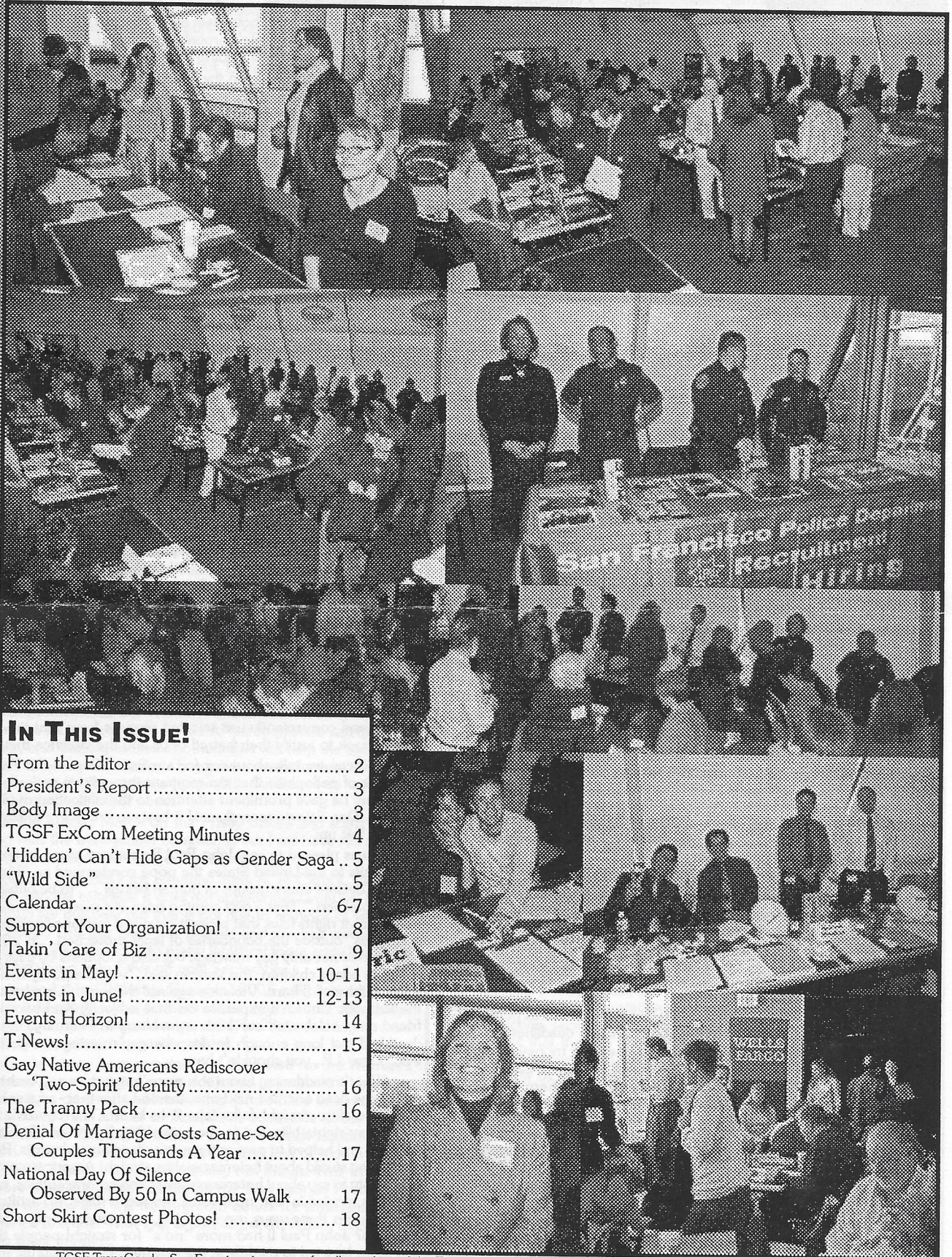


1st Ever Tranz Job Fair Huge Success!



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.

ExCom 2005 - 2006 Officers

(Fiscal Year: May 1 - April 30)

President	Roxy Carmichael-Hart
Vice President	Laura Marlowe
Secretary	Lisa Rae Dummer
Treasurer	Pamela Gray
Education	Dawnne Woodie
.....	Jennifer Anderson
Outreach	Allison D. Laureano
.....	Jennifer Siobhan Kennedy
Social	Anne Louise Mortenson
.....	Tommie Watson
Ms. TGSF 2005	Jennifer Siobhan Kennedy
TGSF Outreach Ambassador	Kelly Anne Marsh

Fine Print

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

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Newsletter Staff

Editor	Ayme Michelle Kantz
Advertising	Dawnne Woodie
Contributing Photographers, this Issue:	Jamie Faye Fenton and Roxy Carmichael-Hart

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FROM THE EDITOR...



Oh my God, just stop it already! Just stop with the lies about the war, and the corporate fraud, and the destruction of the environment, and our overworked and underappreciated health and school systems, and the imbecilic homophobic hysteria!

I am not a hateful person. A lot of people know how I feel about George Bush junior, but I don't hate him. He's probably a nice guy. But I absolutely fuckin' hate what he's doing to my country.

On the one hand, we have the United Nations issuing a four-year, \$24 million Millennium Ecosystem Assessment which concluded that during the last fifty years, humans have caused heavy damage or depleted up to 60% of the world's farmlands, forests and watercourses. As a species, we have so strained our planet's ecosystems that the disappearance of forests, fish and fresh water resources will cause more frequent disease outbreaks during the next half century. Gee willikers Mr. Wizard, guess who hasn't signed the Kyoto accord on global warming? Who is more than willing to destroy Alaskan wilderness (and most likely invade Iran) to keep the gas pumps flowing?

And on the other hand we've got Bible-thumping Indiana officials pumping newsbytes through Bush's media cronies touting how they've cracked down on a company that made cement copies of classic nude statues because they supposedly violated obscenity laws. Criminy, nudity has been part of art for hundreds of years and it certainly doesn't imply obscenity in and of itself. We'd have to place most of Renaissance art back into hiding if that were the case. But we're in a time of maniacal religious fervor right now and all reason concerning our own humanity has flown out the window, right along with the bathwater and the baby.

Not to mention the blatant hypocrisy shown by the rabid evangelicals and congresspersons and right-to-life Bushites who went ballistic over Terry Schiavo (and conveniently padded the GOP coffers while doing so - shhh) - praying at endless candlelight vigils not only for Schiavo's vegetative and lifeless survival, but also for savage moral punishment and a grisly slow death for Democrats and those "activist" judges who uphold the law and tell the government to mind their own goddamn business. What's even sadder (and most frightening) is that these same hordes of creepy and fanatical born-again and right-to-lifers have in their warped little hearts exactly zero spiritual or ethical, or even common sense with regard to our country killing whomever the hell we want in Iraq, including our own troops.

And now the Pope has died. Another nice guy. Traveled a lot. I sang in the Papal Choir for him when he visited Los Angeles over twenty-five years ago. Nice photo op of him spontaneously hugging a 4-year old boy with AIDS while here in SF that year. Supposedly put a humanitarian face on the AIDS epidemic single-handedly.

But here's a human man who steadfastly refused to condone the use of condoms to prevent the spread of that deadly virus in third-world countries, and as a consequence condemned countless hundreds of thousands of people to their deaths. And it completely terrifies me that there are countless millions of Americans who, to this very day, will swear that the Bible is the absolute "truth" in all things - and conveniently use selected phrases from that tired (and badly written) history book to justify their hatred of us and the violence they inflict on us.

And can we talk about sex for a minute? Pope John Paul II also ignored an epidemic of pedophilia that ran rampant through his ranks for decades, but made damn sure he gave prominent attention to the vilification of God's gay and lesbian children. Dan Savage recently said it best, so I'm going to blatantly plagiarize him to wrap this up:

"I was pleased to see John Paul II's papacy come to an end. On one of his other visits to the United States the pope condemned an "[American] culture that seeks to declare entire groups of human beings . . . to be outside the boundaries of legal protection." That's rich coming from the man who ordered bishops here to oppose civil rights laws that protect gays and lesbians (including hate-crime laws), leaving us "outside the boundaries of legal protection." In 2003 a Vatican screed condemned not only gay marriage but also adoptions by gays and lesbians. Allowing us to adopt children, the Vatican said, "would actually mean doing violence to these children." (Hmm. Violence against children . . . perhaps we should defer to the Catholic Church's expertise on that subject?) And two days before my boyfriend and I celebrated our 10th anniversary in February, the pope rose from his deathbed just long enough to describe gay marriage as part of an "ideology of evil." Gee, J.P., you shouldn't have.

What's maddening about this pope's signature gay bashing is this: When the pope - the dead one, the next one, the one after that - says something stupid about homosexuality, straight folks take it to heart. The church's efforts have helped defeat gay rights bills, led to the omission of gays and lesbians from hate-crime statutes, and helped to pass anti-gay-marriage amendments. But when a pope says something stupid about heterosexuality, straight Americans go deaf. And this pope had plenty to say about heterosexual sex - no contraceptives, no premarital sex, no blowjobs, no jerkin' off, no divorce, no remarriage, no artificial insemination, no blowjobs, no three-ways, no swinging, no blowjobs, no anal. Did I mention no blowjobs? John Paul II had more "no's" for straight people than he did for gays. But when he tried to meddle in the private lives of straights, the same people who deferred to his delicate sensibilities where my rights were concerned suddenly blew the old asshole off.

Gay blowjobs are expendable, it seems; straight ones are sacred."

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Roxy Carmichael-Hart

Early Returns

We have some early returns in our elections but I think our crack news team can safely make some projections. It looks like our slate is going to win in a monumental landslide. Not surprising since they were all unopposed but I sincerely appreciate the members' support for our team.

I am very pleased with the re-election of Laura Marlowe as our Vice-President. Laura's vision, energy and initiative have served us well this last year and I am happy to have her back for another term. You have also re-elected Tommi Watson as your Social Co-Chair. Tommi is one of our unsung heroines; whenever there is a job to do you can be sure she'll be volunteering to help. Your new Secretary is a name that is very familiar to you - Lisa Rae Dummer. Lisa, who has been serving as our Education Co-Chair, was interested in another position but she saw where the need was and volunteered to fill it. It is what I have always appreciated in her and why I wanted her on this ExCom. Your new Education Co-Chair is Jennifer Anderson, whom you'll recognize as Miss Congeniality 2005. And our new Outreach Co-Chair is Jennifer Siobhan Kennedy, also known as Ms. TGSF 2005. Jennifer has been attending our meetings regularly and is working hard on San Francisco Pride, which is our major Outreach effort of the year. Now that all of these wonderful people have been elected, please support them and help them when they approach you for assistance. They are making this contribution to TGSF because they believe in this organization and in this community.

Speaking of Pride, it is almost that time of year and this year we plan on an unprecedented effort. We plan to make our first stop Santa Cruz Pride which is 10:00 AM the first Sunday in June, June 5th. This year's theme is "Equality Matters". The march will begin at Cathcart and Pacific at 11 AM. TGSF will likely have a contingent and an information booth as well. Alli will be in charge of that. The next Sunday, June 12 is San Jose Pride. That usually begins at about 10:30 AM in downtown San Jose with a march down the other Market Street. I don't have a lot of details at this time but if you'll monitor the site - www.sigaypride.com you can get all of the details. There is usually a festival on both Saturday and Sunday in Discovery Meadow and you'll find our information booth there as well. And finally, the topper is San Francisco Pride on Saturday and Sunday June 25 and 26. Next month we will write a very long article but we will have a big presence. We may be near the front of the parade, which means we might get on TV. Our float theme is "Bridging the Gap" which will show how far we have come but how far we still have to go. We plan to march as people from all walks of life, to show the world that we are people too.

Once again we'll be a partner in pride, thanks to Laura's efforts. Laura is our official spokesperson for Pride (something that comes with the job of being VP) and is also helping to organize our volunteer effort. In addition to our contingent monitors, whom we always need, we would like to provide safety monitors for both Saturday and Sunday as well as others that will help the San Francisco Pride staff with this enormous effort. Every hour we volunteer increases our percentage of sharing in the community profits. Several of us were gap monitors last year and that is another need.

I won't discuss the Tranny March on the Friday before and some of the other efforts dealing with the transgender community but I will have Alli do that since she is in charge of pretty much that entire effort.

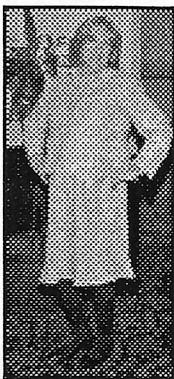
We are also looking at a BBQ for Saturday June 4, at Carla's. I'll try to finalize that and get it into the calendar. It does not appear that Unity will be able to come off as planned for this year but that is not due to any lack of effort on the part of Anne Louise. This has been her passion and she has worked tirelessly to try and get it off the ground. Too many logistical loose ends had to be tied up so we are likely going to put this off until September.

By the time you read this, California Dreamin' 2005 will have come and gone and I am sure it is going to be a smash. Four days of fun, friendship, femininity and learning. What more could anyone ask for? I am looking forward to being a part of it. I hope many of you can attend.

On a personal note, I have been appointed to the Board for the Women's Transportation Seminar, a professional group dedicated to promoting opportunities for women. I will be co-chair of Membership (and I have one recruit already!). I will be attending their annual conference in Scottsdale at the end of May as a Board member for the San Francisco Chapter, which is just another step in my transition. But, as a result, I will miss my first End of Month since I started coming to TGSF. Laura, I know will capably run things. This will probably be the rule more than the exception during my final year as President. I won't go to as many months and will try to groom others for leadership roles and give them a chance to shine. That too, is part of the transition. Eventually, the baby bird has to leave the nest.

Next month, I will discuss more about Pride and will have some great news about the Cotillion. It is not that far away (January 21, 2006).

Play ball!



BODY IMAGE

By Jenni Kennedy
Ms. TGSF 2005



Man, woman, straight, bi, gay, lesbian, GG, GM, MTF, FTM, CD, TV, TS, etc. - no matter the orientation or gender identification, most people have at least some issue or another with their body image. There is no escaping it. Virtually everyone, no matter how perfect, focuses on the things they want to improve rather than what they like about themselves. Tom Cruise looks in the mirror and sees some muscle not just right (I can't imagine where, but I am sure he does). Gwyneth Paltrow looks in the mirror and only sees some imagined thing wrong (yes, it is really hard coming up with a flaw for Gwyneth). Brad Pitt looks in the mirror and grimaces over some random gray hair (I am sure being married to Jennifer Aniston gave him some gray hair, one has to watch out for those Jennifers). Renee Zellweger struggles with her weight (though that is often by choice). We Transgendered folks have it worse as we often have serious issues with our body image when presenting in the physical gender we were born with, but love and covet our image when the presentation in the mirror matches our internal gender identification. For those that are part time, there is the difficulty and sadness of returning to the drab presentation of everyday life. For those undertaking living full time as their inner gender there is the struggle to make the new presentation real. Either way, it is a challenge - but Transgendered folks are definitely not alone in the struggle with our body image.

I have a GG friend from Boston who has as her best friend a woman who was a writer for Sex and the City and totally travels with the "In" crowd in Manhattan. Unfortunately my friend is always overwhelmed with issues about her own weight, especially after an evening out and about with her friend doing the Manhattan "see and be seen" routine. One of my favorite comments from my friend is "I was beautiful 60 pounds ago...". And I am sure she was. The problem is not that she is too heavy now, the actual problem is that she does not see that she is still beautiful - she quite simply does not see her own attractiveness. She views her body with the same biting criticism that expects every woman's body to be that of an actress on Sex and the City. She is caught up in the failure of her own body image. This leaves her in a spiral of guilt from eating too much due to her giving up on achieving what she believes she should look like, and a constant issue with self esteem that prevents her from having meaningful romantic relationships.

I have another GG friend who is 118 lbs, 5' 4", totally hot, and does not have to workout one bit to look perfect. She just had her breasts done to full 36DD's, right after finishing her facelift, extensive Retin A, and full chemical peel. Why? Like so many of us, she did not like what she saw in the mirror. All it takes is money and time to make change happen. Is she happier now? Not sure yet, but I am sure she will get even MORE attention than she already does. It will help her self esteem in the short term at the very least. But in the end I am guessing all of this body improvement is not the real solution to whatever demon of a problem it is that she is trying to solve.

So obviously body image is not strictly a problem that is limited to Transgendered men and women. We are no different than the general population, it is simply that our chosen body image happens to cross gender boundaries in what we see as necessary changes to our physique. And that adds even more complications to the usual search for physical beauty.

Our journey to being satisfied with our own body image is a long one. We basically end up hacking our bodies - makeup, laser hair removal, electrolysis, breast augmentation, padding, body constriction, corsets, body reconstruction, facial feminization surgery, and various other possible surgeries! Not that the GG and GM population does not hack their bodies also, but we as transgender men and women face more intense changes in the effort for us to match our own internal body image.

Is it necessary? Can we just accept in ourselves the way we actually look, rather than attempt to be Playboy centerfolds, 49er Cheerleaders, Chippendale dancers, or other unobtainable visions of sexy GG Women or studly GM Men? I am guessing we might just stand a better chance of reaching inner happiness and solid self esteem if we can simply accept ourselves for who we are, what we are, and the body that we have. Yes, there are some of us that do accept ourselves the way they are, and have no compulsion to hack their bodies into some other form (that is not me unfortunately, wish I was one of those lucky folks! ;-)) In the end, no matter how much body hacking one undertakes, it is the happiness within that is truly what matters - the joy of being who we are and expressing ourselves with pride.

TGSF ExCom MEETING MINUTES

Present - Roxy Charmichael-Hart, Laura Marlowe, Allison Laureano, Dawnne Woodie, Anne Louise Mortensen, Tommi Watson, Kara Flynn, Lisa Dummer. Absent - Pamela Gray. Minutes of the March 6, 2005 meeting were submitted and approved.

President's Report - Roxy

The Sacramento coronation is coming up. Jennifer Kennedy will look into representing TGSF as Ms. TGSF.

Ballots for the election were mailed on March 26, 2005. The few members who do not have a listed mail address received their ballot by email.

The Ginny Knuth award has been engraved and is ready to be awarded at the April end of Month.

Four hotels responded to our request for proposal to be the host hotel for the 2006 Cotillion. After reviewing the proposals, the list was reduced to Holiday Inn Golden Gateway and Cathedral Hill Hotel. They will be invited to make an in person presentation at the next ExCom meeting.

The segregation of transgendered women by the Hyatt Hotel - San Jose at the IRLM coronation was discussed. Roxy will send a letter to the IRLM requesting clarification from their standpoint. Laura will meet with the Hyatt to discuss the issue.

Participation in the Trans Community meeting was discussed. More information about it is needed.

Vice President's Report - Laura

Preparation for San Francisco Pride 2005 was discussed. Alli and Dawnne have confirmed that we will be able to get into the float barn the end of May. Pride is encouraging TGSF to enter the float design in this year's competition. Pride was very enthusiastic about our entry. If we are a winning entry, we will be given a Pride vehicle to pull the float. This will also guarantee us a position in the front half of the parade. Pride will do a special training under the auspices of TGSF and FTMI for Safety and Contingent Monitors. It was approved to hold the training at the Cathedral Hill Hotel. There will be no charge to TGSF. The attendees will pay for brunch at the hotel. We are still waiting for the trailer dimensions from Jennifer Kennedy. We have prepared an editorial for inclusion in the Pride Magazine.

Treasurer's Report - Pam (by Laura)

There is \$3,101 in the account with another approximately \$250 to deposit.

Secretary's Report

Position open

Education - Dawnne, Lisa

Nordstrom will be bringing clothes to the April End of Month and discussing the personal shopper program. A room will be set aside to try on the clothes. They may be purchased if desired.

Sacred and Seeking, the panel on transgendered persons and religion is set for June 5, 2005. It will be held at Most Holy Redeemer church in the assembly hall. The time is set for 1:30pm.

An official of Pride may speak at the May End of Month. Kara will provide information on Dr. Gray as a future speaker. Dr. O is also a possibility.

We are looking into the possibility of a panel on Why We Need Transgender Rights. It is tentatively scheduled for the Fall.

Outreach - Kara, Alli

Santa Cruz Pride is all set. The Outreach booth was donated by Jennifer Anderson. Jennifer Kennedy, Roxy and Alli will represent TGSF.



The paper work for San Jose Pride has been prepared and given to Pam to submit.

Jennifer Kennedy will take over the Hotline from Kara when her term ends.

TGSF and FTMI will handle the Trans Pavilion at SF Pride.

Alli is trying to schedule speaking engagements at college of San Mateo and SF State. University of San Francisco has asked her for transgender alumni to speak. Lisa volunteered.

Social - Anne Louise, Tommi

Next End of Month is April 28, 2005. The new ExCom will be introduced and goodbye said to the old one.

The April Mid-Month will be held at the King of Clubs in Mountain View. It is being dubbed Stiletto Night. It will begin approximately 9:00pm.

Unity has a position at the LGBT Center is booked for the whole day on May 14, 2005 by Mission High School. We are looking for an alternate venue.

New Business

Dawnne brought up the confusion at the April End of Month. Our arrangement with the hotel is that there will be one bill for each table. It is not possible to do individual billing. We will look into putting laminated cards and flyers on each table informing the attendees of this fact.

Kara brought up the honorary position of Outreach Ambassador. She felt that the position usurped the authority of the Outreach Co-chairs since the person is not under any direction. She suggested that the person serve on the Outreach committee.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held May 1, 2005 at Cathedral Hill Hotel immediately following the Cotillion presentation by the Holiday Inn Golden Gateway at noon, at the Golden Gateway.

.....

ONLINE SO LIST!

.....

New online mailing list for wives and SOs of crossdressers and men who consider themselves to be transgendered; no topic off limits. Attitudes range from complete acceptance to really struggling. Open to women only - no crossdressers please! Women need a place where they can feel safe to discuss these issues. Write to Cheryl at triess_family@yahoo.com and explain a little about your situation.

.....

MID-MONTH SOCIAL

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

TGSF is looking for some enthusiastic and motivated people to help plan our mid-month socials.

All it takes to plan these events is for someone to call a venue that is hopefully very TG friendly and see if they would be willing to host our event. Mid-months can expect anywhere from 10-20 people.

If you would like to help with these events, please contact roxyhart72903@sbcglobal.net Thank you!

GenderQueer, Trans, & Gender Questioning Youth Group

Billy DeFrank LGBT Community Center
www.defrank.org

This youth program will provide space for discussion groups, workshops and activities, specifically for genderqueer youth and their allies. We are excited to be offering this new programming, for an underserved population, even in our own community. This new group is for young people 20 and under, who identify somewhere on the gender non-conforming spectrum, who are questioning their gender identity or who are considering transitioning.

This group will meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month from 5-6pm at the DeFrank Center, which is located at 938 The Alameda, in San Jose. For more information please contact T. Aaron Hans, Program Director at 408.293.3040 ext. 112 or at progdir@defrank.org.



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'HIDDEN' CAN'T HIDE GAPS AS GENDER SAGA

By Celia Wren
Special to The Washington Post

Some things, as the saying goes, are certain. Death. Taxes. Most of us would probably add "gender" to that list — you're either male or you're female, right?

"Hidden: A Gender," the latest offering of the Trumpet Vine Theatre Company, suggests that the situation is more complicated than that. Written by Kate Bornstein — a transsexual who has lived both as a man and as a woman and now, according to the program, is happy to be "neither" — this rather talky and self-conscious play argues that gender is a fiction drilled into us by our controlling, consumerist society. In the words of Doc Grinder, a frisky androgynous emcee figure who skips onto the stage at the start of Scene 1: "Advertisements and commercials sell what? Sex and gender! That's right! And sex and gender sell what? The products!"

Photo: Ghillian Porter and Katie Atkinson liven up the stage in "Hidden: A Gender." (Keith Waters — Trumpet Vine Theatre)

Individuals who can't fit into the man/woman dichotomy, for biological or other reasons, may spend years searching for their identities, the play asserts, offering as evidence mini-profiles of two transsexuals — one of them a version of Bornstein, the other the 19th-century hermaphrodite Herculeine Barbin, chronicled by Michel Foucault.

As it makes its case, "Hidden" (first performed in San Francisco in 1989) lurches back and forth between the solemn mood of the life stories and more playful scenes that envisage the world of gender relations as a carnival sideshow — a conceit that Jared Davis, scenic designer for the Trumpet Vine production, underscores effectively with a bare-bones set: bright red and yellow curtains flanking a central platform that resembles a fairground booth.

The sideshow's star is the roguish Doc Grinder (an energetic Ghillian Porter), whose all-black outfit — low-cut bodice, leather pants, top hat, mustache drawn on in what looks like felt-tip marker — suggests both circus ringmaster and S&M dominatrix.

Doc Grinder taunts and teases the audience ("You look liberal enough. You wouldn't be here tonight if you weren't, am I right?"), and the waggish tone reappears in other burlesque sequences, including an appearance by two Groucho Marx-like sex-change surgeons and a mock commercial for a medicine called Gender Defender ("In the pink bottles for the girls and the blue bottles for the men. The miracle elixir that keeps you straight").

Fundamentally, of course, these satirical turns are intended to be as pithy as the interspersed portraits of Barbin (Sarah Fischer) and of Herman Amberstone (Katie Atkinson), the playwright's avatar. Of the two narratives, the Amberstone tale proves more riveting, partly because its modern setting gives it a voyeuristic cachet, like an anecdote from a daytime talk show, and partly because Atkinson brings a hard-eyed intensity to the role as she recounts Amberstone's memories of furtive adolescent trysts, macho adult conquests, enrollment in a cult, and other experiences.

Compared to the compelling figure Atkinson cuts as she swaggers onstage, wearing a mannish jacket, hair in a severe ponytail, the demure Fischer has too little stage presence, and since her character — Barbin — spends most of her/his time praying aloud or delivering other varieties of stiff monologue (an address to an unseen lover, etc.), the 19th-century episodes tend to drag.

Particularly during its sideshow turns, "Hidden" can be imaginative and poignant. But Foucault enthusiasts, cultural theorists, people with a particular interest in sexual-identity issues — these are the audiences likeliest to find the play a revelation. Others may feel they're watching the production across a divide as wide as the gender gap.

Movie Review

"WILD SIDE"

RainbowNetwork

Wild Side opens with the camera exploring the contours of Stephanie's (Stephanie Michelini) body. Stephanie is a transsexual, and French director Sébastien Lifshitz, the director of *Presque Rien*, wants us to make no mistake as to who, and what, Stephanie is. With any anticipatory voyeurism over, Lifshitz gets on with telling her story.

And that story is of a Parisian, transsexual prostitute with two lovers, who returns to her childhood home to care for her dying mother. She's soon followed by Russian refugee Mikhail (Edouard Nikitine), who doesn't speak French, and Arab rent boy Jamel (Yasmine Belmadi), who will fuck anyone anywhere to support his family.

Stephanie's mother is relatively unfazed by the trio — although she insists on calling Stephanie Pierre — and tries to build bridges with her daughter, but their relationship is stilted. Memories of her childhood and the death of her sister come flooding back to Stephanie — a stark contrast to her present life.

Usually transsexuals are portrayed as screeching, ego-centric Barbie dolls, but neither Stephanie's physiology or her sexuality is Lifshitz's main concern. He's only interested in making us see more than the name tags of transsexual, prostitute and immigrant. He shows Stephanie happily running through fields as a child; Mikhail's unhappiness with his new country; and Jamel's squalid exchanges in public toilets. A lack of acceptance by society has forced them all into a position of degradation.

Rather than using a traditional plot structure or a linear narrative, Lifshitz's low-key direction captures a sense of who his characters are. In fact, there's very little dialogue at all.

Wild Side is interesting because of its subject matter. As a piece of art it's also accomplished, thanks in part to Agnes Godard's (*Beau Travail*) subtle and stylized cinematography evoking a time of tranquillity and past innocence. Michelini is a striking presence with a strong jaw-line, but she's at ease with her body and her natural beauty leave you in no doubt about her femininity.

This unconventional family unit work as each other's comfort zones, sleeping, caring and supporting each other with few jealousies between them. Lifshitz's intentions are honorable, but it's debatable how realistic or how long such a union could last.

Wild Side's meditative style won't be to everyone's tastes and some may find the sex scenes unpalatable, but those who accuse Lifshitz of participating in pretentious, cinematic wanking would be missing the point.

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.



TGSF Events in May

Sunday / May 1 / 1:30pm (approximately)

TGSF ExCOM MEETING

Cathedral Hill Hotel Restaurant, Van Ness and Geary - immediately following the Cotillion presentation by the Holiday Inn Golden Gateway at noon, at the Golden Gateway. Please render your assistance with our upcoming plans for our presence at Pride, staffing our Booth and building our Float. This is a real opportunity for people who want to give back to their community and have some fun at the same time!

Every Friday / May 6, 13, 20, 27 / 6:00pm - 9:00pm

TGSF AND MAC PLAY DATES

At the MAC store in Stanford Shopping Center located inside Bloomingdale's. See notice elsewhere in this issue for all the details!

Thursday / May 12 / 7:00pm

TGSF MID-MONTH

An evening with your friends at the Cathedral Hill Hotel.

Thursday / May 26 / 7:30pm

TGSF END OF MONTH EVENT

Cathedral Hill Hotel Restaurant, Van Ness and Geary; Theme will probably be related to Pride.

Coming in June!

Saturday / June 4 / 12:00pm

TGSF ExCOM MEETING

Will be held at Carla's in San Jose prior to the BBQ. We need you for Pride!

Saturday / June 4 / 3:00pm

HOT FUN IN THE SUMMERTIME BBQ

at Carla's in San Jose. See ad elsewhere in this issue.

Sunday / June 5 / 1:30pm

SACRED AND SEEKING

A panel exploration of spirituality from the transgender person's perspective. Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church, 100 Diamond (in the Castro). See ad elsewhere in this issue.

Sunday / June 26

SAN FRANCISCO PRIDE

PARADE AND CELEBRATION!

EAST BAY TRANSGENDER AA

Genderqueer, Transgendered, Transsexual, Twin-Spirited, LGBT. Speaker/Discussion/Meditation/Readings of AA approved literature.

Weekly - THURSDAYS - 8-9 PM

3989 Howe Street (Mandana House one block from Kaiser off Broadway), in Oakland, CA 94611.

May's Birthdays

5/01	Valerie Cross	5/15	Cindy Martin
5/01	Susan Agles	5/16	Vera Sepulveda
5/01	Sylvia Finak	5/16	Amanda Gonzalez
5/01	Alicia Kenwood	5/17	Ginger Collins
5/01	Cindy McKay	5/18	Rhonda Shaw
5/02	Dawnne Marie Woodie	5/18	L. Kaplan
5/02	Consuela Valdes	5/19	Nikki Rillingale
5/03	Kellen Steel	5/20	Terry Ryan
5/04	Melanie Okubo	5/21	Robyn Smith
5/07	Sofia	5/21	Tyler Fong
5/09	April Brennan	5/21	Sybil Holiday
5/09	Gracie Thoreson	5/23	Angela Pidge
5/10	Alicia Chan	5/25	Tianna Marie DeVil
5/10	J.F. Schimmel	5/25	Marielle Valence
5/12	Joyce White	5/28	Nicole Cook
5/13	Sallie Hunt	5/28	Siobhan Ellis
5/13	Serena Anderson	5/28	Magan Regiani
5/13	Laura Marlowe	5/29	Sarah Holloway
5/14	Phyllis Fink	5/30	Jane Bolig
		5/30	Chris Silver

Happy Birthday To All!

Cosmetics Shoes Nails Wigs Fem Fashions Lingerie

Cosmetics Shoes Nails Wigs Fem Fashions Lingerie

CARLA'S Salon & Boutique

124 Race Street
San Jose, CA 95126
(408) 298-6900

Serving the Cross Gender Community's needs with sensitive help and understanding.

Cosmetics Fem Fashions Shoes

Calendar - May 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)
TGSGF-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 1:30 PM TGSGF: ExCom Meeting	2 5:00 PM CCHH 7:00 PM PISSR General Meeting 8:00 PM DVG	3 7:00 PM SCT	4 2:00 PM T.R.A.N.S 7:00 PM I Love It Social 7:30 PM MPTG	5 7:00 PM DVG RCC	6 6:00 PM TGSGF & MAC PLAY DAY! 8:00 PM PacCtr 8:00 PM RGA	7
8	9 5:00 PM CCHH	10	11 2:00 PM T.R.A.N.S 7:00 PM I Love It Social	12 7:00 PM TGSGF: Mid-Month Event	13 6:00 PM TGSGF & MAC PLAY DAY! 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr	14 8:00 PM FWV 8:00 PM SGA
15	16 5:00 PM CCHH 8:00 PM DVG	17 7:00 PM SCT	18 2:00 PM T.R.A.N.S 7:00 PM I Love It Social	19 TG Legal Clinic	20 6:00 PM TGSGF & MAC PLAY DAY! 8:00 PM PacCtr 8:00 PM RGA	21
22	23 5:00 PM CCHH	24 7:30 PM SCOUT	25 2:00 PM T.R.A.N.S 7:00 PM I Love It Social	26 7:00 PM TGSGF: EOM	27 6:00 PM TGSGF & MAC PLAY DAY! 7:00 PM SVGA TransVis-HWD 8:00 PM PacCtr	28 8:00 PM FWV 8:00 PM SGA
29	30 5:00 PM CCHH	31				

TGSGF 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 TGSGF? _____

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 TGSGF Website to your URL? Yes No

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

May we use photos of you taken at TGSGF 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 April 20, 2005

Assets

Cash	3618.48
Decorations	1000.00
Beverages	200.00
Total	4816.48

Liabilities and Equity

Accounts Payable	0.00
Total	0.00

Statement of TGSF Income

Revenues

Memberships	235.00
Advertising	250.00
EOM Contributions	71.00
Total	556.00

Expenses

Channel	298.00
Phone	49.42
Partners in Pride	999.00
Supplies for Butterfly Ball	42.13
IRLM Contribution	75.00

Total 1463.55

Net Income (Loss) (907.55)

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 April 20, 2005

Ayme Kantz \$10.00

Bless You and Thank You for Caring!

CONTACT TGSF!

2005-06 Executive Committee

President

Roxy Carmichael-Hart roxyhart72903@sbcglobal.net

Vice President

Laura Marlowe laura.marlowe@pacbell.net

Secretary

Lisa Rae Dummer destinee382436@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Pamela Gray thepamster2001@yahoo.com

Or pkg@differentforgirls.com

Education

Dawne Woodie sf_dawne@yahoo.com

Jennifer Anderson tbd

Outreach

Allison D Laureano allisushi@hotmail.com

Jennifer Siobhan Kennedy jennifer@sweetiemail.com

Social

Anne Louise Mortenson formorts@sonic.net

Tommie Watson karenwatson1492@lycos.com

Other Email Addresses

Editor, The Channel

Ayme Kantz MissAyme@aol.com

Ms. TGSF 2005

Jennifer Siobhan Kennedy jennifer@sweetiemail.com

TGSF Outreach Ambassador

Kelly Anne Marsh theonestrider@hotmail.com

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 May!

May 2 - 5, 2005!

TRANSGENDER AWARENESS WEEK & SYMPOSIUM AT SAN JOSE STATE

*Campus-wide dialogue on gender
gathers artists and speakers*

J. Marcus, Coordinator
www.jlmp photography.com

This spring San Jose State (1 Washington Square, San Jose) presents the Transgender Awareness Week & Symposium, May 2-5, which brings together speakers, artists and films dealing with the transgender experience and placing it into a context by which it can be readily understood.

Over the past decade there has been heightened public awareness of transgender issues. With the increased visibility of transgender persons also comes an increase in discrimination and violence directed at transgender, intersexed, and gender variant people. The Gender Education and Advocacy organization states that "Transgender people are the most stigmatized and misunderstood of the larger sexual minorities (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender)." In spite of this, the transgender community is emerging into its own place in history, as a new movement, expanding the language of gender and sex.

The Awareness Week, the brainchild of Dr. Susan Murray, Sociology Department, Graduate photography student Jana Marcus, and MOSAIC Cross Cultural Center's director Hyon Chu Yi, was organized around Marcus' award-winning photodocumentary Transfigurations: The Making of a Man, her MFA thesis, exhibiting the same week on campus.

"We didn't want the topic of this important photographic work to get lost among the MFA art exhibits," explains Dr. Murray, "So we took the opportunity to expand the dialogue of gender and issues facing the transgender community to a campus-wide level of learning and community building."

Marcus' photodocumentary Transfigurations: The Making of a Man explores the experience of women transitioning into men and their notions of masculinity while forming their gender identities. Marcus' photographic work on transgender men was awarded the prestigious Best Photos Of the Year 2005 & 2004, by Photo District News of New York, as well as inclusion in The Center for Photographic Arts Award Exhibition curated by Philip Brookman of the Corcoran Gallery, Washington, DC.

In an effort to foster education, the SJSU Transgender Awareness Week & Symposium hopes to promote a positive and empowering dialogue featuring the following events:

The Symposium day, Tuesday May 3, starts with Jamison Green, renowned transsexual advocate, educator, and author of *Becoming a Visible Man* (Vanderbilt University Press, 2004) delivering the keynote address. The Human Rights Commission will present their workshop Transgender 101; filmmaker Aidan Crawford will present his documentary short, *Just A Boy*; a panel discussion with both transgender men and women will be followed by the gallery opening of Marcus' Transfigurations. The week-long events, sponsored by many campus-wide organizations and departments, include:

Opening *The Gender Box: Stories of FtM Transformations*, presented by Reed Singer and the Comm Ed Department. Peer Health Education presents *Transgender Health* with topics including health issues facing the transgender community and biases within the health care system. Movie nights on campus during the week will include screenings of *Different For Girls* and *Boys Don't Cry*. The week will conclude with *Trans/Form*, an evening of spoken word and performance featuring Storm Florez, Julia Serrano and rock band Frootie Flavors, with an open mic to follow. All events are free.

Info: www.sjsu.edu/transweek



Mid-Peninsula Support Group

WEDNESDAY, May 4, 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@simcibt.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.

Join

TGSF

and

MAC

for

May Play Dates!

Have you wanted to perfect your make-up techniques? Now is your opportunity!

Join TGSF and MAC at the MAC store in Stanford Shopping Center located inside Bloomingdale's **every Friday night in May** from 6:00pm to 9:00pm for Play Dates 2005.

MAC will provide all the make-up you can imagine and you are free to indulge your whimsy under the watchful eyes of the MAC consultants.

You'll have a chance to try on all the new make-up to find what is best for you, regardless of the occasion with expert assistance from the MAC consultants.

Special Events in May!

NTAC 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 decision 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.

HEY!

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

Tall, feminine, graceful closet CD seeks Big Sister to help with shopping and makeup tips. I live alone so it's helpful if you can come here, but I can certainly travel. SF Area. Call (415) 000-0000. Up to 40 words only \$10.00. Send text of ad and Check or Money Order to TGSF's PO Box, ATTN: Editor. Reach out and come out!

May 20 - 22, 2005

JOIN THE 2005 TRANSGENDER VETERANS MEMORIAL TOUR

Planning for the second annual transgender veterans 'March to the Wall' is nearing completion. It is time for those veterans, friends, family and supporters of transgender equality to firm up their plans, fill out the free on-line event registration, and make their all-important hotel reservations while the special TAVA group rate remains in effect.

"I was humbled by the participation last year," said Monica Helms, President of TAVA. "To be with so many of my brothers and sisters who wore the uniform of this country's Armed Forces and to see the healing take place right before my eyes is something I will never forget. There are many more transgender veterans who should be there with us, and I truly hope they join us this year."

Reservations should be made now at the COMFORT INN DOWNTOWN DC/CONVENTION CENTER, 1201 Thirteenth Street NW, Washington, DC. The hotel is near subway lines, Union Station, the White House, Capitol Hill, national museums, and other sites of interest. Hotel information can be found at www.choicehotels.com/ires/hotel/DC601. Reservations for the nights of May 20th and 21st at \$109 per night plus tax are best made by calling 202-682-5300 (Fax: 202-408-0830) and asking for the special TAVA rate. Although street parking is possible, hotel valet parking is available for an additional \$27 per day.

Besides making hotel reservations, 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. Again, 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

Event sign-in will begin at 3:00pm on Friday, May 20 at the hotel. A reception, hosted by the National Center for Transgender Equality <www.nctequality.org>, will be held from 7:00pm to 10:00pm.

On Saturday morning, participants will enjoy a free continental breakfast before boarding the bus at 11 am to visit the Vietnam, World War II and Iwo Jima Memorials. Lunch will be at your choice of street vendors near the National Mall. The tour will end at Arlington National Cemetery following an emotional 4:15pm wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns.

The bus will depart for the hotel at about 5:30pm. Cocktails will be available at a cash bar beginning at 6:30pm. Dinner will begin at 7:30pm, followed by remarks by fellow veterans and GLBT community leaders.

Planning for the 2006 transgender veterans gathering will begin over Sunday breakfast as old friends and new say their goodbyes.

Join TAVA and fellow transgender veterans in this opportunity for healing from the many wounds of war and of life. Now is the time to make it happen. If you still need more information, contact Angela Brightfeather at projects@tavausa.org.

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.

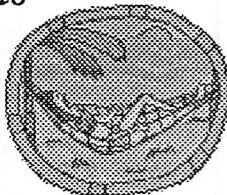
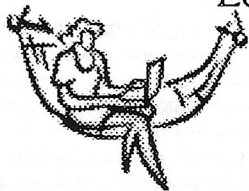
This weekly Get-Together is about Visibility, and Social Activities that we can do as a community! The Crepevine is a nice eatery near all the transit lines (22, J, N, L, F) w/a decently priced menu! Vegetarians & Meat Eaters alike will be comfortable at the Crepevine! Bring your SOFFA's and you appetites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

TransGender San Francisco
Loudly Presents



There IS a cure for those
SUMMERTIME BLUES!

Why lie around when you can
have fun with your friends at the

TGSF HOT FUN IN THE SUMMERTIME BBQ!

Saturday June 4, 2005

3:00 - 6:00 PM

Carla's Parking Lot

124 Race Street

San Jose

Admission only \$15

Sacred and Seeking

Reaching Out to the Transgender Person of Faith

A PANEL EXPLORATION OF SPIRITUALITY FROM THE TRANSGENDER PERSON'S PERSPECTIVE

Sunday, June 5, 2005, @ 1:30 PM

Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church
100 Diamond (in the Castro)

Sponsored by

Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church
TransGender San Francisco

Outreach Program for Transgenders In Crisis

For more information contact:

Dawnne Woodie, Education Co-Chair, TGSF -
sf_dawnne@yahoo.com

or

Lisa Dummer, Education Co-Chair, TGSF -
destinee32436@yahoo.com

or

call Dawnne Woodie @ 415-748-2396

June 27 to July 1, 2005

17TH INTERNATIONAL TWO-SPIRIT GATHERING

www.baaits.org/twospiritgathering.html

The Bay Area American Indian Two-Spirits (BAAITS) welcomes Native American LGBTQ (Two-Spirits) to join us for the 17th Annual International Two-Spirit Gathering. The Gathering will take place at Camp Cazadero located north of San Francisco. This year's Gathering will be held for five days beginning June 27, 2005, the day after the San Francisco Pride Parade.

The first International Two-Spirit Gathering was held in Minneapolis in 1988. The Gathering has continued to grow and has been hosted by groups throughout Canada and the United States. For many the most important facet of the Gatherings are the spiritual and cultural activities that include the sacred fire, sweat lodge, talking/healing circles, feasts, pow-wow night, giveaway and pageantry combined with a no-talent show and fellowship.

This is a reminder that EVERYONE needs to register for the Gathering. The fee is \$225 from 4/1/05 to 6/20/05.

Download the forms and pay online through PayPal at www.baaits.org/twospiritgathering.html

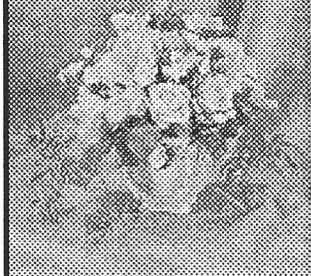
Register today!

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!

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 •

Events in 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 lgbtiq community;

To increase our visibility and presence in the tqiqlb 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!

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
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www.TGVoices.org

Volunteers Needed for Los Angeles Trans Unity, June 5

WHAT: Volunteers needed the morning of Sunday, June 5 starting at 7:30 am to set up and decorate for Trans-Unity Pride. Hang balloons, move tables, put up signs, etc. A great opportunity to wear those casual summer clothes and make some great new friends! Plus, you get into Trans-Unity FREE! (Okay, everyone gets in free, but you get in first! How's that?)

WHEN: Sunday, June 5 starting at 7:30am

WHERE: The L A Gay and Lesbian Center's The Village at Ed Gould Plaza, 1125 N. McCadden Place, Los Angeles, CA 90038. Cross streets are Santa Monica Blvd. and Highland. GO METRO buses 4, 156 or 304. Take the Metro Red Line to Hollywood and Highland, then the 156 bus southbound on Highland.

WHAT IS TRANS-UNITY PRIDE: It's an annual multi-cultural, substance free celebration of the Southern California regional transgender community: transsexual, transgender, gender-queer, and cross-dressing individuals, and those who love and care for them.

HOW TO VOLUNTEER: Phone Farina Dary at 323-860-7394 or email her at fdary@laglc.org

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.

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Events Horizon!

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

Coming in September!

TRANSSISTAHS AND TRANSBROTAS CONVENTION

Provided by Richmond Out in the Mountains
Mountain Pride Media

Louisville, KY – This fall, Louisville will host an event that will mark a turning point in the history of the African-American transcommunity: the first annual **Transsistahs and Transbrothas Convention** at the historic Galt House Hotel and Suites.

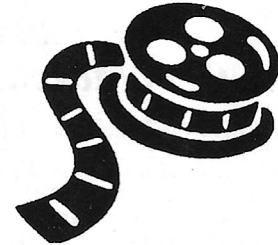
The meeting is in response to the need for an infrastructure and support system similar to what the Caucasian transcommunity has built up over the last 20 years.

The event will reflect the African-American cultural heritage promoting networking in the transcommunity. Discussions will focus on programs around the country, what works and what doesn't, with an eye to implementing successful programs.

There will also be time to lay the groundwork for interactions with allies and supporters in the mainstream African-American and African-American GLBT communities.

The event is **September 14-18, 2005**, with more information at www.transfamilydefyinggravity.net

Lights, Camera, Action!



Transgender San Francisco

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January 21, 2006

Cowell Theatre
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San Francisco, CA

Details coming soon at www.tgsf.org

A Ms. 3000 Hit

Toilet Papers: The Gendered Construction of Public Toilets

Editors:

Olga Gershenson (University of Massachusetts-Amherst)
Barbara Penner (University College-London)

"You know what they say about men who hang around women's lavatories. They're asking to have their illusions shattered." - Georgina to Albert, The Cook, The Thief, His Wife, and Her Lover

We invite contributions for the edited collection Toilet Papers: The Gendered Construction of Public Toilets.

Public toilets are amenities with a functional, even a civic, purpose. Yet they also act as the unconscious of public spaces. They can be a haven: a place to regain composure, to 'check one's face,' or to have a private chat. But they are also sexually-charged and transgressive spaces that shelter illicit sexual practices and act as a cultural repository for taboos and fantasies.

This collection will work from the premise that public toilets, far from being banal or simply functional, are highly charged spaces, shaped by notions of propriety, hygiene and the binary gender division. Indeed, public toilets are among the very few openly segregated spaces in contemporary Western culture, and the physical differences between 'gentlemen' and 'ladies' remains central to (and is further naturalized by) their design. As such, they provide a fertile ground for critical work interrogating how conventional assumptions about the body, sexuality, privacy, and technology can be formed in public space and inscribed through design.

We welcome papers that explore the cultural meanings, histories, and ideologies of the public toilet as a gendered space. Any subject is appropriate: toilet design and signage, toilet humor and euphemisms, personal narratives and legal cases, as well as art sited in public toilets. We invite submissions in the format of traditional academic papers of no more than 7000 words (including footnotes).

We also welcome the submissions of design and art projects that expose the gendered nature of the 'functional' toilet spaces and objects.

Completed articles and projects should be directed to the editor at gershenson@judnea.umass.edu. All submissions must be received via electronic file no later than **January 15, 2006**. We encourage prospective authors to contact the editors with questions about submissions.

HIGH SCHOOL BOY SUSPENDED FOR WEARING MAKEUP

Fox News

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. — A ninth-grade student has accused officials at a Southern California high school of discrimination for suspending him for wearing lipstick and eye makeup.

James Herndon, 16, said the five-day suspension imposed Monday by administrators at San Bernardino's Pacific High School was unfair because females are allowed to wear cosmetics on campus. "If I can't wear makeup," he said, "then the girls or the staff can't wear makeup."

Herndon says his black lipstick and red eye makeup express the Wiccan religious beliefs he shares with his mother, a priestess in the neo-pagan faith. The suspension violates his constitutional right to free expression, he contends.

Linda Hill, spokeswoman for the San Bernardino City Unified School District, declined to comment on the case, citing student confidentiality laws.

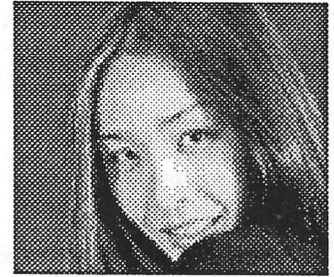
She said, however, that students shouldn't wear excessive makeup or clothing that could conceal their identity or be distracting to other students, a prohibition applied to male and female students alike.

Herndon, who is repeating his second year at the school, has worn makeup since he enrolled, according to his mother, Valerie Wallace.

Despite the suspension, Herndon plans to wear the makeup when he returns to school next week. "My son shouldn't change the way he is," Wallace said.

TV DRAMA TO SHOW LIFE OF TRANSEXUAL

Transsexual model and entertainer **Harisu** will play a transsexual character in an upcoming television drama on a major television network. Harisu will star in "Trembling Heart (Ttolinun Kasum)," a 12-part miniseries to air on MBC beginning April 2.



The drama will tell six different stories revolving around one family. Harisu will star in one of the stories, according to the drama's producers.

Harisu, who starred in the film "Yellow Hair 2" in 2001, has appeared in a television drama before, but this will be the first time for her to play a transsexual and a main character in a drama.

Harisu will appear in the third and fourth episodes of "Trembling Heart" as Park Man-ho, a man who experiences sexual confusion throughout his early life. After leaving his family for two years, he returns at the age of 30 as a woman named Park Hye-un.

Airline In Sex Swap Job Shame VICTIMIZED SCOT WINS FIGHT

By Nick Irving
Daily Record (UK)

A TRANSEXUAL airline worker was forced to quit her job after being victimized by bosses. An employment tribunal unanimously ruled that Scot Marlene Davidson had faced sexual discrimination.

Marlene, 50, had revealed she was undergoing a sex change and came to work at Flybe British European wearing long hair and earrings. But she was told by her boss: 'I don't like people like you.' And when someone left transvestite magazines in her mail tray, the company failed to take the matter seriously.

The Exeter tribunal heard Marlene was born Malcolm Davidson in Scotland in 1954 and had a long career working in the aviation industry, starting in 1977. She joined Flybe, then known as Jersey European Airways, in October 1994 and was employed as a £16,300-a-year operations controller at Exeter International Airport.

The tribunal heard she came to work as a man but she dressed and lived as a female while off duty and at home in Feniton, Devon. Tribunal chairman John Hollow said: 'She believed the other members of staff were generally aware of her gender dysphoria although she made no formal announcement of it until February 2002.'

Preparing for an eventual sex change operation, Marlene grew her hair long and wore ear studs to work. But she was pulled up by director of logistics John Slack, who claimed it was against the uniform code - even though no action had ever been taken against a male mechanic with long hair.

Earlier, Slack had overheard Marlene talking with female colleagues about her liking for high-heeled shoes. He said: 'Oh, yes, so I have heard'. In February 2002, she began a 'real life' test which involved dressing and presenting herself as a woman before having reconstructive surgery. Her bosses were informed. Personnel manager Don Darby said: 'It was quite a shock when it was revealed. I was dumbfounded.'

But the tribunal was told Slack told Marlene: 'I don't like people like you.' After this, Marlene claimed she was picked on by certain members of staff who urged colleagues to complain about her. In December 2002, a worker left an open magazine in her post tray showing a man in women's underwear. An inquiry failed to find the culprit and no apology was made.

Marlene also told the hearing she was overlooked for promotion to duty manager five times. In his ruling, Mr. Hollow said: 'There was a series of appointments made between 1997 and 2000 at which the claimant was either not considered or rejected if she had applied. This is despite her very long experience.'

'We are satisfied that Mr. Slack made remarks to the effect that he did not like people 'like her' when she disclosed her intention to undergo gender reassignment. The response of management to the complaints was wholly inappropriate.'

SUSPECTS NAMED IN TRANSGENDER DEATH CASE

(BCN) — Police have released the names of two suspects in the death of 45-year-old transgender woman Tony Green, whose body was found inside a room at San Francisco motel on Aug. 13.

Green, who also went by the name Delicious, had been beaten, bound, gagged and possibly asphyxiated, officials said on Wednesday. A maid at the Franciscan Motel, 6600 Third St, found her body.

The suspects, Earl Wright, 37, and Terrence Hall, 39, both of San Francisco, are currently in San Quentin State Prison on unrelated charges. Wright is in prison for possession of a firearm and parole violation and Hall is in for attempting to buy drugs from an undercover officer and violating his probation, San Francisco police Officer Maria Oropeza said.

No-bail arrest warrants have been issued for the two men and "the appropriate holds have been placed on both of the suspects," police reported.

Homicide investigators do not believe Green's homicide was a hate crime, a lieutenant with the department said. But Tina D'Elia, program director for San Francisco-based Community United Against Violence, said that is not the way she sees it.

"This was not a hit-and-run accident. It did not happen out on the street. Someone's bare hands were torturing her," D'Elia said. "How Delicious spent her last moments in life was so in line with the tortuous murders of transgenders."

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GAY NATIVE AMERICANS REDISCOVER 'TWO-SPIRIT' IDENTITY

Shadi Rahimi, Pacific News Service

Young, gay American Indians are rediscovering tribal heritages that often revered "Two-Spirits," people who manifested both masculine and feminine traits.

SAN FRANCISCO—Gabriel Duncan, 18, sits before a table covered with rich desserts and salmon salad sandwiches, glancing calmly at the mostly-older faces staring back at him. A California Paiute in a Minor Threat sweatshirt and brown beaded necklace, Duncan is reading his poetry aloud for the first time. "I'd like to discuss just why we're so disgusting," he recites. "Why we can't marry, and just why the word 'equality' is rusty."

Like most of those gathered this evening at the San Francisco LGBT Community Center, Duncan is a member of Bay Area American Indian Two Spirits (BAAITS), a six-year-old nonprofit that offers support and activities to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Native Americans. Similar groups exist in Oklahoma, Colorado and Minnesota.

The term "Two-Spirit" refers to a belief among some tribes that there are people who manifest both masculine and feminine spiritual qualities. According to Native American scholars, many tribes once revered Two-Spirits, viewing them as a third gender with a special spiritual connectedness. In these tribes, Two-Spirits filled important tribal roles as counselors, storytellers and healers.

This belief, scholars have also observed, has been eroded in many places by the imposition of Judeo-Christian views of homosexuality as sinful.

"Homophobia was taught to us as a component of Western education and religion," Navajo anthropologist Wesley Thomas has written. "We were presented with an entirely new set of taboos, which did not correspond to our own models and which focused on sexual behavior rather than the intricate roles Two-Spirit people played. As a result of this misrepresentation, our nations no longer accepted us as they once had."

This creates challenges for Two-Spirit Native Americans as they try to reconcile their tribal and sexual identities. BAAITS member Cody Runningbear, 26, was raised on a reservation in Broken Arrow, Okla., and has two younger siblings who are also Two-Spirit. He came out when he was 15, but says his family did not — and does not today — acknowledge his sexual identity. "If they had, I would have been more comfortable with myself," Runningbear says.

According to researcher Will Roscoe, former coordinator of the Gay American Indians History Project, there is no single belief about Two-Spirits among the more than 800 tribes in the United States and Alaska, about 200 of which are not federally recognized. Two-Spirits may be respected within one tribe and ostracized in another, while the topic of sexuality could be ignored altogether in yet another tribe.

But whatever tribe they hail from, Two-Spirits share a common experience, says Chris Gomora, 39, an Anishinabe who says he became secure in his identity while in a seven-year relationship with a Cuban native. Gays and lesbians "walk with a foot in two different worlds, and that is something that we as Natives are familiar with," Gomora says. "For those of us who walk traditionally in the Western world, our two selves are already in opposition."

Duncan, who was adopted at birth by a white couple in Alameda, Calif., says he was fortunate to find support and encouragement when he came out to his parents at age 12. When he faced prejudice and taunts at school, he joined a gay and lesbian youth group at a local community center.

Duncan, who met his first boyfriend in a mostly white youth group, found comfort among gay peers, but felt something was missing, he says. When he heard representatives of BAAITS speak at the community center, he realized that he needed something that specifically addressed his identity as a gay Native American.

"I was really wandering when it came to spirituality," says Duncan, whose previous exposure to Native culture had consisted of attending a few powwows with a white lesbian friend of his mother. "In the BAAITS group, we do healing practices and drum circles. It's given me a different outlook, and wisdom from my elders."

Like Duncan, 30-year-old Beck Stroud, who is white and Cherokee, grew up with little knowledge of her Native heritage. She says she discovered a sense of spirituality within the tribally inclusive BAAITS group that led to a personal transformation. "It has changed me so much," Stroud says. "I never used to pray. I thought, 'No god is going to help me.' Now, when I drum or pray, I feel that there is someone out there. I have calm in my life."

Duncan says he does not want other young Native Americans to grow up with a sense of rejection or isolation from their sexuality or their heritage. He is working to form a Two-Spirit youth group that would provide tribal mentors, spiritual guidance, public speaking opportunities and group activities.

He doesn't have any members yet, aside from himself, but he has picked a name: BAAITS Youth Circle.

"Yes, there's internalized homophobia in every gay community, but as a Native American, it's a double burden," Duncan says. "We are taught not to like ourselves because we're not white. In our communities, people don't like us because we're gay. I want to address the history of colonization, educate others and to share Native culture — I want us to help keep it alive."

An All- Transgender Troupe Revives The Vaudevillian Art Form

THE TRANNY PACK

BY JANE TUNKS

The beloved variety show has been woefully absent from our television screens in recent times. Though ABC did bless America with one episode of The Nick & Jessica Variety Hour, since the '70s-era golden age of The Sonny and Cher Comedy Hour and Donny and Marie, this fun-filled genre has been nowhere to be found.

Tonight an all-transgender troupe revives the vaudevillian art form with the "Tranny Roadshow," a cross-country tour of artists and performers. Jamez Terry and Kelly Shortandqueer, the organizers, describe the event on its Web site as a "unique variety show where the expression of gender and the expression of self are inseparable." They're also the co-founders of the Denver Zine Library, so it's not surprising that the "Roadshow" has a decidedly literary slant: Shortandqueer may read from his zine *Do As I Say, Not As I Do: Family Lessons to Unlearn*, while Terry may recite excerpts from the self-published *Burn in Hell, Buddy*.

In a nod to the customs of Donny and Sonny (see above), the performance also includes a guest-starring stint from another touring band of gender pirates, the Cross-Gender Caravan. Brooklyn resident Carolyn Connelly shares insights culled from her life as an "Irish-Italian Slayer-listening femme dyke," and Tennessee Jones delivers thought-provoking one-liners inspired by his tranny childhood in Appalachia. San Francisco favorite Charlie Anders, who edits *Other Magazine*, reads as well. Musical acts include *Katastrophe*, an emo-hop MC, and Judith Jordan, who debuts several songs from her punk opera in progress, *No Easy Answers*.

Despite this jam-packed evening of entertainment, the show has another purpose: to educate the audience about the gender continuum. "We want to give people a well-rounded view," writes Shortandqueer on the event's site. "Transpeople are full human beings, and there's so much diversity within this group."



Tennessee Jones and Carolyn Connelly from the *Cross-Gender Caravan*.

Photo: Drake Hagner

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DENIAL OF MARRIAGE COSTS SAME-SEX COUPLES THOUSANDS A YEAR

by Beth Shapiro
365Gay.com New York Bureau

(New York City) As millions of married couples are signing and sending off their tax returns prior to the April 15 tax day deadline a new study shows that same-sex couples face widespread economic disparities and hardships because they are denied equal marriage rights. The report focuses on the state of Connecticut which is considering civil unions after support for a gay marriage bill dwindled in the legislature.

The study, prepared by Terence R. Dougherty an attorney with Patterson, Belknap, Webb & Tyler LLP, a New York City law firm, was released Thursday by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute and Love Makes a Family of Connecticut.

Titled "Economic Benefits of Marriage under Federal and Connecticut Law," it is the first comprehensive analysis of the disparities same-sex couples in Connecticut face in federal and state income tax, Social Security benefits, gift tax, estate tax, worker's compensation, and line of duty death benefits.

Two same-sex couples residing in Connecticut are profiled to show the real-life costs to them and their children of not being able to marry.

One of the couples profiled in the report, Stephen Rinaldi and Andre Kreft, both in their early 50s, earn a total of about \$75,000 per year and pay \$2,689 (25%) more each year in state and federal income taxes than a married couple earning the same amount because they cannot file a joint return.

The analysis also found that if Stephen, a Connecticut state employee, died as a result of an injury at work, his spouse by marriage would receive \$2,862 per month (\$34,344 per year) in workers' compensation benefits. However, because Stephen and Andre cannot marry, Andre would receive nothing.

The study takes this analysis one step further by estimating the aggregate lifetime economic detriment felt by same-sex couples because they are unable to marry. For example, the total economic liability to Stephen and Andre—aggregated over their expected lifetimes and including lost income taxes, Social Security spousal and survivor benefits—will be at least \$212,176, not counting the absent investment returns on potentially saved taxed dollars.

If Stephen died with a \$2 million estate that was subsequently transferred to Andre, the estate tax liability Andre would have to pay would raise the aggregate lifetime economic detriment for the couple up to \$751,101. If they were married, they would face none of these liabilities.

Lawrence B. and Daniel R., the second couple in Connecticut profiled in the study, have been together for 22 years and are raising three adopted children. Lawrence is the main breadwinner, and Daniel is a stay-at-home father who currently has no income and therefore may be ineligible to receive Social Security retirement benefits. Under federal law, a married spouse is entitled to receive up to half the amount of his or her spouse's Social Security retirement benefits.

However, because they cannot marry, upon retirement age Lawrence and Daniel's combined monthly Social Security retirement benefit will be \$1,030 less per month (\$12,360 less per year) than it would be if they were able to legally marry. Additionally, if they were legally married, and Lawrence died before reaching retirement age, Daniel's Social Security survivor benefit would be \$1,952 per month or \$23,424 per year. However, because they can not marry, Daniel would receive nothing.

"Same-sex couples pay more in taxes and get fewer protections and benefits in return," said Matt Foreman, Executive Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. "These injustices aren't hypothetical. They are being inflicted right now on hard-working, tax paying Connecticut couples, often at times of family tragedy and loss."

Even if same-sex couples in Connecticut were allowed to marry they would be subject to the federal Defense of Marriage Act which does not allow them to receive federal benefits. However, many believe DOMA to be unconstitutional, and it is possible that in the future DOMA will be struck down or repealed.

It is also possible that a President and Congress more supportive of equal rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people will afford these federal protections to married same-sex couples.

While same-sex couples in Connecticut would not be able to immediately access those federal protections, if they are allowed to marry they have the potential to access these protections in the future. However, if same-sex couples are only allowed to form civil unions, under the current legal framework they would never be able to access any federal benefits or protections Foreman said.

Transgender Little 500 Rider Returns To Break 'Silence'

NATIONAL DAY OF SILENCE OBSERVED BY 50 IN CAMPUS WALK

By Brandon S Morley
Indiana Daily Student

Friends and members of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender community gathered in red T-shirts yesterday for a walk across campus commemorating the National Day of Silence.

Beginning at 5 p.m. near the Showalter Fountain and taking a path along major campus traffic routes, the procession of about 50 people ended at the Sample Gates and returned to Dunn Meadow to listen to several who spoke about their sexuality, including the transgender former IU student and Little 500 rider Deane Lahre.

Lahre, who once used the name Robert Dean Lahre, now uses a derivative of her middle name as she transitions from male to female. When she was an IU student, she qualified to ride for her team, Magee-Foster, in the annual bicycle race in both 1973 and '74. Her team finished eighth the second time around.

Before she moved to Bloomington, a city she calls "trans-friendly," she lived a seemingly normal life. She had an unhappy 13-year marriage that produced three children — two boys and a girl. She worked 21 years as a pit trader — 18 in Chicago, three in Kansas City. She said the reason the marriage failed was directly tied with her internal struggle searching for her gender.

"(My wife and I) were in trouble for over half of it," she said. "(The male-to-female transgender community) don't function well as men — sex was infrequent, and not high on my list. That tends to put a lot of stress in a relationship," she said during the stretch of the walk up North Jordan Avenue.

But she said the trouble started before then. She said she knew something "was up" when she was 8 years old growing up with her family in Windfall, Ind. "It's a struggle 24/7," she said. "You've got these feelings, and you don't know what to do about it because you think you're all alone. And no one talks about it, especially (in the 1970s), and in Indiana."

When she began her transition four years ago in 2001, she said her parents had trouble accepting the change. "But they knew I've struggled with this ... even before my teen years, they knew," she said.

For those of the GLBT community, the teenage years can be traumatic and plagued with various mental health issues, among them depression and suicide. According to the University of New Hampshire's Health Center, a growing body of research indicates that GLBT youth attempt suicide at a rate two to three times higher than those of heterosexuals. But it seems that in the case of transgender youth, the suicide attempt rate is more than 50 percent. Lahre escaped becoming part of that statistic, but not without problems.

She said even though she never tried to kill herself, the thoughts were there and so was the depression. She said she was always in counseling and noted that "over half of us don't see their 30th birthday."

During the sunlit procession through campus, many drivers passing by honked their horns and waved, an offering of support to those brandishing T-shirts reading "Gay? Okay with me." But it was the reaction of some that made it apparent why a day honoring those who have been silenced was important.

During part of the walk down 10th Street, a high school student riding on Monroe County Community School Corporation bus number 45 shouted, "Hey, those guys are gay." On Woodlawn Avenue, passengers in a grey Ford Mustang shouted "Fags." A heckler driving north on Indiana Avenue as GLBT members spoke at a microphone in Dunn Meadow shouted obscenities a third time.

GLBT Student Support Services Coordinator Doug Bauder was at the microphone and highlighted the final incident saying it was the very reason for the importance of the National Day of Silence.

IU student and GLBT community member Rynn Hagen attended the Dunn Meadow segment of the procession with her 4-year-old son Tolling. "It's a way for the straight community to show support for those who have been silenced for so long," she said. And now it's a time when people don't need to be silenced. Even here on the IU campus there's so much discrimination against the GLBT community."

Hagen also said she brought her son because she thought it was important for him to experience growing up in an all-inclusive community.

Lahre said she heard all of negative feedback, but ignored it saying of the hecklers, "I guess ignorance is bliss." She said she didn't really pay much attention to those motorists driving by staring at the procession. "I'm indifferent now as to what people think," Lahre said. "I have good hair days and bad hair days just like any other girl on campus."

Short Skirt Contest Photos!





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.

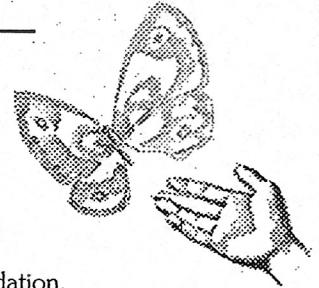


Make Your Money Count!

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!

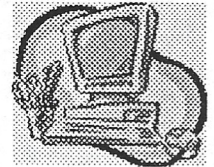


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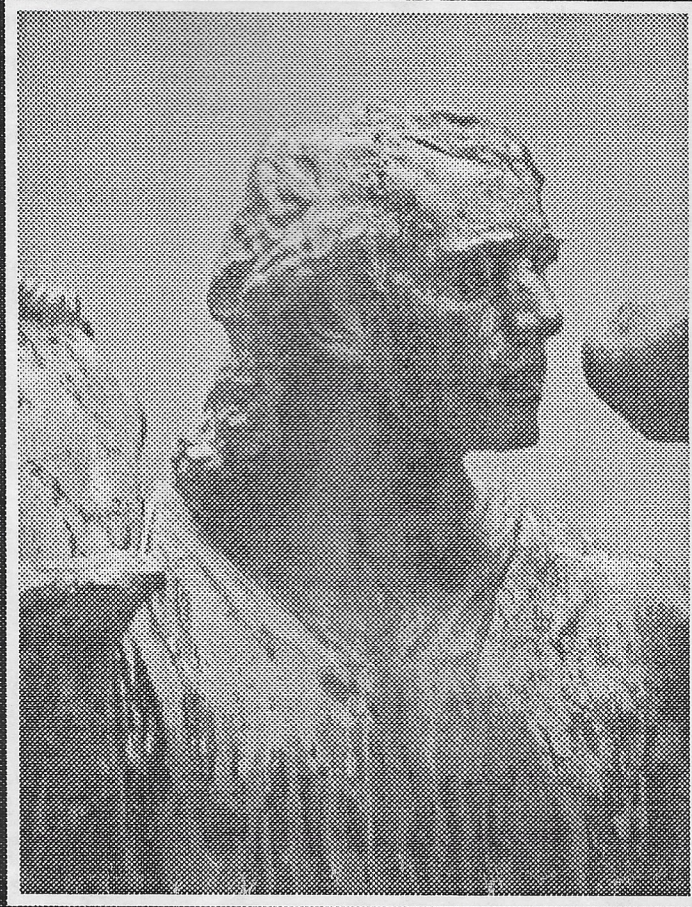
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A book and CD will be published and sold for the benefit of the Renaissance Transgender Association.

<http://www.ren.org>

Entries must be recorded on tape or reproducible CD and accompanied by a written text. Please download rules from

TGVoices.org

Deadline June 1, 2005

TG Voices in 55 Words or less – 2005 is a charitable project of Transgendered Voices, Incorporated, a Wyoming not-for-profit corporation