

Butterfly Ball is a Bash!

The Channel



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TGSF TransGender San Francisco is a group for all members of the Transgender 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.

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(Fiscal Year: May 1 - April 30)

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

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FROM THE EDITOR...

From Chaos Comes Change...and Hope



It may have been wishful thinking on my part at the time, but a little over year ago (my May, 2004 column), I had advocated that our legislative efforts be focused on adding additional gender markers to all legal documents, from the high-school level on up. I've always maintained that a "stealth" approach to transition and expressing one's gender identity is outdated and ineffective. I felt that it was just trading one lie for another. And I said it's high time we move beyond the binary gender system and put our cards on the table from the get go, get it all out the open, be counted as trans and be proud of it. I had mused that with this additional demographic information, attitudes would begin to change, upgrades would occur and funding would begin to shift...all very much a pie-in-the-sky hope.

Well lo and behold, the nation of India has taken the first step in making that dream come true. I refer you to the article on Page 15 where you'll learn that the Indian government has wisely decided to acknowledge a third gender on their passport applications. By validating their trans population in this way, their leaders are taking the first step towards a better understanding of how traditional policies do not serve all their nation's inhabitants, and begin to make changes accordingly. Finally, a measure of sense emerges from the swirling societal chaos we find ourselves in.

To support that contention, may I again refer you to the two companion articles on Page 17 for another example of glimmering hope in the murky darkness we find ourselves wading through, in that school officials, parents and students show remarkable enlightenment in dealing with a young FTM fourth-grader's gender identity and transition issues. Just when you think America has its collective head up its ass, out pops a small community in Massachusetts, shining a beacon of sanity and reason to show us the way.

And it's not just the students in small-town high schools who are showing they can express their own opinions and back them up, despite the current homophobic hysteria in the country's collective consciousness. Campus newspapers in places like Idaho (page 22), New England and Tennessee (page 23) are publishing articles that raise the trans issue in their communities and advocate for education and compassion. And while Mr. Adair's comments from Middle Tennessee University about Gwen Araujo's suitability for martyrdom may upset some of you, one has to admire how he makes a reasoned and valid argument for being mindful of one's situational awareness in terms of personal safety.

Hopefully by now, open-minded Americans realize that our mass media channels are pocket tools of conservatives and government alike, and that they are a far cry from being fair, accurate and inclusive in their coverage - not to mention ignorant of the damage done to American youth. So we turn to alternative and grass-roots sources for information, ideas and entertainment. And big business is taking notice.

What the conservatives and so-called traditional values coalitions fail to realize is that Fortune 500 companies are embracing the diversity of their workforce. They're changing their hiring and benefits policies to be more inclusive and fair. They sponsor LGBTQ events and actively market their products and services in our communities. And this is totally at odds with the current Biblical homophobic diatribes spewing out of the mouths of top elected officials and prominent religious leaders. They cannot see that they're crippling their children with their ultra-conservative rhetoric. These kids will have no chance of successfully adapting to the current culture in corporate America. Those who will not accept tolerance and embrace diversity will be out of a job, period, and there will be a lot more disillusioned job seekers in tomorrow's market - which, as we all know, is tough enough as it is.

So it's heartening and not a little surprising to see prominent and respected people like local Kaiser Dr. Judy Lively blaze a trail by recently coming out to major media (page 18), or learning about historic women of color, pioneers in their own right thirty-five years ago (page 22), or seeing trans artists get the spotlight and a little corporate backing (Korea's Lady on page 16, and our own Katastrophe on page 19). And despite heightened fears of anti-trans violence (page 16), measures are being introduced to prevent criminals from using their own bigotry to circumvent the system (page 15).

So it's obvious to me that there are a lot of us out there who continue to be vigilant, and who continue to come out, stand up and fight for what they believe in. And in them we can find hope, and continue to faithfully believe that what we do is meaningful not only for ourselves, but for those around us whose lives we touch. Harvey Milk, God bless him, repeatedly said "ya gotta give them hope." And despite the chaos, there's every reason to believe it still exists.

GET OUT AND VOTE!

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Roxy Carmichael-Hart

I've got a case of bracket fever as I write this.

First on the docket – in this Channel you received your ballot (or you may have received it in the mail). Please take a moment to exercise your right as a TGSF member to vote for your elected leaders. We have some outstanding candidates this year. Laura Marlowe, our vice-president is running for re-election. Lisa Dummer, Education co-chair, is running for a full term. And our Ms. TSGF, Jenni Kennedy, is running for Outreach co-chair. Please support these fine and dedicated people. At this writing, we still have not had anyone run for the Secretary position (which is now just taking and writing minutes), nor one of the social chair positions. Additionally, our current Social co-chair, Anne Louise, will be stepping aside after the election due to pressing family matters so her position will be vacant. I will nominate and the ExCom will appoint an individual to fill this position as soon as possible. If you would like to help us out and contribute in a big way to your community, please write me and we can see how you can best fit.

We've had a really great couple of weeks. First off, we held our first End of Month at our new location and it was a smash hit. We had an attendance of at least 35 people which was the largest we have had in some time. The venue was perfect for holding a program and the service was excellent. We were treated as if they were happy to have our business, and the Cathedral Hill Hotel has been nothing short of gracious and supportive since we first touched base. And the place was private. We had our own entrance and an area all to ourselves. So no one had to worry about being seen in a hotel. Quite frankly, I always thought that the fear of walking into a hotel was vastly overstated. After all, we all piled into a usually crowded Blue Muse with the theatergoers. Certainly that was intimidating to some people. But anyway, we were very happy to be there and we were pleased to see so many people, including some who hadn't been to a TGSF meeting in ages. Welcome back and we hope to see you again soon.

Two days after that, we had the Butterfly Ball at Carla's. This event was the initiative of Anne Louise and was originally proposed as an IRLM event that could not be held. Again, legions of people pitched in to help and make this event truly special. I know if I try to thank everyone for all of the decorations, cooking, ticket taking, cleaning, etc., I will miss someone (and I will piss off others) but I do need to say a special thank you to Carla. Thanks to her generous donation of the room cost, we erased the Cotillion deficit. And thank you Lipstick Conspiracy for your donation as well. I know how hard you work for your money so for you to donate part of that back to us was very generous and we are very appreciative. Lipstick really rocked and played some newer songs (but still played the *Mary Tyler Moore Show* theme just for me). CJ was her usual fabulous self with a beautiful selection of acoustic numbers. And for me, the highlight was seeing our current and past Ms. TGSF's collaborate on several numbers. Those of you who heard our lovely Jenni's rendition of "Fly" at the Cotillion I am sure enjoyed the new version featuring Jenni on guitar and Anne Louise on keyboard. These two work so well together we have toyed with the idea of having them form a group called "Dueling Tiaras".

Another thing that impressed me was that Jenni's wife Chris joined us. And she just didn't stand around and watch – she danced and danced with everyone. As you know, Chris is a beautiful, vivacious, and energetic lady (Jenni told me there is a waiting list of which I have no doubt). That kind of support was beautiful to behold. Thank you Chris, for joining us and for being a part of our family. We are even developing ideas for our Pride float and it looks as if Chris is going to be a part of it. I am sure Laura will address that in the coming months.

Ms. TGSF 2005 has also proven to be quite a representative for our organization. She too is beautiful, vivacious, energetic and passionate. She has appeared at the aforementioned event, at the SF Coronation, the IRLM Coronation, has been interviewed on the radio and has helped welcome people at the End of the Month. She is everything we hoped she would be and more. We are fortunate to have her as Ms. TGSF.

Just a quick change of hats here – April 14-17 is California Dreamin at the Doubletree in San Jose. I am on that Board and will be on a couple of panels. Last year's event, which was restarted after a brief hiatus was a huge success and I am sure this year's event will be as well. Please try to attend. I know you will find it to be very worthwhile.

A couple of quick notes: By the time you read this, I will likely have been promoted to Acting Transportation-Development Manager for the City of Hayward. Just another high point in my transition, another step in the journey.

I had dinner with a friend of mine the other night. She is going through a very difficult time in her personal and professional lives as a result of her transition. We shared stories and experiences, our laughs and our tears. Before we said goodnight, she said to me. "You took a person who came in here with despair, and gave them hope".

The other day I asked my ExCom colleagues to answer the question of why they joined TGSF and whether those reasons were still valid. I joined TGSF because I wanted to find my way and I wanted to help others in the same way I had been helped. I wanted to give people hope. My friend helped me answer the question as to why I am here and those reasons will always remain valid.

There are things in this world not carved out of gray stone. There's a small place inside of us they can never lock away, and that place is called hope (from *The Shawshank Redemption*).

Don't let your bubble burst...



WORDS OF ADVICE

Jenni Kennedy
Ms. TGSF 2005

It is a quiet evening, and I am sitting around in sweats checking my email. Amongst the many messages (most of them spam that managed to still sneak through the spam filters) was an email asking for knowledge and advice I could pass on to another sister about what I have learned going through transition to fulltime female presentation and still end up having a stable relationship and family life. The greatest gift I have ever been given in this life is to finally become the person I have kept hidden inside my whole life AND to keep my loving partner and family intact. And it struck me that I never had put my thoughts down on the subject, and I certainly would have found them useful when I started down this path. Sure, I read every TG related book I could find, but they were more narrative of the process, and lacking the advice that I certainly could have used. So here goes, no warranty provided, your mileage may vary – a few personal notes to help survive transition in a marriage or committed relationship.

Take it slow. One mistake I made was that when I seriously started exploring my life en femme it was like popping the cork on a bottle, and the velocity of the explosion can be overwhelming for a partner. Note, this is much harder to do than say.

Be honest. I think my honesty about what I was feeling, what I was experiencing, where I was going (even TrannyShack), and who I was with was a good starting point for our discussions, and helped to alleviate trust issues and worries.

Don't try to force it to the bedroom, let things happen naturally. Forcing the issue is basically forcing questions about your partner's sexuality on them that they may not be ready to deal with quite yet. When it does happen sexually, it should be comfortable for both. I was so focused on trying to make the sexual part work, that I actually did more damage and caused problems where there may not have been any in the first place.

Focus on discussing how your gender dysphoria effects you, how it makes you feel. Do not focus on showing your partner how hot you look in that short leather mini skirt and double D chest – this approach is just not going to score you many points.

Don't talk about it all the time. For me, it was all I could think about, all I could talk about. But things worked out better when my partner asked questions, or initiated discussions rather than me constantly telling her how wonderful life is as a girl – she has many more years experience at it than me, and all of my little revelations and constant focus on my femme life could easily drive her nuts.

Dress appropriately, like most genetic girls do – not a Hustler centerfold or a streetwalker. It is much harder to understand transgender issues when confronted with such strong sexual overtones. Note, you can dress like a sexual goddess or slut for parties or "Tranny" events where it is part of the event.

Find a great couple's counselor who is familiar with the Transgender experience (a requirement), and be committed to the work you are doing together. Also, something we did to great success that lowered the stress of counseling sessions was to make the days of our sessions into a big outing to go to our appointments together mixed with shopping, lunch, and simply hanging out together whenever we could.

Isolate your personal and relationship issues from the transgender related issues. When we did this, we both realized that the biggest issues we were facing were not from my being Transgendered or the transition itself but rather the other issues we had let get in the way of our relationship and of our own selves. This helped to put the transition into perspective, and make it workable within the framework of our life together.

Make sure to listen to your partner. It is easier to be "damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead..." but most of the time you get much more out of simply listening to your partner's feelings and how they are being affected by transgender related issues.

Do not press the issue. If your partner is not ready to discuss something or to take part in something, then do not press. Backing them into a corner will only cause problems to escalate. Let your partner come to terms with things in their own time and in their own way.

Continued on Page 4

CONFESSIONS OF A DANGEROUS MIND

by Roxy Carmichael-Hart

The Magical Forest

Since this article is more about the five wonderful ladies who competed for the title of Ms. TGSF and who did so with extreme class, I thought that it was more appropriate to use their picture instead of mine.



I finally watched the Cotillion last night. Of course I had seen some of it from offstage but you really don't get to see the reactions and the lighting and get a sense of how the whole show is working by viewing it on the side. I was most interested in the presentation part of the show. I had seen all of them in their rough forms but I was dying to see the finished product. And something occurred to me - how real each of the presentations was.

Patricia Kevena Fili's presentation "The Magical Forest" caught my eye. Patricia and I met through our mutual friend Arlyne (I had known of her work much before that), and Arlyne had suggested Patricia as a contestant. Patricia had told me that she was not much of a pageant person but that her arm could be twisted. During the course of our conversations, Patricia stressed that no matter what she did, it had to be authentic. I thought that was a very reasonable request. After all, most of us are trying to be the person we really are. And so she joined our group.

As I watched her performance, one thing occurred to me. She was espousing many of the same values and beliefs that I have been espousing all along. We should be a place where people come where they aren't judged for anything but only accepted for who they are. There should never be power over or power under, just power with. We should love each other and accept one another. Nobody is better than anybody else. After all, we have all taken this journey. Many of us are very tired and worn out from living lives of deceit. It helps to have a place to come to where you can be welcomed with no questions asked, just a place to come to in order to be yourself. Patricia's words were true even if you aren't a wiccan. They are basic values in this community that we should share.

As I looked at the presentations more carefully, the themes of journey and life were abundantly clear from each of the contestants. Kara's dance exhibited her zest for life, her energy and her passion. Kara is on her own journey right now and I know that all of us wish her well and completely support her. Lisa, too spoke of a journey. Hers was the first presentation that I had seen at the rehearsal and I was awestruck at how simple yet effective her message was. She spoke of walking through the darkness, alone and afraid until she met someone who helped her, and now she has the courage to walk into the light. Many of us have taken that journey and could relate to what she said. Jennifer Kennedy sang that she wanted "to fly to a place she'd never been before" and her "looking into the mirror" which symbolized her desire to take a journey to the unknown as she looked her destiny in the eyes. Jennifer Anderson's song "The Rose" was inspired by her own journey several years ago and culminated in her selection as Miss Congeniality. And she sang it in her own voice because she, too, wanted to be real.

Every one of our ladies had a story to tell whether it was spoken or acted. Each of them told of their struggles with their internal conflicts yet how they had triumphed. How love and support had brought them through this. For many the journey is not over. For some it has barely started.

To me, TGSF was that place I'd never been before. I started my own journey, alone and afraid until some very kind and loving people welcomed me. I have been able to enjoy my life much more since I embarked on my destiny. I have a new exuberance for my life.

You too can experience that. If you come to TGSF, you will no longer be alone. You will be welcomed and loved by some very caring and dedicated people. Their names are Laura, Pam, Alli, Dawnne, Jennifer, Anne Louise, Kara, Teri, Carla, and so so many others. We will give you that chance to be the person you are. We will help your destiny bloom like a rose. Won't you join us in that magical forest called TGSF?

GLAAD MEDIA AWARDS KICK-OFF PARTY

March 9, 2005 — San Francisco

Last night, Allison Laureano, Outreach Co-Chair for TGSF, and Dawnne Woodie, Education Co-Chair of that same organization, had the privilege of being invited to attend the GLAAD Media Awards Kick-off party, held at the Westin St. Francis Hotel overlooking Union Square in downtown San Francisco. They were the invited guests of John Marez, who is a representative of the Human Rights Campaign, and a co-chair of the GLAAD Media Awards that is coming up on June 11. John was one of the guest speakers at February's End of Month Social and Meeting.



Allison and Dawnne were introduced to and visited with Joan Geary, the National Director of GLAAD, stressing to her the importance of including the transgender community in their programming and planning, and also had the opportunity to visit with the lovely Donna Sachet, and had a wonderful time. The food was great, the drinks were potent, and Dawnne said there were some gorgeous guys and girls there.

The evening was quite interesting, and very educational for them both. They heard of the plans that GLAAD has for working for strengthening our rights in the TLGB community, and for the plans for support of legislation that will give all the right to marry, among many other things.

One of the results of them attending this event is that they will be adding another hat to their collection of work. Alli and Dawnne were asked to be on the planning committee for the GLAAD San Francisco Media Awards Event. They will be able to build some strong connections with powerful people that will have direct ramifications for the transgender community, and will give the community an inside track with many of those powers with which we need to gain support to further the cause of equality and recognition and acceptance for our own.

Dawnne says, "I am pleased, no, I am ecstatic, that we have been given this opportunity. It is not often that such a chance is opened to the transgender community, and it is something that we will carefully open and step into. We ask your support as we begin this latest phase of our work with our community."

Dawnne Woodie

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.



Bagdad Café

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TGSF Events in April

Sunday / April 3 / 1:00pm

TGSF ExCOM MEETING

Note start time - come early for lunch! Cathedral Hill Hotel Restaurant, Van Ness and Geary. Please render your assistance with our upcoming elections. Better yet, volunteer to take on one of the crucial openings available on the ExCom for the next two years. This is a real opportunity for people who want to give back to their community!

Friday / April 8 / 7:00pm

NEW TRANSPIRIT MINISTRY

The Journey of Gender. MCC San Francisco, 15 Eureka, in the Castro. See notice elsewhere in this issue for all the details.

Thursday / April 28 / 7:30pm

TGSF END OF MONTH EVENT: ANNUAL MEETING - ELECTION!

Remember our new location! Join Your Friends At The Cathedral Hill Hotel Restaurant, 1101 Van Ness Ave. Election results, introduction of new ExCom members and (hopefully) a demonstration by MAC Cosmetics.

April's Birthdays

04/00	Phylcia Anya Morningstar	04/14	Chelsea Grammer
04/00	Joanna Wilson	04/15	Ginger Lynn
04/01	Michelle Nelson	04/15	Sharon Moriarty
04/02	Sherril Rossi de Guevara	04/16	Bommie Smith
		04/18	Wilhelmina Beins
04/03	Elaine Lerner	04/19	Bobbie Williams
04/04	Paula Bacigalupi	04/21	Lourdes Minsan
04/06	Veronica Nova	04/22	Ariel Monteverde
04/08	Davida Frazier	04/23	Allison Laureano
04/09	Veronica Smith	04/25	Jamie Faye Fenton
04/09	Amy Khoo	04/28	Stephanie McHie
04/11	Michelle Ayres	04/28	Tedra Thompsen
04/12	Julie Freeman	04/28	Cindi Prescott
04/13	Tina Kearns	04/29	Stephanie Schur
		04/29	Ellie Anderson

Happy Birthday To All!

2005-2006 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED!

Several individuals have stepped forward and expressed an interest in running for the 2005-2006 Executive Committee:

- Vice-President** Laura Marlowe
- Secretary** Open
- Education** Lisa Rae Dummer
- Outreach** Jennifer Siobhan Kennedy
- Social** Open

These positions are for two-year terms.

A Ballot should be included with this newsletter, and will be due by 7:30pm at the TGSF Annual Meeting on **Thursday, April 28, 2005**. Election results will be announced at the meeting. Ballots may be delivered on April 28, 2005 to the Cathedral Hill Hotel Restaurant, 1101 Van Ness Street (at Geary) in San Francisco. Ballots must be received by 7:30 p.m. in order to be counted.

For more information or to declare for a position, please send an e-mail to Roxy at roxyhart72903@sbcglobal.net. Please be specific in stating for which office you would like to be considered.

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Calendar - April 2005

OTHER BAY AREA GROUPS

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Central City Hospitality House (CCHH)

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

Diablo Valley Girls (DVG)

Meets 1st & 3rd Monday 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 Thursday of every month, 7:00pm at Rainbow Community Center, 3024 Willow Pass Road in Concord 925-937-8432.

FTM International

Support group for Female-to-Male CDs & TSs; Holds open Informational Meetings and closed Support Meetings. Write FTM International, Inc., 160 14th Street, SF, CA 94103; 415-553-5987.

I Love It Girl Socials

Every Wednesday night at I Love It Boutique, 45979 Warm Springs Blvd., #7 in Fremont. Call Jo-An at 510-656-4738.

Mid-Peninsula TG Group (MPTG)

TGSF-sponsored support group; 7:00pm, First Wednesday of each month at Full Circle Books in Belmont, CA. Contact Laura Patterson at Laura@simcbt.com.

Pacific Ctr 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.transgender.org/sga; email: sga@transgender.org

Santa Cruz Trans (SCT)

Bi-weekly social/support group for gender-gifted persons serving Santa Cruz and Central Coast. 1st and 3rd Tuesdays every month at The Diversity Center, 177 Walnut Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95060; (831) 425-5422; 7:00pm

SCOUT (SCOUT)

Santa Cruz Organization for Uniting Transmen, meets on the 4th Tuesday of every month at the Diversity Center (listed above); 7:30pm

Silicon Valley Gender Association (SVGA)

A new TG 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.

TGIF

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.

T.R.A.N.S

MTF support group meets every Wednesday afternoon 2:00 - 3:30pm at 1145 Bush Street in San Francisco.

TransVis-HWD

TransVision Social TG Women will meet at 7:00pm, 4th Friday of every month. Light refreshments and a wonderful atmosphere. Contact Tiffany at (510) 713-6690, ext. 9.

					1 8:00 PM PacCtr 8:00 PM RGA	2
3 1:00 PM TGSF: ExCom Meeting	4 5:00 PM CCHH 7:00 PM PISSR General Meeting 8:00 PM DVG	5 7:00 PM SCT	6 2:00 PM T.R.A.N.S 7:00 PM I Love It Social 7:30 PM MPTG	7 7:00 PM DVG-RCC	8 7:00 PM SVGA 7:00 PM TransSpirit Ministry 8:00 PM PacCtr	9 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
10	11 5:00 PM CCHH	12	13 2:00 PM T.R.A.N.S 7:00 PM I Love It Social	14	15 8:00 PM PacCtr 8:00 PM RGA	16
17	18 5:00 PM CCHH 8:00 PM DVG	19 7:00 PM SCT	20 2:00 PM T.R.A.N.S 7:00 PM I Love It Social	21 TG Legal Clinic	22 7:00 PM SVGA 7:00 PM TransVis-HWD 8:00 PM PacCtr	23 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
24	25 5:00 PM CCHH	26 7:30 PM SCOUT	27 2:00 PM T.R.A.N.S 7:00 PM I Love It Social	28 7:00 PM TGSF: EOM - ELECTION NITE!	29 8:00 PM PacCtr	30

TGSF MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership is billed annually upon enrollment: \$40 Single / \$45 Family

Special \$35 Single Membership w/ Email-Only* Delivery of CHANNEL

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? _____

*Email: _____ 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

Support Your Organization!

TGSF Sustaining Memberships

FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

Designated Sustaining Membership Giving Levels & Recognition

GUARDIAN LEVEL: \$2500

Recognition & Benefits:

Recognition in all TGSF Programs / Channel / Website
Two complimentary tickets to the Cotillion
Framed Recognition Certificate
Original Signed Photo of Ms / Mr TGSF
Ride on the Pride Day Parade Float
Paid Annual Membership in TGSF

PATRON LEVEL: \$1000

Recognition & Benefits:

Recognition in all TGSF Programs / Channel / Website
Two complimentary tickets to the Cotillion
Framed Recognition Certificate
Ride on the Pride Day Parade Float
Paid Annual Membership in TGSF

ANGEL LEVEL: \$500

Recognition & Benefits:

Recognition in Cotillion Program
One complimentary ticket to the Cotillion
Framed Recognition Certificate
Paid Annual Membership in TGSF

CENTURY LEVEL: \$250


Recognition & Benefits:

Recognition in Cotillion Program
Framed Recognition Certificate

MERIT LEVEL: \$100

Recognition & Benefits:

Recognition in Cotillion Program
Recognition Certificate

 **Clip & Mail Today!**

Make your CONTRIBUTION to TGSF Today!

Your Sustaining Membership contribution will be used to support the educational and social activities for TGSF.
Please make your contribution now!

Please indicate your level of giving:

Guardian - \$2500 Patron - \$1000 Angel - \$500 Century - \$250 Merit - \$100

Your Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____ Zip: _____

Check if you DO NOT want TGSF to acknowledge you as a Sustaining Member

Please mail this Tax Deductible Sustaining Membership Contribution Form along with your Check payable to TGSF to:

TGSF P.O. Box 426486 San Francisco, CA 94142-6486

Thank you for your support of TGSF!

Takin' Care of Biz...

TGSF FINANCIAL REPORT

As of March 20, 2005

Assets

Cash	4600.03
Decorations	1000.00
Beverages	200.00
Total	5800.03

Liabilities and Equity

Accounts Payable	0.00
Total	0.00

Statement of TGSF Income

Revenues

Memberships	75.00
Proceeds from Butterfly Ball	978.00

Total 1053.00

Expenses

Channel	151.00
Phone	0.00
ASL	125.00
Cotillion Food	150.00
Band for Butterfly Ball	250.00
Food for Butterfly Ball	160.00
Misc.	20.00

Total 856.00

Net Income 197.00

PISSR

People In Search of Safe Restrooms

PISSR is committed to establishing gender-neutral bathrooms. We believe that all people, regardless of their gender identification or presentation, have the right to access safe and dignified restroom facilities without fear of harassment, judgment, or violence. General meetings are always the first Monday of the month; 7 pm at 870 Market Street (Flood Building), 4th floor in San Francisco.

TGSF DONATIONS

Our Friends Who Give
as of March 20, 2005

Ayme Kantz \$10.00

Bless You and Thank You for Caring!

CONTACT TGSF!

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TGSF.Org Webmistress

OPEN

Calendar www.tgsf.org

*Submissions can be made online directly.
Cancelling mistakes or for other problems,
please contact the Webmistress.*

Special Events in April!

April 8th!

NEW TRANSSPIRIT MINISTRY

Well, boys and girls, it is finally time to publish this. We have set the date for the first gathering of the TransSpirit Ministry in MCC San Francisco. The date is scheduled for April 8, at 7PM. And we will be meeting at the church, 15 Eureka, in the Castro, for a meal of salads and drinks, and then a time of sharing and getting to know each other.

As this has been discussed, we have had a very positive response from quite a number of people. And the interest ranges from all sides of the gender spectrum, I am really excited to finally share this.

I want to invite you to drop in and join us for our discussion, "The Journey of Gender", and share with us as we share our lives and spirits with one another. Also, if you want more information, feel free to drop me a message at my email, sf_dawnne@yahoo.com, or call me at 415-748-2396, and I will be happy to share it all with you.

Dawnne Woodie
Education Co-Chair, TGSF
TransSpirit Ministry Coordinator
MCC San Francisco

THE CROSS GENDER CARAVAN!

A night of cutting-edge fiction and poetry from young transgender writers challenging the boundaries of gender and artistic expression. Your genderscape may never be the same again! Featuring:

Tennessee Jones (southern ex-punk with high pompadour whose first book, *Deliver Me From Nowhere*, explores the sex and gender badlands of Middle America through the prism of Bruce Springsteen's album *Nebraska*.)

Charlie Anders (author of *Choir Boy*, the bittersweet and surreal story of a choirboy who takes female hormones to keep his voice from changing and discovers a world of gender confusion. Charlie publishes other, the magazine of pop and politics for the new outcasts, and organizes *Writers With Drinks*.)

Carolyn Connelly (high femme metal head whose zine, *A Brooklyn Diary*, includes tales of growing up queer and working class in Brooklyn, and hanging out with Metallica when they actually mattered.)

Andre Hewitt, aka *The Urban Hermit* (Get ready for *The Urban Hermit* zine and *The Flow Chronicles*, a book about nitemare hippies and coming out as queer in the midst of LSD induced- heterosexist- rainbow gathering - love. Andre writes about counterculture, with soul.)

San Francisco, CA

Thursday, April 7th, 7:00pm

City Lights Bookstore, 261 Columbus Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94133
• 415-362-8193

Friday, April 8th, 7-9pm

Tranny Double Dose! • With the Tranny Roadshow • Sponsored by the New College • 766 Valencia St. (b/w/n 18th and 19th) at the SF Cultural Center.

Saturday, April 9th, Doors 7:00pm

Writers with Drinks Reading Series • The Make-Out Room, 3225 22nd St., San Francisco CA, 94110 • (415) 647-2888

Sunday, April 10, 6:30pm

Mills College
Berkeley, CA

Monday, April 11th, 7:30pm

Cody's Bookstore, 2424 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94704 • (510) 845-7852

For more info, contact Charlie Anders at 415-336-8469 or ck17@speakeasy.org



Mid-Peninsula Support Group

WEDNESDAY, April 6, 2005

Full Circle Books

1538 El Camino Real, Belmont, CA 94002
(650) 508-9546

7:30 - 9:30 P.M.

All welcome regardless of race, age, gender, gender identification
\$1 donation will be requested but no one will be turned away.

For more details please contact Laura Patterson at
Laura@simcbt.com

Please note: This is a support group. The views expressed in this group are reflective of the attendees and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the ExCom and members of TGSF.

You are encouraged to speak to your personal physician and/or therapist regarding your specific treatment and care.



April 14 - 17, 2005

at the

Doubletree Hotel, San Jose

Scheduled Speakers include:

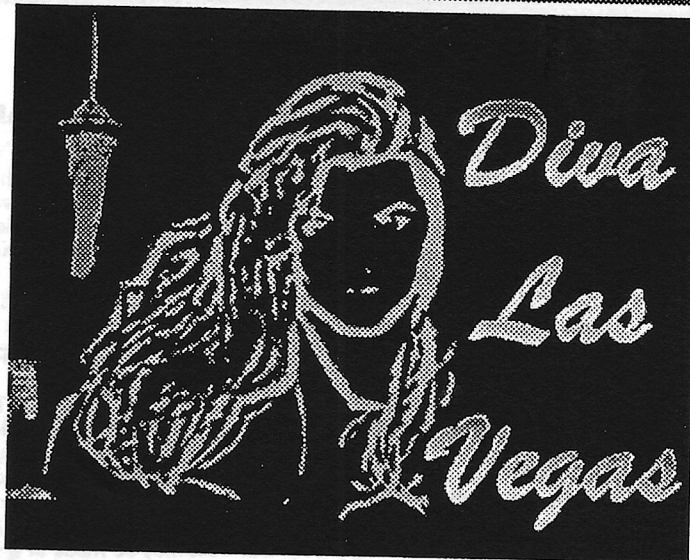
Dr. Douglas Ousterhout • Kim Hraca

Dr. Toby Meltzer • Judy van Maasdam

Dr. Joy Diane Shaffer

www.california-dreamin.org

Special Events in April!



DIVA LAS VEGAS 2005!

Diva Las Vegas (DLV) is the name given to an annual social event for the TG community. As the name implies, it happens in Las Vegas, Nevada, USA. This year's Diva Las Vegas will run from **Sunday, April 24 through Saturday, April 30**.

What's unique about Diva Las Vegas is that it's a vacation, not a convention. There are no seminars, no pageant, no keynotes, and we also skip the ubiquitous rubber chicken banquet. What we have instead is a very rich set of activities of all types.

Some of these are of particular interest to the TG community, some are of general interest, and some most definitely push the envelope!

Our featured activities include our annual limo tour of the Las Vegas Strip, Las Vegas shows, bowling, golf, Lake Mead boat cruise, slumber party, side trips (a day trip to Death Valley is planned this year) air tours, dance instruction, daily lunch (and subsequent walk off your lunch), daily happy hour, shopping excursions, garden party, and many others.

The annual Diva Las Vegas Invitational is the first regularly scheduled TG golf tournament in recorded history, we believe!

Our "Night Of The Soiled Doves" is most likely the most unusual activity that's ever happened at a TG event!

Some of our most popular activities are the large strictly social affairs such as our Welcome Celebration and the Annual Mixer.

All activities are optional, and unlike many of the other TG events, you don't pay for things you choose not to do.

Diva Las Vegas began in 1997 as a real-life meeting of those who had become acquainted over the Internet. Since then the attendance has consistently grown, mostly by word of mouth and a very good footprint on the net, and has exceeded 100 individuals the past few years.

Our attendees come from all points on the TG spectrum and then some. They range from those just peeking out of the closet to those who are post-op and fully transitioned. We don't label our attendees, everybody is welcome, including TG's of all varieties, SO's, friends, family, and even admirers.

Unlike most of the other TG events, Diva Las Vegas is not centered around a hotel. Our activities occur all over the Las Vegas area, and we have a good mix of mainstream and alternative venues.

We have a mailing list and a discussion forum for those who are interested in attending. To join the mailing list, which is militantly spam-free, just send a brief e-mail to: dlv@geekbabe.com and state that you want to receive our mailings.

You can view the DLV Discussion Forum on line at: <http://www.geekbabe.com/dlv/dlvdisc/>. If you would like more information about DLV, please look us up on the web at: <http://www.geekbabe.com/dlv/>

This includes general information, a Frequently Asked Questions list, an overview of what you can expect, a "roadmap" to get you there, and follow-up pages for all DLV years. (Be sure to note all the smiling faces!)

If you have any particular questions, please write us at: dlv@geekbabe.com

April 26 - 30, 2005

Austin, TX

IFGE CONVENTION - TRANSGENDER 2005

Transgender 2005, the 19th Annual IFGE Conference on Sex and Gender will be held in Austin, Texas at the fabulous Red Lion hotel, right in the middle of everything (well, almost). Malls and great restaurants are in walking distance; we will feature over 50 seminars and workshops on various trans subjects; have lots of free time for networking; there will be fun events and our gala (formals please) banquet on Saturday night.



This exciting event will be hosted by the Transgender Advocates of Central Texas, the Central Texas Transgender Society, and the Alpha Tau Chapter of Tri-Ess. It is being coordinated by Lisa Sheps, a member of the IFGE Board of Directors and an Austin resident and local activist.

Nobody can do anything like a Texan so we know we are going to be well fed, well entertained, and have a terrific event with great Texas barbeques, dancing and a Texas-style welcome. Registration will begin early in the week — you can check in Tuesday and enjoy all day Wednesday "on-the-town" with special sight-seeing tours, mall shopping, night-clubbing and a special welcome party.

Conference session topics will include: TG workplace issues, TG Health & Medicine, Help for Emerging CDs, Sexual Identity/Gender Identity, Trans-Youth, Parents, Religion, and Politics. There will be special programs for SOs, FtMs, and Transsexuals.

Open to all! — Transgender, Crossdresser, Transsexual, Transvestite, Female to Male, Male to Female, Significant Other, Friend, Admirer, Helping Professional, Student, or Educator.

If you have not attended a recent IFGE Conference and are not on our mailing list contact: S. Kristine James, Cioe Enterprises, P O Box 61, Easton PA, 18044-0061 or e-mail to convention@IFGE.org. Check the IFGE.org web site often to keep current on the program development, presenters and social events.

New weekly FTM social group will replace the "Transitioned Men's" group

FTM GET-TOGETHER & SUNDAY BRUNCH

Every Sunday @ 1pm • The Crepevine 216 Church St., San Francisco, CA 94114 • Castro †Cross street: 15th & Market St. • (415) 431-4646. For further directions call Marty @ 415-845-1157.

This weekly Get-Together is about Visibility, and Social Activities that we can do as a community! The Crepevine is a nice eatery near all the transit lines (22, J, N, L, F) w/a decently priced menu! Vegetarians & Meat Eaters alike will be comfortable at the Crepevine! Bring your SOFFA's and you appetites to FTM International's Weekly Get-Together!

This is meant to supplement the monthly meetings and replace the Transitioned Men's Group which has suffered since stopping it's outdoor activities. The idea came out of the need for more FTM specific social support. So, we are gonna try to build community and create FTM, friendly space @ the Crepevine on Sundays at 1pm. Hope to see you there!

Do you want to help with any events @ FTM International? Do you have an idea for an event? Call Marty 415-845-1157.

Events in April - May!

FTM Calendar 2005-2006

FTMI'S CALL FOR DIVERSE IMAGES OF FTMS AND THEIR LIVES

FTMI is creating an 18-month calendar (July 2005-December 2006) of DIVERSE IMAGES OF FTMS AND THEIR LIVES. The 18 entries will be selected by a panel of judges appointed by the Board of FTMI. This is an opportunity for amateur shutterbugs, aspiring and professional photographers alike to contribute to the community in a lasting way. The calendar will be available for sale from June 2005 forward.

Entry deadline is **April 15, 2005**. Photographs can be sent in as prints, through email attachments, or on a disk. Calendar pages are 11" x 8.5" (letter paper, printed landscape orientation). For the best quality, the image is printed at 300 dpi. This means that the minimum number of pixels required is 3300x2550 pixels (8.5 x 300 = 2550, 11 x 300 = 3300).

We will need a signed release of the photo for FTMI to use the image. Photographer and the subject are required to sign the release included at the end of this email, and return it to FTMI 160-14th St., SF, CA 94103, the releases will have to be in before the May 1st, or another applicant will be selected.

Include in the packet sent to Female-To-Male International the photograph, name of the photographer, a head shot of photographer, photographer signed release of photograph and name, biography of photographer, name of photo, subject signed photograph and name release form, and a \$25.00 entry fee check made out to FTM International. Photographs will not be returned without a self addressed stamped envelope. Thank you.

**The Board of FTM International
160-14th St., San Francisco, CA 94103**

Voicemail: (415) 553-5987 / Email: tstgmen@yahoo.com

Sample Release

I hereby grant Female-To-Male International the irrevocable right and permission, throughout the world, in connection with the photograph(s) that were taken of me or which I provided to Female-To-Male International, (copies of which photographs are annexed hereto and made a part), the following: the right to use and reuse, in any manner at all, said photographs, in whole or in part, modified or altered, either by themselves or in conjunction with other photographs, in any medium or form of distribution, and for any purposes whatsoever, including, without limitation, all promotional and advertising uses, and other trade purposes, as well as using my name in connection therewith, if Female-To-Male International so desires.

I hereby forever release and discharge Female-To-Male International from any and all claims, actions and demands arising out of or in connection with the use of said photographs, including, without limitation, any and all claims for invasion of privacy and libel. This release shall inure to the benefit of the assigns, licensees and legal representatives of Female-To-Male International.

Please check one:

I am over the age of eighteen years and I have read the foregoing and fully and completely understand the contents.

I represent that the subject of the photographs is a minor and that I am the parent of the minor and that I have read the foregoing and fully and completely understand the contents.

Please include the Subject/Photographer or parent/legal guardian's signature and date. Also print or type both Subject/Photographer's and/or parent/legal guardian's name, and include phone numbers and addresses.

The Transgender American Veterans Association (TAVA)

TRANSVETERANS MARCH TAKES SHAPE

This year's transgender veterans gathering in Washington, DC, will be expanded to include a stop at the new World War II Memorial. The **May 21, 2005** 'March to the Wall' will also revisit the Vietnam and Iwo Jima Memorials and culminate with the very emotional and proud experience of dedicating a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery.

"2004 marked the first ever Transgender March to the Wall," said Angela Brightfeather, event organizer and TAVA Special Projects Chairperson. "In 2005 we will be creating the Tradition for this very important event."

March organizers have selected the COMFORT INN DOWNTOWN DC/CONVENTION CENTER as event headquarters. The hotel is located at 1201 Thirteenth Street NW, Washington, DC and is near subway lines, Union Station, the White House, Capitol Hill, national museums, and other sites of interest. Information on the hotel, its amenities, its surroundings, and directions can be at www.choicehotels.com/ires/hotel/DC601. Reservations for the nights of May 20th and 21st may be made at a rate of \$109 per night plus tax by calling 202-682-5300 (Fax: 202-408-0830) and asking for the special TAVA rate. Although street parking is often possible, hotel parking is available for an additional \$27 per day.

Those attending the TAVA March events must preregister at www.tavausa.org/March05/march05.html in order to ensure a place on the chartered buses and at the Saturday dinner. Hotel reservations must be made directly with the hotel. TAVA will endeavor to facilitate room sharing, but each person or group must make its own hotel reservations

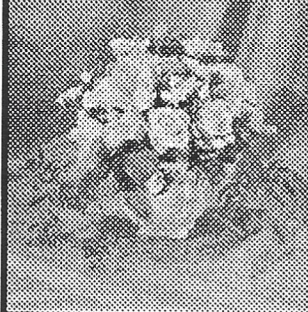
"There are thousands of transgender veterans in America," said TAVA President Monica Helms. "We want them to experience what 50 of us experienced last year. It was an event of a lifetime, and the first time will be a cherished memory for life."

"The impact made by the first March to the Wall was recognized by everyone in the GLBT community," said Brightfeather. "The commitment of TAVA to the success and importance of that gathering clearly pointed out the need to make this a yearly pilgrimage and a tradition in our community. Few events in the Transgender Community have such an important and special meaning as this gathering of Transgender Veterans."

Please join TAVA and the many transgender veterans as we once again provide a chance for healing from the many wounds of war and of life. Find details and schedule updates via event links at www.tavausa.org. If you need additional information, write to Angela Brightfeather at projects@tavausa.org

The Transgender American Veterans Association (TAVA) acts proactively with other concerned GLBT organizations to ensure that transsexual and transgendered veterans will receive appropriate care for medical conditions in accordance with the Veterans Health Administration Customer Service Standards promise to "treat you with courtesy and dignity ... as the first class citizen that you are." Further, TAVA will help in educating the VA and the US military on issues regarding a fair and equal treatment of transgendered and transsexual individuals. TAVA will also educate for a change in public law and policy that will help initiate this fair and equal treatment.

WIN FREE FLOWERS!



To Register, go to:
[www.floristdirect.com/
myshops/TFlowersatCarlas](http://www.floristdirect.com/myshops/TFlowersatCarlas)

- FREE e-Cards •
- Lovely Flowers •
- Next Day Shipping •
- From \$39.95 •

TRANSVISION SOCIAL — HAYWARD

TransVision Social Transgender Women will meet at **7:00pm on the fourth Friday of every month** to celebrate our survival. Come and share your journey of daily living and participate in the affirmation of our lives. For each of our journeys and our vision, let us validate, support and affirm each other and celebrate our success.

There will be light refreshments and a wonderful atmosphere. Come for that good feeling. For more information, contact Tiffany at (510) 713-6690, ext. 9. Don't miss this!

Events in May - June!

2ND ANNUAL TRANS MARCH!

**Friday June 24th
7:00pm March.**

**3:00pm - 7:00pm Speakers and Performers
Dolores Park, Dolores and 19th Street**

**Calling all transfolks, friends,
allies and admirers.**

We are calling for this march to demonstrate that we are a significant and growing portion of the lgbtq community;

To increase our visibility and presence in the tgqlb community and the overall community at large; to encourage more trans and gender-variant people to come out;

To build connections among ftm, mtf, bayot, crossdressers, sadhin, hijra, transvestites, bantut, drag queens, drag kings, mahu, transsexuals, bakla, travesti, genderqueers, kathoey, two spirit, intersex and those with other labels for themselves and no labels for themselves, those who see gender as having more than two options, and those who live between the existing options;

To support one another as a community, through all of our struggles;

To speak out against violence, hate, transphobia, and the oppression of any and all of us under the existing social structure;

And to be fabulous and powerful in the company of others that are fabulous and powerful.

Dress up, show up, bring signs, speak out, and be what happens!

NTAC Sets Lobby Days for May 2005

Transgender activists will converge on Capitol Hill on **May 18 - 20, 2005** to lobby Congress once again for passage of transgender-inclusive hate crimes and employment nondiscrimination legislation. Lobby Days 2005 is sponsored by the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition (NTAC), the country's largest and most active organization advocating for the rights of transgender Americans at federal, state, and local levels.

Participants are expected from all over the country and will likely include victims of anti-transgender hate crimes and those who have personal experience with employment and other types of transgender bias and discrimination. NTAC and the National Center for Transgender Equality will help attendees arrange meetings with their senators and representatives and staff members.

Marisa Richmond, Chair of the NTAC Lobbying Committee, noted that 30 lobbyists from around the country visited 81 Senate offices and 236 House offices in April 2004 to discuss the need for transgender inclusion in pending civil rights legislation. "This effort played an important role in identifying potential supporters of transgender inclusion in ENDA and LLEEA," she said. "This information was vital to the coordinated effort by transactivists in getting HRC to adopt a new trans-inclusive policy towards ENDA. We look forward to maintaining the momentum in 2005."

One major difference in the 2005 lobbying effort is the recent decision of the Human Rights Campaign to support only a transgender-inclusive Employment Nondiscrimination Act (ENDA). It is essential to have demonstrably significant numbers of concerned community activists and supporters working together to educate their elected representatives on these vital issues. The need has never been greater, and HRC support can improve our reception in Congress.

"Since 1999, NTAC has been advocating in support of equality for the transgender community," said Vanessa Edwards Foster, chair and co-founder of NTAC. "We may well be on the edge of a new era for our community, an era of unfettered accomplishment in our fight for civil rights. It's essential that NTAC and the transgender community are distinctly visible and a key part of this effort towards our equality."

NTAC will hold a plenary session for training and assignments on May 18th. The plenary will consist of a brief lobbyist training session, review of handouts to be discussed and left at each office visited, and assignments for May 19th and 20th. Participants will have the opportunity to meet and interact with many transgender and trans-supportive activists and representatives from organizations working toward fully inclusive federal hate crimes and civil rights protections and to participate in other Lobby Days events and actions to be announced.

Registration and hotel information will be linked to the NTAC website (<http://www.ntac.org>) when details become available. In the meanwhile, those with questions about joining this grassroots lobbying effort can write to lobbying@ntac.org.

As done in 2004, NTAC and the Transgender American Veterans Association (TAVA) are coordinating dates for their 2005 Washington, DC spring events. The second TAVA national gathering of transgender veterans, some of whom are also NTAC members, is scheduled to begin after NTAC lobbying ends on May 20. The TAVA event will include visits to veterans memorials on the National Mall and in Arlington, VA.

You can make a difference, for yourself, your family, and your community. Join your brother and sister transgender American activists, veterans, family, friends, and supporters in speaking truth to our leaders and working for a truly equal America for us all. Your support, your voice, and your active participation will make a difference.

Founded in 1999, NTAC - the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition - is a §501(c)(4) civil rights organization working to establish and maintain the right of all transgender, intersexed, and gender-variant people to live and work without fear of violence or discrimination.

Coming May 2005!

TRANSGENDER AWARENESS WEEK

Dear TGSF:

Several San Jose State University on-campus organizations, faculty members, and students, myself included, are organizing a Transgender Awareness Week, May, 2005.

We are still at the beginning of our planning stage, but I wanted to inform the local transgender community ahead of time. One of our events will be a transgender symposium.

We have several FTM guest speakers and panelists already, but we would like MTF participants, as well. I am not in charge of this event in particular, so I do not know exactly what qualifications are necessary in order to be selected as a MTF guest speaker/panelist, but I do know that one of the selected FTMs is an author, another is with ACLU, and another produced a transgender-related documentary.

If anyone is interested in volunteering or has any comments and/or questions, please contact me as soon as possible. The best way to get a hold of me is through e-mail at glbta_sjsu@yahoo.com; specifically e-mails with catchy subject lines such as "Re: Transgender Awareness Week," "Transgender Awareness Week Volunteers," or something along those lines.

Thanks for your time and consideration! Your help is greatly appreciated.

**Andrea Miller
SJSU GLBTA Secretary**

Significant Other Support East Bay

Questions or concerns about your partner's crossdressing? Please call Julie at (925) 937-8432, e-mail julie39@comcast.net or write to: Julie Freeman, PO Box 272885, Concord, CA 94527-2885.

PATRICIA KEVENA FILI
ACTIVIST, PRIESTESS, ARTIST

PFLAG Unfurled Newsletter

Patricia Kevena Fili - transgender woman, bisexual, activist, pagan, poet, parent, artist, volunteer, reformer, fundraiser, performer, organizer, human...

Active in so many organizations and causes -PFLAG, AIDS Project East Bay (APEB), Lavender Seniors, Bay Area Bisexual Network (BABN), City of Oakland LGBT Roundtable, Transgender San Francisco (TGSF), Pagan Alliance, and many more...

Conscious that some people don't like labels, she is aware that labels help provide a political identity and help make formerly invisible communities, like the transgender community, visible.

Patricia knew when she was four years old, she was a woman inside, but she didn't know a name for it. And frankly, in 1955, few people did.

She's identified as bisexual all of her life, even before she transitioned. And like many people, she has struggled to discover herself through time and experience.

Patricia began activism about 40 years ago at age 13. She became aware of plans for a poisonous gas shipment from the Midwest being sent to Oregon. Her individual letter writing campaign blossomed to several schools, culminating with the shipment not being sent. An awareness was born that one person can make a difference.

Along the way there was a marriage and a daughter. There was more involvement in the relationship between politics and sex.

She fostered solid skills to improve communicating her messages. From the high school debate team to achieving an MA in Communication from the University of Portland, her past culminated in a belief that there is a "sacred thread all living beings have." This prompted Patricia to attend seminary at the Pacific School in Religion and she arrived on the Bay Area political scene.

Patricia realized she could no longer deny her gender issues - "needed to be who I am" - and began transition in 1995. She began life full-time as a woman in 1997. She became active in East Bay transgender and bisexual groups and organizations.

Patricia's involvement with AIDS Project East Bay (APEB) has been a melding of personal, professional, spiritual, and artistic passions. She joined the Butterfly Project, a program that provides HIV education and prevention services for transgender people in Alameda County. She began "Gender Art," an event created to heal self-esteem, increase visibility, and validate the existence of transgender people. Patricia continues her work at APEB as Development Coordinator, responsible for fund development and communications.

Patricia believes in concrete results from her activism. She began to work in earnest with the City of Oakland LGBT Roundtable to appeal to the Oakland City Council adopt a non-discrimination ordinance to include gender identity and expression. This was passed by the Oakland City Council in January 2004. Patricia, along with colleagues and allies, has recently successfully petitioned the Alameda County Board of Supervisors to adopt a similar resolution on January 25, 2005.

Patricia believes that, as a community of humans, we are parenting one another. We are all responsible for our GLBT youth. We should all be conscious of GLBT elders as mentors.

When asked about PFLAG's influence in the LGBT community, Patricia thinks PFLAG has a tremendous influence. She has experienced both the good and the challenges, with her family, of being a bisexual and transgender person. Her brothers no longer want contact with her. Her daughter has also expressed the same wish. But, after five years of struggle, her mother is back in her life. She is hopeful to one day be connected with her daughter and know the importance of LGBT support, especially for transgender people. "Some people," says Patricia, "see a strong person and think support isn't important for them but we all need friends and family. PFLAG promotes that connection and that is a sacred thing."

Patricia continues her work at APEB and with various community organizations. She strives to pass legislation to further protect our community. She remains active in gender art and is a published poet. She is working on her autobiography called "A Fish in the Desert."

*But I say NO
I've been there
And I cannot be
Healed by denying
My true being*

From the poem "Amethyst Veil"
By Patricia Kevena Fili

Events Horizon!

Spoken Works Competition

TGVOICES IN 55 WORDS OR LESS - 2005

Transgendered Voices, Inc., a Wyoming, USA not-for-profit corporation...has organized a spoken works competition for Transgendered people of all types and nationalities.

The final date for receiving the entries is **June 1, 2005** and submissions may be sent to Transgendered Voices starting on February 1, 2005.

There will be prizes of 500 USA dollars...currently the equivalent of 22,000 Indian rupees...for the best spoken work and the most innovative spoken work...and the total number of prizes will not be limited to two prizes.

An eBook of the text of the submissions and a CD of the spoken works will be published and sold for the benefit of Renaissance Transgender Association of Pennsylvania, USA...one of the oldest and most successful transgender organizations in America.

Each year TGVoices will choose another organization from a different country to support through the sales of the eBooks and CDs of that year's competition. Please review our website at www.TGVoices.org to learn the full details of the competition and to download the entry application. Thank you.

Elizabeth D. Jeffords - Executive Director
Transgendered Voices, Inc.
3333 East Bayaud Street - Suite 111
Denver, Colorado 80209
303-320-6630 / MyOnePenny@aol.com /
www.TGVoices.org

Coming in September!

FTM 2005: A GENDER ODYSSEY

FTM 2005: A Gender Odyssey is a national conference for masculine-identified people who were assigned female gender at birth. It is place for us to gather together, share our lives, speak our truths, learn from one another, and celebrate our communities. This conference offers workshops addressing the practical aspects of trans lives, including: legal issues; intersections of race and gender; coming out to family and friends; transitioning at work; hormones and surgery; and dating, sex, and relationships. Accompanying events include a vendor fair, art exhibit, cabaret, all-ages dance, and much more. The conference will be held on Labor Day weekend, **Sept. 2nd-5th.**

Now in its third year, Gender Odyssey is expanding and moving! In order to accommodate our growing numbers, we will schedule a third full day of programming and relocate to the Washington State Convention and Trade Center. Most workshops and panels offered at this conference are selected from our attendees' own programming submissions. In addition to other topics, we invite workshop proposals to address the issues of the older and/or post-transitioned FTM and the complex needs of families.

Gender Odyssey is pleased to have Kate Bornstein as our keynote speaker. Kate is a high femme, transsexual dyke performance artist, author, playwright, and social activist. The focus of Kate's work has been locating and vigorously promoting common ground among outsiders of all sex and gender variations. She is the author of the groundbreaking books, *Gender Outlaw* and *My Gender Workbook*. Her current work includes a new solo show, "Kate Bornstein Is a Queer and Pleasant Danger" and a new book in the works, *Hello Cruel World: 101 Alternatives to Teen Suicide*.

This conference is also open to anyone interested in the topics to be covered. Whether you are new to thinking about your gender, well established in your chosen gender, FTM, trans, genderqueer, MTF, part of an these communities because of the people you love, or simply questioning the role of gender in your life, FTM 2005: A Gender Odyssey, is open to you. Please plan to attend!

The FTM 2005 Conference Organizers
www.transconference.org

**NEW COLUMN FOR EUNUCHS
ON PASSPORT FORM**

Shibu Thomas

The Indian government has finally recognized the third sex, officially! Henceforth, when you apply for a new passport or renew your old one, in the category 'sex', you have a choice of three genders.

The new "Passport Information Booklet" relating to instructions for filling up application forms, states, "In case of Male/ Female option, please write M or F in the box space provided. For eunuch, please write 'E' in this box."

"It is a big step," said Gauri Sawant, of Sakhi Char Chowghee, which works with hijras. "Travelling will become easier and a passport holds the key to many other facilities."

"It is an incredible step and long overdue," said Ashok Row Kavi, founder of Humsafar, a city-based gay organization. Humsafar also works with hijras and transgender people. Earlier, hijras had to list their sex as male and dress as a male whenever they went out of the country. They now don't have to carry the baggage of dishonesty."

The Ministry of External Affairs has made a provision for persons to change the sex in their passports if they submit a sworn affidavit and a medical certificate from the hospital where the person has undergone treatment.

Film and television actress Bobby Darling who has started hormone treatment for her surgery is excited about the rule. "I will definitely apply for changing my sex in the passport from male to female. This will ensure that nobody is there to pinpoint, embarrass or humiliate you unlike now. There will be no trace that I was born male."

Human rights activists, too, have welcomed the move. "Sexuality today is no longer restricted to male and female," said Vivek Diwan, of Lawyers Collective. "Earlier, when hijras applied for a passport, their applications would be rejected on grounds that they were neither male nor female. This is a step in the right direction."

**TRANSGENDER WHISTLER
JEANETTE SCHMID, DIES AT 80**

The Advocate

Jeanette Schmid, Austria's last professional whistler, who once shared a stage with Frank Sinatra, has died of the flu at age 80. Schmid, better known as Baroness Lips von Lipstrill, died in her Vienna apartment, the Austrian newspaper Kurier reported. The report did not specify when she died.

Schmid, born as a man in what now is the Czech Republic, underwent gender-reassignment surgery in 1964 in Cairo, where she lived for 15 years. She embarked on a whistling career during a visit to Tehran to perform for the shah of Iran. Her costume as a dancer was deemed too skimpy, so she whistled a Johann Strauss Jr. polka instead. She whistled onstage with Sinatra, Marlene Dietrich, and Edith Piaf, and she continued performing even in recent years. "I'll whistle through life until I die," she was quoted as saying. Schmid was a popular performer on cruises, where she delighted audiences by hitting the high C. She is to be buried in Munich, Kurier reported. (AP)

**LIEBER PROPOSES TO BAN
"PANIC DEFENSE" IN MURDER TRIALS**

Successful Use of "Gay Panic Defense" in Recent Kentucky Case, Mistrial in Gwen Araujo Trial Illustrate Need to Limit Defense That is Based on Bias Against the Victim

Sacramento, CA – Assemblywoman Sally Lieber (D-San Jose) has introduced legislation that would end the increasing use of the "panic defense" by defendants in murder trials, a practice in which the defense argues that discovery of the victim's sexual orientation, gender, race or religion so enraged the defendant that they cannot be held fully accountable for their actions. AB 1160, sponsored by Equality California, a statewide advocacy organization, would modify the existing definition of "voluntary manslaughter" to prohibit defendants from contending that they were provoked to murder by discovering the victim's disability, gender, nationality, race, ethnicity, religion, or sexual orientation of the victim.

"We should not allow criminal defendants to blame their victims," says Lieber. "We prohibit discrimination based on race, religion, gender and sexual orientation in nearly all areas of public life. Why should we allow killers to use bias and intolerance as a justification for murder?"

California's transgender community and allies asked the same question last year when defense attorneys in the trial of Gwen Araujo's killers repeatedly attempted to play on the presumed anti-transgender bias of jurors. "In Gwen's trial, we saw defense attorneys try to justify their clients' actions by claiming that Gwen deceived them about her identity and stole their heterosexuality," said Christopher Daley, Director of the Transgender Law Center. "Assemblywoman Lieber's bill will make clear that such shameful, harmful tactics have no place in our courtrooms."

The "panic defense" has been used most widely in cases involving bias based on gender and sexual orientation, including a widely publicized Kentucky case that recently concluded. A judge in that case sentenced a man to the lesser charge of manslaughter, after the defendant successfully argued that his murder of a 36-year-old gay man was partially excused because the victim "came on to him" in a motel room. The attorney for the defendant reportedly stated that his client's actions in beating and strangling the victim were "privileged."

"This legislation is necessary so that these bogus panic defenses cannot be used to achieve a lighter sentence," said Geoffrey Kors, Equality California's Executive Director. "California's enhanced sentencing laws are meant to punish the offender and protect the community, and it is unfair that bigotry be used to circumvent the system."

Recognizing that this bill comes too late for her daughter, whose case will be retried later this year, Gwen Araujo's mother, Sylvia Guerrero, is a key supporter of the bill. "My family had to sit through a five week trial in which we were told again and again that Gwen was to blame for her own murder. It's difficult to describe the kind of pain these outrageous arguments caused us and the fear and anxiety that we have that a new jury will be swayed by these hateful claims. No family deserves to suffer this way after losing someone to a brutal murder. I'm very grateful that Assemblywoman Lieber is making sure that no other family in the state will have to."

"These cases sadly illustrate the need to limit this defense. This bill will protect not only gay or transgender victims but all victims where bias against a protected class is the proposed justification for a crime," said Lieber.

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DALY CITY MURDER UNDERScores CONTINUED ANTI-TRANSGENDER THREAT

Gwen Smith
gwen@gwensmith.com

Murder just months before second Gwen Araujo trial SAN FRANCISCO, March 3, 2005 - The body of a 42-year-old Daly City male, found dressed in women's clothing, was discovered in Westlake Park on Cliffside Drive in Daly City, California on Monday, March 1st. This death took place a little more than two months before the start of jury selection in the second trial in the murder of Gwen Araujo, a 17-year-old transgender teenager killed in Newark, California on the evening of October 3rd, 2002.

"This is a painful reminder that hate violence towards the transgender community continues," said Cecilia Chung, a commissioner with the San Francisco Human Rights Commission. "we as a community are committed to stopping this kind of violence."

This most recent case marks the fifth such murder within the last four years. Since the killing of Gwen Araujo, other anti-transgender murders have occurred in San Pablo, Oakland, and San Francisco.

The victim in the Daly City homicide lived less than a block from the scene of the murder. Police do not feel this was part of a robbery attempt, nor are there signs that the victim was sexually assaulted. That the victim died from multiple stab wounds is consistent with other cases of anti-transgender violence, which are often marked by examples of "overkill."

"When we are murdered, our killers often seek to not just kill us, but erase us," said Remembering Our Dead founder Gwen Smith. "Hearing of this recent death, with a victim stabbed multiple times and left in an easement shows a level of disrespect consistent with many anti-transgender cases."

The Remembering Our Dead project <www.rememberingourdead.org> exists to honor individuals murdered as a result of anti-transgender violence and prejudice, and draw attention to the issue of anti-transgender violence. Remembering Our Dead is a project of Gender Education and Advocacy, Inc.

TRANSGENDER MUSIC GROUP SET TO DEBUT

By Yang Sung-jin
The Korea Herald

When transgender star Harisu released her first album, "Temptation," in 2001, it was quite tempting to brush it aside as a fleeting novelty. But not anymore. She sealed a slew of lucrative deals for TV commercials, even appearing as a model for women's underwear.

The new power of transgender sex appeal in the formerly conservative entertainment industry led three men to follow a similar path of transformation as Harisu. But now it is hard to pinpoint their male origins. The country's first transgender music group "Lady" is set to release their first album, and its members - Shinae, Sahara and Binu - look feminine and sexy.

The trio is already attracting strong media coverage, even though they haven't officially launched their singing and dancing career, the entertainment is abuzz with their commercial potential. The attention Lady can be attributed to the pioneering role of Harisu, as her boldness in carving out a place for transsexuals was successful.

Shinae, 29, Sahara, 25 and Binu, 22, however, do not want to be linked to Harisu too much. They competed with other contenders in the audition to be chosen as the members of the dance music group, as part of the intricate marketing and planning by the agency involved.

Shinae is not a new face in the entertainment circles. She appeared on a TV commercial with a leading female dance group, and played a part for a music video made by Cho PD. The only notable change is that she is now publicly confirming her gender, expressing her wish to "be true to myself."

Sahara, the second-youngest in the group, won a beauty pageant award held in Thailand in 2003, and was recruited as a model for a famous jean brand for her outstanding beauty.

Binu, meanwhile, has so far concealed that she is transgender for fear of discrimination in a society that has conservative values. Binu's decision to shed her fears and jump into the entertainment world came as she met with other group members and was encouraged, she said.

A changed perception of transsexuals also helped. With the debut of Harisu, a number of media reports explored the problems like discrimination and prejudice against transsexuals in Korea, helping the public get a fairer perspective about the minority group.

Although some Internet users still splash hostile comments, it is a drastically different - and friendlier - world for transsexuals who used to hide their gender orientation most of their life.

Shinae, Sahara and Binu got sex-change operations in Thailand in 2003, 2001 and 2004, respectively. Their family members also accepted their new gender. A group of fans already set up a Web site specializing in photos, news articles and comments about Lady, and media reports are largely favorable.

But some observers caution that their long-term popularity will depend on whether they deliver quality music. In recent months, a growing number of female singers have chosen to accentuate their sex appeal in a bid to jazz up their image and boost album sales.

Baek Han-jin, for instance, describes herself as Korea's first erotic singer, three-member dance group Muse sparked greater publicity by disclosing their nude photos and some female singers appear in music videos with their sexually suggestive moves testing the limit of public acceptance.

Local entertainment news service provider "This Week" said, "Some female singers have drawn public attention by stressing their sex appeal, but it is anybody's guess whether they have real talent to become singers."

But for now, Lady's members do not have enough time to mind such cautionary comments. They wake up at six in the morning and start their tight schedule packed with dance practice, yoga, health training and media interviews in preparation for their formal debut as female singers.

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OFFICIALS BACK GIRL WHO SEEKS TREATMENT AS BOY

Methuen School Faces Parents' Queries On Student's Gender Issue

By Tracy Jan
Boston Globe Staff

Dozens of parents flooded the Methuen school system with phone calls yesterday after a local newspaper reported that a fourth-grade girl had returned from the February school break requesting to be treated as a boy. The child's parents told school officials that he had always considered himself a boy, rejecting feminine dress and name, and they were agreeing to raise him as a male.

The story has attracted the attention of local and national media, including a half-dozen television stations, according to Superintendent Phillip Littlefield, who spent most of yesterday fielding parent and media calls.

Many parents sought reassurance that "this wasn't just some frivolous happening with the youngster," Littlefield said. "There is a medical condition that exists here, and this is not something irresponsible on the part of the parents. These are wonderful parents who care very, very deeply about their child." Most parents who called, however, simply wanted to know which bathroom the child uses, according to Littlefield, who said he told them the youngster uses a separate bathroom, and people say, "Oh, wow, that's cool."

Littlefield said the child has asked to be called a masculine version of his name, which the superintendent declined to disclose, upon the family's request. Other than that, nothing has changed, he said, and most of the 1,100 students at the Comprehensive Grammar School are taking the situation in stride. The child has not undergone sexual reassignment surgery, he said. "For the kids who aren't close to him, it was Phyllis and now it's Phillip," said Littlefield, using other names for examples. "And it's OK. They want to know what's for lunch."

The child's parents told the Eagle Tribune on the condition of anonymity that their child, who was born with the body of a girl, has never identified as a girl. After consulting with medical professionals, they have decided to let him grow up as a boy and wanted teachers and other students to treat him as a boy. "Obviously in the beginning we dressed him as female," the mother told the Eagle Tribune. "When he began identifying at 2 [as a male], he was ripping the dress off his back."

Dr. Norman Spack, clinical director of the endocrine division at Children's Hospital in Boston, said gender identity is formed at birth and is not a product of the environment. Much more research still needs to be done around how male and female brains differ and how transgenderism occurs, he said. Of the more than 100 transgender people he has treated, many secretly cross-dressed as children and suppressed their gender identity because their parents were punitive.

"In many cases they went on to live a life that was a sham, getting married and having children," said Spack, one of the few pediatric endocrinologists in the country who specializes in gender identity and intersex issues. "They go through a difficult time of depression coming to grips with the fact that their body doesn't match their brain."

Most of Spack's transgender patients are adults, he said, but he is involved in the care of about five prepubescent children dealing with gender identity issues. "It's the relatively rare child who will come forward and have the courage to say, 'This is what I am, even though it was not what I was born to look like,'" Spack said. "I admire the school for its acceptance. When schools set an example like this, it's a lesson for all."

In 1999, Brockton school officials barred a 15-year-old student who is biologically male, but identifies as female, from attending school dressed in girl's clothing. A school psychologist diagnosed the student with transgender disorder when the teenager was 13, in seventh grade, and the student started wearing makeup, skirts, wigs, and padded bras to school. The state Appeals Court upheld a Superior Court ruling in 2000 that a transgender male student can wear female clothing to class.

The Methuen school has not discussed gender identity with students because "it really is beyond the comprehension of a 9-year-old," Littlefield said. Instead, a teacher told the two-dozen students in the child's fourth-grade class to call him by a different name. The child's friends call him by his initials anyway, he said.

Littlefield said the school has made appropriate accommodations for the child at the parents' request, but he said he has promised the parents confidentiality and could not be more specific. If students bring home questions that parents cannot answer, he said, they should call the school to speak to a staff member familiar with gender identity issues.

"I think sometimes when we don't understand something completely, we sort of react with fear," Littlefield said. "And this is a nice little kid. This is the same youngster that's been in the fourth grade all year."

MMM. BRAINS.

Neva Chonin, SF Chronicle

As a teenager, I was mistaken for a drag queen. The guitar player for Soundgarden once said I acted more like a guy than most of the guys he knew. Last month, a queer friend of mine affectionately dubbed me a "crypto-fag." What can I say? I've always felt like a gay man in a girl suit.

Hence, I was prepared for an ambivalent result when I took a BBC online "Sex ID" test, "a groundbreaking experiment designed by a team of top psychologists" to determine one's "brain sex." In sum, whether one thinks like a woman or a man. After 20 minutes of spatial puzzles, word associations and facial-cue quizzes, I received my result: I think like an average woman.

Oh, the crushing disappointment. Others got more intriguing results. "I scored exactly the same as the average woman, yet somehow I am a very masculine, straight man who prefers feminine faces," lamented one poster on the metafilter.com blog. "I think I'm going to cry."

Unlike that girly man, I'm gonna be masculine about this and forgo the tears. For what it's worth, I, too, preferred feminine faces to masculine ones in the test, but this was attributed to the phase of my monthly cycle. I guess I'm butcher when I'm not ovulating. And now that I've recovered from the initial shock of discovering how mainstream I really am, the test results fascinate me. Taken in good humor and with the requisite grain of salt applicable to all online quizzes, they expose just how diverse individuals can be even while functioning within the borders of codified sexuality. A straight woman with a typically "feminine brain" can still be a lout, a live rude girl and a fashion illiterate; a straight man can think remarkably like the feminine women who attract him.

It's a freeing concept: Perhaps we don't need labels like "metrosexual" or "crypto-fag" (though I'm fond of that one), after all. It could be we're not as fashionably deviant as we thought. Maybe we're all just ... normal. Maybe it's the culture around us that's out of whack.

To my eyes, the problem isn't that biological sex differences exist; it's that the male characteristics are the privileged ones. And that's not always such a great thing. Aggression is grand in the rudimentary stages of civilization, when carving a habitable space out of the wilderness spells the difference between survival and extinction. But once the pillars of civilization are in the ground? Empathy and consensus building are our friends. Otherwise, we wind up with, oh, the Crusades. The Spanish Inquisition. Thousand-year wars. The Iraq occupation.

In a perfect world, one's sexual identity could ramble off in any direction it pleased. Girls who identify as girls could use their superior spatial skills to frag everything in sight while playing Doom 3. Boys who identify as boys could use their talent for systems to construct functional dollhouses with running water and Wi-Fi. Pejoratives like "sissy" and "tomboy" would vanish, and when kids hit puberty, society would keep its collective mouth shut and let them explore their gender options unencumbered by the expectations of idiots.

There I go again, fantasizing my way out of a conservative world. And yet, and yet. There are isolated grounds for encouragement. Last week, the Boston Globe and the Lawrence Eagle-Tribune reported on a fourth-grade girl in Methuen, Mass., who returned from February school break asking to be treated as a boy. The kid's parents backed him up, saying he had never identified as a girl and resolutely rejected all things feminine, including his name. His remarkably enlightened school superintendent agreed the student could be called by a masculine version of his original name and heretofore be considered a little boy. There are a few sticky points — since he's still biologically female, he'll have to use a private bathroom — but teachers report that they and most of the 1,100 students at his grammar school are "taking the situation in stride." That's pretty impressive and further proof that Massachusetts is leaving California in the dust when it comes to gender issues. (What up, San Francisco? Gonna let Orange County smack us around just because it has a hit TV series?)

If this kid, his parents, his teachers and his classmates can cope with gender reassignment so gracefully, there's no reason the rest of us can't accommodate our own sexual-ID quirks with a modicum of dignity. I'm a girl, I'm a girl. I'm rude. I can't read a map. I am mechanically impaired. I hate shopping. I'm not terribly empathetic, and I blow when it comes to nurturing anything larger than a mouse. And that's cool. But dude? I still want to be buried in the crypto-fag corner of the cemetery.

*Take the test at www.bbc.co.uk/science/humanbody/sex/add_user.shtml.

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MALE OR FEMALE, ALWAYS A DOCTOR

Top physician tells colleagues, patients at Kaiser that he is finally becoming a woman

Janine DeFao, SF Chronicle Staff Writer



Dr. Judson Lively, a surgeon and one of Kaiser Permanente's leading Bay Area administrators, stood nervously before 100 colleagues in a Walnut Creek conference room Tuesday and told them it was no accident there were butterflies on his black tie.

Lively told them a fable that was in essence the story of his life, of being trapped inside the body of another, yearning for a transformation to be set free. "I stand here before you today to inform you of something that I have kept hidden from the world and virtually everyone else, with the exception of my family, for virtually my entire life," Lively, flanked by his wife and daughter, told the hushed crowd. "I'm 48 years old. For over 40 years I have known that I am a transsexual woman. My heart and soul really are those of a woman."

In two weeks, the surgeon will return to work as Dr. Judy Lively, physician-in-chief for more than 350,000 Kaiser patients, 550 doctors and 6,000 staff in most of Contra Costa County and part of Alameda County. She will trade her ties for scarves, wear subtle makeup and hand-made beaded jewelry, and finally let her hair down.

Lively is shedding the male persona she once worked so hard to cultivate — Army surgeon, skydiver, whitewater kayaker — and will reemerge not as a new person but one who has always been there, hidden away. While some transgender people take a "stealth" approach to their transitions — leaving behind their old lives to reappear elsewhere as their new gender — Lively's method is becoming more common, as society becomes more accepting and anti-discrimination laws are approved.

Lively said she had no choice but to make a very private decision public because she doesn't want to give up the job, home and family she loves. She plans to have a sex-change operation after completing a required year of living full-time as a woman. "I've spent 40-something years living a double life, hiding something from my friends and family. I don't want to replace it with another double life," she said.

Lively grew up the only son of a Southern Baptist minister who was a career Army chaplain. Lively had his first inkling of being uncomfortable in his body during a 4th-grade game of "show-me-yours-and-I'll-show-you-mine." He found a luxurious blue silk scarf of his mother's and loved to drape it around himself. But he knew to do it only when no one was watching.

In high school, he went on one date. He earned top grades and played varsity sports but was "a social misfit because I didn't know what I was," Lively said. College and medical school were much the same. He dated a homecoming queen, a platonic relationship for appearances, and slept in comfortable cotton nightgowns behind closed doors.

During his surgical residency in Cleveland, he met Karen, the head nurse in the burn operating room. They fell in love and were married the next year, in 1985. Karen's 3-year-old daughter, Jennie, was the flower girl.

Lively hadn't told Karen his secret, a major regret to this day. "I thought we'd get married and this would never come back into my life. I was hopeful it would go away, and it didn't," Lively said. Karen never suspected a thing. "He was pretty much the macho surgeon, well thought of, did 72-hour shifts," Karen recalled, sitting Saturday with Lively on the couch in their Sonoma County home, one of their eight cats curled between them.

Once before they married, Lively mentioned he tried on a nightgown he bought her to see if it would fit her. She found it odd, but it never came up again. Then on Halloween, a year into their marriage, Lively showed

Continued on Page 19

ALREADY SENSATIONAL

By Andy Marra, The Advocate

I was in fifth grade. Dad was preparing lunch, and I was in the living room flipping through television channels, trying to distract my growling stomach from the inviting smells wafting out of the kitchen. Then something caught my eye. Maury Povich's popular talk show was in the middle of an episode titled "He or She?" At that time in my life I was questioning my gender identity and had nothing to turn to for answers—cute picture books and cartoon shows did not deal with transgender issues. I was glued to the TV.

My pangs of hunger were soon replaced with waves of anxiety. On the show, a group of biological and transgender women paraded around the stage while the audience guessed which was a "real" woman and which were "really" men. In one segment the women were asked to demonstrate a special talent, and one Asian-Pacific Islander woman did a spoof of a traditional fan dance. Audience members screamed, "That one is a she-male!" and "The Asian girl with the fans is too petite to be a man!"

At that point Dad walked into the living room. With the grace of the fan dancer, I changed the channel. I ate my lunch in cold silence.

Only one word flashes in my head when I mull over that Maury episode: sensationalism—as Webster's puts it, "the use of material or methods intended to shock, excite, or arouse curiosity." In their quest for high ratings and profits, the show's producers didn't care that these women were strung around like puppets in a tasteless show that perpetuated transphobia and racism.

A year after Details magazine printed its "Gay or Asian?" piece, I still have fantasies of gagging that magazine's media moguls with rice or some other stereotypical Asian food. Even the article's title carries a dangerous undertone: that it's mandatory to determine whether race or sexual orientation is the more legitimate identity.

The Details piece dehumanized gay Asians, both as gay people and as people of color, exoticizing their "ladyboy fingers" and "sashimi-smooth chests." The magazine vandalized an entire community of color, making jokes about our citizenship status and class.

Did Details honestly think that the article would be fair? Accurate? Inclusive? Probably not. Instead it reduced gay API men to effeminate queers and enthusiasts of feng shui from an exotic land full of bonsai. The magazine abused its cultural power and neatly packed gay Asians into stereotypical take-out boxes.

So what's my response to both Maury and Details? I say, I'm already sensational, damn it. I don't need any help to shock, excite, or arouse curiosity. I am a transgender Korean-American adoptee who was raised in a white, upper-class Republican suburb in upstate New York. I'm inclined to think that this alone is sensational enough.

For many years after the Maury episode, I suffocated my inherent being with the haunting image of audience members making a mockery of the transgender contestants. I took on the identity of a gay male instead of a transgender female because I thought it would be more socially acceptable. If, at age 10, I'd seen people like Sylvia Rivera on Maury, it would've saved me seven years of waiting anxiously to bust out of my closet and be who I am. If the media really tried to be fair, accurate, and inclusive in its coverage, it would empower the next generation of young transgender women of color to be proud of who they are.

Did Maury's producers realize that their show would be a backhanded slap to a struggling 10-year-old on a journey of self-identification? Did Details know that a young gay Asian might buy the magazine and be driven deeper into the closet by that profile? Are any of the mass media aware that young people every day are affected and influenced by how they portray people of all colors, sexualities, and gender identities?

Maybe they just don't give a damn. And that's a shame. But I would encourage them to take the simple advice of Tom Lehrer, who said, "I wish people who have trouble communicating would just shut up."

Marra is the Asian-Pacific Islander media fellow for the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD).

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Heavy Handed But Tender-Hearted... Transgender Hip-Hopper Katastrophe Is A Rebel With A Cause

Rona Marech, SF Chronicle Staff Writer

Rocco Kayiatos, the hip-hop artist known as Katastrophe, compulsively discloses his past. He talks about it with strangers on the street, with waitresses, and always, always with his audiences. "I'm the token joke in this world," he sings in "Something Different." "If you didn't understand,

try to, woman or a man, not true. There's something different."

For fans who don't see what the lyrics are getting at, he comes out and says it: The swaggering, rhyme-throwing, emoting, girl-crazy, 25-year-old hip-hopper with the scramble of brown hair and the dark eyes that have sent more than a few Catholic schoolgirls into happy paroxysms is transgender. He used to be a girl.

Sometimes, after the revelation, slack-jawed audiences will yell "no!" or "prove it." Once, a roomful of blond-haired sorority girls at a college in Missouri screamed until the teacher pounded on her desk and shouted for order.

"Because what the f — does that mean?" said Kayiatos, who collected sorority gear from enthusiastic undergraduates during the remainder of his trip to the Missouri college. "If you don't have gender to trust, then you have nothing to trust."

Kayiatos, who recently returned from a European tour and has a new CD out, "Let's F* Then Talk About My Problems," spends a lot of time pondering the relative untrustworthiness of gender. Part of a growing queer hip-hop movement, he sees himself as a kind of missionary — using music and the power of his personality to help educate society about people who are different.

"Everyone is uncomfortable with gender. It's an uncomfortable thing, especially if you are born in a body where you have to think about it all the time," he said. "Sometimes I feel the reason I was born is to make it something comfortable for me, but also to make it comfortable for the rest of the world."

Kayiatos was voted "rebel without a cause" his senior year in high school, but they got it wrong — even then he had a cause, he said. A classic underachiever, he blew off school and did drugs, but found an outlet for his passion and restlessness in slam poetry. He became a champion slammer and, after graduating, went to work for Youth Speaks, the spoken word performance and education organization.

"Here was a queer, white girl" — before his gender transition — "going into high schools and absolutely turning everyone out," said James Kass, the Youth Speaks director. "It was amazing — very smart, passionate, literate, hip-hop-influenced work. It just blew everyone away."

Later, Kayiatos took his brand of mouthy, fearless poetry on the road with Sister Spit, an all-female traveling show. Before long, he was adding beats, and his poetry became music; his hip-hop style became straight-up hip-hop.

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Always a Doctor...

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up on their front steps wearing a bad wig, denim miniskirt, red sweater and "makeup that looked like it belonged on a hooker," Karen said. "I didn't know if it was a joke because it was Halloween or if he was trying to tell me something."

"It was plausibly deniable. If she reacted horribly, I could blame it on Halloween," said Lively, who was then an Army burn surgeon stationed in Texas. The Halloween stunt led to a conversation, which led to nearly two decades of soul searching and exploration for the couple. "Never would I have dreamt it was going toward being female. But it progressed year after year, and we took it as it came," Karen said.

Three years ago, Lively started seeing a therapist who confirmed she was transgender. She began taking female hormones, with Karen's support. "She's my heart. We've been married almost 20 years. This is the person I fell in love with and that's never going to change," Karen said.

Once Lively's adopted daughter, Jennie, turned 21 two years ago, the couple broke the news to her after watching an HBO movie about a transgender woman. Jennie asked if her mom was OK with the change, then said she was, too. Judson began living as Judy outside of work, and Jennie started calling her "Mum." "I wasn't close to my father. I never knew him much. He was never home," she said. "Me and my Mum are so much closer than me and my dad ever were."

Karen, too, believes her relationship with Lively is better. "The more feminine she became, the better our relationship became. The person I knew was there finally surfaced. She's more comfortable with who she is and allows her emotions to be there," she said. When friends ask about their changing sex life, Karen tells them to ask a lesbian. She thinks people are too hung up on labels.

Fifteen years ago, doctors wouldn't perform sex-change surgery on married transgender patients unless they divorced. While that has changed, it is uncommon for couples to stay together, although more are doing so.

The Livelys have been pleasantly surprised by the reaction of friends and family. Karen's father, a staunch Roman Catholic, bought them a knife set for Christmas, engraved for Karen and Judy. But not everyone has been supportive. Some relatives have said they're glad they live 3,000 miles away. Others have stopped calling and sending Christmas cards.

Lively let her straight blond hair grow long, wearing it in a ponytail at work. She grew her nails slightly longer and hid her developing breasts behind her dress shirts and ties, using an elastic band and a sports bra. She began to blur the lines between her male work voice and her female voice at home. To her knowledge, only one person, her co-physician in chief, David Niver, put the clues together. But Niver, who confided in his wife six months ago that he thought his colleague was transgender, said the emotional changes once Lively started taking hormones were more obvious than the physical ones.

"There was something about it that finally added up," said Niver. "He was very cool and unemotional, very steely 10 years ago. ... She has allowed more of her personality to leak out."

But several colleagues said Tuesday they were stunned. That was the reaction of co-worker Hollis Harris when she nearly literally bumped into Lively, dressed as Judy, at a bead show five months ago. Lively said hello. "It took me a moment to place this woman as Dr. Lively," said Harris. "I don't think I would have made the connection if she hadn't made the effort."

Harris is supportive, and hopes others will be as well. That is also the hope of Dr. Robert Pearl, chief executive officer of The Kaiser Permanente Medical Group, which has 3.2 million patients in Northern California. "I judge people by their quality of care and their integrity. Dr. Lively is outstanding in both those areas," Pearl said. While there are bound to be patient or colleagues who have trouble accepting Lively's transition, Pearl said the organization is large enough to accommodate them.

Lively told two patients this week. He plans to contact others in the coming weeks, and hopes they react as well as Amrik Pooni, 59, of Oakley. Pooni's infected pancreas could have killed him before Lively operated in 2003. He underwent more than 10 surgeries and was hospitalized for four months. He sees Lively monthly for follow-up.

"He performs miracles. He's the best there is," said Pooni. While surprised by Lively's revelation, Pooni said he has no hesitation about keeping his doctor. "As far as I'm concerned, he's still my doctor and my friend. This doesn't change a thing," he said. "I'm going to call him Dr. Lively. It doesn't matter what his first name is."

Lively's co-workers had a similar reaction Tuesday. They erupted in applause, leaping to their feet in a standing ovation. They asked questions tinged with humor, and smothered Lively with hugs.

Following more announcements this week, Lively will take a week off. She will legally change her name, start the process of changing her medical license, get a new hairstyle, and redecorate her office with a butterfly theme.

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IS TRANS THE NEW PUNCHLINE?

By Damon Romine
GayWired.com

For 20 years, the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) has closely monitored LGBT media images. The entertainment industry, by and large, has churmed out images of gays and lesbians, and GLAAD has made great strides to ensure these groups are represented fairly and accurately. Transgender images are not as common and represent a community that's still misunderstood and ridiculed on screen and off.

Even within the gay, lesbian and bisexual community, transgender people continue to be disenfranchised. We all need to demand the same respect for transgender people as we demand for gays and lesbians. As GLAAD's new entertainment media director, I've noticed something that could be the beginning of a disturbing trend: In a span of two weeks, the popular animated shows *The Simpsons* and *South Park* featured transgender representations that were considered offensive to the trans community. We should all be offended.

But based on feedback from message boards and blogs, the gay community really didn't raise a collective eyebrow about the transgender punchlines. Why? As a gay man, I'm left to assume that we've grown immune to such attacks, having repeatedly been victimized, ridiculed and stereotyped ourselves in television and film. Or maybe we simply wrote the characterizations off as satire. Maybe both. Even I had to re-watch the episodes to fully grasp why transgender people would be upset. Now I understand—and I hope after reading this you will too.

A Quest for a Restroom That's Neither Men's Room Nor Women's Room

By Patricia Leigh Brown
News York Times

SAN FRANCISCO - Political epiphanies can occur in unexpected places. For Riki Dennis, a 35-year-old humanities student who is transsexual, it was the women's room at a rest stop on Highway 101 north of Santa Barbara.

"The boyfriend hit me, even in mellow California," said Ms. Dennis, who was in the early stages of becoming female when she was assaulted by a stranger after using the women's room. "I said, 'Sir, I have no designs on your girlfriend.' I just want to use the bathroom."

Ms. Dennis, whose lowish voice is now the lone betrayal of her birth sex, is a foot soldier on a new political frontier: the campaign to establish gender-neutral bathrooms in public places. The idea is to make sure that transgender people (an umbrella term that can include transsexuals, cross-dressers and those with a fluid, androgynous identity who do not consider themselves completely male or female) can use bathrooms without fear of harassment.

Ms. Dennis is one of 250 or so members of People in Search of Safe Restrooms, a group founded here three years ago. It reflects a small but active movement, mostly on college campuses but also in a few cities, in which the bathroom, that prosaic fixture of past battles against racial segregation and for the rights of the disabled, has become an emotional and at times deeply personal symbol of a cultural and political divide.

In fact, bathrooms have become a cultural "fault line," said Mary Anne Case, a law professor at the University of Chicago, where the Queer Action Campaign for Gender-Neutral Bathrooms recently got 10 single-use restrooms on campus designated gender neutral. "Very few spaces in our society remain divided by sex," Professor Case said. "There's marriage and there's toilets, and very little else."

To young transgender people, especially college students, the issue has particular resonance. "Students are looking hard at the right to express their gender, a painful right of passage for every young adult," said Riki Wilchins, executive director of the Gender Public Advocacy Coalition, a nonprofit group in Washington that fights discrimination and violence based on gender stereotypes. "These kids are demanding the right to be who they are and what they are 24/7. They're tired of being harassed or hassled when they simply need to use a public facility."

And so many students - including those at Beloit College in Wisconsin, Sarah Lawrence College in Bronxville, N.Y., and the University of California, Santa Barbara - have lobbied successfully for gender-neutral bathrooms.

At the New College of California, a liberal arts college in the Mission District of San Francisco, men's and women's rooms have recently given way to "de-gendered" restrooms, devoid of urinals as well as of white stick figures with pants or a skirt. Signs on the doors proclaim the new restroom politics: "Lots of people don't fit neatly into our culture's rigid two-gender system."

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On *The Simpsons'* much-heralded—and very funny—gay wedding episode, which aired Feb. 20th, Marge's sister Patty came out of the closet and announced she was marrying her pro-golfer lover Veronica. In the middle of an intense national conversation about our families and our freedom to marry, to have *The Simpsons* come down on the side of marriage equality was a big win.

But in a final-act twist to keep Patty single, Marge discovers that Veronica is really a man (named Leslie Robin Swisher—doh!) who is posing as a lesbian only to play women's golf. Members of the transgender community saw two reasons to be upset: Male-to-female pro-golfer Mianne Bagger has been kept from pursuing her career in the U.S. because both the LPGA and the USGA have added a "female at birth" clause. Second, the "reveal" of Veronica reinforces a dangerous myth that transgender people are trying to deceive or trick us. When Marge dramatically ripped away Veronica's choker to reveal a bulging Adam's apple, it seemed funny; but in real life, such revelations are often followed by terrible violence. It's no joke.

The trans community also took note of *South Park's* season premiere on March 9th. Mr. Garrison, long depicted as a deeply closeted gay man, wants to be made "well" and undergoes an extremely graphic (even for *South Park*) "vaginoplasty" to make him a woman. The new Mrs. Garrison, still has the trademark bald head and glasses, but now flamboyantly minces around in Capri pants, anxiously awaiting her first period.

Mr. Garrison's transformation opens the floodgates for Kyle to have surgery to become a tall African American so he can play basketball, and Kyle's father surgically becomes the dolphin he's always wanted to be. Seriously. By the end of the episode, each is made to look foolish for their decisions. Mrs. Garrison even confronts her surgeon with the line, "You made me into a freak... and I want you to change me back!" The doctor says later, "I should have told you that the surgery was cosmetic only."

Underneath the humor is a facetious parallel comparing gender identity with nonsensical issues of "trans-racial" and "trans-species". And then there's the reinforced misconception that sex-reassignment surgery doesn't actually change one's gender. Topping it off, Mr. Garrison's out-of-the-blue sex change promotes the stereotype that all gay men really want to be women. After all, Mrs. Garrison's final words at the end of the episode are, "Even though I'm not truly a woman... I'd rather be a woman who can't have periods than a fag." Ouch! It's just not funny. To use TV lingo, perhaps *South Park* has jumped the shark—er, dolphin.

There will be people who say that I don't get the joke and that GLAAD is humorless. There's really no way that I can convince you otherwise, but in the spirit of full disclosure, let me admit that I AM a fan of both shows (SHHHH, I own their DVD collections, too), and certainly appreciate irreverent, off-color humor. But sometimes things just aren't funny.

Both offenders are well known and respected for their biting satire. But satire works best when it's David attacking Goliath. When it's Goliath beating up David, or in this case a community that's already alienated by society, well that's plain mean. It's the bully on the schoolyard beating up the kid who is already beaten up.

To be clear, I'm not suggesting comedy writers avoid transgender humor. The CBS sitcom *Two and a Half Men* tackled the subject last year by finding comedy in trans-PHOBIA, not by making fun of Chris O'Donnell's female-to-male character. Until the time comes when there are well-rounded, recurring trans characters on television to provide fairness and balance, making a transgender individual the butt of the joke is just wrong. This only gives viewers the validation to laugh at a group of people who are already accustomed to verbal harassment and physical violence.

Navigating the minefield of comedy and humor is a difficult and complex challenge; no one — especially GLAAD — can afford to pretend otherwise. By dismissing these issues as merely a by-product of comedy, the LGB community gives a free pass to the mockery of the trans community, perhaps with a sigh of relief and the thought, "As long as we're not picked on." GLAAD, though, is passionately committed to raising as much awareness of trans images as we do of gay ones.

The talented folks at *The Simpsons* and *South Park* are friends and allies to the gay community. But as we've seen, gay friendly doesn't necessarily equal trans friendly. In the end, I do believe they were aiming for satire but fell short.

GLAAD looks forward to our continuing dialogue with the entertainment industry to make it more aware of transgender issues. We in the LGB community, meanwhile, need to have these conversations as well. We must realize that humor at the expense of some of us is damaging to all of us.

Damon Romine is the Entertainment Media Director for the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD). For more information, please visit www.glaad.org.

Quest for a Restroom...

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At the City College of San Francisco, a community college with more than 100,000 students, about 10 percent to 12 percent of the students are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender. After complaints of harassment by a transgender student, campus administrators recently transformed some men's bathrooms into gender-neutral ones.

Two new satellite campuses, to open in 2007, are being planned with men's, women's and gender-neutral bathrooms on every floor of the buildings. Major new construction on the University of California, Santa Barbara, campus is also going to include gender-neutral bathrooms.

One reason the issue has significance on these campuses is that in contrast to previous generations, in which many sought to transform their birth sex through hormones or surgery, today's young transgender people are content with a more fluid identity.

"I use the male bathroom, because I live my life as a male," said Rolan Gregg, a 29-year-old student at the California College of Arts and Crafts in San Francisco, who was born female and, though he is taking hormones, does not "pass yet," as he put it. "The problem with not passing is that my risk of violence is really high. So going to the bathroom becomes really scary."

Public restroom use is governed by a legal patchwork of city and town ordinances and state laws. San Francisco is one of five cities, including New York, with regulations protecting public restroom access based on "gender identity," which refers to a person's internal sense of gender rather than their birth sex.

But in other places, restroom access based on gender identity is "an evolving area of the law," said Chris Daley, executive director of the Transgender Law Center, a San Francisco-based civil rights organization.

Here in California, where the governor, Arnold Schwarzenegger, speaks derogatorily of "girlie men," the battle over public municipal bathrooms began in San Francisco in 2001, when the city's Human Rights Commission surveyed use of the city's bathrooms after complaints by transgender people and others about harassment in public and private bathrooms. As a result of the survey, the city passed guidelines recommending gender-neutral bathrooms be an option in public places.

"In San Francisco," said Marcus Arana, the a discrimination investigator for the commission, "the choice between being hassled or holding their water affects thousands of people."

Elsewhere in the Bay Area, advocates of gender-neutral bathrooms are beginning to make themselves heard. In January, they pressed the board of supervisors of Alameda County to adopt a resolution forbidding discrimination in public facilities, including restrooms, based on gender identity. Alameda County was the home of Gwen Araujo, a 17-year-old transgender high school student who was murdered in 2002.

But at the meeting, opponents to the provision focused on potential side effects of the law. "You can be sure that stalkers and peeping Toms will take full advantage of this change," said Catherine Norman, 54, a substitute teacher from Fremont. She added, "Bathrooms are about biology, not perceived gender."

Whenever he is in an airport, Shana Agid, a 30-year-old transgender art student, finds himself praying he can hold out until he gets on the airplane. "Day after day, it gets a little old," he said of a ritual he confronts at least a half-dozen times a day. "It feels ridiculous to tell people as a grown person that you have trouble going to the bathroom."

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Katastrophe - Rebel With A Cause...

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Katastrophe's music, which he describes as wordy, underground emo-hop — for emotional hip-hop — is funny, sad, angry and lyrically complex. Sometimes it sounds jagged, sometimes it sounds sweet. The music is a lot like Kayiatos — dark and charming at once. He looks serious and brooding on the cover of the new CD, but he smiles a lot in person. His tattoos have it right, said his mother, Diana Kayiatos, a banker. "Heavy handed" is the message that runs down his arms. And across his chest: "Tender hearted."

"So much about emceeing is about ego and about the big ego," said Juba Kalamka, who is in the queer hip-hop group Deep Dickcollective and put out Katastrophe's CD on his independent label, Sugartruck Recordings. "This is cliché and stereotype, but poetry is about fallibility. ... He's got a little bit of both. He's got swagger, and he's got 'I'm a sensitive guy' at the same time."

Kalamka, who is black, shrugs when asked whether as a white man, Kayiatos should be making hip-hop music. "I'm not saying cultural appropriation isn't a valid concern," he said, "I'm just saying that people who are saying this for the most part are really kind of naive and really kind of ignorant about the history of hip-hop and even more so, the dynamics of queer hip-hop."

Expressing himself through hip-hop, the music he grew up with, comes naturally, Kayiatos said, but as a white person, "I try to step lightly, to make sure it's coming from an honest perspective."

Both straight and gay audiences respond to that honesty, he said, adding that it's only a matter of time before people realize that queer hip-hop is about being disenfranchised or having parties or "the human struggle," and the music becomes more mainstream.

For an intense artist, Kayiatos has an almost oddly stable life. He's been in a relationship with writer Michelle Tea for the past six years. He talks to his mother every day, and his parents, who live in Burlingame, go to as many of his shows as they can. They also paid for his chest surgery by taking out a second mortgage on their house and helped him select his male name — though his mother claims she only mentioned that Rocco was a family name and would have preferred Perry.

On a recent morning, Kayiatos hustled around the North Beach apartment he shares with Tea, preparing for a trip to Scripps College to perform in a queer arts festival. He left a note for the cat sitter explaining Petunia's occasional crankiness, made calls and downloaded music for his show.

The apartment is crammed with thrift store art, books and cat paraphernalia. Stuck to the fridge next to a Valentine's Day card from his parents is a picture of Kayiatos at 5, dressed like a boy in a red vest and a black tie. He pulls out other childhood pictures, and in all of them, he has the same short hair and open-mouthed smile. He was a mostly happy kid until puberty approached and he realized for the first time that he wasn't going to magically turn into a boy, Kayiatos said. Recently, he found an audiotape journal he made when he was about 10. On it, he talked wistfully about how he wished he could switch schools and start over as a boy.

As a child, before society imposes its rules, "you don't feel there's anything wrong with you and nothing is wrong with you," he said. "I'm trying to get back to where I was at 5 years old." Other transgender people see him as one who has had a blessedly easy time. "But I'm still trapped in a transgender brain," he said.

He wrote about the "alienating trip" of changing genders in the song "Bad, Bad Feelings." He doesn't perform the song much anymore because he wrote it at an especially dark time he feels he has since moved past. But the song stands, hauntingly, on his CD.

"I got these bad bad feelings/This life I'm livin' ain't mine/I got these bad bad feelings/I'm my own worst enemy, I'm my own hate crime/With no one defending me, but I'll be just fine sitting/with my bad feelings."

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THE GENDER CHOICE

By Anne-Marie Sampson
Idaho State University Bengal

Lincoln Scott May was a boy like any other, or so he thought. He was in ROTC in high school and later in the military service. He began to notice that there were some things different about him in junior high. He finally figured out what was different at around the age of fifty and as a result no longer legally exists. He is now Mrs. Linda May.

Linda May is one of many transgender people in the U.S. She was born as a hermaphrodite and was not given the chance to choose her sex. The doctors simply did what society at the time said was the right thing. While still a baby they performed a surgery, making her a male. She went through her childhood thinking that she was like everyone else but, knowing that somehow it wasn't true. Finally, in high school she began having recurring stomach aches that other men her age didn't seem to share. Unable to find a cause, the doctors dismissed them and so did she.

Later in life May realized, with the help of her counselor, that those stomach aches were well timed and came about every twenty-eight days, which as most college students know is also the average length of the female menstrual cycle. She looked into it and found out she had been born a hermaphrodite. At that point she knew the wrong sex had been picked for her. She was truly a woman stuck in a man's body.

Soon after this realization at fifty years old, she got a divorce and became her true self. She decided to shed Lincoln May and become Linda May through mental and hormonal therapy. She has a great net of support for her choice. Her children and one of her two brothers have stood by her side. While in her early stages she went to a conference of transgender people from around the country called the Southern Comfort Conference. This provided her the assurance and support she needed. To this day she gets teary talking about how much everyone at the conference helped her. She also mentioned that the North West Gay Alliance has been very helpful as well.

Although she has support and people who love her, including her current legal wife Diane, she has suffered greatly. She has been excluded from family events as well as stricken from her church. She also gets harassed in public by people who know little about her. She has had to fight for her rights in many cases including her right to use the women's restroom.

She came to ISU to talk about her life and struggle. She came with the intent of informing people that she is not the only transgender person in the U.S. or even in Pocatello. When asked how she wanted people to deal with this, considering most people know little about it and find it quite strange, and her response was that she was open for discussion. She wants people to ask the questions that are on their minds and to allow her to clear up any misunderstandings. She also said that it was okay with her if people didn't want to talk with her.

Linda was brought here by the Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender Student Alliance also known as the LGBTSA, and the Janet C. Anderson Resource Center. I spoke with LGBTSA co-president Diana Painter who organized Linda's visit.

"I know some transgender people who are very afraid and I feel bad for them because it hurts their school work and personal life when they have to hide because they are afraid they may be killed," Painter said.

Painter also wants people to know that it is not something you read about in class or in the paper, it is a local issue. It is something that happens right here and that these people should be allowed to live free and happy just like everyone else.

Producers Claim Double-Cross By Cross-Dressing Show

Celebrity Justice (Warner Bros)

"He's A Lady," a reality show that aired on TBS last fall, featured macho dudes who dressed in drag to compete for cash. Now the show's producers have been slapped with a lawsuit by two men who claim the idea for the cross dressing competition was stolen from them.

Hollywood attorney Thomas Brackey represents the two producers who are suing the TBS cable network. Brackey told us, "John Phillips and Derek Gerard, my clients, came up with the idea for a transgender reality show, and that's exactly what the show 'He's A Lady' is."

The lawsuit, which was filed in Federal court, alleges that Phillips and Gerard approached TBS with a show called "Sex Change." The lawsuit claims the network turned down "Sex Change," then created the similar show, "He's A Lady," without Phillips and Gerard.

Brackey claims the shows are nearly identical. "The contestants are male, they're masculine, they're recruited for those specific attributes,"

Justina Williams

THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN CHRISTINE JORGENSEN

Submitted by Monica of the Air

Monica notes: This is from the November 1, 1979 Jet Magazine article written by D. Michael Cheers. Note how African-American media used the correct pronouns several decades before the 2001 AP Style Book mandated it, and treated Justina with respect.

Justina Williams always knew that she was different. Ms. Williams, 30, was born Johnny Williams, a man with a gender disorder. She said that although she had a man's genitalia, psychologically she was a woman. Further, she had glandular bust tissue, and chromosomally and hormonally she was female.

"From my early childhood years I was more feminine than masculine. I just naturally assumed that I was a girl," she told JET. "I used to fight with my sister to see who would comb the doll's hair. I never played with games or toys associated with boys."

While on sick leave two years ago from her job as an assembly line worker for General Motors' Cadillac Motor Car Division in Detroit, she went to New York and was admitted to Boulevard Hospital for a sex reassignment operation. "The doctors made an incision down my penis, removed my testicles and formed a vaginal cavity. Part of the penis was kept to form a clitoris," she said.

Two months later she legally changed her name to Justina. Fifteen months later, after 10 years of seniority at General Motors she was terminated. Ms. Williams filed a lawsuit last month in Wayne County Circuit Court where she claimed her termination was illegal, and that she suffered from unlawful employment practices and other forms of discrimination because of her sex. GM says they plan to answer the suit within a month.

Among the charges listed in the complaint, Ms. Williams alleges that she was "repeatedly harassed, tormented and humiliated with verbal abuse with the intention of making her workplace conditions so unbearable that she would be forced to terminate her employment for her physical and mental well-being."

"I tried to be a man," said Ms. Williams, who now supports herself on general assistance and food stamps. "From 1970 to 1974 I even grew a mustache, tried to generate an interest in girls, but I could not become interested in them. We could only be friends. I never dated a girl in my life. I never had sex with a woman, nor have I ever engaged in any homosexual activity."

"When I was 13 I read a magazine article about an entertainer who had a sex reassignment operation. I knew then that there was hope for me. My prayers were answered," she continued. "In 1969 I started taking hormone shots to soften my skin and develop bust tissue. I even dressed like a woman, but only when I wasn't at work."

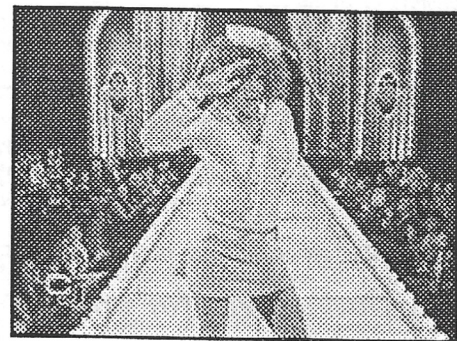
"Now I am totally a woman and content with my body. I have sex, have orgasms and really enjoy macho men," she added. Ms. Williams said that she cannot have children because she does not have any ovaries or a uterus.

As for her future, "What I really want to do is study cosmetology and move to another location so that I can get on with my life. I want to form an organization to help other women who have gender dysphoria and have suffered like I have. But for right now I want to concentrate on being female. I haven't had time to do that yet," she said.

said Brackey. "Then later, once they're in the show, it's revealed to them that they have to become female."

According to the lawsuit, the "Sex Change," contestants were supposed to move into "Camp Barbie" where they would learn how to be women. In the TBS show, "He's A Lady," the cross-dressing dudes actually did move into something called "The Doll House." The lawsuit also claims both shows ended with a beauty pageant.

Evolution, the company that produced "She's A Lady," claims on its Web site that the show was inspired by the classic cross-dressing comedies "Tootsie," "Mrs. Doubtfire" and "Some Like It Hot." TBS has no comment.



Remember Gwen Araujo!

Gwen Amber Rose Araujo (1985 - 2002)

...A transgender teenager from Newark, CA was murdered at a party by a group of men upon discovery of her transgender status. Twenty months after Gwen Araujo's death the jury deadlocked on whether her attackers were guilty of first or second-degree murder. According to Alameda County District Attorney's Office, none of the jurors were willing to settle for the lesser offense of manslaughter — despite efforts by defense attorneys in the case to argue that Gwen's killers were somehow justified because she did not disclose her transgender identity to them. The prosecutor already has stated that he will re-try the three defendants, Michael Magidson, Jose Merel, and Jason Cazares, for murder.

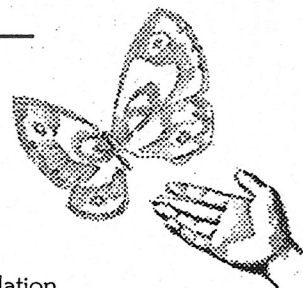


Make Your Money Count!

To contribute to Gwen's family directly: **Gwen Araujo Memorial Fund**, Bank Of America, Any BofA branch location, Acct# 10598-05854

To support transgender education work: **Gwen Araujo Transgender Education Fund** c/o Horizons Foundation, 870 Market St. Suite, 728 San Francisco, CA 94102 (415) 398 - 2333 / www.horizonsfoundation.org

Thank you!



Queer Caucus Backs Transgender Student Rights After Marino Center Incident

By Jennifer Nelson
Northeastern University News

Members of the Northeastern School of Law's Queer Caucus are preparing to take action after a transgender person was denied access to the women's locker in the Marino Center last Thursday, said Laura Langley, a member of the caucus.

The incident, reported in The Northeastern News' Crime Log last week, occurred when a person who had presented a male identification, but was dressed as a woman, entered the women's locker room. Marino Center staff reported the incident to the Northeastern Police. According to the report, the person told officers she was in gender transition, and identified herself as a woman although she technically was not one yet. She was denied access to the women's locker room.

Langley, a law student at Northeastern, said Boston's human rights laws explicitly protect the rights of transgender people. "If the individual identifies as a woman the person should be allowed to access female facilities," Langley said. She said under Boston law, restrooms and locker rooms are able to be used "in accordance with gender identity," whether or not the person has fully transitioned to the sex they identify themselves as.

Letters addressed to Northeastern Public Safety, President Richard Freeland's office, the Marino Center and several other administrative offices on campus are being mailed by the Queer Caucus today, Langley said. The letters invite the administrative offices to come together with the Queer Caucus in order to discuss transgender issues on campus.

"The letters we're seeing as a first step and an education piece," Langley said. "We want to try to meet with administration. I think [Northeastern's administration] is committed to an institution that is free from discrimination, as well."

Langley said the Queer Caucus has been communicating with Northeastern's Bisexual, Lesbian, Gay, Transgender and Straight Alliance (NUBiLAGA), and hopes to work with them on this issue as the letters are sent out and efforts are made to address transgender issues on campus.

"A lot of people aren't informed about gender issues," said Ashley Smith, NUBiLAGA's director of public relations. "We need to educate people about what this issue is all about. We do plan to make a statement and hopefully get involved in this issue."

Northeastern's Feminist Student Organization is also planning action on their own regarding transgender issues on campus. The group is planning an e-mail campaign to raise awareness of transgender issues. Langley said the letters will be the first step in an ongoing process for the Queer Caucus and other student groups on campus. "We're hoping we can be a resource in this way for the administration," she said. "It's important to discuss this with people."

Araujo, Though Murdered, Doesn't Deserve Martyrdom

By Matthew Adair

Middle Tennessee State University – Sidelines Online

When naming your martyrs, it pays to read into the people you're upholding in front of others.

Rolling Stone brought that conversation to the forefront online when, on Feb. 10, they ran a feature on the murder of Gwen Araujo and subsequent trial of her killers. In the days that followed the article being published, Internet message boards and communities were active with people arguing whether Araujo brought her own death upon herself.

In Oct. 2002, three young men murdered Araujo, who was then legally named Edward, after discovering she was a transsexual. The jury hung after a long and heated trial, setting the young men free, at least until their retrial comes in May.

Some have argued that the tragedy of Araujo's death should rally men and women like her to promote dignity and respect towards all people, regardless of who they are. I'd be inclined to agree; people shouldn't have to live in fear of death for who they are, nor should they be only begrudgingly seen as human beings.

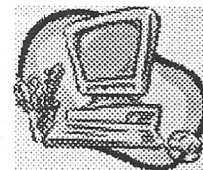
However, it should be understood that Araujo made poor choices in the company she chose to keep: an atmosphere of liquor and drugs, dead-end lives and criminal behavior. Surely, she must have known that sleeping with men who did not know of or understand her situation put her at considerable risk. Putting a young man in a position where he is forced to question his sexuality in front of his peers is one that is fraught with danger.

Araujo had faced discrimination and abuse in the past; she had even been attacked after a party when a group of drunken men outed her and cut her with a broken beer bottle. She knew the danger she faced in hiding her condition while living the social life she did, and chose to ignore the potential consequences in pursuit of being feeling validated as a young woman. Putting one's self-interest over one's safety is foolish, and hardly makes a martyr.

As tragic as Araujo's death was, the lesson to be learned from it is that of self-restraint, as well as one of the effects of intolerance.

Matthew Adair is a sophomore art education major and can be reached at matt.adair@gmail.com.

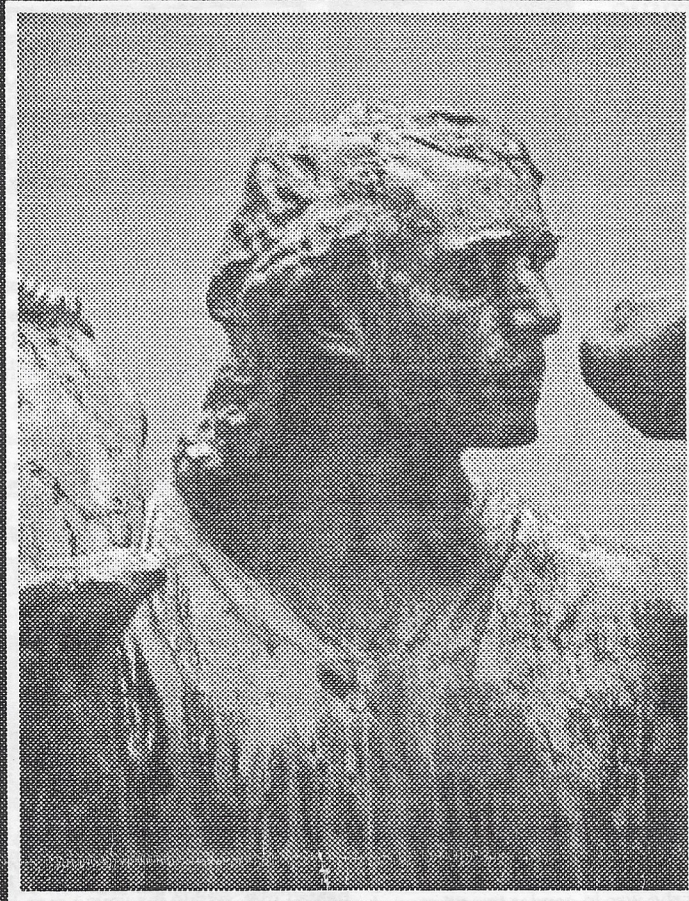
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