is it in your present, or past? Or are you simply curious about hormones, these powerful substances that will give you some of the secondary physical characteristics of the gender of your choice, and perhaps also change you emotionally?

Regardless of your answers to these questions, we hope to see you next month at the Women's Building in San Francisco's Mission neighborhood. Steve O'Brien, M.D., of the East Bay AIDS Center, will speak on the effects of estrogen and testosterone, and we know you'll have plenty of questions for him about what hormones can and cannot do. At this forum you will learn the basics about an important component of gender transition.

Saturday /September 8th /2:00pm.

The Women's Building is located at 3543 18th Street, San Francisco, and only a few blocks from the 16th Street BART station.

Of Note This Month and Beyond!

BILLY DeFRANK SEPTEMBER EVENTS

September 16th from 6:30pm to 8:30pm.

Introduction to Yoga. Reservations required.

September 20th from 7:00pm to 9:00pm

SACRED CIRCLES—

Exploring creative rituals to mark major life events — with Eileen Walsh.

September 26th from 11:00am to 12noon.

VINTAGE TASTE OF SAN JOSE

TUTUZZO'S Ristorante Italiano will donate a luncheon for mature LGBT folks. A delightful program will follow.

September 26th from 7:00pm to 9:00pm

HOW TO MEDITATE— WITH REV. DAVID

The Billy DeFrank Lesbian & Gay Community Center is located at 938 The Alameda, San Jose, CA 95126. The Billy DeFrank Lesbian & Gay Community Center strengthens communities by developing diverse resources that empower lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people and their allies. Our vision is to provide leadership for a just and compassionate Silicon Valley. Donations requested from participants.

Contact Marianne Gallagher, Adult Services Coordinator, (408) 293-3040, ext. 116. FAX (408) 298-8986; supportedu@defrank.org or www.defrank.org

Coming in October!

THE LAVENDER LAW CONFERENCE

On October 25-27, in Dallas, the annual Lavender Law Conference will be held, and it is not JUST FOR lawyers. It is also for ALL LGBT Activists and other Supportive People who are interested in how the law effects LGBT people and LGBT issues. Please go to www.lavenderlaw.org for more information. The keynote address is to be given by Candace Gingrich.

Past Lavender Law Conferences have covered LGBT legal issues in the areas of family law, criminal, estate, civil rights, military, small office, legislation, judges, transgender special items, youth legal issues and so many others. I expect these and other issues will also be covered.

Come to improve your skills as an activist for the next time you lobby or for the next time you work in coalition with other LGBTs on legislative issues!

Come To Network!

The cost is income based. The membership fee is less than the non-member surcharge, so join. Travel to Dallas is easy. If your order your tickets now, the airfare is less. Cut the cost of your room by sharing with a friend.

Phyllis Randolph Frye
<http://transgenderlegal.com>

September 16

Ms. BOB IS COMING!

I wanted to alert TGSF that we have set up an event at A **Different Light Bookstore** starring your, and our, own Ms. Bob. She will be there on September 16th doing a slide show/lecture on all the **Regina Antiqua** photos that we have run in TCN since we started.

A Different Light Bookstore is located at 489 Castro Street, SF, CA 94114; (415) 431-0891.

Angela Gardner
Editor-in-Chief, Transgender Community News
editor@ren.org; <http://www.ren.org/tcn.html>

Saturday, October 6th / 2:00pm

BE FREE! BE SAFE! - AN EDUCATIONAL FORUM ON PERSONAL SECURITY

Getting out of the closet is thrilling, and being safe is the only way to go. That's why we hope to see you at the Women's Building in San Francisco's Mission neighborhood for a seminar on ways to maximize your safety as a transgendered person.

Speaking will be representatives of Community United Against Violence (CUAV), an organization devoted to preventing and responding to violence against and within lesbian, gay, transgender, queer and questioning communities. Come learn tips on safety. Learn about your rights as a transgendered person in public places. Analyze the various situations where police officers can turn out to be your friends or your foes.

This forum is a chance for newcomers to learn safe ways to leave the closet far, far behind, and for more experienced TG's to share their wisdom.

The Women's Building is located at 3543 18th Street, San Francisco, and only a few blocks from the 16th Street BART station.

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.

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.

Takin' Care of Biz...

TGSF BALANCE SHEET

(July 19, 2001 through August 18, 2001)

Assets

Cash	\$739.87
Event Equipment	
Decorations	\$1,000.00
Food Service	\$200.00
Office Supplies	\$50.00
Total Assets	\$1,989.87

Liabilities

Accounts Payable (Cotillion Expense)	\$1,351.88
Educational Fund	\$100.00
Taxes	\$0.00
Insurance	\$0.00
Utilities	\$0.00
Operations	\$0.00
Total Liabilities	\$1,451.88
Equity	\$537.99
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$1,989.87

Monthly Income Statement

Revenue

Membership	\$443.82
Advertising	\$0.00
Cotillion	\$0.00
Donations Received	\$82.07
Social	\$111.00
Education	\$0.00
Outreach	\$0.00
Total Revenue	\$636.89

Expenses

Cotillion	\$851.88
Halloween Party	\$0.00
Big Shew	\$0.00
Pride Parade	\$576.50
Social	\$80.00
Education	\$155.00
Outreach	\$0.00
Newsletter	\$428.46
Operations	\$175.25
Donations Paid	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$2,267.09

Net Income (Loss)..... (\$1,630.20)

TGSF DONATIONS

*Our Friends Who Give
as of August 18, 2001*

Cami Lynn	\$20.00
Nicole Mossinger	\$15.00
Jennifer Anderson	\$25.00
Stephanie Ann Blythe	\$12.00

Bless You and Thank You!

CONTACT TGSF!

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

Information **info@tgsf.org**

*Requests for information concerning TGSF and up-
coming events*

Calendar **Calendar@tgsf.org**

*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.*

Shirley Faire

DICKLESS WONDER

Have you been thinking about getting a penis? Before you do, there are some things you should know. How do I know? I used to have a penis. My penis is no longer a penis. Some parts (the penile shaft and the testicles) are gone and the rest have been changed to look, and act, like a vulva and vagina. The skin of the penis and scrotum were reformed into labia and the vaginal canal. What was the head of the penis, some part of it, anyway, is now my clitoris. There is nothing I have now that I did not have before. All parts are original manufacturer's equipment. There are just fewer of them, and they look and feel different.

People have inquired, "What happened to the parts that were removed?" Good question. I'm not sure about the testicles. I've been told that they are saved to make special soup that cures impotence. As for the shaft, next time you see one of those ads for penis enlargement, think of me. I'm a donor.

Penises come in all shapes, colors and sizes. Most experts agree that the unit, if I may call it that, ought to come complete with testicles, though others claim that testicles, like an extra set of cup holders in your SUV, while they are pleasant to have, are not necessary for adequate function. I'll leave that debate to others and speak only from my own experience.

My penis was like a Swiss Army Knife, a multipurpose tool that did everything, even if it didn't always do it well. Did I want to pee? There was my handy penis, not even an arm's length away. Did I want to stand up when I peed? My penis, a sort of short, thick hose containing a slender tube inside, carried urine away from my body in a slender stream. Did I want to practice Chinese writing in the snow? The penis' flexibility allowed one to write in any language. (Actually, I never did practice Chinese writing, not even without my penis, but I could have, and that, of course, is the point.)

And what about sex, did I have to put my penis aside in favor of another tool? Nope. It was right there and just as ready for sex as it had been for pee. The tip responded to stimulation and the shaft swelled, and a little tube adjoining the pee tube released an entirely different fluid, which it always felt good to get rid of without the prior discomfort one feels before peeing. It didn't matter how I was having sex, by myself or with a friend (preferably, but not necessarily, a very good and special friend), I didn't have to switch parts or look where I'd left it (which was a blessing for someone such as myself who is always losing things).

My penis was easy to inspect, with all the parts exposed and convenient to access. Cleaning was a breeze; all it took was soap and water. Or, if I didn't feel like cleaning it, that was fine, too. It might get smelly, but it was my smell.

Did it ever malfunction? Definitely. Sometimes it would poke its head up when it wasn't wanted or appreciated. Other times it wouldn't come when called. It seemed to have a mind of its own, which didn't include good manners or judgment. It often rendered clear speech difficult. More than once, when I meant to say "I just want to have sex with you and never see you again," I actually said, "I love you. I love you. I adore you. I just want to be with you forever." It was what my penis not only made me say but made me think I believed because then both the penis and I would be very happy for a very short time. Then the penis would go to sleep and leave me to correct unfortunate and unintentional misstatements.

In all, it was a good thing to have, simple to use and simple to care for, unlike my vagina, which demands frequent stretching, regular cleaning, and can get terribly sore with little provocation. I can recommend penises to just about anyone, almost without reservation. Why, then, you might ask, did I not keep mine? It's the difference between a pencil and a computer. Pencils are all-in-one tools, infinitely easier to maintain, cheaper and more portable than the smallest computer. But I'll take my computer.

Note: You don't have to let your love and devotion to Shirley go unrequited. Not entirely. You can e-mail your adoring fan letters to her at ShirleyFaire@aol.com. Nothing over several thousand words. Please.

THE VICE PRESIDENT REPORT AND COMMENTS

By Rachael Janelle

Yes we are starting to plan for Cotillion 2002. The event is only 152 days away. The ExCom has changed the talent to a presentation for the contestants. This is still a display of your performance abilities in front of your peers. Just about anything goes as long as it's in good taste and you present it in less than five minutes.

We hope that some individuals who wanted to be a contestant, but were reluctant because of their performance ability, that this will open the door for them. I personally would have liked to make an en femme presentation at the last cotillion than spend all that time learning to lip sync a song. I'm starting to asked people to help and to take on coordinator's positions, and the response from everyone as been very positive. We still could use all the help we can get, so if you're interested please contact me. We will find a job for you. I hope to start advertising and ticket sales early this year.

My focus for this year's Cotillion 2002 is to make a profit of no less \$3,000 to \$5,000 to be added to TGSF group fund. I do need some help in some areas. Please check out the ad saying we

need your help. Regarding my comments and not any one else, the Cotillion for me is a very important event. Last Cotillion I asked an individual if a certain person was planning to attend. The response was that this person thought the Cotillion is a party for cross-dressers. Wow! I do not believe that nor will this year's cotillion be that.

TGSF's Cotillion is a event for all members of the transgender community. The Cotillion event this year hopefully will be made up of all transgender people in most all aspects of the Cotillion. The Cotillion is an opportunity to invite your family, co-workers, neighbors or any buddy who has any interested in our community. We have invited our sister and brother groups to be more involved this year.

Last year I went to Southern Comfort and it was great. Probably 700 people and it was super. But they did not have a cotillion, or pageant for a Miss Southern Comfort. We have a very special event, which I've been told this year, by many other groups how special it is. Maybe I'm preaching to the choir. Please help us make this Cotillion profitable and a great event!

SOMETIMES

By Lynnea Stuart
e-mail=lynneastuart@hotmail.com

Sometimes you just need to be a child and dream.

When I was a child, pursuit of a dream meant rebuke by common sense. Common sense told me to plan for early death because medical history says I won't make it to retirement. Common sense told me that marriage could only be a bad deal and yes I paid for it to this very day. Common sense says forget whatever I desire and go with the available job because everyone in the family expects me to be their provider whether I am capable or not.

Common sense manifested its rebuke 2 years ago.

In July of that year I separated from my ex, from a marriage that ended in bitterness long before. I might have been homeless altogether with no promise of my job credentials having any meaning in the market. I might easily have died a prostitute. After all, common sense told me that I was washed up in anything else at the time. Only the insistence of a Marine friend that I stay with him kept that from happening.

Then a job in the bay area DID leave me homeless for 3 weeks. I found a room without kitchen privileges for which I competed against 75 applicants to rent. I didn't complain, eating in my car almost every day. After all, I was surviving and had friends in TGSF. I was even able to live some months as a woman, a liberty for which I was grateful.

But a volatile job situation and a reversal of the economy threatened to dump me on the street again. Last November I left the bay area to live with my mother in Kansas. I believed my dream of life as a woman was beyond reach. Only a marginal existence seemed possible, existing only to be available to aging relatives.

Work in Kansas was no more promising than in California. The turnover rate shot up to 80% in 2 months. My family also was growing irritated at the thought of a tranny being among them. Common sense told me I would be nowhere fast no matter how much I tried to make things work.

An internet friend on TG Forum asked me one day why I was sad. She lived in Pasadena, back in that part of the country that was always home to me. She offered me a room at a low rate. I was tempted to take her up on her offer...but how without a job?

For that matter how would I go on living in Kansas? My employer was not only terminating good workers at whim but evicting them as well.

I still held a Steam Engineer license in Los Angeles. Those jobs are always scarce and I couldn't tell if my trade would work even now. But I decided to risk it.

News of my return from exile sparked excitement in friends on 3 continents. I set up housekeeping with 2 TG roommates, and others welcomed me back. Then 2 years almost to the day I landed a job in my trade at a local hospital. A stable living was in the works...and the possibility of transition at last.

A friend from TGSF congratulated me with an internet greeting card. With the twinkling of stars the message flashed, "Lynnea Stuart...keep your dream alive...Lynnea Stuart...keep your dream alive...Lynnea Stuart...keep your dream alive..." I watched, mesmerized, a tear of knowing that I had really come home.

When common sense is pitted against a dream, sometimes the dream wins.

Dear Editor:

Last weekend I went to TG/TS support group in Sacramento. No one knew me, except my very good friend Teri. I know, "in the outside world" I am accepted as female. But I was stunned to realize that, that even in this group, I was perceived as a GG, until I said, "I transitioned on my job."

As I made that statement slowly heads turned in my direction. All were stunned that was TS. Then, I was asked if I had any male feelings and if I felt totally female. Despite the fact we all have some mixture of male/female, I truly do feel totally female. So to explain my being I wrote the attached personal essay.

Ellen

FEMALE BEING, BEING FEMALE

I just looked at Jacqueline Kennedy - her youthful and beautiful picture hanging on the wall just above me. She is one of my leading female spirits. Her being - so female. I close my eyes. And we are together, we are one. With Jacqueline, I am totally female. My female spirit is free to come out. I am not afraid. My feelings are let loose. My being, my very essence is totally female. Even my body is female. This is not a dream, it is very real. I open my eyes and take in her presence.

No games.

Wonderful emotions, wonderful feelings. Again, I softly close my eyes. My image - rises from my body - totally female - it glows, rising - sparkling - twirling - a big smile on my face - total happiness. My image keeps rising. Soon, I am among many women. Women of: all shapes - all sizes - there are no limits to their being. Physically, you cannot imagine a woman - which is not here. Yes, I am joining the spirit of all women - I am now part of their spirit. We are happy in our togetherness. We celebrate our spirit. We hug. we laugh. I feel warmth in my body. I open my eyes and I am spiritually home.

Time is gone.

The voices of women - flow through me. So gentle, so caring, so nurturing, and so loving. I am carried on their rhythm. Their tone, their frequency penetrates my body and massage me - my guard is down. My energy is gentle. My movements are gentle. My voice, too, has changed - it is now flowing with all women. Softer - melodic. My voice soothes me. I gently and lightly touch my body. I feel a soft layer covering me. And my rough edges are gone. Everything seems round. My breasts are larger. My body has now changed.

I give birth.

New life flows from me. Oh, the pain and, oh, the happiness. My child is so important to me. Now, I want to hold my child close to my body and I want to keep her/him warm. My only desire is to keep my child in my soft protection, our hearts beating together. My breast aches with milk and I feed her/him. My energy flowing from me to this precious life. All I want to do is love, nurture, and care for my child. I want nothing but the best for my child. I am happy, for now I have joined all humanity.

My boundaries are gone.

I come down and I am changed. I am now free to be me. I am in control of who and what I am. No matter who I meet - I am received as a woman. No challenges, just acceptance. I smile and I am very Happy.

Coming November 13-18, 2001

“GENDER ARMAGEDDON:

THIS IS THE FUTURE”

**San Francisco’s 2001 Tranny Fest
Week Celebrates The Sweet
Complexities Of The Transgender
Experience**

San Francisco, CA – August 21, 2001 –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

COURT ORDERS MEDI-CAL COVERAGE FOR TREATMENT OF GENDER IDENTITY DISORDER, TRANSEXUAL

The Lambda Letters Project is releasing the following information with the permission of the person who obtained an important court victory. We at Lambda Letters feel it is important for transsexuals throughout California to know of this court decision. However, we respect the desire for privacy of the person involved in the case. So this press release does not include that person's name or gender.

On January 29th, 2001 in Superior Court of Sacramento, an order was issued requiring Medi-Cal to pay for sex reassignment surgery for a person diagnosed with the condition known as Gender Identity Disorder, type transsexual. The court also ordered that the California Department of Health Services, which administers the Medi-Cal program, to consider each request for sex reassignment surgery on an individual basis and to cease its practice of routinely denying all such requests. The ruling requires that; if a person on Medi-Cal has been diagnosed with Gender Identity Disorder, and sex reassignment surgery is determined to be medically necessary by the patient's physician, in keeping with the established Standards of Care, Medi-Cal must by law authorize payment for the surgery. This decision resulted from a Writ of Mandate, brought by a public interest law firm on behalf of a transsexual.

The Judge noted that the prevailing medical opinion is that Gender Identity Disorder, or Gender Dysphoria, is a medical condition listed in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 4th Edition (DSM-IV).

(Note: We find that the condition is also listed in the International Classification of Diseases as item F60, Transsexualism. This document is issued by the World Health Organization, an agency of the United Nations.) The judge also noted that the prevailing opinion among doctors is that the surgery is an appropriate treatment for transsexuals.

Gender Identity Disorder is a condition in which a person's sex is different than his or her gender. Sex is external and physical. Gender is internal and psychological. Sex has to do with physical sexual attributes. Gender has to do with whether a person perceives his or her core identity as either male or female. When a person's primary sexual characteristics don't match his or her gender, and the person pursues sex reassignment as outlined by the Standards of Care, the diagnosis is the condition called Gender Identity Disorder, transsexual. Sex reassignment surgery, or gender confirmation surgery, is reconstruction surgery to make the primary sex characteristics of the patient's body match his or her gender.

Medi-Cal is a program that pays for health care for people with limited income and the disabled. It is a federally funded program that is called Medicaid in other states. Some transsexuals have significant disabilities unrelated to this condition. Transsexuals frequently have great difficulty in finding good well paying employment as a result of discrimination that they face in the job market. This is compounded by the psychological trauma created by the conflict between their core gender identity and their physical sex characteristics. As a result, many of them have limited income and must depend on Medi-Cal for their medical care.

Evidently, Medi-Cal has been routinely refusing treatment authorization requests for sex reassignment surgery. The judge ruled that all treatments determined medically necessary by a patient's physician (psychological evaluation, hormone therapy and sex reassignment surgery) are, by established law, included in Medi-Cal

coverage. Hopefully this unlawful policy will now end and qualified transsexuals receiving Medi-Cal will be able to get this vital surgery.

We at Lambda Letters applaud the court decision and we hope this will be helpful to those transsexuals who are recipients of Medi-Cal.

The Lambda Letters Project is California's oldest statewide organization lobbying on behalf of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender/transsexual community. It helps people write letters to elected officials on these issues and also on HIV/AIDS, issues of concern to people of color and women's issues. It delivers well over 100,000 such letters each year.

People wishing further information on the project may visit the Project's web page at www.lambdaletters.org, send a request to LambdaLP@aol.com or call (916) 728-1261.

Transcending Transgender

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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.

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5. Contacts In The Food /Cater Business
6. Transgender Musicians
7. Backstage Assistants

To make the Cotillion 2002 an extravaganza and profitable for TGSF, your participation or contacts in the above areas will be greatly appreciated.

The next Cotillion planning meeting is September 11, 2001 at 7:00pm. Location: Aiyana's office on 10th Avenue in San Francisco, 415 753 6475. Or contact: Rachael Janelle 408 619 2908 or rachael_janelle@hotmail.com

TRANSGENDER RIGHTS & SFPD

After decades of conflict between the transgender community and officers of the San Francisco Police Department, a framework for a joint resolution to the on-going discrimination has finally been put in place. It happened with little fanfare on Wednesday night, August 1, 2001, at a meeting of the San Francisco Police Commission. The Commission passed OCC Policy Recommendation #0390-99, Questioning of Transgender Individuals. The vote was unanimous of members present.

OCC Policy Recommendation #0390-99, initially developed by the Office of Citizens Complaints in 1999, is comprised of three major elements. It directs the SFPD to augment training of new recruits and experienced officers to develop culturally competent language and behavior in all questioning and other treatment of persons who identify, or who are identified by officers, as transgender individuals. It invites personnel from the San Francisco Human Rights Commission, Community United Against Violence (CUAV) and other institutions to participate in training of sworn SFPD personnel. And, it standardizes documentation relating to transgender individuals in incident reports and other SFPD reports to include, among other things, complete documentation for persons who use various male and female aliases.

At a minimum, the policy will involve the development of new police recruit screening methodology, roll-call training for experienced officers, standardized protocols on how to address transgender individuals and enhanced sensitivity training at the police academy. Immediately, a task force designed to develop specific protocols and implementation procedures will be formed jointly by the Human Rights Commission and the Police Commission. The Task Force will be comprised of personnel from the Human Rights Commission, the SFPD, the Office of Citizen Complaints and the Transgender Civil Rights Implementation Task Force. Representatives of CUAV, the Police Officers Association (POA) and other community-based organizations will also be invited to participate.

The events of last Wednesday night were set in motion months ago at a meeting of the Political Action Committee of the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club at which (then) Police Commission President Dennis Herrera was the invited guest. At that meeting, Milk Club members Robert Haaland, Veronika Cauley and Theresa Sparks described to Mr. Herrera the climate of harassment, violence and abuse perpetrated by officers of the SFPD against the transgender community.

Mr. Herrera was also given copies of a national report on violence against members of the LGBT community for the year 1999. Local statistics were compiled by CUAV. The report stated that, for the second year in a row, approximately one half of all violence against transgender individuals in San Francisco had al-

legedly been committed by officers of the SFPD. A subsequent third report, issued earlier this year, showed the same statistic for the year 2000.

After the release of this third report, numerous demonstrations by direct-action group TransAction, press conferences by CUAV defining the climate as one approaching a crisis and pleas from the transgender community to stop the violence, Human Rights Commissioners Theresa Sparks and Martha Knutzen approached Police Commission President Herrera asking him to intervene at the Commission level. Mr. Herrera discussed the situation with one other Police Commissioner, members of the Police Officers Association, command staff of the SFPD and Mary Dunlap, Director of the Office of Citizen Complaints. Ms. Dunlap produced an OCC Policy Recommendation, originally drafted in 1999, to deal with this problem within the SFPD. Commissioner Herrera and Ms. Dunlap then discussed the recommendation with Police Chief Fred Lau, recommending it be introduced at the Commission. Chief Lau agreed to support the resolution. During this period, Commissioners Knutzen and Sparks brought the issue before the Human Rights Commission twice as an information item.

On Monday, August 6, 2001, Supervisor Mark Leno intends to introduce a resolution at the Board of Supervisors to commend the Human Rights Commission, Police Commission and Office of Citizens Complaints for their united effort and encourage the rapid creation of the Task Force. The resolution will also direct the Task Force to report progress back to the Board in 60 days.

On Thursday, August 9, 2001, Commissioner Sparks will introduce a resolution to the Human Rights Commission to work with the Police Commission in setting up the Task Force. It is anticipated the Task Force will be convened within the next 30 days. This will be the first time in San Francisco history that the Human Rights and Police Commissions have jointly sanctioned a Task Force to address any one specific issue.

Commissioner Dennis Herrera emerged as an unlikely champion in this fight to restore the basic civil rights to a segment of the transgender community. The TPC applauds Mr. Herrera's efforts and also thanks Supervisor Mark Leno, Police Commissioners Wayne Friday and Connie Perry, Police Chief Fred Lau, OCC Director Mary Dunlap, CUAV, TransAction and members of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission.

The Transgender Political Caucus, San Francisco

Contact information:

Mary Dunlap, Director, Office of Citizens Complaints, SFPD; (415) 597-7711

Theresa Sparks, Commissioner, Human Rights Commission; (415) 974-8985 X263

Dennis Herrera, Commissioner, Police Commission; (415) 512-0949

Nathan Purkiss, Aide to Supervisor Mark Leno; (415) 554-7737

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Friday, August 10, 2001

S.F. TRANSGENDER SENSITIVITY CLASSES - POLICE TRAINING IS RESPONSE TO COMPLAINTS ABOUT LACK OF RESPECT

Rachel Gordon, Chronicle Staff Writer

San Francisco — Amid accusations of bias against cross-dressers and transsexuals, the San Francisco Police Department has agreed to train new recruits and veteran officers to be more sensitive to transgender people.

The move comes at the request of community activists and the Office of Citizen Complaints, the city's official police watchdog agency, concerned that officers have been less than respectful of transgender people. The complaints range from deliberately using the wrong pronoun when addressing suspects to more serious verbal and physical harassment.

"There has been a big problem," said Theresa Sparks, a male-to-female transsexual who serves on San Francisco Human Rights Commission.

Police Chief Fred Lau acknowledged yesterday that there is need for improvement and said most of the problems stem from misunderstanding and miscommunication.

Lau said the department will set up a program at the Police Academy for officers-in-training. Those with more experience will get their training at the start of their shifts in the stations and bureaus.

A joint task force convened by the Police Commission and the Human Rights Commission will draw up specific guidelines for such items as the appropriate use of language — for example, when to use "he" and when to use "she," and proper treatment and documentation of transgender people who are taken into custody.

In addition, officers will undergo sensitivity training, including face-to-face discussions with transgender people about their lives. The Police Department has one transgender officer.

"As police get to know the community there will be fewer problems," Lau said. The new policy is the latest victory for transgender activists in San Francisco. Earlier this year, the Board of Supervisors approved a plan to provide sex-change benefits for qualified city workers. In 1995, the city included transgender people in its nondiscrimination policy.

The Police Department already requires sensitivity training to deal with many groups of people, including Asians, Latinos and African Americans, seniors, women, the disabled and gays and lesbians.

"All these communities are part of San Francisco, and deserve the same kind of services as everyone else," Lau said.

The Office of Citizen Complaints first proposed the transgender policy in 1999. The Police Commission finally approved the plan this month. The Oakland and West Hollywood police departments already have transgender training.

Sparks, the Human Rights Commissioner who lobbied for the San Francisco program, said she has been stopped by police in the Tenderloin on her way to a restaurant. They demanded to see her ID and asked what she's doing in the area, which is frequented by transsexual prostitutes.

"They assume if there's a transgender person walking down the street in the Tenderloin it's probably because they're prostitutes," she said.

Shawna Virago, a member of TransAction, a transgender rights group, said she, too, has been harassed by police, but in Los Angeles, not San Francisco.

"Trans bias is a national bias, it's not just something found in law enforcement," said Virago, who works at Community United Against Violence, a San Francisco anti-violence group with roots in the gay and lesbian community.

The organization issued a report detailing complaints of harassment and violence it has received from transgender people.

Last year, Community United Against Violence recorded 71 complaints from male-to-female transsexuals. Nearly half involved law enforcement officers — not all San Francisco police — and security guards. Most of the complaints involved the use of language.

Six more complaints came from female-to-male transgender people, not all tied to law enforcement.

The Sheriff's Department, which runs San Francisco's jails, also trains its deputies on interaction with transgender people and provides separate jail space for transgender inmates. The policy was developed in consultation with leaders in the city's transgender community.

In 1999, a federal jury found that jailers strip-searched a transsexual woman without justification and awarded her \$750,000 in damages. The amount was later reduced by about half.

E-mail Rachel Gordon at rgordon@sfchronicle.com.

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A PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER TRADES NECKTIES FOR BOAS

By Jane Gross

PROVINCETOWN, Mass. — Ben Schatz stole the show at his recent 20th Harvard reunion during a panel discussion about unconventional careers.

He did not dwell on his legal work during the AIDS epidemic or his appearances on "Nightline" as an upstanding ambassador for gay rights. He did not boast of writing briefing papers for President Bill Clinton or delivering commentaries for KQED-TV in San Francisco. That was all behind him, Mr. Schatz said, appearing before the convocation of high achievers in a lavender satin dress, matching hair bow, strapless bra, waist-cincher and pantyhose (two pair, to hide his hairy legs).

Mr. Schatz had had the midlife crisis to end all midlife crises, expressed in a far more original way than by buying a sports car or running off with a sweet young thing. These days he has a new full-time gig: as a sassy drag queen named Rachel — performer, lyricist and manager of an a cappella drag quartet that is taking the gay cabaret world by storm.

"How can I say this in a way that isn't trite?" Mr. Schatz said in an interview, explaining his bold career move in the context of two decades when he lost too many friends and too many political battles. "The 80's were pretty bleak times. I wanted some joy in my life. And this makes me incredibly happy."

Mr. Schatz, 42, recounted the reunion story between performances here of the Kinsey Sicks (more about that later), which bills itself as America's Favorite Dragapella Beauty Shop Quartet. The group is playing at Tropical Joe's on Cape Cod until after Labor Day and then opening in Manhattan in October as the inaugural act at a new cabaret space at Studio 54.

The Studio 54 engagement, with a seasoned executive producer, Maria Di Dia, and director, Glenn Casale, is a coup for a bunch of friends who used to amuse themselves by turning up in drag for Halloween parties and Bette Midler concerts in San Francisco, where such behavior barely warrants notice.

All were recreational musicians who sang in choruses or amateur theatricals while working conventional careers as lawyers, marketing executives and the like. Their first performance, if you could call it that, was on the corner of Market and Castro Streets seven years ago, when friends and passersby tossed \$37 in a hat.

From their beginnings on the street corner, the Kinseys got a couple of \$100 gigs at a San Francisco youth hostel, then a longer run at Josie's Juice Joint, a nightspot in the Castro district. There they caught the eye of a producer from the New Conservatory Theater, where they became regular performers. Soon there were nationwide appearances, two CD's and rave reviews in publications as varied as The Jewish Bulletin of Northern California, Billboard and Poz magazine.

Mr. Schatz — burned out as a lawyer and blessed with a healthy savings account — gave up his regular legal job in 1999 to "push us forward to the next level." That meant "moving from being a friendship group to a business," with partnership agreements, investors, public relations, tryouts for understudies and other tasks that came naturally to a media-savvy attorney.

"This uses every side of my brain and my personality," Mr. Schatz said.

The side that was largely hidden before erupts in the character of Rachel, a rebel with unshaved armpits and a foul mouth who is a distant cousin to the characters created for "Saturday Night Live" by Gilda Radner. "Everybody should have a Rachel," Mr. Schatz said. "She gets a lot out of my system."

The character, he said, is a "direct response to the work I was doing," which required him to be a "likable, respectable, consumable homosexual — on TV, as a public speaker and to my board of directors." But "being diplomatic 24 hours a day really doesn't suit me," he continued, "as Rachel can attest."

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Irwin Keller, a onetime corporate lawyer and later the executive director of an AIDS legal services agency, found similar liberation in becoming Winnie, a nerdy lesbian with thick glasses, who begins each performance with a bossy command that the audience sit boy-girl, boy-girl. "The tension between being good and being bad is something all gay people feel," Mr. Keller said.

The other Kinseys have also created signature characters. Maurice Kelly, as the platinum blonde Trixie, and Chris Dilley, as slinky Trampolina, are a pair of divas, one past her prime and the other too young to understand that someday she will be. Mr. Dilley, 29, was the last to join the group, originally as an understudy. Along with Mr. Keller, 40, he arranges the songs that Mr. Schatz writes. Mr. Kelly, also 40, is the costume, set and lighting designer.

Drag usually means bad lip-synching and Cher impersonations. And that is what most clubs offer in this honky-tonk resort, where performers take to the streets each evening for a ritual known as barking, in which they pitch their acts to the crowds outside the tattoo parlors, taffy stands and tour buses.

Since their first night in town, when the Kinsey Sicks rode down Commercial Street singing in a red Rambler convertible, Rachel, Winnie, Trixie and Trampolina have been the hottest ticket in town. The group, which delights in bad puns, is named for the one-to-six scale devised by Alfred Kinsey to measure sexual orientation, in which a six (get it?) signifies exclusively homosexual behavior.

"P-Town has not seen an act like this in years and years and years," said Joe Pezzulo, owner of Tropical Joe's, who normally shuns drag shows. "People who want drag don't expect talent. But the minute they open their mouths, crowds form around them, asking: 'Who are these guys? We've got to see them.'" "

The Kinseys get 90 percent of the ticket sales at Tropical Joe's and are selling out the 100-seat room almost every night. They have been doing six shows a week, at \$20 a ticket, since the Fourth of July and added extra weekend performances this month. They poll the audience each night and find that most have come after seeing them in the street.

When the Kinseys bark, everyone listens, including parents pushing strollers, foreign tourists and elderly day-trippers.

The crowds block traffic, and Trixie urges them out of the middle of the street. "Dead people can't buy tickets," she says. Trampolina offers a song to a particularly avid cluster. "You want to hear another one?" she asks, in a flirty falsetto. The spectators howl in affirmation. "Oooooo!" Trampolina warbles. "You're so easy. I like that."

Rachel, in a femmy dress and combat boots, is the enforcer. "It's like my mother said to my father," she says after a song or two. "If you want more you have to pay for it."

The barking is an exhausting, exhilarating prelude to the 10 p.m. show. Trixie compares it to fly-casting. "We get them in one by one," she says.

Is it harder than the performance? "Oh, God, yes," Trampolina says. "Exponentially."

The Kinseys wear bad wigs, cheap jewelry and too much makeup. Their shows are punctuated by Jewish shtick, with more to be added for the New York audience. Mr. Dilley is a natural lyric tenor and the others baritones, but all can move from bass to falsetto.

Some of the songs, about gay sexual practices, are unabashedly gamy. But others tread more universal ground, drawing a crossover audience. To the tune of "Maria" from "West Side Story," the Kinseys poke fun at Ikea, the furniture store that broke ground by advertising to homosexuals. "Bali Ha'i," from "South Pacific," becomes a gripe about telemarketing: "MCI may call you, any night, any day."

"Titanic: Why Does Celine Go On?" is a lampoon (lasting five minutes and five seconds) of the Academy Award-winning song "My Heart Will Go On," which loops back on itself interminably. And then there is Bobby McFerrin, turned upside down in "Worry," with its chorus: "Oy, oy, oy, something always could go wrong. That's the moral of this song. Something could go wrong."

Until this summer's profitable Provincetown run, only Mr. Schatz had quit his day job. But now the others are on indefinite leaves of absence, with a commitment from Studio 54 through at least March. The group needed to raise \$400,000 to mount the show and collected \$377,500 in 90 days, Mr. Schatz said. Among the investors are their families.

Rachel trolls the audience for investors at the end of each show. "Do something socially destructive that humiliates your parents," she urges. Then the "girls" kibitz with their adoring fans. "Our egos will be as big as our hair before this is over," Mr. Schatz said one night in July.

After midnight, a show behind them, they wheeled their bicycles along Commercial Street, which was slowly quieting down for the evening. With no audience but one another, they did an impromptu oldies-but-goodies concert, their voices sweet as bird song.

"I don't think I've ever known anything," Mr. Schatz said, licking an ice cream cone, "that gave me this much joy."

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