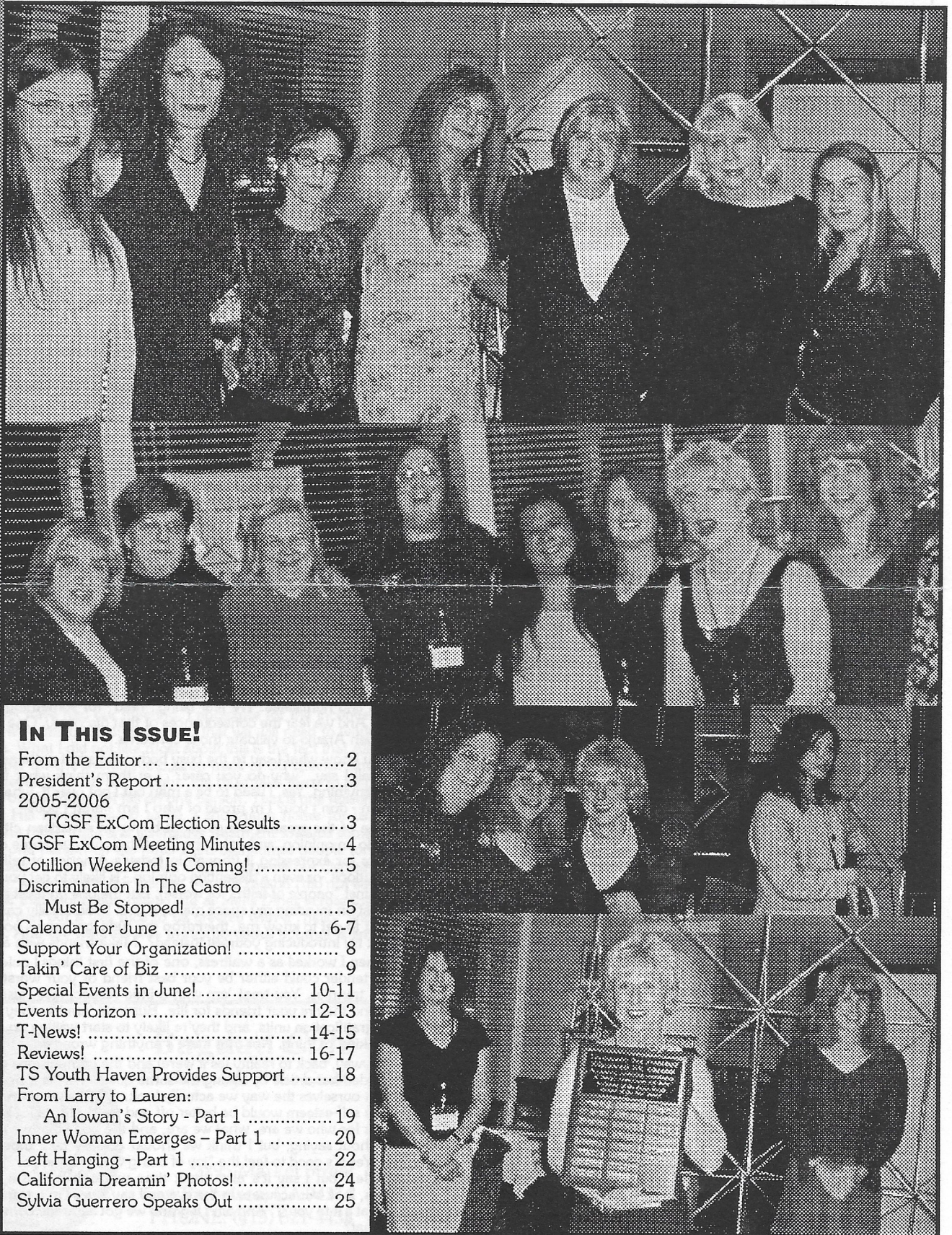


# New TGSF ExCom Elected!

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 .....	OPEN
.....	Tommie Watson
Ms. TGSF 2005 .....	Jennifer Siobhan Kennedy

## 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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 Contributing Photographers, this Issue: ..... Jamie Faye Fenton and Roxy Carmichael-Hart

## Ad Rates

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

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

**WWW.TGSF.ORG**  
**NEW SITE! GET ONLINE!**

**Hotline & Voice Mail**  
**415-564-3246**

## FROM THE EDITOR...



So I was reading Jenni Kennedy's column from last month's Channel ("Body Image"), and she wrote a sentence that got me to thinking...yeah, I know...we're in trouble now. But I can't help the feeling that I see something fundamentally wrong with the T-mindset when she inadvertently referred to the so-called "standard" and widely accepted goal of most transsexuals in transition today, and I quote:

"For those undertaking living full-time as their inner gender there is the struggle to make the new presentation real."

It's true. No argument from me there. Been there meself. It's that word "real," though, that bothers me these days. If I'd read that article say 14 years ago (when I began living as a woman and floundered around like crazy), there'd be no question in my mind. I was, at that time and for many years thereafter, trying to be as convincing, as "passable," as "real" as possible. That is, until I opened my mouth and started speaking. All bets are off at that point.

Yet even today at age 49, I still get the comment/compliment "...yeah but you're so passable." And that's fine as far as it goes, flattering and all, but it hasn't protected me from experiencing my share of discrimination and harassment. In her article Jenni correctly pointed out that what's real is as varied as each individual. But for trannies, why is there this incessant lofty standard for us to make our transitions as "real" as possible? For who's benefit are we doing this? Our own? The stranger on the street who's wondering "is that a man or a woman"? The doctors who write the recommendations?

One must, of course, examine the motivations for transitioning in the first place. And naturally, most of us will do whatever it takes to get to that plateau where we feel comfortable in our own skins. I, myself, have had a breast augmentation to enhance my body image.

Be that as it may, where is it written that we have to make it "real"? I'm as real as I'm ever gonna get, and have been from the get go, and the rest of the world is just gonna have to deal with it. Right? Shouldn't that be the standard, instead of some media-fed hyper-advertised image of what a "real" man or a "real" woman should be? I think there's just too much pressure put on transitioning trannies these days to "pass," to be as real as possible. Yes that goes for the straights too.

Likewise for genital reassignment surgery (an outie to an innie and vice versa). There is still much debate in our own community about what constitutes a "real" transsexual. And those of us who choose to remain "non-op" (i.e., not going "all the way"), are sometimes treated as contemptible imitations and not "real" trannies at all. Sorry, but having reassignment surgery doesn't make you a better, more "real" transsexual. Nor, for that matter, does having a vagina make you any more of a "real" woman either. The "reality" is that we're transsexuals now, and *always will be*.

I think this drive to make it "real" comes from the need to please society at large, to not create waves, to blend in, to pass through the world unnoticed and unhassled. Hell you don't have to be a transsexual to want to get through life in that manner. But when it comes right down to it, it's all because of fear. We fear being ridiculed and humiliated. We fear being "read" for something other than what we present. And we fear the consequences of that discovery. One need look no further than Gwen Araujo to validate those concerns.

You know what I say to the busy body who's just gotta ask, "are you a man?" First of all I say, "why do you care?" Let them think what they want. It doesn't change anything. Yes, I used to be a man but I got over it, what's it to you? I accept who I am - don't you? I'm proud of who I am - aren't you?

One of the greatest things about being an American citizen is that we're all entitled to an opinion, and enjoy the Constitutional guarantee of accessing a variety of outlets for expressing it (though in today's America of religious persecution, a liberal outlook - or even a dissenting opinion - is likely to get you branded as unpatriotic, against "people of faith," or worse). But the one greatest mistake these yahoos who insist on invading my space make, is that I don't really care what they think. If you want to get to know me, then drop the rude ignoramus born-in-a-barn routine. Why not try introducing yourself instead? Make friends with a tranny today!

When I worked as a waitress, one of the first things I quickly learned was that your bartender could either be your best friend or your worst enemy. Well, same goes for trannies. You treat 'em with a little respect (gee, just like anyone else ya think?) and they're your friends for life. But treat 'em like they're disposable sexual fantasy gratification units, and they're likely to start wailing on your ass. Unless you like that kind of thing. Not that there's anything wrong with that...sheesh.

Anyway, back to reality (as it were) and the compulsions we all have followed, Jenni ended her article by asking the same questions: "Is it necessary? Can we just accept in ourselves the way we actually look...?" She went on to conclude that our collective self-esteem would be better off and we'd all be a lot happier if we "accept ourselves for who we are, what we are, and the body that we have." Certainly that goes without saying, but I think we should actually take those attitudes one step further. Yes it's good to feel the "joy of being who we are," or "expressing ourselves with pride," but I say it's also about time we took it to the street, stand up for ourselves, look our accusers in the eye and say, "yes I'm a tranny and damn proud of it. What's it to you?!" And ain't it grand we got a Parade coming up where we can do just that?

You do the best you can with what you have. Develop a Teflon hide and a sense of humor, treat people the way you wanted to be treated, and your reality will be just fine.

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Roxy Carmichael-Hart

## Happy Pride

Hope you are all enjoying your summer so far. It is going to be a busy one.

We had our first meeting of the 2005-2006 ExCom and I am very enthused by this group of dedicated individuals. As strong as the last ExCom was, I can tell that this one will be even stronger with the addition of Jenni Kennedy as our Outreach Co-Chair. She has gotten right to work on Pride and is taking over the hotline and will be working with Alli on updating our brochures just in time for Pride. Our new Education Co-Chair, Jennifer Anderson has also gotten right to work. She completed all of the paperwork for Santa Cruz Pride and I am very excited about that effort.

As I predicted last month, the new ExCom was elected in a landslide. You can read the results elsewhere. I was very pleased that Tommi Watson was unanimously reelected as Social Co-Chair. As I noted, she is our unsung heroine. She proved it when Lisa Dummer fell outside the Cathedral Hill Hotel. Tommi took her to the hospital. She is always there when you need her. That is why we were all pleased to present her with the Ginny Knuth Award.

Our annual meeting was successful as always. We had a guest speaker, Pansy Lew, from Nordstrom who showed us some of the latest fashions. We are planning a TGSF Education Seminar with Pansy and with the colorist from Nordstrom and perhaps a makeup session as well. It will be a great girl's day out.

The other piece of exciting news that I have for you is that we have selected our host hotel for Cotillion 2006 - the Holiday Inn Golden Gateway, 1500 Van Ness. We were all very impressed with the sales staff and with what the hotel was offering us. Many of you know this hotel as being our host for previous events and we are delighted to resume the relationship. More information will be forthcoming but we believe that all will be pleased with this hotel. Many of us were so impressed with the hotel and its staff that we are considering holding some additional events there as well. I will be meeting with their staff very soon to take a further look at this.

The flip side of this is, unfortunately, the fact that some things have gone sideways at the Cathedral Hill Hotel. From being excited to have our business, they have become rather indifferent. Some of this stems from an incident in March when some of our attendees did not do a good job tipping the wait staff. The wait staff is very courteous to us and they work very hard to meet our needs, so please, let's try to be courteous and considerate in return. The hotel has resorted to a one check per group policy that I find unacceptable. If it hadn't been for people like Alli and Jenni who are intelligent and who are quick thinkers, we would not have worked this out and we could not have had our meeting. I apologize for the inconvenience to all with the forms but that is the way that we will need to work things from now on. What I did not like most about this is the fact that Alli had to be bookkeeper for the evening and keep track of 30 checks. She did not enjoy the meeting, which is not right. We must take turns to help out here so that the burden does not fall on one person. That is one reason why the Cathedral Hill Hotel is likely to be a short-term home for us. Another reason is the rather rude and insensitive treatment towards some of our members by one person on the hotel staff. Sometimes people forget that we are consumers also and when we want to express our displeasure with something, we do it with our wallets. For this reason I did not eat at the Cathedral Hill that night, but instead ate at Mel's Diner across the street. It wasn't gourmet but it was nice to be greeted with a "hello" and with a "thank you". And the waitress was pretty gorgeous but that is another story.



Enough of the negative stuff. Of course this is Pride month and I won't rehash everything that will be said much better elsewhere. What I can say is that I am asking you and in fact, imploring you to help make this the best Pride yet. There are dozens of opportunities to volunteer at San Francisco Pride. You can be a safety monitor or a gap monitor and now, a volunteer at the Accessibility booth. Through the efforts of our recently re-elected Vice-President, Laura Marlowe, TGSF is now an Accessibility Partner in Pride and will be providing volunteers for their booth as well as for the stage and entertainment area. And of course, you can be and will need to help us out as a Contingent Monitor. We will probably need about 8 monitors. I plan to take this training, which is held all over the Bay Area and will offer my services on both Saturday and Sunday. In addition to helping to provide Pride with some badly needed staffing, TGSF stands to make a fair amount of coin here which helps us continue to bring the Channel, our events and other information to you. This is for you. Anyway, elsewhere in this Channel is an article that discusses San Francisco Pride in greater detail, including our phenomenal float called "Bridging the Gap". The float committee has done an outstanding job developing this concept. We have submitted it for consideration in the float contest. Now all we need to do is to build it.

Remember on Pride Sunday, everyone is welcome to march with us. We don't know where we will be in the lineup but I have a feeling that we will be close to the front. And remember to bring water, sunscreen, energy bars and snacks to share. If we all work together and help one another, there is no limit to what we will be able to accomplish.

Warm up for Pride by attending our "Hot Fun in the Summertime" BBQ on Saturday June 4, 3-6 PM at Carla's, 124 Race Street in San Jose (by now, I think everybody knows where Carla's is). Admission is only \$15 and gets you lots of food and drink and a fun time with your friends.

By the time you read this I will have been back from Scottsdale (no I did not see Dr. Meltzer) where I attended my Women's Transportation Seminar Annual Conference. I also labeled invitations for our annual event in mid-June. Putting labels on mail - something I know a little bit about.

Finally, it is with regret that I announce the resignation of Anne Louise as our Social Co-Chair. I don't need to get into the details of how I feel about her because if you have read my columns over the last couple of years you have the idea. Needless to say, she has been a shining example for all of us and I will miss her energy and vision and dedication. She brought a lot to our community, our organization and our ExCom.

Anyway, I hope everyone has a great month. Whether you attend Santa Cruz, San Jose or San Francisco, remember to show your pride. Stand tall, stand strong stand PROUD.

## 2005-2006 TGSF ExCom Election Results

Ballots Mailed	130
Ballots Returned	52
Response Rate	40.0%
<b>Vice President</b>	
Laura Marlowe	49 ..... 94.2%
Bobby Cheung	1 ..... 1.9%
Kelly Marsh	1 ..... 1.9%
Abstain	1 ..... 1.9%
<b>Secretary</b>	
Lisa Rae Dummer	50 ..... 96.2%
Abstain	2 ..... 3.8%
<b>Outreach</b>	
Jennifer Siobhan Kennedy	51 ..... 98.1%
Kelly Marsh	1 ..... 1.9%
<b>Education</b>	
Jennifer Anderson	50 ..... 96.2%
Rachel Hill	1 ..... 1.9%
Abstain	1 ..... 1.9%
<b>Social</b>	
Tommi Watson	52 ..... 100.0%



**Bagdad Café**  
*The Best Café in the Castro*

2295 Market Street  
San Francisco, CA 94114  
PHONE: (415) 621-4434  
FAX: (415) 431-7054

May 1, 2005

## TGSF ExCom MEETING MINUTES

Present - Roxy Carmichael-Hart, Laura Marlowe, Pamela Gray, Allison Laureano, Dawnne Woodie, Jenni Kennedy. Absent - Anne Louise Mortensen, Tommi Watson, Lisa Dummer, Jennifer Anderson. Guest - Kelly Anne Marsh

Roxy noted that Lisa Dummer had fallen and dislocated her finger on the walk from the Holiday Inn Golden Gateway and that Tommi Watson had taken her to the hospital.

Roxy formally welcomed Jenni Kennedy to the ExCom, elected as Outreach Co-Chair.

### Minutes of April 3, 2005

The minutes of the April 3, 2005 meeting were approved as submitted.

### President's Report

Roxy distributed the election results and noted a 40% response rate which had exceeded the previous year.

Roxy discussed some of the year's upcoming priorities including the Pride efforts and the need to have ongoing fundraisers.

Dawnne suggested tabling the discussion on the selection of the Cotillion host hotel until the end of the meeting in order to give the Cathedral Hill Hotel staff an opportunity to show up. So ordered without objection.

### Vice-President's Report

Laura reported on the SF Pride Float Committee and distributed sketches originally prepared by Anne Louise. The drawings were very well received. Laura noted that this design was submitted for the float contest. The logistics of building the float were also discussed.

Laura noted that TGSF was an Accessibility Partner in Pride and detailed some of what that entailed. Primarily, volunteers are needed to staff the Accessibility booth and to assist disabled patrons by the stage. About 10-11 volunteers are needed and TGSF could realize about \$1500 from our participation. Additional need for volunteers was also discussed.

The ExCom thanked Jenni for her efforts in getting a donation of a trailer.

Dawnne had noted that we had discussed a safety monitor training session for the Cathedral Hill but given the hotel's ambivalence about us lately there was sentiment not to do the event at that location. Another location will be investigated.

Alli expressed concern that she had not been given sufficient information for Santa Cruz Pride. Roxy agreed to research this. The Santa Cruz Pride effort will include just our information booth. Alli felt we needed to have some presence.

No additional information was available for San Jose Pride.

### Secretary's Report

Roxy noted that in Lisa Dummer's absence she would take minutes. Jenni will be the next ExCom member profile for the Channel.

It was noted that a \$10 ad and a half page ad had been received.

### Treasurer's Report

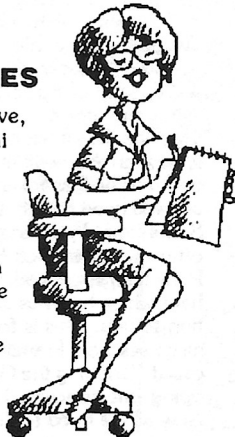
Pamela notes that we have about \$3000 in the bank. Alli commented that this was now several months in a row that we were in the black as compared to last year when we still had significant debt.

### Education Report

Dawnne said that End of Month event with Pansy Lew from Nordstrom had gone very well and there was interest in doing a longer event, perhaps to include a colorist and cosmetics. She was asked to try to schedule this. She added that the "Sacred and Seeking" event had been postponed due to logistics problems. The event will likely be rescheduled for Fall. Information on the cancellation needs to go out since the event had already been advertised.

## 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](mailto:triess_family@yahoo.com) and explain a little about your situation.



### Outreach

Alli and Jenni will update the brochures. Jenni will contact Kara for directions on how to answer the hotline.

Alli and Dawnne will be speaking at the Trans March on the Friday before Pride.

Alli reported on some other speaking engagements in which she had participated.

### Social

The next End of Month will be held on May 26 at the Cathedral Hill. In Roxy's absence, Laura will run the meeting. Representatives from SF Pride will be speaking to discuss volunteer opportunities. A speaker from the Advanced Laser Clinic in Marin County will also be present.

A mid-month will be held at the Cathedral Hill on May 12.

The June 4 BBQ at Carla's was discussed. It will be held from 3-6 PM right after ExCom. Laura and Pamela will take the lead on getting food and seeing what is needed. Jenni offered to provide some wine.

### Old Business

Some of the issues with the Cathedral Hill Hotel were discussed, primarily the poor treatment of Dawnne and Alli by hotel staff. It was also noted that the Hotel had not sent any representatives to interview for host hotel. Roxy expressed regret that Alli was not able to enjoy the last meeting since she had to act as bookkeeper.

The interview with Marjorie Almer from the Holiday Inn Golden Gateway was discussed. All were impressed with her presentation and with what the hotel was offering. There was sentiment for holding additional events at the location if some logistical and financial issues could be addressed. Various options for reserving rooms were discussed.

The ExCom voted unanimously to make the Holiday Inn Golden Gateway the Host Hotel for the Cotillion 2006.

### New Business

Kelly Marsh discussed some of her work as Outreach Ambassador and noted she may be leaving the area. Kelly expressed the desire to represent TGSF on a national basis. Alli moved that we have a further discussion of this topic next month to see how it might best be accomplished. Motion carried with no objections.

### Next Meeting

Saturday June 4 12-2 at Carla's right before the BBQ.

## 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](mailto:roxyhart72903@sbcglobal.net) Thank you!

## GenderQueer, Trans, & Gender Questioning Youth Group

Billy DeFrank LGBT Community Center  
[www.defrank.org](http://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](mailto:progdir@defrank.org).

## COTILLION WEEKEND IS COMING!

TGSF is pleased to announce that the Holiday Inn Golden Gateway, 1500 Van Ness Street in San Francisco, will be our host hotel for Cotillion Weekend January 20-22, 2006. The special daily room rates for this weekend will be \$89 for a single or double, \$109 for a corner king or superior view, and if you really want to splurge, you can get a one-bedroom suite for a mere \$300. The discount parking rate will be \$20 daily. All rates do not include tax. To get these special rates, you must reserve your room by January 6, 2006. You can call 415-441-4000 or 1-800-HOLIDAY. You must mention TGSF Cotillion 2006 to get the special rates. You won't find a better rate at this hotel. You will also eventually be able to make your reservations from a link at [www.tgsf.org](http://www.tgsf.org).

So why are we calling this Cotillion Weekend? Because, in addition to our fabulous Cotillion, "Hooray for Hollywood", we are planning a whole slew of activities. On Friday night January 20 from 7-10 PM, we are planning a reception in the Portola Room just off the main restaurant. There will be a no-host bar and light snacks (no meal) will be served. Come meet your friends from all over the country!

On Saturday January 21 from 10 AM to 4 PM. TGSF will bring back our hospitality suite. There will be snacks available and this will be an opportunity to chat and socialize and compare notes on your outfits for the evening's festivities. A TGSF member will act as hostess. We may even have a MAC makeup artist available as we have in the past.

Cotillion doors will open at 5 PM and our show will begin at 7 PM. Get ready for a fun salute to old time Hollywood and those glamorous stars of the past - back when the theater was elegant and style mattered. And cheer on your Ms. (and hopefully Mr.) TGSF contestants as they aspire to be your representatives. And for all those who have never attended a Cotillion as well as all those who have not ever done so, walk with pride into the light in the Debutante and Guys Walk. Bask in the cheers of your brothers and sisters who are welcoming you into our family. This has been a turning point in the lives of many. We've had Miss TGSF contestants and future ExCom members begin their journeys this way. And who knows what will be in store for you?

After a good night's sleep (right!), join us on Sunday January 22 for our Celebration Brunch from 10 AM to 2 PM in the Portola Room. Enjoy a sumptuous breakfast buffet for \$16.50 all inclusive. Meet the new Ms. (and maybe Mr.) TGSF and applaud all of the contestants for a job well done as we look forward to Cotillion 2007. Maybe you will be the next Ms. or Mr. TGSF!

It promises to be a fun and exciting weekend as we celebrate Hollywood, but mostly celebrate ourselves and our family. Don't miss out. Make your reservations today!

(Events subject to change. Visit [www.tgsf.org](http://www.tgsf.org) for all of the latest news.)

## 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.

## DISCRIMINATION IN THE CASTRO MUST BE STOPPED!

Last night I was in the Castro, and a friend of mine came to me crying because of the insults and threats and mistreatment that were thrown his way as he walked on the sidewalk past the Badlands Bar. I am a white, 52-year-old transgender female, who is active in many community programs, from involvement in various transgender and LGBT organizations, to membership in a local very inclusive church, where I am very involved and active. This friend is a regular attendee there at the church. He also happens to be a young, African-American gay male.

As he was walking by the Badlands Bar, he was screamed at, threatened, called that hated "n" word, with that "f" word preceding it, and told that he was the root of all their problems and that he wasn't welcome in "THEIR" neighborhood. The people that did this came out of the bar, and he was frightened for his safety. And according to him, he has been harassed and threatened before in the Castro neighborhood, with similar epithets.

As a woman, and a transgendered woman, I often get insults thrown at me from the rank and file of the males in the Castro, but I generally ignore them, knowing that much of the time it comes from ignorance and lack of understanding of what transgender really is, but these racist comments that come just because this person walks down the street, that is wrong. It is as much an assault as if they were to physically harm someone.

I grew up in the South. As a child, I saw many, many episodes of blatant racism, even in the home I was raised in. But I always thought it was wrong then, and my transition has done nothing to change that feeling. Hatred and discrimination, in whatever the form it reveals itself, is wrong. This overt, threatening behavior that comes from these bar patrons must be stopped. What if the next time, they are just a little bit more inebriated, and they decide that their "machismo" is threatened by a single young gay African-American male, and they attack with more than words? Or will they feel as if this older transwoman is a threat to them, and attack me, or many of my friends? Are we headed for a new wave of violence such as was seen in the days when the South turned violent over the issues of racism and freedom to live where and how we choose?

We claim to be a community where freedom to be oneself is celebrated. Does this show that to the rest of the world? How will we ever gain acceptance in the world at large, if we cannot even accept those who are like us? We claim to be all-inclusive. It is time to prove that we are.

Again, this racism and bigotry has to be stopped. The problems that have started and are being perpetuated in these bars have to end. If these bars cannot control their patrons, then perhaps it is time to do whatever needs to be done to shut them down, to end their influence on the community.

**Dawne Woodie**  
Executive Director, Outreach Program for Transgendered In Crisis

## 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!



# TGSF Events in June

**Saturday / June 4 / 12:00pm**

## **TGSF ExCOM MEETING**

Will be held at Carla's in San Jose prior to the BBQ. All TGSF members in good standing are welcome to attend. We need twice as many volunteers as last year, not only for float safety monitors, but for our participation in this year's Availability Program. This is crucial because there is \$1,500 at stake for the organization if we meet our quota!

**Saturday / June 4 / 3:00pm**

## **HOT FUN IN THE SUMMERTIME BBQ**

at Carla's in San Jose. See ad elsewhere in this issue. Be sure to sign-up with an ExCom member for building the float, becoming a safety monitor, or an Availability Program volunteer!

**Sunday / June 5**

## **SANTA CRUZ PRIDE**

For more info visit [www.santacruzpride.org](http://www.santacruzpride.org)

**Thursday / June 9 / 7:00pm**

## **TGSF MID-MONTH**

An evening with your friends at the Cathedral Hill Hotel.

**Saturday, June 11th—Sunday, June 12th**

## **SAN JOSE PRIDE**

The two-day San Jose Pride celebration will take place in Discovery Meadow; the parade is on Sunday afternoon. For more information visit the San Jose Pride website at [www.sjgaypride.com/index2.html](http://www.sjgaypride.com/index2.html).

**Saturday / June 18 / 6:30pm**

## **CARLA'S MONTHLY DINNER**

...at the La Paloma Restaurant in Santa Clara. Meet at 5:45 at Carla's to carpool, or be at the La Paloma by 6:30. If you'd like to join Carla's girls at the La Paloma, please RSVP to Carla at [carla@carlas.com](mailto:carla@carlas.com) or (408) 298-6900.

**Thursday / June 23rd / 7:30pm**

## **TGSF END OF MONTH EVENT**

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

**Friday / June 24**

## **TRANS MARCH & SF PRIDE KICK-OFF PARTY!**

3:00pm; March begins 7 p.m., Dolores Park, Dolores and 19th Street, SF.

**Saturday / June 25**

## **SAN FRANCISCO PRIDE**

The Trans Pavilion will host 30 booths and exhibitors. The Trans Stage will feature hours of trans-specific music, spoken word and other entertainment.

**Sunday / June 26**

## **SAN FRANCISCO PRIDE PARADE AND CELEBRATION!**

**Coming in July!**

**Saturday / July 2 / 4:00pm - 10:00pm**

## **DVG BBQ SERIES CONTINUES!**

Hawaiian Theme - everyone gets lei'd at the door! Bring a suit and a towel if you want to use the hot tub. You MUST RSVP to get location and directions. If you RSVP, please commit to bringing a dish to share, as well as anything you want to grill (and then show up!). We're also seeking donations (cash or bottles) to help stock the "Wacky Castaways Bar" (for this and the following BBQ #3 later in the summer), as the blenders will be going into hyperdrive! Volunteers for set-up and clean-up are also needed. Call 925-937-8432 to RSVP.

## *June's Birthdays*

6/01	Diane Shepard
6/01	Micki Finn
6/02	Nancy Cupps
6/05	Rachel Miller
6/07	Danielle A. DeLeo
6/07	Deadre Thompson
6/09	JubiLee Jee
6/17	Lynnea Stuart
6/20	Janice Allen
6/21	Anne Louise Mortenson
6/22	Roxy Carmichael-Hart
6/22	Donna Spencer
6/23	JoAnne Handa
6/23	Charley Birimisa
6/27	Brenda Lin
6/28	Rose Ann Cain
6/28	Teri Lee
6/28	Stephanie Ann Blythe

**Happy Birthday To All!**

Cosmetics  
Shoes  
Nails  
Wigs  
Fem Fashions  
Lingerie  
Cosmetics

Nails      Wigs      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 - June 2005

## OTHER BAY AREA GROUPS

### Central City Hospitality House (CCHH)

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

### Diablo Valley Girls (DVG)

Meets 1st & 3rd Monday every month. 8:00pm at Club 1220, 1220 Pine Street in Walnut Creek. Write to DVG, PO Box 272885, Concord, CA 94527-2885 or call 925-937-8432.

### DVG Rap Group (RCC)

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

### FTM International

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

### I Love It Girl Socials

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

### Mid-Peninsula TG Group (MPTG)

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

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			1 2:00 PM T.R.A.N.S 7:00 PM I Love It Social 7:30 PM MPTG	2 7:00 PM DVG RCC	3 8:00 PM PacCtr 8:00 PM RGA	4 12:00 PM TGSF: ExCom Meeting 3:00 PM TGSF: Hot Fun Summer BBQ!
5 Santa Cruz PRIDE	6 5:00 PM CCHH 7:00 PM PISRR General Meeting 8:00 PM DVG	7 7:00 PM SCT	8 2:00 PM T.R.A.N.S 7:00 PM I Love It Social	9 7:00 PM TGSF Mid-Month	10 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr	11 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA San Jose PRIDE
12 San Jose PRIDE	13 5:00 PM CCHH	14	15 2:00 PM T.R.A.N.S 7:00 PM I Love It Social	16 TG Legal Clinic	17 8:00 PM PacCtr 8:00 PM RGA	18 6:30 PM Carla's Monthly Dinner
19	20 5:00 PM CCHH 8:00 PM DVG	21 7:00 PM SCT	22 2:00 PM T.R.A.N.S 7:00 PM I Love It Social	23 7:00 PM TGSF: EOM	24 7:00 PM SVGA 7:00 PM TransVis-HWD 8:00 PM PacCtr SF TRANS PRIDE MARCH!	25 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA SF PRIDE!
26 SF PRIDE PARADE!	27 5:00 PM CCHH	28 7:30 PM SCOUT	29 2:00 PM T.R.A.N.S 7:00 PM I Love It Social	30		

## TGSF MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

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

Please Print / Check all that apply:

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

Preferred Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate (Month/Day): \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_

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

\*Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Website URL: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

# Support Your Organization!

## TGSF Sustaining Memberships

### FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

#### Designated Sustaining Membership Giving Levels & Recognition

##### **GUARDIAN LEVEL: \$2500**

###### Recognition & Benefits:

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

##### **PATRON LEVEL: \$1000**

###### Recognition & Benefits:

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

##### **ANGEL LEVEL: \$500**

###### Recognition & Benefits:

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

##### **CENTURY LEVEL: \$250**


###### Recognition & Benefits:

- Recognition in Cotillion Program
- Framed Recognition Certificate

##### **MERIT LEVEL: \$100**

###### Recognition & Benefits:

- Recognition in Cotillion Program
- Recognition Certificate

 **Clip & Mail Today!**

### **Make your CONTRIBUTION to TGSF Today!**

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

Please indicate your level of giving:

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

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

**Thank you for your support of TGSF!**



# Takin' Care of Biz...

## TGSF FINANCIAL REPORT

As of May 20, 2005

### Assets

Cash .....	3154.53
Decorations .....	1000.00
Beverages .....	200.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>4354.53</b>

### Liabilities and Equity

Accounts Payable .....	0.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>0.00</b>

## Statement of TGSF Income

### Revenues

Memberships .....	0.00
Advertising .....	0.00
EOM Contributions .....	0.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>0.00</b>

### Expenses

Channel .....	312.63
Phone .....	51.32
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>363.95</b>

**Net Income (Loss) ..... (363.95)**

## 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.

## WAVE ELECTROLOGY

### Permanent Hair Removal



*On-Site Physician Administered Local Anesthetic • Safe Clinical Environment • Two Electrologists Working Simultaneously Help Maximize Use of Local Anesthetic By Appointment Only Please*

Thu-Minh Ngo & Guy E. Campo  
2100 Curtner Ave., Ste. A  
San Jose, CA 95124

(408) 371-9053  
Email: office@waveelectrology.com  
Web: www.WaveElectrology.com

## TGSF DONATIONS

Our Friends Who Give  
as of May 20, 2005

<i>Rachel Hill ((United Way) .....</i>	<i>\$160.00</i>
<i>Jessica Ames .....</i>	<i>\$100.00</i>
<i>Janet Bowman .....</i>	<i>\$100.00</i>
<i>Anonymous .....</i>	<i>\$55.00</i>
<i>Anonymous .....</i>	<i>\$10.00</i>
<i>Ayme Kantz .....</i>	<i>\$10.00</i>

*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

Dawnne Woodie ..... sf\_dawnne@yahoo.com

Jennifer Anderson ..... tbd

#### Outreach

Allison D Laureano ..... allisushi@hotmail.com

Jennifer Siobhan Kennedy ... jennifer@sweetiemail.com

#### Social

OPEN ..... tbd

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.Org Webmistress

Laura Marlowe ..... laura.marlowe@pacbell.net

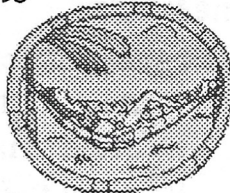
Calendar ..... [www.tgsf.org](http://www.tgsf.org)

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

# Special 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



Mid-Peninsula Support Group

WEDNESDAY, June 1, 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](mailto: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.

June 27 to July 1, 2005

## 17TH INTERNATIONAL TWO-SPIRIT GATHERING

[www.baaits.org/twospiritgathering.html](http://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, powwow 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](http://www.baaits.org/twospiritgathering.html)

Register today!

## 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 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Most Holy Trinity Church  
(Castro)

Sponsored by

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](mailto:sf_dawnne@yahoo.com)

or

Lisa Dummer, Education Co-Chair, TGSF -  
[destinee32436@yahoo.com](mailto:destinee32436@yahoo.com)

or

call Dawnne Woodie @ 415-748-2396

**EVENT CANCELED!**

# Special Events in June!

## 2<sup>ND</sup> 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!

## Volunteers Needed!

### 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

SFTEAM is happy to announce

## THE 2ND ANNUAL TG PRIDE AWARDS

The San Francisco LGBT Center  
on Monday, June 20, 2005

Let's come together to appreciate those who have committed themselves to improving the lives of transgendered people! Spend some time with your community and enjoy a complimentary buffet during TransPride week! But first we need nominees! There will be a total of 3 awards presented. The nomination criteria for the awards:

1) We are seeking nominations in order to recognize **trans individuals** who have provided leadership and/or demonstrated excellence in any three of the following areas:

- TG community consciousness raising
- Raising awareness of TG issues
- Educating others about TG community
- Advocacy and or activism on behalf of the community
- TG community empowerment
- Raising community visibility
- Promoting equality
- Liberation activities

2) We are also seeking nominations for **one trans ally** (non trans-identified) meeting the same criteria in any three areas:

- TG community consciousness raising
- Raising awareness of TG issues
- Educating others reg. TG community
- Advocacy and or activism on behalf of the community
- TG community empowerment
- Raising community visibility
- Promoting equality
- Liberation activities

3) And we are seeking nominations in order to recognize **one organization** which has demonstrated excellence in the following areas:

- Provision of direct services to the TG community
- Sensitivity and awareness of TG issues
- Respect for the TG community
- TG staff
- TG specific programs

Nominations must be in the form of written submission no more than 350 words in length using the standards listed above.

Please send nominations to one of the following addresses by June 4, 2005: Via email: [nominate@sfteam.org](mailto:nominate@sfteam.org) or snail mail: TG Awards c/o JoAnne Keatley, 1145 Bush Street, 2nd Floor, SF, CA 94109

**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 your 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 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](http://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.

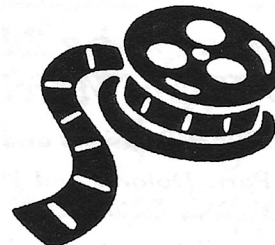
The meeting is in response to the need for an infrastructure and support system similar to what the Caucasian transcommunity has built up over the last 20 years.

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](http://www.transfamilydefyinggravity.net)

Lights, Camera, Action!



Transgender San Francisco

Proudly Presents

# Hooray for Hollywood!!!

## Cotillion 2006

January 21, 2006

Cowell Theatre  
 Fort Mason Center  
 San Francisco, CA

Details coming soon at [www.tgsf.org](http://www.tgsf.org)  
 A Ms. 3000 Hit

## Feminine Movement™

Instructional Video presented by Denaë Doyle

Learn to

# Stand Walk Sit Move



like genetic females!

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 or VHS today!

(831) 479-1282  
[www.Femlimage.com](http://www.Femlimage.com)

Private Consultations Available.

# Events Horizon!

## 18TH ANNUAL CREATING CHANGE CONFERENCE

### Request for Workshop Proposals

Deadline for Submissions: July 15, 2005

Notification Process Begins On/About August 9, 2005

### Building An Anti-Racist Movement: A Primary Goal of the Creating Change Conference

Now in its 32nd year, The Task Force remains firmly committed to addressing the impact of racism in this country, in our movement and in our organization. A primary educational goal of Creating Change is to build an anti-racist LGBT movement that includes and reflects the perspectives, needs and priorities of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender activists of all ages, races, ethnic and language origins, spiritualities and incomes.

While we know that building an anti-racist movement will take much time and many resources, we believe that we can take important steps towards the more immediate fulfillment of that commitment. To this end, The Task Force seeks programmatic proposals that will present participants with opportunities that educate, challenge, support, and help to build an anti-racist movement that is more fully representative. Not all presentations at the conference primarily address this goal, but we will give priority to presentation proposals that thoughtfully consider how racism and the failure to build a LGBT multi-racial social and economic justice movement impacts particular issues and communities and organizing projects. Activists of color are strongly encouraged to submit proposals.

### Other Creating Change Priorities:

- Educate on issues such as the recognition and protection of our relationships and families, bias violence, domestic violence, repression of sexuality and gender identity and expression, equality of opportunity in employment, housing, public accommodation and education, the freedom to marry, and military and immigration discrimination;
- Give special attention to strategies, projects, and methods of organizing that link race, class, gender and age oppression with homophobia and heterosexism;
- Strengthen the skills of activists and organizers who work at all levels of our movement;
- Improve our abilities to create change in legislative bodies, media, workplaces, faith communities, community and social institutions, and on campuses and at schools;
- Increase our confidence to work collaboratively with allies to effect durable change;
- Provide opportunities to discuss and explore difficult and challenging issues and topics in a supportive environment;
- Give special attention to emerging issues in our movement and communities, as well as those people most affected by them;
- Build an anti-racist movement for social and economic justice that is vigorous in each state and territory of the US and that includes and reflects the perspectives, needs and priorities of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender activists of all ages, races, ethnic and language origins, spiritualities, and incomes.

Presentations must fit within one of the following formats:

Workshops (90 minutes): Prepared presentations with stated and specific learning goals and some time dedicated to Q & A and group discussion. Workshops are political education sessions in which attendees will gain useful information, advice, and technical assistance about a specific topic. Please specify if your session is intended for participants whose work is entry level; or intermediate level; or advanced level.

Caucus/Networking (60 minutes): A time for affinity groups or groups working on similar projects to gather for networking, discussion, and community building; or, an opportunity to convene a group of somewhat discordant participants to discuss a specific topic, i.e. a multi-generational group invited to discuss our movement's commitment to persons of disparate ages.

### Presenter Policies

In order to keep conference registration fees at the lowest possible rate, we ask presenters to volunteer time, expertise and services at Creating Change. In consideration of your service as a presenter, you will be able to register for the entire conference

at a rate of \$150. This registration rate is inclusive of all pre-conference institutes, plenary sessions, workshops, roundtables, trainings, screenings and caucuses, beginning Wednesday morning November 9 and concluding Sunday November 13, 2005. This registration rate does not include special events, dances/parties, and travel or hotel expenses. The presenter registration rate is limited to four presenters per session.

After a proposal is accepted, presenters will be mailed a presenter registration packet which includes a conference registration form. Should your proposal not be accepted, you are invited to register for the conference at the presenter rate of \$150, inclusive of pre-conference institutes. If you submit a proposal, please do not register for the conference at any rate higher than \$150.

### Presenter Responsibilities

As a presenter, you are responsible for making your own travel arrangements. The conference hotel, the Oakland Marriott City Center, located in downtown Oakland, offers a conference rate of \$119.00/night. Please be sure to mention the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Creating Change Conference when making reservations. Reservations must be made by October 7, 2005 to receive the guaranteed conference rate. You may reserve a room by calling 800/991-7249. The 2005 Host Committee will organize a community housing program to provide a limited number of no-cost housing options for conference presenters and attendees. In order to participate, submit a completed housing request to the local Host Committee, available on our web site [www.creatingchange.org](http://www.creatingchange.org).

For more information and to download the request for workshop proposal in pdf format, please go to the following link <http://www.thetaskforce.org/downloads/CC05RFP.pdf>

If you have any questions about the workshop proposal process, please feel free to contact Sue Hyde, Conference Director at: 617-492-6393 or [shyde@thetaskforce.org](mailto:shyde@thetaskforce.org)

**Sue Hyde - Conference Director**

**Julie Childs - Assistant Conference Director**

## Creating Change Conference Kickoff

We had the first planning meeting tonight for the Creating Change Conference sponsored by the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force. This year's conference will be held **November 9-13, 2005** at the Oakland Marriott City Center. After introductions and a briefing on the purposes of the conference we got right down to business and divided ourselves into subcommittees to cover the highest priority tasks. The GLBTI spectrum was well covered with youth and seniors, transpersons, persons of color, and people of faith.

As a member of the Local Promotion/Outreach subcommittee I will be using my extensive community contacts to publicize the conference. We have a goal of enlisting 250 volunteers to cover the myriad of tasks need to have a successful conference. I will be letting you know how you can volunteer. Please join us!

**Stephanie Ann Blythe**

## 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!

## Significant Other Support East Bay

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

## TRANVESTITES GLITTER AT THAILAND PAGEANT

Queery.com

PATTAYA, Thailand (AP) - At the Miss Tiffany Universe pageant - which boasts dozens of gorgeous, lithe, smooth-skinned contestants - one thing is undeniable: Thailand turns out some of the most beautiful transvestites and transsexuals in the world.

As contestants glided across the stage in glittering ball gowns Saturday night, one might never have guessed they were all born boys. Only when they open their mouths do their vocal cords reveal the truth. "Most people can't tell because I'm very petite, but when I talk, they know," said 21-year-old Wararat Saengchai, who started taking female hormones at 14 and underwent sex change and breast implant operations a year ago. If she keeps quiet, her delicate features could fool anyone. Others must rely on foam-padded bras and girdles to create womanly curves.

Miss Tiffany's, one of the most famous all-male cabaret theaters, has held the annual beauty pageant since 1998 in a gaudy Roman-pillared white building in Pattaya. Thailand, a predominantly Buddhist country, is widely tolerant of homosexuals, transvestites and transsexuals - one reason, perhaps, that men who opt for the transformation here are so stunning and convincing.

"Western countries may not give their people the opportunity to change because they can't accept it, whereas here, we do," said Punyapat Daengnoi, 24, who underwent a sex change two years ago. "We become beautiful because we are accepted and can be happy that we can be ourselves."

Many contestants came from rural provinces across Thailand and describe being accepted by their families only after proving that they would be academically and professionally successful, and not a financial burden. But for others, like the 2005 winner Tiptantree Rujiranon, there needs to be even greater acceptance. Even this pageant - broadcast live on national television, with a grand prize of \$2,500 and a new pink car - is not enough.

"There are some who still will not come out," 20-year-old Tiptantree said after being crowned early Sunday. "I want 'second-sex' women to be able to live in society like men and women, and have the same rights as people of any other gender."

### **An Out-of-the-Closet, Female to Male, Transgender Lawyer Has Just Been Elected President-Elect of the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association (HBIGDA)**

**Phyllis Randolph Frye**  
a.k.a. THE PHYLLABUSTER  
<http://www.nsflaw.us/>, [prfrye@aol.com](mailto:prfrye@aol.com)

On Saturday, 30 April, at the Second Plenary for the Annual Convention of the International Foundation for Gender Education (ifge.org), Eli Coleman, Ph.D., at the University of Minnesota Medical School and the Past-President of the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association (HBIGDA) announced that at its recent meeting in Italy only a few weeks ago, the HBIGDA elected Stephen Whittle, Professor of Law in Manchester, England, to be its new President-Elect.

This is very significant. Stephen has been an out FTM legal activist since at least 1992 that I am aware of, and probably even before that. A few of his achievements involved "Pressing for Change" in cases before the Europe Court of Justice to require England to override the horrible 1970 "Corbett" decision which pronounced chromosomes to be the sole determination of legal sex. And he continued to then press the British Parliament to enact the 2004 Gender Recognition Act, which recognizes the medically corrected sex of individuals to also be their legal sex.

As Dr. Coleman pointed out, this is one of the many changes ongoing in the medical professions' shift in paradigms in its work with the trans community. Prof. Steven Whittle will be the first TG to be its international president. (Significantly also, out MTF lawyer Alyson Meiselman of Maryland — [ameiselman@scurtiandgulling.com](mailto:ameiselman@scurtiandgulling.com) — will be the head of the Legal Committee for HBIGDA.)

## TRANSGENDER LAW CENTER GOES INDEPENDENT AND EXPANDS STAFF

Community Leader Cecilia Chung to join TLC as Deputy Director and 2005; Berkeley Law Foundation Fellow Shane Caya to Join as Family Law Attorney

**Christopher Daley, Esq.**

**Transgender Law Center / (415) 865-0176**

San Francisco, CA - The Transgender Law Center, founded in 2002 as a fiscally sponsored project of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, has been granted independent non-profit status by the Internal Revenue Service and is celebrating with two significant hires. The newly independent TLC will welcome on board a Deputy Director and a full-time project attorney.

"After more than two-years of unbelievable support from NCLR, we're finally ready to stand on our own," said TLC Director Christopher Daley. "And I can't think of a better way to celebrate than by tripling the size of our full-time staff. With these hires, TLC will be better able to collaborate with transgender communities and allies throughout California in order to create a state in which everyone can fully and freely express our gender identities."

Well-known community activist and San Francisco Human Rights Commissioner, Cecilia Chung, will join the organization as Deputy Director. In her new position, Ms. Chung will run two of TLC's existing programs as well as deepening statewide collaborative and fundraising efforts. "Cecilia is exactly the right person at the right time for this job," said newly elected TLC Board Chair Mikayla Connell. "We couldn't be happier that she has agreed to join the organization and help us take it to the next level."

Joining Ms. Chung will be Transgender Family Law Project Director, Shane Caya. Mr. Caya, a 2004 graduate of Golden Gate Law School and father of two, was recently awarded a prestigious Berkeley Law Foundation Fellowship. Mr. Caya's project will focus on the needs of transgender people in family court including issues involving: marriage, domestic partnership, child custody and visitation, and emancipation. "The Berkeley Law Foundation is thrilled to be partnering with TLC to support Shane's vital work," said BLF Board Co-President Linda Lye. "Shane's demonstrated commitment to transgender families and his personal connection to the community he intends to serve resonate deeply with BLF's core values. We are confident that Shane will deploy the power of the law in the service of social justice."

Ms. Chung and Mr. Caya will join Health Care Access Project Manager Willy Wilkinson and Safe Bathroom Access Campaign Coordinator Bryan Burgess in conducting the groundbreaking work for which TLC has become known. Ms. Chung is scheduled to join TLC in the first of July. While Mr. Caya's fellowship officially begins in the fall of 2005, TLC is currently raising funds to bring him on as early as mid-May.

The Transgender Law Center (TLC) is a civil rights organization advocating for transgender communities. We use direct legal services, education, community organizing, institutional change strategies, and policy and media advocacy to improve laws and challenge discriminatory practices that affect people's ability to fully express their diverse gender identities.

### **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.

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## STUDENT ARRESTED AFTER WEARING DRESS TO PROM FIGHTS BACK

by The Associated Press  
365Gay.com

(Lake Geneva, Wisconsin) One Wisconsin teenager who had a prom night he'll never forget is fighting a disorderly conduct charge issued by police after he wore a black, spaghetti-strap dress and blond wig to the event.

"The only thing that Mr. Lofy did wrong was wearing a purse that didn't match the dress and open-toed shoes before Memorial Day," said Madison lawyer Erik Guenther, who will represent Kerry Lofy. "There's just no rational basis for the citation and the school district in telling him beforehand that he couldn't do it."

The senior at Badger High School in Lake Geneva will plead not guilty and ask the city to dismiss the ticket, which carries a fine of \$249, Guenther said. Guenther said he would also advise Lofy, 18, to file a lawsuit against the school for violating his first amendment rights to free expression by telling him he couldn't wear a dress and disciplining him for doing so.

Lofy was suspended for three days this week and ordered to miss his final track meet after wearing the dress to the May 7 prom and dancing in what the school says was a sexually provocative manner, including lying on another student on the dance floor, school officials and police say.

Lofy says he is not gay but went to the prom with a gay friend who did not have a date. He had been warned by school authorities not to wear the dress. He was turned away at the door when he showed up in the dress, blue earrings, platform sandals and a necklace, and carrying a purse.

He returned an hour later in a leisure suit and was allowed to enter. During a risqué dance routine that caught the attention of the 400 people there, the 6-foot, 185-pound Lofy ripped off his clothes to reveal the dress, according to a police report. He was escorted from the building by a police officer and served with the ticket when he showed up for school Monday.

Lake Geneva school district administrator Jim Gottinger said Friday he was confident that the school's dress code and rules for prom were appropriate and would be upheld in court. He said most of the discipline was related to Lofy's behavior at the event, and his insubordination for ignoring warnings about appropriate attire.

Gottinger refused to issue an apology, which Guenther demanded. "I don't see that we were in the wrong," he said. "We think the attire for the prom is a formal event, and he not only wore a dress but a blond wig as well."

Lofy said he wore the outfit after researching the first amendment and concluding, "I'm going to take a stand. They can't say what I can or cannot wear, especially at a dance." Lofy said his conference track meet was postponed on Friday and rescheduled for next week and his status for the meet is unclear. "It's the most important one of the year," said Lofy, who does the pole vault. Lofy, who plans to go to Colorado Mountain College in the fall and major in ski hill management, had indicated he wanted to fight the discipline but said he could not afford an attorney.

Guenther, a criminal defense and constitutional law attorney, said his Madison law firm, Hurley, Burish & Milliken, S.C., volunteered to represent him free of charge. "This is a \$250 ticket but if you don't protect the fringes of free speech the next action is at your front door," he said. "These acts cannot be tolerated."

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## SECRETARY OF STATE REVERSES PRO-TRANS POLICY

Surgery Again Required To Change Gender Marker On Driver's License

By Dawn Wolfe Gutterman  
Pridesource.com

LANSING - Transgendered people will not be allowed to have their gender on their driver's licenses changed unless they actually have gender reassignment surgery. That is the result of a reversal by the Secretary of State's office which had previously just required that a person request that their gender be changed on their driver's license. The change has far-reaching implications for trans people, particularly for those who are in the process of transition.

"People are supposed to do a one-year period living as a woman before surgery. How are they supposed to do that if their driver's license says 'Male?'" said Rachel Crandall, MSW, executive director of TransGender Michigan.

In 2002, the Secretary of State began requiring proof of gender reassignment surgery to make the change on a driver's license. Before that, "You could just make the request and you weren't even required to provide documentation. Basically they would just take your word for it," said Jay Kaplan of the American Civil Liberties Union LGBT Project.

In a March 17, 2005 letter to Kaplan from Michael Wartella, Administration Director of the Secretary of State, the SOS agreed to go back to the old policy, and require only that individuals provide a doctor's statement or court order stating that a change in gender marker was necessary.

However, on April 8, Brian DeBano, the Secretary of State's Chief of Staff and Chief Operating Officer, reversed Wartella's decision. "The driver's license is based on the birth certificate," said Kelly Chesney, an SOS spokesperson. "As state government we have to be consistent not only between state agencies but also from state to state. In the state of Michigan a court order is required to get a change on a birth certificate. Law enforcement understands that the license is based on a birth certificate so we need to have the license match the certificate."

Michigan citizens are already required to undergo gender reassignment surgery before they are able to change the gender marker on their birth certificate, according to Kaplan.

Christine Hughes is one person who has been harassed because her driver's license didn't match her true gender identity. About five or six years ago, Hughes said, she was at Ann Arbor's Arborland mall. After using the restroom, she was detained for about an hour by mall security, who called the Ann Arbor police. "I was scared to death," she said. "I was just minding my own business. Fortunately the cops had better sense than the mall cops, and they finally ended up letting me go."

The current policy is also hampering Hughes' ability to live her true gender full-time, she said. Hughes currently presents as a man in order to work at her current job at a warehouse and factory in Kalamazoo. "I was waiting to get [the gender marker] changed on my driver's license and then I was going to go job-hunting, and now I can't," said Hughes, who added that she planned on saving money for her eventual surgery "once I got a job as Christy."

Crandall said that Hughes is not alone in her desperation. "With a combination of all [the] phone calls and emails and messages we've gotten probably 25 so far," from transgender citizens who feel cheated by the change, said Crandall.

### Real I.D. Act - Making A Bad Situation Worse

The Real I.D. Act, which passed the U.S. House during the week of May 2 and which is being considered by the U.S. Senate, would require all U.S. residents to provide four pieces of identification to receive a new or renewed driver's license. One of the required pieces of I.D. would be a birth certificate.

"The Real I.D. Act would create additional headaches [for transgender citizens] because other states don't allow people to change their gender identity on their birth certificates," said Jay Kaplan, staff attorney for the ACLU of Michigan's LGBT Project.



Rachel Crandall, MSW,  
executive director,  
TransGender Michigan.  
BTL photo: Sarah Mieras

## Science Writer Uses Compassion, Facts To Explain 'The Riddle Of Gender'

By Dawn Wolfe Gutterman  
Pridesource.com

At first glance, Deborah Rudacille would seem like an unlikely candidate to write a book about transgenderism. A straight, white, natal woman and author of "The Scalpel and the Butterfly: The Conflict Between Animal Research and Animal Protection," Rudacille seems like someone you might expect to research environmental issues, or perhaps the ongoing mapping of the human genome.

It turns out that Rudacille was the perfect person to bring a combination of science, history, and compassion to the discussion about transgender persons in her new book, "The Riddle of Gender," which was released by Pantheon Books this year. Rudacille was compelled to research and write the book when a friend of hers began transitioning. "Like a lot of straight people who have lived a hetero-normative life I was shocked, confused," she said.

However, Rudacille was also very open. "I did not grow up in a homophobic family," she said, and added that her grandmother's circle of friends included a lesbian couple. "I was never burdened with the idea that gay people were somehow 'other.'"

One striking feature of Rudacille's book is the interviews. Each chapter ends with an interview of a member of the transgender community. Rudacille explained that she used the interviews because, "I wanted to sort of re-create my own journey from a lack of understanding to understanding, and a large part of doing that was not reading about people but talking to people. The interviews were my favorite section of the book," she added, and explained that she chose interviews that served as bridges between the chapters.

Those "bridges" help Rudacille's book cover ground that includes transgender individuals in history, possible causes of intersex and transgender conditions, the political friction between the transgender and the lesbian and gay communities, and more. Past and present scientific theory and medical practice are the backbone of the book. Rudacille calls her approach "science for regular people." "The science part came in when I started realizing how much ignorance and bigotry were out there," she said. "I've always seen science's role as the role of education. I thought I could bring some skills of my own on the subject in a way that hadn't been done before."

Asked what about the topic has inspired such passion in Rudacille, who has gone on tour to try to promote her book to a wider audience, she responded, "I think that there are more and more straight people who really do get it, but the voices of those who don't are drowning us out. We can't afford to be silent - we owe it to our friends and loved ones in the LGBT community."



Science writer Deborah Rudacille combines compassion, history and science in her book on transgenderism. Photo: Mark Champion, courtesy Random House

"When I did the research on the Nazi chapter (about gender science pioneer Magnus Hirschfeld, who was ultimately driven out of Germany by the Nazis) it terrified me because I could see resonance in the present day. That's why we all have to be vocal and out there," she added.

As it turns out, Rudacille's research drew on her science background in ways that surprised her. For example, DES, a synthetic hormone that was widely prescribed to pregnant women between the 1940s and 1970s, may have contributed to or even caused an increase in the birth of male-to-female trans-identified children during those years. Use of DES was discontinued in the early 70s because of a link between its use and vaginal cancer in the daughters of women who had taken it, but little research has been done on the effects of DES use on male children - including children born with male genitalia who identify as female. Such research ought to be more urgent given the scientific evidence that Rudacille has compiled which indicates that gender identity develops in the womb and is largely shaped by the hormones to which a fetus' brain is exposed during pregnancy and birth.

While Rudacille's science is strong and compelling, the book's overall strength lies in the voice behind it. Imagine the hearts and minds that might be opened if more straight, white, natal women read these words of Rudacille:

I am hardwired as a heterosexual woman, and I am comfortable with that identity; it feels authentic. However, I no longer view my sexual orientation and gender identity as "normal," generic, or "regular." Instead, I see that my particular expression of gender and sexuality are unique to me.

Perhaps, by reading them, those readers' minds might open enough to take in these words of transgender activist and attorney Phyllis Randolph Frye whom Rudacille quotes: "A very important change that has yet to be made is the time we transgenders are no longer called 'sex changes.' After all, consider this: we are not CHANGING ANYTHING! Indeed, we are merely CORRECTING pronouns, names, manners of dress, hormones and flesh to MATCH was has always been in our brains.")



## "HOUSEWIFE" FINDS SUCCESS ON THE BIG SCREEN

by Jenny Stewart  
PlanetOut

With Hollywood still buzzing with rumors of possible in-fighting among the female cast members of "Desperate Housewives," actress Felicity Huffman, who plays career woman turned stay-at-home mom Lynette Scavo on the show, has been honored for something completely different. Huffman took home a Best Actress in a Narrative Feature Film award at the fourth annual Tribeca Film Festival for her role as a transsexual in the new film "Transamerica."

Huffman plays Bree, a born-again preop male-to-female transsexual who learns she may have fathered a son while living as a man. Bree travels from Los Angeles to New York to meet up with the boy, who happens to be in jail.

The film also stars real-life transwoman Calpernia Addams as a Texas fiddle player Huffman's character encounters on her journey. According to Addams, Huffman's performance is quite convincing.

"Felicity went all out and really surprised me with her habitation of her character," Adams told PlanetOut. "I wasn't sure what it was going to look like, but when I saw her in character, I thought, 'That is a transwoman.' I found myself wanting to help her with her transition."

Addams' company, Deep Stealth Productions, consulted on the script and did voice training with Huffman, who described her transformation in an interview with Reuters. "Oddly enough, it became a process of becoming more feminine," said Huffman. "Once I found the speaking voice, then Bree came to life."

The Tribeca win is the second for "Transamerica"; the film won a Jury Award at the Berlin International Film Festival in February.

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## “MISFORTUNE” BY WESLEY STACE Skirting the Issue

Reviewed by Rodney Welch

Wesley Stace is better known as the singer-songwriter John Wesley Harding, who took his stage name from a Bob Dylan song about the Old West desperado (whose name was actually Hardin). On the 1998 Harding album “Awake,” Stace wrote a retro English ballad about a different kind of 19th-century outlaw, “Miss Fortune,” the strange tale of a male foundling who was adopted by the “richest man in the world” and brought up as a girl. It turned out to be one of those songs whose potential wasn’t quite exhausted; Stace said in an interview that there was “unfinished business” about it.

Was there ever. In this debut novel, Stace uncorks a ripping transsexual romp set in Romantic-era England, and it reads like some inspired collaboration between Charles Dickens and Spanish filmmaker Pedro Almodovar: full of orphans, decadence, flouncy skirts, greed, deception, amnesia, incest, murder, religious and social intolerance, ballads, books, letters, wild farce and all manner of meditation on sexual identity. It calls to mind another regal androgynous, Virginia Woolf’s Orlando, though not as literary or as tiresome. This is a fun book. Rose Old, a.k.a. Miss Fortune, is just the kind of narrator an old-fashioned yarn needs: one who makes you suspend disbelief not just willingly but with great enthusiasm.

It begins in suitably absurd 19th-century fashion: A mother dies in childbirth on the dark side of town, and her presumably dead offspring is hauled off to the local dump. Fate intervenes — as it does without fail over the next 500 pages — and the babe falls into the hands of the Good Lord Geoffroy Loveall, of Love Hall, a highly fragile eccentric in desperate need of an heir.

Despite telltale evidence to the contrary, Lord Loveall — who is in perpetual mourning for the sister he lost as a child — is convinced his new adoptee is a girl, and his hangers-on are too concerned for his mental state to tell him otherwise. In hopes of keeping up appearances, the family quickly arranges a marriage between the lord and his former governess, Anonyma Wood, who has her own reasons for supporting the lord’s illusions. A scholarly devotee of a mystical poet who believes that men and women were once united and had been split into different selves — ideas that are basically a hash of Ovid’s Metamorphoses and William Blake — Anonyma sees the child as a test case for her idea that male and female are mere social roles. Rose grows up as “my mother’s idea and my father’s *idée fixe*.”

Rose’s “Ovidyssey” begins pleasantly enough, as he has the run of the castle, wears the finest dresses in all of England, and couldn’t enjoy being a girl more if he were Sarah Jessica Parker. Of course, things change. Much as he loves dressing up like his friend Sarah, he yearns to play in the mud with her brother, Stephen.

Rose has always had suspicions about himself — “I had spent my whole life trying to forget something I didn’t even know,” he says — and the slow confirmation of his fears sends him spiraling into a maze of sexual confusion. This is only half the problem, as Rose’s real identity touches off a domestic reversal of fortune between the Lovealls and their parasitic relations. Rose is faced with the dilemma of every cross-dresser in literary history: He hates having to be who he’s not, but who is he?

It’s not a question he answers with much depth. Rose never really probes his psyche in ways that go beyond the ordinary or the expected. You don’t feel the same gradual electric surge of personal discovery that you do with Calliope Stephanides, the hermaphrodite hero of Jeffrey Eugenides’s *Middlesex*. But Stace, who has a degree in English literature from Cambridge, has terrific powers of invention — like Rose. He cooks up a good story and embroiders all the periodic details with great zest. There’s even a touch of Shakespeare to the family’s efforts to hold on to what they have, as scavenging relatives swoop in and gradually reduce them to nothing.

In great ballads such as “Duncan Gray” and “Dainty Davy,” Robert Burns told stories that had the scope of a novel. Stace’s novel began life as a ballad, and it retains the rich feel of one all the way through, thanks in no small part to his mischievous, sly, humane, sympathetic and captivating narrator. In his voice (her voice?), Stace finds his own.

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## Tour De Force Of Acting Brings Complex Life Of German Transvestite Alive In Stunning ‘Wife’

Robert Hurwitz,  
SF Chronicle Theater Critic

If a story seems too good to be true, it probably is. But that doesn’t mean it isn’t a very good story. That, to some degree, is the gist of Doug Wright’s Pulitzer- and Tony-winning “I Am My Own Wife,” which opened Wednesday in the Best of Broadway series at the Curran Theatre. The ways in which Wright and his collaborators depict and explore the confusing clutter of real life and the elusiveness of certainty are what transform a good story — about a real but improbably heroic German who maintained his transvestite identity in the face of Nazi and Communist repression — into theatrical glory.



A stunningly protean performance by Jefferson Mays embodies the theme and its drama as well as its central character — and almost three dozen others. Mays indelibly portrays not only the curious charm of the aging Charlotte von Mahlsdorf but also the playwright’s descent from awed affection to troubling doubt after learning that his gay role-model antiques collector had been an informer for the East German secret police (the notorious Stasi). Moisés Kaufman’s penetrating direction and the illuminating design work of Derek McLane (set) and David Lander (lights) are equally essential to the play’s success.

Kaufman, of Tectonic Theater fame (“The Laramie Project,” “Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde”), and Mays played key roles in the script’s development, from its initial creation at the Sundance Theatre Lab through various workshops to its 2003 opening at New York’s Playwrights Horizons. “Wife” moved to Broadway, where it earned Tonys for Wright and Mays. The same Delphi Productions (in association with Playwrights Horizons) version is now at the Curran, after brief runs in Chicago and Boston (Los Angeles is next).

The central concept the three collaborators developed at Sundance was to treat Charlotte’s life as she displayed her vast collection of late 19th century antiques in the old mansion she’d converted into a museum — as is, with all her contradictions and imperfections. “Wife” quickly became as much the story of Wright’s fascination and disenchantment as of Charlotte’s life.

The use of Mays to depict all the characters underscores the universal slipperiness of identity. Lander’s lights create continual transformations of McLane’s set — rendering a solid wall transparent or revealing hidden, towering floors of rooms crammed with furniture, to illustrate the illusory nature of reality, picking out specific objects to conjure a gallery of grandfather clocks or a flower garden of colorful phonograph horns.

Clad in a simple black dress and Charlotte’s trademark strand of pearls (costume by Janice Pytel), Mays shifts characters with breathtaking ease and simplicity as Mahlsdorf relates her story — sometimes slipping into another persona in mid-sentence or playing three people in one conversation. It’s the story of young Lothar Berfelde, born in 1928, who began wearing women’s clothes in his mid-teens with some encouragement from a lesbian aunt. Mays depicts the titillation of his first dress with breathless, transgressive sensuality, and a fatal battle with his Nazi father with a prosaic detachment that makes it compellingly immediate.

That patricide will become one of the “facts” called into question after Charlotte’s cooperation with the Stasi is revealed, as will her too-convenient story about a close friend she betrayed. Wright skillfully builds his tale so that minor details return to haunt the teller and a seemingly solid narrative becomes increasingly amorphous as more elements are added.

It’s a bit slow at first. For most of its first act, “Wife” is more intellectually intriguing than emotionally engaging. The skill with which the story is being told is more interesting than the content. It’s Kaufman’s inventive use of the design elements and Mays’ performance mastery, above all else, that keep the attention riveted to the stage. In a tour de force of vocal characterizations and accents, in German as well as English, Mays instantly inhabits fully formed cameos of everyone from SS officers and Hoosier soldiers to young girls and boys. He even differentiates between Charlotte’s live voice and the way it would sound on tape.

Once Charlotte’s story becomes less straightforward, and Wright grows more confused and conflicted, “Wife” begins to exert a more compelling dramatic force. Buffeted by doubts, regrets, obnoxious reporters and violent, homophobic skinheads, the Charlotte of reunified Germany seems both to come into clearer focus and fade into the shadows. As she does, she also appears more deeply, affectingly human.

She becomes the dramatic equivalent of her museum. “I did not refinish the pieces, no,” she tells Wright when he asks. “Nicks and cuts, stains, cracks, a missing balustrade, a broken spindle. These things, they are proof of its history. And so you must leave it.”

# TS YOUTH HAVEN PROVIDES SUPPORT

By Martha Irvine, AP National Writer / Queery.com

CHICAGO (AP) - It's another Wednesday night as a small group of regulars trickles into a youth center tucked on Chicago's north side. From the city and suburbs, they are an eclectic bunch - dressed in everything from jeans and T-shirts to pumps and sparkly dresses. Some are college students, full of hope for the future. Others are street kids, estranged from their families and finding it difficult to survive. What binds them together is the desire to be around people like themselves - those who are transsexual, androgynous or, as some describe it, "gender fluid."

"Groups in general, I'm not big on. But I meet good folks here," says David Fischer, a 20-year-old college student who recently began making the transition from female to male. He sports a suit jacket and a fedora, and has a blue mohawk. For him and others, these Wednesday nights are a chance to share information, sometimes a meal - and, at least for a few hours, to escape the judgment of the outside world.

"Gay kids have a veneer they can hide behind. They can blend if they want to. A lot of these kids don't have that veneer, so 24-7, they are bombarded with discrimination at home and on the street," says Dr. Rob Garofalo, a physician who specializes in adolescent medicine at Chicago's Children's Memorial Hospital. He helped create the youth center with assistance from other agencies, including the Howard Brown Health Center, a clinic for gay men, lesbians and transgendered people.

The Broadway Youth Center, which opened last fall to serve teens and young adults with a wide array of needs, is one of only a few places across the country with support services for those who are questioning their gender - something doctors say is happening at younger and younger ages.

Often, these young clients have strained or broken relationships with their families. And because it is much less common to be transsexual than lesbian or gay, finding peers who are going through the same thing can be difficult. "They are clearly, clearly more at risk than any other population we deal with," Garofalo says, noting that young transsexuals, more than others he treats, are more likely to be homeless or involved in prostitution as a means to make money to survive.

The pain of that life is apparent one evening as members of the youth group discuss a movie they've just watched. The film is called "Soldier's Girl" and is based on the true story of a U.S. serviceman who was brutally murdered by a fellow enlistee after he fell in love with a transsexual woman. The mood after the movie is somber. "At least the 'trans' person didn't die," one youth offers, quietly.

Still, it's not all bad for these young people who - beyond the chance to share such moments with an empathetic group - also are aware that they're living in a time of growing acceptance. Illinois, for instance, recently became one of a small but growing number of states to prohibit discrimination of transsexuals in such areas as employment and housing.

Today, more transgendered people who are 18 or older also have greater access to doctors who can prescribe hormones to help in the transition from one gender to another. This is an important development, Garofalo says, because many who can't get hormones legally buy them on the black market and take them without a doctor's supervision.

Even with that development, making a decision to transition - and to have expensive gender reassignment surgery - remains a daunting process. Many young people look to the counseling and medical services at places such as the youth center and Howard Brown to get them through it.

Jessi Uzel, a 23-year-old graduate student at DePaul University who attends the transgender group, recently started taking hormones, which she gets at the Howard Brown clinic at a reduced cost of about \$60 a month.

"Yes, our lives are tragic in many ways. But the idea is, it doesn't have to be tragic," says Uzel, who began her transition from male to female last summer and says she wouldn't have been able to do so without the emotional support and financial break she's received. "You can do hormones the right way, and just be able to live life."

Already, she has begun to grow breasts and her skin has started to soften. "It's very empowering," says Uzel, who's studying music composition. She wears a bandanna to cover a receding hairline, which she hopes will disappear as the hormones take effect. Eventually, she'd like to have gender reassignment surgery, though the cost is prohibitive right now, as it is for many members of the group. Insurance rarely covers such procedures.

When she was a teen growing up in small-town Iowa, people hardly uttered the word transsexual. So Uzel used the Internet to look up more information about transsexuality. And, at age 15, the boy then known as Josh made a revelation to his mother. "I want to be a girl," Josh said, later taking it back when he realized how upset his mother was. "She looked at me like I was something totally foreign," says Uzel, who was the "good son," the Eagle Scout who got good grades and college scholarships.

Uzel tried for four more years to fit in as male, only to come out again as transsexual at age 19. Last Christmas, after attending the support group for a few months, Uzel asked her family to start calling her Jessi.

Fischer, the 20-year-old college student who's transitioning from female to male, went through an extensive counseling process at Howard Brown before

receiving hormones. As a teen, Fischer - then known as Dai - tried like the other girls, wearing makeup and girls' clothes even when it didn't feel right to do so. "I didn't want to be a freak. I kind of thought I was - I didn't want to be," says Fischer, who initially dropped out of high school but is now studying photography and film at the College of DuPage, west of Chicago.

As a teen, Fischer started wearing men's deodorant and stole clothes from a brother to wear: "It made me feel a little more real, a little more who I was," he now says, explaining that after years of torment, he decided to transition from female to male last summer.

For him, it has made a huge difference. "Now I walk around and I look at the world and I feel happy," Fischer says over a meal at a cafe near the youth center. "I mean, I have problems, but I can deal with them. I don't feel like I have to separate myself. I feel like I have a future."

At the group, he and others discuss issues related to their gender transition - among them, the legal steps to changing one's name; how to tell family and friends; and dealing with the confusion changing genders can cause with a medical insurer and at work or school. One group member ran into problems when applying for college because his high school transcripts were still under the name he had when he was female.

Others, some of whom live on the street, talk about their struggles with drug use or how difficult it is to make it, day to day. "I vent and it feels good for people to listen. I wish more youth would come here. You don't have to be all glamorous to be here. There's not a lot of pressure to have the right clothes and the right look. You can just have a positive attitude," says a 25-year-old group regular who works as a prostitute and spoke on the condition of anonymity.

By day, he lives life as a man. But at night, "he" becomes "she," donning makeup and wig while working the clubs and streets of Chicago. "I don't have a plan for how it's going to work out," he says while sitting at a coffee house a few blocks from the hotel for the homeless where he lives. Remnants of clear polish remain on his nails from the night before.

One of the older members of the transgender group, he wishes the group had existed when he was younger, and being shifted from foster home to foster home. "If I'd had a group like this back then, then maybe things would have worked out better," he says, admitting that he often uses cocaine. "As it is, I think I'll probably die a tragic death. I think I'll probably overdose or something."

If they ask for it, the youth center staff puts group members and other youth in touch with counselors and agencies who can help with everything from family issues to substance abuse. The center also provides daily meals. And Garofalo, the doctor at Children's Memorial Hospital, runs a medical clinic on Friday evenings.

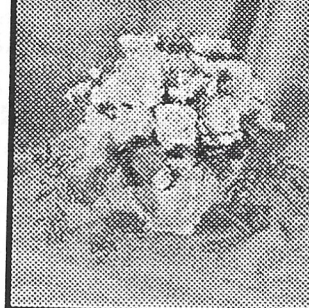
Given the wide range of backgrounds and needs, helping group members of the transgender support group feel comfortable is a big job for Casey Schwartz, a health educator who facilitates the Wednesday night gatherings. Schwartz himself began his transition from female to male at age 20, when he was a college student, and is now 24.

Each night as the group starts, he spells out a few rules. "What's said in the room stays in the room," he reminds group members. He also asks that they make no assumptions about what gender a person in the group might be. Switching pronouns - from "she" to "he" and vice versa - is one of the more obvious changes a transgendered person can make, but can also be the most difficult to achieve.

Even after four years of living his life as a man, and easily passing for male in public, Schwartz says his grandmother still has trouble remembering. "Sometimes she calls me 'it,'" he says. "But I know she loves me."

Experiences like those, he says, make having a group of peers, like the one at the Broadway Youth Center, that much more vital. "It's really, really important to have trans friends," Schwartz says. "It's so meaningful when you can meet somebody like you."

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# FROM LARRY TO LAUREN: AN IOWAN'S STORY

## First of Two Parts

*Gender identity disorders are rare, painful and invisible to all but a tiny part of Iowa's population. A Sioux City man denied his condition for decades, until medical science and the Internet helped him find peace - at a price.*

**By Jeff Eckhoff  
Register Staff Writer**

Walk backward through the shadows of Larry Jansen's 57 years, and you find a path dotted with the typical moments of Iowa life: Marriage. Children. More than two decades as parts manager for a Sioux City farm equipment company. Years of afternoons and evenings playing sports with his son. Walk further, and the road winds past two years of Vietnam-era Army service. See the trophies from dozens of hill-climbing motorcycle races. Note the Boy Scout badges, and the empty bottles that mark decades of quiet alcohol abuse.

Relatives cite these markers as proof that Jansen was a man's man. But to really understand Jansen's present, one must go back to the beginning, to a house in Anthon where a 10-year-old boy sits on the floor of his mother's walk-in closet. He is wearing her blouse, her skirt and a face full of tears.

It is the late 1950s. And it's here that Larry Jansen realizes he is supposed to be a girl. "I don't know if a person can really explain it," Jansen says, staring at nothing. "You just know that you're not who you should be. . . . I would do that and just sit there and cry and know it would never be me."

He tells no one over the next four decades, never shows the slightest hint of being different from his small-town friends. Instead, he buries his desire to wear pretty dresses, finds and marries a woman he loves, and tries, desperately, to be what everyone else considers normal.

For a while, it works. But eventually Jansen will watch his marriage implode and his career dissolve into a bitter federal lawsuit. "What finally triggered it, I can't say," Jansen says. "Just all of a sudden, Lauren said, 'I want out!'" Lauren had been hidden inside Larry Jansen since the 1950s - through Boy Scouts, military school, marriage and children. "Just all of a sudden, Lauren said, 'I want out!'"

His bosses at Murphy Tractor and Equipment Co. fire him in January 2004, after Jansen grows his hair long and sports earrings at work. He sues six months later. The company fights. The case drags on, and Jansen later describes the months that follow as the worst of his life. "I would not wish it on Adolf Hitler," he says.

The court case eventually is settled in private, but not before many of those closest to Larry Jansen simply walk away. Experts say Jansen's story illustrates the trials of the unknown number of people who grew up long before words like "transgender" and "transsexual" entered the vocabulary. People such as Jansen, long relegated to living in the closet, now use the information superhighway to learn of medical advances and find doctors and others to help.

Larry tried desperately for decades to be what everyone else considered normal. He is shown in a family photo taken about 10 years ago at an Old West photo studio.

The path is still far from easy. "If I hadn't transitioned," Jansen says simply, "I have no doubt I'd be dead now."

The technical name is "gender identity dysphoria," and it's listed in the textbooks as a psychiatric disorder. Nobody knows the causes - possibly some kind of hormone imbalance in the early development of a fetus's brain. The only thing experts agree upon is that being transgender, in most cases, means living a life of secrecy, solitude and self-loathing, plus facing an increased likelihood of depression and suicide. "People say it's a choice," said Jay Tyler, a 52-year-old woman-turned-man from Des Moines. "This is not a choice that anyone makes."

Doctors and therapists say gender-identity issues come in all shapes and degrees, from weekend, heterosexual cross-dressers to people who feel so disconnected from their bodies that they seek permanent change. "The typical scenario is that people try to conform," said Walter Bockting, a University of Minnesota psychologist and an editor for the International Journal of Transgenderism. "Almost everyone suppresses it."

Transsexuals - people who elect to have gender-altering surgery - are rare. Nearly all start out like Larry Jansen and try to ignore the deep-down feeling that they were put together wrong. "I think people have to develop a certain amount of ego strength before they can act on it," said Susan McIntyre, a sex-change therapist who leads a Des Moines support group. "They have to have a strong enough core to stand all of the stress and drama and pressure. My own opinion is that if you're truly transgender, then it's like a stone that's kind of rolling downhill, and you'll eventually have to deal with it."

Larry Jansen was between 8 and 10 years old when he first began to figure himself out. Born on a farm near Anthon, population 649, Jansen spent most of his childhood alone or with his three sisters. He was 10 when the family moved to town in 1957. "I knew there was something different, but at that age, it was kind of hard to understand," Jansen recalls. "I was always more comfortable being around my mother and the girls than I was with other guys."

Then, home alone one day after a sandlot baseball game, he went into his mother's closet. Standing there in a white peasant blouse with puffy sleeves, Jansen saw something in the mirror that felt more natural than his own skin. Of course, it wasn't natural, was it? People would laugh if they found out, just like he'd heard them laugh about the little boy in town who played with dolls. "I would just sit in a corner and bawl for hours and swear I'd never do it again," Jansen says. "But of course, I did."

He finally stopped, in his teens, through a combination of willpower and beer. Relatives recall no bad behavior. But Jansen says he turned to drinking and smoking after he realized that "it's more acceptable to be a drunk 10-year-old than to be a 10-year-old boy in a dress."

"Basically, it all comes down to you do what everybody expects of you," Jansen says. "I did the only thing I could do: I drank it into submission." He also threw himself into boyish behavior. The child who feared ridicule eventually became an Eagle Scout. In high school, he played football, despite his hatred for it. He once limped through three games with a blown-out knee just to prove he was tough. Jansen had few friends in school and seldom dated. He was awkward, afraid to talk too much. But chasing girls "is something you're supposed to do," Jansen says. "I did it."

He graduated from high school in 1965 and followed it with two years at a Missouri military school. Jansen intended to be a Marine officer and sought an appointment to Annapolis. But he dropped the idea once he realized he could never order young men to their deaths. The next two years were spent at Iowa State University. Graduation day in 1969 brought a degree in business administration - and a letter from the draft board.

Jansen spent his first year as an Army personnel clerk in Fort Polk, La., then finished as a liaison to some Bangkok engineers who designed communications installations. Jansen's job was to fly in and around the edges of the combat, check on construction projects and file a report. When his tour was up, he landed back in Anthon with a job in the parts department of Jansen Implement Co., a business his father founded.

He cared nothing about farming. But he stayed. And he drank. Fueled by the booze, Jansen bought a motorcycle and roared up hills during weekend races. At one point, he was the best Iowa hill climber in his class and was nationally ranked. With the beer, Jansen explains, "I could be that macho dude that everybody expected to see." Some, however, saw more than Jansen realized.

Jansen was living alone in Anthon when he awoke late one night to find a local man standing in his mobile home. The man, who was both married and gay, seemed to think Jansen would help him act out his homosexuality. Jansen, who never thought of himself as gay, pulled a gun and ordered the man to leave.

Other transgender Iowans stress that sex is a only a tiny part of the reason anyone decides to switch genders. Many of those interviewed for this article were married; some had children before they began the process. None cited sexual orientation as the chief motivation for leaving those lives behind. "I tell people that it's actually soul deep," said therapist McIntyre. Gender identity is "so deep that it's a core issue of who you are."

Indeed, most of the transgender people who agreed to discuss their lives mentioned sex drives that were either weak or absent. One, a suburban Des Moines man on the way to becoming a woman, has been in a sexless marriage for five years. Another, a 50-year-old who works as a man and lives largely as a woman, reports only one sexual partner in his lifetime - a woman he married.

Psychiatric textbooks say sexual orientation can be complicated for transgender people. Those born women generally are sexually attracted to women both before and after they start to live as men. Those born men may be attracted to women, men, both genders or neither.

Most take a long time to figure things out. "It's a full-time job trying to pretend that you're somebody you're not," said a Clive man-turning-woman who goes by the name of Amy Carlisle. "So, it's survival first. Get the manners and the social skills down and the plumbing taken care of first. And then, down the road, if something happens . . ."

It was a few years after the visitor in his mobile home that Larry Jansen started to date the nurse - a woman who now works with the elderly in western Iowa and agreed to discuss the relationship only if her name was not published. Jansen and the nurse had known each other since school in Anthon. But after graduation the young woman had settled down with someone else. By the late 1970s, that marriage fell apart.



Larry Jansen

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## INNER WOMAN EMERGES - PART I

Renowned doctor, haunted by mixed feelings, decides at 55 that it's time to change genders

By Danielle Deaver, JOURNAL REPORTER

She was alone for the first time since the surgery. She walked slowly into the kitchen and made some coffee. She carried her mug into the small, sheltered garden behind her room at the hotel in San Francisco, eased into a chair and looked around. She studied the flowers and the garden furniture and looked up at the ever-changing sky. That's when the thought occurred to Dr. Jamie Koufman. I've survived.

It hadn't felt like survival when she woke up in wrenching pain five days earlier after a 10-hour operation during which bones in her face had been intentionally broken and reset. The surgery had been the result of years of planning and hoping, but that didn't relieve the agony. It felt as if her fingernails were being pulled out - one by one.

The next day, Koufman could sit up. Her face was wrapped in bandages, and clear tubes drained blood into plastic catchalls next to her ears. Her face had been recast to look more feminine - a browline that didn't overhang, a more delicate nose, a jawline that was more rounded.

There was a steep price to be paid for Koufman's decision, at age 55, to challenge society's definition of gender by changing what many believe is a God-given aspect of a person's identity. Family members, especially her two youngest sons, were devastated that she would undergo a sex change. Friends and neighbors would watch each painful and often humiliating step.

Koufman, a world-renowned throat surgeon at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center, was also putting her professional reputation on the line. She would have to explain her sex change to the medical community in which she had worked for 25 years and to patients who must trust her enough to put their lives in her hands.

But Koufman had always been a survivor. She knew that many transsexuals either become the gender they believe themselves born to be or despair so deeply that they commit suicide. By becoming a woman, she felt, she had avoided plunging into the depths of hopelessness.

Her personality, shaped significantly by her struggle with her gender, was strong enough and selfish enough to make the 2 1/2-year journey from man to woman. "What is the famous quote - there's a point at which change must occur. The status quo is no longer tolerable. So I asked myself the question one day, and said, 'Given a choice, if you could have one or the other, which would you prefer - winning the Nobel Prize for your work or to live the rest of your life as a woman?'" Koufman said. "Even knowing that I was going to go from being a fairly good-looking older man to being essentially a middle-age woman, which is not as cool by societal standards, I didn't care. I just didn't care."

There were more operations to come after the June 2003 facial work - she still had her male genitals, for example - and she knew that she also was yet to endure dealing with other people's reactions. But at that moment in the hotel, as she stared at the sky and the flowers, a feeling of peace flowed through her. She was a woman, with a woman's face. "I think there was a profound change that occurred. The world stood still. It was a very spiritual experience," she said. She had survived.

### Golden Child

Koufman can't remember an exact time or place when she first consciously thought of herself as a girl. She remembers little things - walking repeatedly into the girls' bathroom at preschool, making friends with girls rather than boys, wanting to play tea party instead of war. Most of all, the golden-haired boy, the long-awaited and only child in a large extended family whose members socialized with the Kennedys in Boston, liked to pretend that he was a girl.

Not that he told anyone, of course. It was his little secret with the mirror. Behind closed doors, he could change his body to match the picture in his mind. Jamie (his nickname as a boy) Koufman could become a girl. "By age 7, I was wearing my mother's clothes. Her car wouldn't be at the end of the driveway before I had on a pair of her hose and heels. I didn't understand any of this."

Things got worse as Koufman got older. "Adolescence is a very painful time for transsexuals because when your body starts to change, it's all the wrong stuff, it's not the stuff you want. Gee, my legs are less smooth, I'm growing a beard, I have all this stuff that I don't want. (There is) a lot of depression for transsexuals during adolescence."

But Koufman showed no signs of depression and doubt. He was smart and strong-willed, hyper and, above all, artful. He knew what he needed to do. He would try to change his desires to match how he looked. "Around the time of my father's death I said, 'Enough, I'm not going to survive this way. I have to butch it up.' And I did.... I played football in high school, and so I did the best I could."

Koufman was convincing enough to date the head cheerleader at his school, all the while wishing that he was the one with the pompons and the cute short skirt. He also continued to be sexually interested in other men. As a first-year student at Boston University School of Medicine, Koufman got married, not even struggling with the decision. "Transsexuals who don't know they're transsexuals, even those that get into therapy, believe that if they throw away all their women's clothes and live a normal life that they can do it and it will all go away," Koufman said. "I wanted to be good, I wanted to have a normal life, I wanted to have



children." The Koufmans had two sons. And Koufman continued to secretly dress in women's clothes and to seek out other men.

### Surgeon Of Note

Koufman had grown up planning to be a lawyer like his father, Joseph. But his father died when Koufman was 16, and dealings with the father's law firm didn't go well. Disgusted with lawyers, Koufman decided to become a general surgeon, the profession of two uncles.

Medicine was not at first a calling, but it became so after Koufman found a field that was challenging and engaging - disorders of the voice and throat. "There was no real field of laryngology before 1978. It was just coming out of the Stone Age. We could hardly examine the larynx, except with a mirror, which was what we did 100 years ago," Koufman said.

After a stint as chief resident in a Boston hospital in 1978, Koufman found a job at what was then the Bowman Gray School of Medicine, where he became the fourth person in the country to get a CO2 laser, now one of the most versatile tools in throat surgery. Koufman was one of the first academic surgeons in the country who was a full-time laryngologist, and he was able to assemble a team of speech pathologists and experts from several other fields, such as neurology, endocrinology and gastroenterology.

Bowman Gray recognized Koufman's work by creating the Center for Voice and Swallowing Disorders of Wake Forest University. Koufman became the founder and director in 1987. During these early years, the gender and emotional problems that had plagued Koufman faded into the background. He was simply a scientist focused on his research and clinical practice, discovering the extent to which acid reflux can damage a voice and throat and possibly even contribute to cancer of the larynx.

Koufman developed many procedures that helped people who had never been able to speak, and he moved up quickly through the ranks at medical school, from instructor in surgery to assistant professor in one year, and to full professor in 1994. In 1986, his personal life took a turn. His marriage to his first wife ended in divorce. A year later, he married a woman who he believed was his soul mate.

### Personal Torment

Marsha Leonard and Koufman met when she interviewed for a job in his office, and the two eventually fell in love and married. "And it really wasn't a gender thing. I was faithful to her," Koufman said. "I was absolutely in every way faithful to her. My vows meant something."

They lived in a house in West End after their marriage and created a combined family with her two sons and his two sons. For almost 10 years, that seemed enough. But Koufman was still tormented by the desires that he had had since childhood to cross-dress, and it affected his relationship with Marsha, who declined to be interviewed for this story. "I liked her, I cherished her as a friend and a co-parent, as a gentle, kind, good soul... We weren't having good intimate relations because I was identifying with her. I couldn't help it. I went through therapy, I went through counseling. I went through all of it."

Koufman became convinced that he was gay. He told Marsha that and left her in 1997. She began going to gay bars, dressed in women's clothing. But something wasn't right. The reception wasn't what Koufman expected. "Once I decided I was a gay guy and went out and tried the gay world, I was promptly rejected by most men I dated, as, 'Stop shaving your legs, and, no, you can't wear that to the party; it looks like a dress. If I wanted to be with a woman, I wouldn't be gay, now would I?' I didn't fit into the gay world." Things had been easier when he was a beautiful young man looking for men - then he had a "stop-traffic look for other men."

Some friends thought that Koufman might be transsexual. He couldn't explain how he felt. "I used to protest that I don't really want to be a girl; I just like to be girlie sometimes. I had friends who said I was transsexual. I

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said 'no,' because I wasn't prepared to deal with the consequences of that," Koufman said.

It was an emotional infrastructure that he had spent years building up - a defense system to make himself believe that he wasn't - that he couldn't be - a woman in a man's body. But the system was slowly breaking down. Koufman began researching transsexualism on the Internet, found a local support group, the Triad Gender Association, and started seeing psychologists who specialize in transgender issues. "The final question was, 'Is there any question in your mind that I'm transsexual?' And they would say 'No, you're transsexual.' There's so many familiar refrains."

Still, Koufman had to be sure. He started to branch out, going to meetings around the country, and spending those weekends away as a woman.

He would take only women's clothing, to see how it felt. He liked it. In the summer of 2002, after a long struggle, Koufman decided to become a woman. Acting as his own physician, he put himself on estrogen and started researching how to proceed. Koufman also discovered some intriguing research about the origins of transsexuals.

### Finding An Explanation

The basis of transsexuals - whether it's psychological or biological - is still being debated. The American Psychiatric Association uses the term gender identity disorder to describe transsexuals. It estimates that one in 100,000 women and one in 30,000 men seek sex-reassignment surgery - an estimate that transsexual activists say is too low.

Koufman believes strongly in a biological explanation. He began researching that issue after attending a meeting of the Triad Gender Association in December 2002. A doctor - Koufman doesn't remember his or her name - came to speak about transsexuals and casually mentioned the connection that some people were beginning to believe existed between transsexualism and DES.

DES, or diethylstilbestrol, was a powerful estrogen prescribed from 1948 to 1971 for 5 million to 10 million pregnant women who were at risk of miscarrying. Supporters of the theory linking DES and transgenderism believe that the estrogen caused changes in the developing brains of some male fetuses.

Koufman's mother had multiple miscarriages before she carried Koufman to term. Though unable to get her medical records, Koufman said it appeared likely that Beverly Koufman had taken DES during the pregnancy, given that she was wealthy and able to receive the presumed best treatment of her day.

While doing research, Koufman also discovered a Dutch study described in the November 1995 issue of the journal *Nature*. Researchers had examined the brains of six male-to-female transsexuals after their deaths. Researchers looked at an area in the hypothalamus called the central division of the bed nucleus of the stria terminalis. The researchers found that in the transsexuals, the area was smaller and darker than the area in nontranssexual men, including homosexual men. In fact, the area looked like the bed nucleus typically found in the brain of a woman.

It was just one study in a profession that does not give credence to anything until it has been duplicated a number of times, but it caught people's eyes. Koufman first saw the study in 2002. The article caused a stir not just among transsexuals but in the mainstream media. The *Washington Post* and *Time* magazine ran stories about the study with headlines such as "Science: Trapped in the body of a man?"

"I saw this and thought, wait a minute, there's a lot of people whose stories are like mine, and there's a biologic basis for this. There really is. That was a huge eye-opener," Koufman said. "I began to listen to the stories of other people, and I said to myself, 'I lied to myself my whole life.' I didn't know what to say, and I guess I can't be faulted for the lie, but I guess it's better late than never," Koufman said. "I think people seem to talk down the biologic basis of who we are, what's in our genes, what's in our brain chemistry. And so on. But for us, it's a biologic drive. It's not easily overcome. It's not overcome at all."

### Journey Of Change

By December 2002, Koufman had put together what she now calls "a transition road map." "I decided each step, how to do it and when, but more importantly, before that time I began to talk to people in my family. My friends, and family. And at work, and if there's one thing I have to say, it's that I think I was a good communicator starting early on," Koufman said.

She gave people information about transsexuals so that they would understand the condition. Many still didn't. "The decision to transition wasn't made in a vacuum. I had to discuss it with my colleagues, my family. My wife was horrified." After he made the decision, Koufman told the children.

### Colleagues Were Surprised

"Dr. Koufman talked to the staff before, to go into all the other details.

Continued from Page 19



Lauren Today

Jansen was different. He wooed her, and they fell in love. By then, he was in Sioux City. His father had sold the family business in 1973 in the wake of a divorce from Jansen's mother. Jansen worked for the new owners for a while, then tried his own lawn and garden center in Spirit Lake. None of it worked out, so he landed in the parts department of Murphy Tractor and Equipment Co., where he would stay for nearly 25 years.

He married the nurse in 1982. Jansen, then 35, went into wedded life wholeheartedly, convinced that his new wife would cure whatever it was that was wrong with him. "I knew who I was, but I was not going to allow that to happen," says Jansen, who quit drinking after his son was born in 1985.

He was focused. He was happy. There were three kids now, counting offspring from the nurse's previous marriage. There were bills to pay and a future to plan. "With all that, it was very easy to shift Lauren into the background," Jansen says, using the first name he ultimately adopted. "There were a lot of responsibilities and needs that were more important than mine."

But in the late 1990s, Lauren came back. Late one night, Jansen found himself in the basement of his Sioux City home playing computer solitaire while wearing an elderly relative's skirt and blouse that he had fished out of storage. He bought another outfit or two. He moved from solitaire to the Internet, and he learned for the first time what this thing inside him was called. The floodgates opened. "What happened was I just typed in 'transgendered' one night," Jansen says. "To find groups and people that are dealing with the same thing as me. . . . I'd never imagined that I wasn't alone."

He kept it a secret for nearly two more years. He hid his clothes during the day but slipped downstairs more and more often in the middle of the night. Eventually, he began to make trips home over the lunch hour just to try on an outfit and smile at the mirror. It made Jansen feel better. And nobody ever suspected.

Until Jansen's wife came home from work one day. "He was stuffing something in a duffel bag and acting kind of funny," she recalls. "So when he left, I went into the duffel bag."

*Part Two of this story will continue in next month's Channel.*

When he was a him, he sat down with us and told us he had been having a lot of conflicts in his life, and he had talked to Marsha, and he said he felt he was trapped in a man's body," said Janet Fox, the patient-care team manager for the otolaryngology operating room. "He was very upfront with us and asked if we had a problem with it. . . . He just wanted to know what our feelings were about it. Dr. Koufman was a gorgeous man, and we had trouble picturing him as a woman."

Koufman forged ahead, deciding which surgeries to have, when and where to have them done. The road map included decisions about when to tell people and how to tell patients - if he stayed at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center. "I could have retired. I could have gone away," Koufman said. "But I couldn't do that. I couldn't do that for two reasons. I didn't want to abandon my patients; I didn't want to abandon my work. And I started the voice center. I wanted to finish what I started."

He had several surgical options. Some transsexuals decide to do the work that will allow them to look like their new gender, but don't have the surgery to change their genitals. Others do it the opposite way, having the genital-reassignment surgery but not the painful and expensive facial surgery. Koufman ultimately decided to have every available procedure done - facial feminization, electrolysis, genital-reassignment surgery - a process that ultimately would cost about \$100,000 and result in physical pain.

Koufman said she felt that it would be worth it. "It was an easy decision. I didn't want to look like a man in a dress. I didn't want to look masculine," Koufman said. It meant starting out with the facial-feminization surgery, which carried the possibility of complications to the sinuses, nasal areas and eyes in addition to the overall complications that can result from major surgery.

As the date of the surgery in San Francisco approached, Koufman became nervous. When he returned, it would be as a woman, and the world would know it. But what would happen to the brash, demanding man who had existed for 55 years?

*Part Two of this story will continue in next month's Channel.*

## LEFT HANGING - PART 1

### Why The First Gwen Araujo Jury Couldn't Convict The Defendants. And Why It Could Happen Again.

By Brian Kluepfel, Juror  
East Bay Express.com

The three defendants were scared shitless as we entered the jury box one final time. The next few minutes would determine the course of the rest of their lives. Defendant Mike Magidson, an unhealthy pale throughout the entire trial, was blinking nonstop and practically translucent with fear. No one had any idea what our foreman was going to announce. What he said, basically, was, Judge, we're finished.

It had come to loggerheads back in the jury room. "Let's face it, we're stuck," said one juror, a Fremont schoolteacher, her arms folded in frustration. "We're just sawing sawdust here," said another, a Hayward retiree and big NASCAR fan. The foreman sent a note to Judge Harry Sheppard, who brought us out into the jury box and polled us individually.

"Do you think any more debate would produce a verdict?" he asked me. "No," I replied, glumly shaking my head. And as the people in the courtroom eyed us for a glimmer of hope, most of us jurors gave the same succinct answer.

It's a crappy feeling to be unable to deliver a verdict in one of the country's highest-profile murder cases. But after nine days of debate, we on the jury had that feeling. I was juror eleven in the Eddie "Gwen" Araujo trial — known throughout the country as the "transgender murder case." Along with eleven other citizens of Alameda County, plus four alternates who stayed until deliberation, I listened to two months' worth of testimony — some of it chilling details of a violent and tragic death, some modern psychobabble, and some, in the opinion of us jurors, outright lies.

After more than sixty days — from April 14 to June 21 — we couldn't reach a verdict. We had asked for certain testimony to be reread. We had asked for clarifications of legalese. Nothing seemed to solve our quandary.

On the eighth day of deliberations, we told Judge Sheppard we were stuck. He sent us back to keep trying, but one day later he agreed that we were "hopelessly deadlocked" and declared a mistrial. The kindly, bespectacled judge — who always made a point of thanking us before dismissing us on weekends — thanked us one last time, and then dismissed us for good.

There were gasps and sobs in the courtroom. The family of the victim and a variety of interested onlookers couldn't believe we were unable to convict Magidson, Jason Cazares, and Jose Merel. The defense and prosecution just looked grim — they'd share their feelings soon enough.

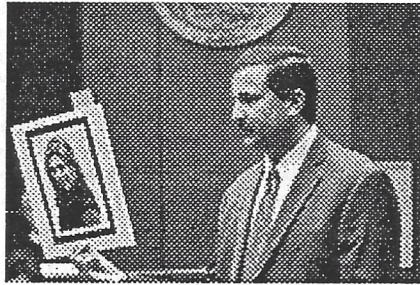
Someone hurried us out of the room to shield us from the press and the protesters — gay, lesbian, and transgender activists, and wacko fundamentalists from Kansas. Deputy District Attorney Chris Lamiero briefly questioned us. He concluded that we all believed the defendants were guilty of some degree of murder, and told us he would seek a retrial on first-degree murder charges. I was surprised at how quickly he had come to that decision.

Then an officer of the court led us out a back way, down a labyrinthine passage that looked as if it was used only for air-raid drills. I entertained thoughts of walking out front and facing the cameras, but figured the media would just take a sound bite and make me look stupid. There were already enough other people who wanted to do that.

The protests had occurred intermittently throughout the trial. The gay and lesbian community hated the defense's "gay panic" strategy, and the Reverend Fred Phelps and his Westboro Baptist Church of Topeka, Kansas — the folks who brought you [www.godhatesfags.com](http://www.godhatesfags.com) — wanted us to know that Gwen's lifestyle was sinful. I didn't need to hear from either side.

But the political winds blowing around this case made a lot of people feel compelled to mouth off, and we received the brunt of their criticism. I felt pissed off and attacked from all sides. As a citizen of Alameda County, I'm proud to have done my jury service and not ducked it, like the dozens of people I watched slipping and sliding during jury selection — the cowards of democracy. I speak for myself, and don't pretend to speak for the other jurors, but I think we did a pretty good job of sorting through it all. You certainly wouldn't come to that conclusion based on the response to our efforts.

"We are strongly disappointed and saddened that Gwen, her family, her friends and the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community won't get fair and swift justice," opined president Cheryl Jacques of the Human Rights Campaign in a press release. Funny, but I couldn't remember anything in our jury instructions about the need to provide swift justice for the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community. And ignoring the redundancy of the phrase "fair justice," how did Jacques know it wouldn't yet be done?



Prosecutor Chris Lamiero with a photo of "Gwen" Araujo. Photo: Anda Chu, Oakland Tribune

"What happened today wasn't just a mistrial," San Francisco Supervisor Tom Ammiano told the San Francisco Chronicle. "It was a miscarriage of justice. I am a homosexual who is in a panic, and I want justice for Gwen." I like Ammiano, but he should have listened to the evidence before running his mouth.

After it was all over, one of my workmates sent me the stupidest and most thoughtless e-mail: "Well, they got away with it for now." The office errand boy was even blunter, dismissing the process as a "waste of time and money." Another friend wrote to me later in the day, "Can you believe they're protesting your verdict in the Castro?"

"Protesting what verdict?" I thought. "It was a mistrial."

In fact, no one got away with anything. The three men charged with killing Gwen Araujo are about to have another trial, and the same questions will be debated: Who killed Gwen, how, and why? And, perhaps most important given our outcome, was this heinous crime truly first-degree murder?

One fellow juror, whom I'll call C, wrote me recently that he too felt slammed by the post-trial criticism: "I was personally offended by ... spokespersons for the gay/lesbian/transgender society [claiming] that there was some bias or sympathy for the heterosexual defendants."

The defense let us have it too. J. Tony Serra, speaking to the San Jose Mercury News, said his client Cazares "was cheated out of a nonguilty verdict." He told the Chronicle, "One or two jurors did not deliberate like rational human beings." In the same newspaper, Magidson's lawyer, Michael Thorman, said he couldn't believe that "seven people apparently concluded that Mike was the one who put the rope around her neck."

Gwen's mother, Sylvia Guerrero, couldn't understand why we were unable to bring her child's killers to justice. "Murder is murder," she said in Rolling Stone.

Ah, but you see: It's not that simple. We couldn't reach a verdict because, in most of the jury's opinion, the prosecution overstated the case for first-degree murder. The district attorney's office set us up to deadlock by pursuing charges it could not prove beyond a reasonable doubt.

Prosecutors may have felt politically compelled to seek the most severe punishment possible. Vigils were held across the country to demand justice for Gwen and other transgender victims of murder. In San Francisco, after the trial ended, Ammiano even presented a resolution asking his fellow San Francisco supervisors to "join him in urging the Alameda County district attorney to retry the Gwen Araujo murder case and seek to limit the three defendants' use of a trans-panic defense," according to the Chronicle.

But the problem with pursuing first-degree murder was selling those charges in court. Juries are directed to consider the most serious charge first, and until we reached unanimity on that, we couldn't move on. It said so right in our jury instructions:

*If you are unable to reach a unanimous verdict as to the charges of first-degree murder, do not sign any verdict forms, and report your disagreement to the court. The court cannot accept a verdict of guilty of second-degree murder unless the jury also unanimously finds and returns a signed verdict form of not guilty as to murder of the first degree. CALJIC 8.75*

What happened in the jury room during nine days of often-intense debate was a reasonable disagreement among intelligent people. Our time together consisted of a series of arguments and votes. Since each of the three defendants was accused individually, we voted several times on each of the charges. The closest we came to convicting anyone was with Magidson, with eight jurors at one point favoring first-degree murder, and four opposing it. In the end, that vote was seven-five. Meanwhile, voting on the other two defendants started off at one vote for first-degree murder and eleven votes against it. And even though the final votes were two to ten, just one changed vote would have let us consider murder two. We certainly would have convicted all three defendants of that (per our instructions, we had the discretion to discuss the merits of the other charges, and did so).

In the end, out of 36 possible votes for first-degree murder, the prosecutor got only eleven. That ain't bad if you're batting second for the Oakland A's, but if you're a prosecutor, you might want to reconsider the credibility of your star witness — who was originally an accomplice, charged with the same crime as the three defendants.

In the retrial that [recently] began, prosecutors once again intend to seek first-degree murder charges. Given the outcome of the first trial, I wonder why.

We in the jury referred to the victim as Lida. While Lamiero initially called her Eddie, his first witness said that from about age fourteen on, Eddie became "Gwen," and that's what her family called her. But to the four guys who hung out on St. Andrew's Terrace in Fremont, Gwen had yet another name: She presented herself as "Lida." That's what nearly all the witnesses in the trial called her, and so did we of the jury.

Continued on Page 23

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Defendants Jose Merel & Mike Magidson.  
Photo: Anda Chu, Oakland Tribune

The basics of the case were laid out by Lamiero in opening arguments. Four pals around age twenty who liked to hang out, smoke dope, and drink beer together — Jason Cazares, Mike Magidson, Jose Merel, and Jaron Nabors — met a girl named Lida one night in the summer of 2002 on a beer run. Lida was up for partying, and came back to the house with them. Over the next few months, she was a regular — smoking pot,

drinking, and flirting. She had sex with at least two of them, as well as another roommate at the house, Jose's brother, Paul.

Questions about Lida's gender soon emerged. She insisted on anal sex with both Magidson and Jose Merel, saying that she was on her period, but since the interludes were only two weeks apart, that didn't add up. She also packed a pretty powerful punch when she backhanded one of the other trial witnesses in a household spat, according to several witnesses. And her voice was a bit on the masculine side — "scratchy," one of them recalled.

Nabors said the four guys discussed the issue of Lida's gender. In the early hours of October 4, after consuming a few tequilas and beers at a local joint, they came home and decided to find out for sure whether she was anatomically female or male. When they discovered Lida was the latter, Nabors said, a nasty beating escalated into murder. Jose hit Lida on the head with a soup can and then a skillet. Finally, the coup de grâce was administered with a length of rope in the garage. After borrowing Nabors' knife to cut the rope, the defendants choked the life out of her. A coroner testified that either the head trauma or the asphyxiation could have caused death, meaning that either act could be considered as contributing to death ("There may be more than one cause of death," the jury instructions said).

The defendants covered their tracks, Lamiero said. They fetched shovels, wrapped Lida's body in canvas, and drove to the mountains, burying her in El Dorado National Forest as the sun rose. No one was going to say a thing, but Nabors couldn't keep quiet. Smoking a joint with one of his buddies just a day or two later, he told all. That friend went to the police, and shortly thereafter, Nabors, Magidson, Jose Merel, and eventually Cazares were charged with Araujo's death.

Lamiero said the three defendants had intended to kill Lida. They had discussed the issue weeks before, and decided that "the wages of Eddie Araujo's sins were death." They did this, he said, because they decided "that's what a REAL HEAVY BAD DUDE would do." Coupled with the photos of Lida's corpse, his presentation was damning. Those photos — showing a bashed-in skull, rope marks on the neck, a body bundled in canvas and wrapped in rope — kept me awake a few nights and will be with me for the rest of my life.

## Everybody's Got Something to Hide

The defense, of course, had a different story. These young men had been sexually deceived. Their lawyers said this was a case so far out for all of the defendants that they simply freaked out. Jose Merel, according to his brother Manny, was "crying and upset" when it was revealed that Lida was male. Magidson, Cazares said, was "just zombied out."

No one admitted participating in the killing, but no one denied that it happened, either. Under the law, the burden of proof lay entirely with the prosecution. Neither Jose Merel nor Magidson took the stand. Admitting that a "tragedy" had taken place, the defense lawyers asked us to show understanding for their clients and not convict them of murder. I'm sure they would have settled for manslaughter.

The defense's best blows were landed by Serra, the well-known trial attorney who represented Cazares. To me, the silver-ponytailed jurist looked like a rarefied combination of country singer Charlie Rich and trial lawyer Johnnie Cochrane. He wore fancy suits and ties; his gold fillings gleamed as he punctuated talk of the law with references to Omar Khayyam, Eastern philosophy, Greek tragedy, and modern jurisprudence. (At one point, a testy Lamiero asked, "You got a question comin' at the end of that soliloquy?") Most of all, Serra blew holes in the testimony of the prosecution's star witness.

The first major witness for the prosecution was Nicole Brown, Paul Merel's girlfriend, who explained the origins of the altercation. Brown said she was jealous of Lida, apparently viewing her as competition for male attention. She said she discovered Lida's sexual identity in the wee hours of October 4 after Magidson sent her to the bathroom to talk to Lida. Other testimony showed her contributing to the evening's agitated state by walking out of the bathroom and shouting, "I can't believe it's a fucking man!" Nabors said Brown shouted, "I felt balls. It's a fucking man." Magidson's lawyer said Brown "poured gasoline on a smoldering fire."

It soon got hotter. Brown said she saw Magidson wrestle Lida to the ground — the first act of violence in a series that would lead to her death. Surrounded by the other young men, he "tussled her down to the ground," she said, and "pulled Lida's underpants aside."

But Brown could not testify about who committed the alleged crime because she said she and Paul left the house before Lida was killed. Paul was on probation at the time, and would have had to return behind bars if he were discovered at a new crime scene. Brown also admitted having at least a dozen and maybe as many as fifteen beers that night — so her powers of recall were dubious, to say the least. (One juror said later that Brown reminded him of the "This is your brain on drugs" television commercial.)

Serra had hammered away at the phrase "beyond a reasonable doubt." If you have a doubt, he said over and over, you must err on the side of the defendants. The problem with the prosecution's case was that nearly every witness it brought forward might have had some reason to be dishonest — either to avoid implicating themselves or out of loyalty to a relative. Or as W, a bearded religious scholar from Berkeley, put it: "Almost everyone who testified had a reason to lie."

## A Leopard and His Spots

The star witness turned out to be the biggest liar of all.

Nabors was new to the original group of three friends. Serra called him a "chameleon" who had showed a different face for every social situation, and suggested that Nabors' role as a helpful witness was yet another aspect of his ever-changing persona.

At least twice, Nabors fabricated stories of his exploits. He admitted lying to his girlfriend about being in a nonexistent "scrap" with the other defendants. And he admitted inventing a fantastical tale of kidnapping and beating some guys who had burned him in a robbery in San Diego. "My friend, you're a pathological liar," Serra insisted. "That's what I'm hearing."

Nabors went home with a big bruise on his forearm the morning of the killing — big enough for his girlfriend, Dolores "D.D." Ojeda, to remember remarking, "Oh my God, what happened to your arm?" when she saw him in the bathroom that day. In an initial interview with police, D.D., the mother of Nabors' son, said the bruise covered the "lower third" of his arm and was about six inches long. Nabors even predicted to D.D., "They are going to come at me about my elbow."

During the trial, under cross-examination, the bruise turned into a small, insignificant welt caused by an "old baseball injury" Nabors said was aggravated from wearing a sweatshirt that was too small, and being cramped in the cab of the pickup on the ride to the burial scene. Meanwhile, his former friends Cazares and Jose Merel snickered from the defense table. This was different from Jose Merel's demeanor during the rest of his former drinking buddy's testimony — his searing gaze could have melted glass.

There also were suggestions that Nabors had been sexually active with Lida. Serra introduced more doubt. Nabors certainly had been alone with Lida many times, hadn't he? He had taken mouth-to-mouth marijuana "power hits" from her in the garage, right? And wasn't his phone number found in her purse when her body was exhumed? One night, according to his own testimony, Nabors and Jose Merel had even run their hands over the semiconscious body of the drunken Lida in a bedroom of the house. Cazares testified that Nabors had told him "he got head and some ass" from Lida. Serra implied that many of the actions and words Nabors attributed to others were, in fact, his own.

"You will lie, you will squirm, you will make up stories, you will add self-authenticating detail to save your own skin ... isn't that fair?" he asked Nabors.

"That's fair," Nabors conceded.

"So you want us to believe that the tiger has lost its stripes, the leopard has lost its spots, that you're a reformed person?" Serra continued.

"Yes," Nabors answered.

Serra's questioning was peppered with so many accounts of Nabors having lied — to police, to his girlfriend, to friends — that we in the jury were indeed having a hard time believing anything he said. C, a 51-year-old mechanical engineer, wrote me recently: "It's still hard to this day to know what was true of his testimony, what was true with embellishments, and what were lies."

After all, when describing Lida's death, Nabors had told a different story every time. He gave two different statements to police detectives, and wrote a third account in a jailhouse letter to his girlfriend. We heard version number four. The most difficult thing about accepting his stories was his tendency to add what Serra called "authenticating detail" — taking a true story but adding something extra to make it more vivid. In the case of Lida's death, Nabors' details were the difference between first- and second-degree murder.

Part Two of this story will continue in next month's Channel.

# California Dreamin' 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.

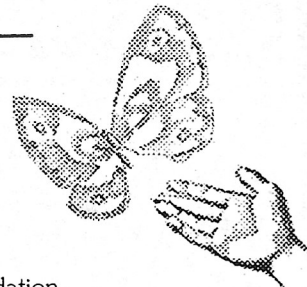


## Make Your Money Count!

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](http://www.horizonsfoundation.org)

Thank you!



## MOTHER OF SLAIN TRANSGENDER TEEN SPEAKS OUT

By Barry Shatzman, STAFF WRITER  
Oakland Tribune

SYLVIA GUERRERO, mother of Gwen Araujo, speaks Saturday at the Fremont Adult School during a training workshop on how to deal with transgender issues. (ANDA CHU - Staff)



FREMONT — Schools need to learn how to deal with sexual and gender identity issues, and then educate their staff and students, Sylvia Guerrero told participants of a workshop Saturday. The mother of murdered transgender teen Gwen Araujo was the featured speaker at the training session, held at the Fremont Adult School.

"(Gwen) didn't have many cheerleaders behind her. And where are kids at most of the time? School," Guerrero said of the hardships faced by teens who have to deal with issues of their own gender identity on top of those that simply come from being a teenager. "(It was difficult) for Gwen to just wake up every morning trying to be herself," she said.

Responding to a question by the father of a female-to-male transgender teen, Guerrero acknowledged that it was difficult for her initially to refer to Araujo as her daughter. She added, however, that parents' acceptance of their child's gender identification is what the child needs most. "You need to be on his team, because the people who are not on his team way outnumber him," she told the father.

"Transsexualism is not a lifestyle or a fetish. It is a life-threatening birth defect that requires medical intervention," said Cheryl Poniatowski, who is both a transgender and a parent. Poniatowski pointed to a study showing that the brain structure of male-to-female transsexuals was more similar to that of heterosexual females than to that of males — regardless of their sexuality.

Speakers at the workshop said that education regarding transgenders at schools is improving, but still has a long way to go.

Though state law requires that students be treated as the gender they identify themselves as being — not necessarily the gender they were born — many administrators are unfamiliar with how to handle a transgender student who tells them of their situation, said Belinda Dronkers-Laureta of the Committee to Assure Respect in Schools.

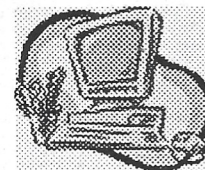
The Fremont Unified School District provided training for administrators in 1997. But, despite a 50 percent turnover in school administrators, there has been none since then, she said.

PAULA-JO HUSACK, MA, LMFT, CGP  
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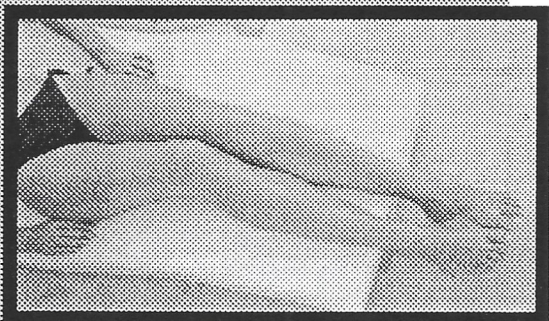
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