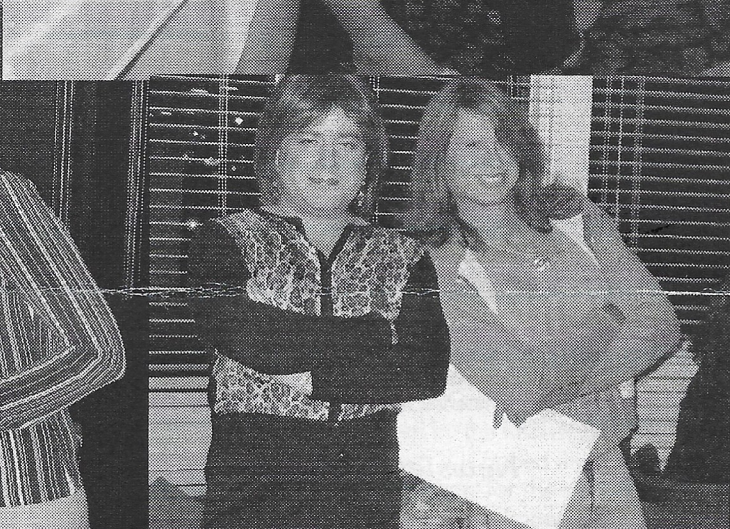
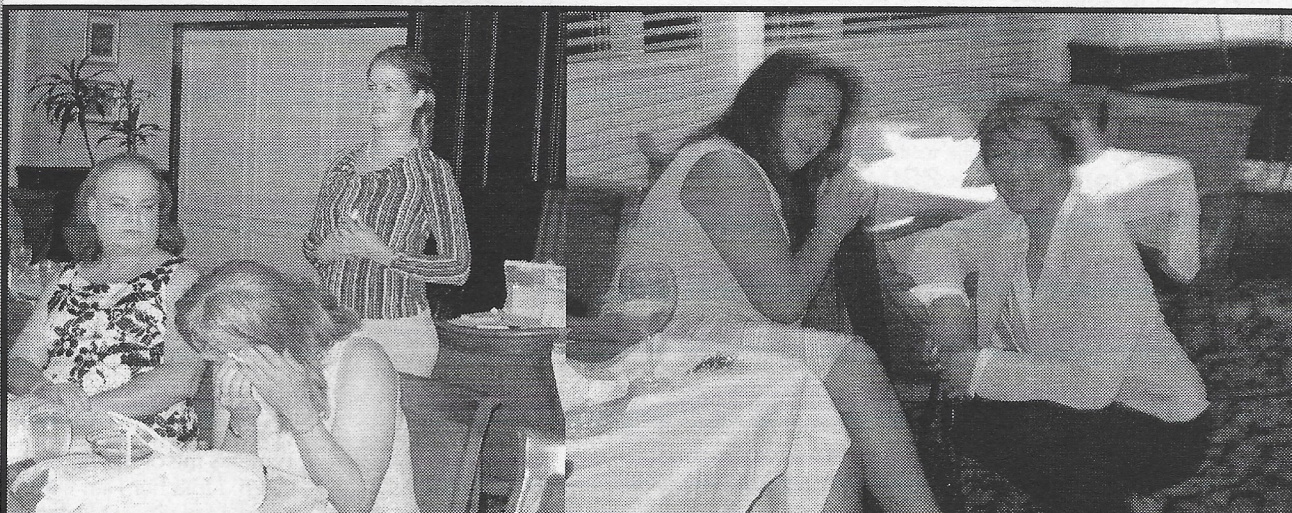
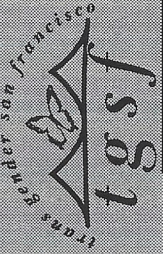
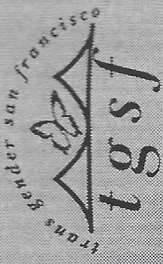


TGSF Social - Make a Friend!

The Channel



IN THIS ISSUE!

- From The Editor..... 2
- President's Report..... 3
- From The Secretary's Desk..... 3
- TGSF ExCom Meeting Minutes..... 4
- Why Am I a Tranny?..... 5
- TGSF Calendar..... 6-7
- TGSF Membership Application..... 7
- Fundraising Campaign..... 8
- TGSF Takin' Care of Biz..... 9
- Special Events & Announcements!..... 10-11
- Events Horizon..... 12-13
- T-News..... 14-15
- Doubt A Man's Masculinity
 - And He'll Get Macho..... 16
- On Transgender Inclusion..... 16
- The 14Words We Must Learn and Say..... 17
- The Fluidity Of Gender..... 18
- The Challenge Of The Transgendered:
 - Judeo-Christian Values, Part XIX..... 18
- Transgenders A 'Curiosity'..... 19
- NJ Transgender Teacher..... 20
- Go Figger: A Cultural Critic Dresses Up 20



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 Tommie Watson
 Katra Briel
 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.

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

Newsletter Staff

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

Ad Rates

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

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

WWW.TGSF.ORG
UPGRADED SITE! GET ONLINE!

Hotline & Voice Mail
415-564-3246

FROM THE EDITOR...

Whiz Kid?...Not Very Ladylike!



I think a lot of MTF tranz folk try to emulate GG's (genetic girls) as best they can. They discretely observe them in public places, and then try to put those observations into practice at home. Some overdo. Some don't do enough. Some try to dress and act their age. Others are obsessed with squeezing their adult frames into Bebe teen wear.

I, myself, won't use a product unless it's made for women. My razors, shaving gel, deodorant - all have to be the women's version (when the men's would do just as nicely, and are often less expensive). Even my socks of all things. I'll insist on buying women's socks, despite the fact that they barely fit my feet. Heaven forbid I should be caught dead wearing men's socks!

When out in public, it's *de rigeur* for MTF CD's to use the women's restroom, as if seeking validation for expressing their inner self. Yet time and again their feet are pointing in the wrong direction under the stall door. Why not just announce "cross dresser coming through!" before going in?

Whenever I see that, it reminds me of the time when my mom asked me how I "used" the ladies room. I told her I sat like any other girl - geez Mom! But she was satisfied and then reassuringly dropped the subject. It's sorta like the time - when I had yet to go fulltime - when one of my friends asked me, "do you wear panties?" And it's like, well duh! What kind of a girl do you think I am anyway?

But I'll be the first to admit there are times when it's handy to have a penis when nature calls. Gas station washrooms, for instance. The "Andy Gumps" you find at festivals. Or State Park pit toilets. Nasty places, full of unspeakable horrors and a myriad of life forms that love nothing better than to feed on human flesh. The seats are riddled with skin-pinching cracks and splinters, and usually soaking wet with something you cannot identify. There's sodden paper covering the floor and crammed in every corner. The smell alone will kill you if you're prone to dallying.

You enter one of these places and it's instant system overload...Oh My God - Eeuw! There is no way I am going to plop my tender white ass down in here! And instead of performing a precarious balancing act, it's far more convenient (shall we say) to stand and take it like a man, but I make absolutely certain that I'm alone and barricaded in. It'd be hugely incongruous for a gal to be caught astraddle the john with her butt facing the door.

Anyway, one develops the knack of shallowly breathing through your mouth while hastily doing your business. And if you're not wearing a skirt, it does take some skill at hitting the target and avoid dribbling on your clothes. Think about it...you're tucked away nicely, so the fly in your jeans is rendered useless, if not obsolete. You end up tugging your trousers down mid-thigh anyway so you can get at the equipment. It's a situation that damns you one way or the other. Sitting or standing, either way it's likely you're going to get wet.

And if you can find any dry tissue, use it. The old adage pubescent boys banded about when I was growing up is true: no matter how you shake and dance, the last few drops land on your pants.

NEW Process Group for PARTNERS ONLY of Transgender Individuals!

If you are in a relationship with someone who is Transgendered, there is a process group especially for you! This group offers safety and support under the facilitation of a psychotherapist with over ten years of experience working with TG's and their partners.

Contact: Nicole Katler, MFTI • 415.820.3952
 Supervised by Gina Borelli Moore MFC 35071

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by **Roxy
Carmichael-Hart**

Kickoff

As the summer winds to a conclusion, I have only one question for you. Are you ready for some football? I am. Yes, even though it is sweltering outside, summer is nearly over and it is time to get ready for the Cotillion.

By the time you read this, tickets should be on sale. We have made a lot of progress to date and our production team – Laura, Alli, Dawnne and I – have really worked to make things much more streamlined this year. Now that we know the venue and logistics, things are moving rapidly. Of course there are many roles for all to play. We need ushers, escorts, performers, stagehands and others. Of course we need contestants as well. Jenni, like Anne Louise before her, will be a difficult act to follow. Our official call for contestants is now open and we will take applications through the first Sunday in November. There will be a lot of work to do after that but this is an opportunity to represent your community. You can find details of “Cotillion 2006: Hooray for Hollywood” elsewhere in the Channel and on our website – www.tgsf.org. If you are interested in being involved, please write or call me and I will try to find something for you to do.

Of course before the Cotillion we will have our Halloween party on Saturday October 29 at Carla's. Make sure you save the date. Laura and Pam are working on that one and I know they will come up with a theme equal to last year's “Blair Witch Project”.

On September 21, several of us will attend the Transgender Law Center's fundraiser and awards presentation. We need to support this tremendous organization that is on the front lines fighting for our civil rights. One of the people being honored is Patricia Kevena Fili, whom you may remember from the Cotillion. I can't think of a more worthy honoree. I have always been impressed with her passion and dedication.

Speaking of PK, I want to thank her and the other 20 or so that attended my second birthday celebration on July 29. Originally it had been planned as a quiet dinner as part of the RGA fifth Friday dinner. But I was overwhelmed and touched by the turnout and the support I received. Arlynnne, Donald and PK, Carla and Erica, Laura and Pam, Bridget, Maria Binaca, NY Jennifer, Nya, Joe and Nori, Irene, Donna, Michele, Gelsey, Brenda, Darla, and I know I am forgetting some. By a quirky coincidence, Alli was at the same restaurant for a family event but dropped by to say hi. We focus a lot on floats and dresses and makeup but the real purpose of our organization should be support for one another and the friendships that we form. Thank you all so much. I will always remember that day as being very special to me.

Finally, my apologies to Ayme for making fun of the 500 word limit, which is just a guideline. I will try to stick to it.

It's going to be a great fall because I've got the Sunday ticket.

Roxy

PS – our reprint of GGA's “Is GGA Passé was acknowledged in their latest issue of Flipside.

PPS – Wave “Bye Bye to Summer” at our September 24 BBQ in San Mateo. See details elsewhere!



l-r Bridget, Roxy, Arlynnne, Maria, and Nya at Roxy's birthday party.

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

Lisa Rae Dummer

Last month we told you about a number of changes that are being made to the Channel in order to improve it for you. Roxy, Dawnne, Ayme and I met last month and came up with a number of guidelines for the Channel. Some of them were mentioned last month but it doesn't hurt to go over them again.

The first point is the confirmation that the Editor is independent of the ExCom and should not be a member of the ExCom. This will help protect the Editor's position as an independent voice for the members. It is recommended that the Editor attend as many ExCom meetings as possible so she (or he) will be aware of what the ExCom is trying to accomplish.

Secondly, submissions from members are more than welcome. While this has always been the case, most members are not aware that they may submit articles for publication. They should be between 500 and 800 words in length and may be submitted to the Secretary of TGSF or directly to the Editor if you are concerned about the ExCom knowing what you said. The only caveat is that articles which are inflammatory or derogatory towards any individual will not be printed. The Editor has the final say as to what will or will not be permitted. If you are submitting a photograph with your article, please provide a caption so that it may be easily identified if it is not possible to place the picture next to the article. Pictures should be in JPG format (I don't know what that means, either) with at least 800x600 resolution.

If you have an event that you wish included in the calendar of events for the month, you will need to send that to the Secretary for inclusion in the Channel and to Laura Marlowe for inclusion on the website.

A priority for including articles has been worked up. Articles from the ExCom will be given top priority, as they will be bringing you news about TGSF, what has happened and what will happen. Second are the Minutes of the previous month as this should also give you a good idea of what the ExCom is doing for you. The Calendar of Events is next, followed by the financial report, donations report and membership report. It is hoped that the membership report will include the new members for the month as well as those renewing their membership. As you know, TGSF makes it our policy not to publish a picture of you without your permission, excluding such public events as Pride, and the Folsom and Castro Street Fairs. If you do not wish your picture taken, please let the photographer know. We will try to make sure the photographer requests permission before taking pictures, but this is not always possible.

There will be more news from this side as it comes along. Please let us know what you want to see in the Channel. It is your newsletter, after all.

Electrologist * Skin Care Therapist

Marilyn Dahl

Inside Carla's

tel: 831-262-0480

124 Race Street

marilyndahl

San Jose, CA 95126

@sbcglobal.net

August 7, 2005

TGSF ExCom MEETING MINUTES

Attending – Roxy Carmichael-Hart, Dawnne Woodie, Pamela Gray, Laura Marlowe, Allison Laureano, Jennifer Kennedy, Lisa Dummer. Absent – Katra Briel, Jennifer Anderson, Tommi Watson

The Minutes of the July 10, 2005 meeting were approved

President's Report – Roxy Carmichael-Hart

The next event for Ms. TGSF will be the GAPA Runway on August 13, 2005. Jenni Kennedy will be attending. Possibly attending for TGSF will be Jennifer Anderson and Allison Laureano.

7 members of TGSF have expressed their desire to attend the fundraiser for the Transgender Law Center on Sept. 21, 2005. The price of admission will be \$75 apiece. This will be covered by the attending members.

The first act of the Cotillion script has been finished. We need a list of jobs that will need to be performed at the Cotillion, including bartenders, drink ticket sales, etc. Laura will prepare the list. GLAAD has expressed interest in supplying items for the silent Auction. One presentation bouquet of roses has been donated by a florist in the Castro. We will look for additional donations of roses. Applications for Mr. And Ms. TGSF will close on November 1, 2005. Anyone interested in running should contact Roxy.

Vice President's Report – Laura Marlowe

The membership committee met to discuss benefits for members of TGSF. We will be speaking to vendors about discounting services for members of TGSF. Vendors will receive discounted advertising in return. Also considered were discounts for TGSF events. We will need membership cards to verify membership. Business cards for members of the ExCom will also be provided. Alli will make the cards. A statement of purpose for TGSF was proposed to be posted in the Channel and on the website.

Material for the website should be submitted to Laura who will post it. We are working on online membership registration. A full time webmistress would be beneficial.

A yahoo group has been created for the ExCom. Each ExCom member will have an email address at tgsf.org. This address will be used on the website and in the Channel

Treasurer's Report – Pamela Gray

There is about \$3,200 in the account

All Channel advertising is to be submitted to Dawnne with the amount paid, the size of the ad and the length of time it is to run. Any member of TGSF is welcome to sell advertising as long as Dawnne is notified.

Secretary's Report – Lisa Dummer

The next profile will be Allison Laureano

The Channel subcommittee met and came up with a number of recommendations. The editor will be an independent person, not a member of the ExCom. It is recommended but not required that the Editor attend ExCom meetings whenever possible. ExCom member submissions will be through the Secretary. Members may submit articles or letters either through the Secretary or directly to the Editor. Material that is derogatory or inflammatory towards



any one individual will not be printed. Events should be submitted to Lisa for inclusion in the Channel and to Laura for the website.

Education Report – Dawnne Woodie

Supervisor Bevin Dufty will be speaking at the September end of month. The San Francisco Mayor's Office would like to speak at a meeting this Fall.

Jennifer Anderson has been working with the Diversity Center in Santa Cruz on joint programs for transgender persons.

Outreach – Allison Laureano and Jennifer Kennedy

Jenni is looking for a less expensive and better system for the hotline. Consideration of options was tabled until next month.

Alli and Dawnne attended the Human Rights Commission fundraising dinner. HRC is actively soliciting support from the transgender community. Alli and Dawnne have been invited to sit on the national steering committee.

Gender Enders has also solicited greater cooperation with TGSF as has SF Team. SF Team will be having a fundraiser at the LGBT Center on September 15th and has asked for TGSF support for it. The cost is \$15 and a number of our members will be attending. It will also be holding an Economic Development Faire with Macy's in December. TGSF will look to co-host the program.

We have an Outreach booth at the Folsom Street Fair on September 25th and the Castro Street Fair on October 2nd. We need to look at a revision of our insurance policy to specifically cover these events. Currently, each special event requires a policy rider.

Social -

The TGSF End of Summer barbeque will be held at San Mateo Central Park on September 24, 2005, from 11:00 to 5:00. This is the same location as last year. The fee will be \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members. You can join at the barbeque.

Old Business -

Discussion of a possible name change has been tabled until the next meeting

New Business -

We will look to doing a major fundraiser with Bevin Dufty.

Next Meeting – The next meeting of the ExCom will be held on **August 28, 2005** at 1:00 at the Cathedral Hill Hotel. It was moved up due to the Labor Day Weekend the following week.

The meeting was adjourned.

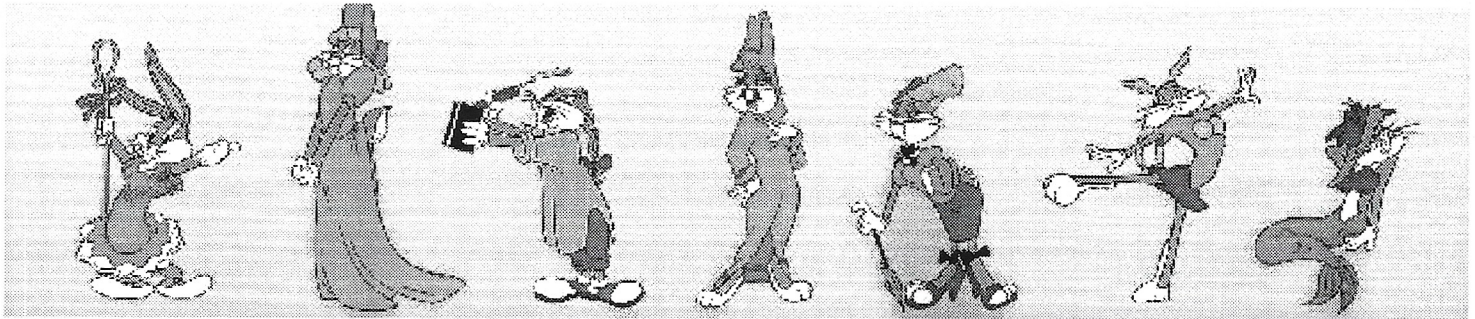
GenderQueer, Trans, & Gender Questioning Youth Group

Billy DeFrank LGBT Community Center
www.defrank.org

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

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

Thoughts On Crossdressing

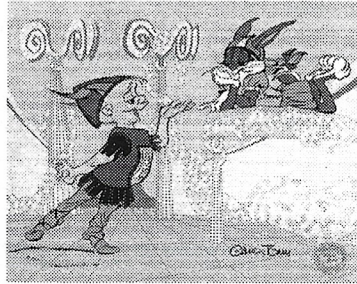


WHY AM I A TRANNY?

Bugs Made Me Do It!

My name is Jennifer A. and I am proud to be a cross dresser. One of the questions I am most often asked is why I do it. I never really had a good answer to that question until a couple of weeks ago when I attended a performance of the SF Symphony.

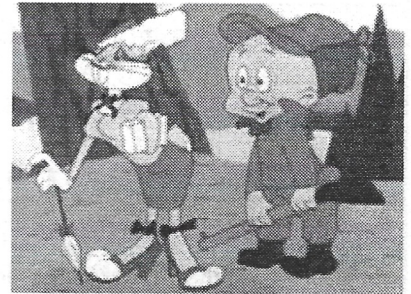
My answer now is – The Rabbit Made Me Do It!



What's Opera Doc? 1957

In many ways he shaped the way I am today. Now I have one more to add to the list – he knew how to dress up, pass in public and look fabulous!

I do have some lingering questions though. Where did he get the clothes? Where did he find cute shoes in the 1940's and 1950's that fit? Most importantly, how did he get those killer makeovers???



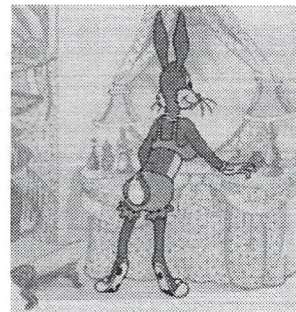
Rabbit Seasoning 1952



Long-Haired Hare 1949

You see, the symphony was playing behind feature length Bugs Bunny cartoons. And, it didn't take me long to notice that, in at least half of the cartoons, Bugs was cross-dressed in one way or another.

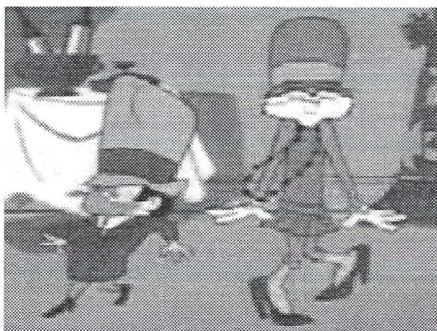
In fact, I later found out that Bugs cross-dressed, in some form, in over 35 cartoons! You go Bugs!



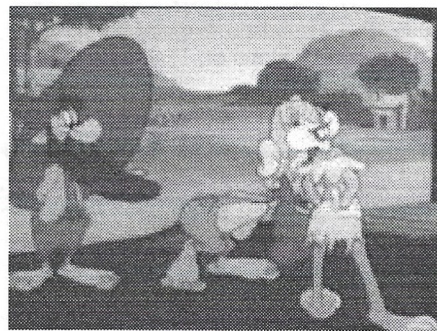
Wabbit Who Came to Supper 1942

There is a part of me that envies Bugs Bunny. He was never afraid to go out in public dressed, he almost always passed (at least initially) and he never provoked the kind of moral outrage we see today.

In fact, others were occasionally inspired to follow in his footsteps – Yosemite Sam and Elmer Fudd come to mind (didn't Elmer look happy in that wedding dress?)



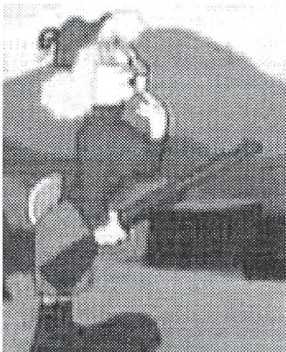
The Unmentionables 1963



Hillbilly Hare 1950

The reasons we do what we do are many and varied. We are as diverse in our community as we are in our country.

However, for me the answer is clear. I owe it all to Bugs. Thanks for my sense of humor and my fashion sense!



Rabbit Fire 1951



Southern Fried Rabbit 1953

Bugs Bunny was one of my heroes growing up. He always knew the right thing to say or do in any situation, he was always upbeat and he always had a wonderful sense of humor.

Saturday / September 3 / 4:00pm

DVG BBQ - III

The last two BBQ's have been great fun! Lots of food, the "Wacky Castaways Bar," a no-pressure/no-hassle atmosphere, and terrific views of Mt. Diablo. You (and a guest) 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 for yourself. Dance on the deck, smoke 'em if you've got 'em, and bring a suit and a towel if you want to use the hot tub. Volunteers for set-up and clean-up are needed. Call (925) 937-8432 to RSVP.

Wednesday / September 7 / 7:30pm

MID PENINSULA SUPPORT GROUP

Meets from 7:30 to 9:30 at the Full Circle Bookstore on the El Camino in Belmont. For information, contact Laura Patterson at laura@laurasoft.com

Saturday / September 17 / 6:00pm

CARLA'S MONTHLY DINNER

Carla's Monthly Dinner in September will be at the Hotel De Anza's La Pastaia restaurant on Saturday the 17th. Meet at 5:45 at Carla's to carpool, or be at the La Pastaia by 6:00. If you'd like to join Carla's girls at the La Pastaia, please RSVP to Carla at carla@carlas.com or (408) 298-6900.

Saturday / September 24 / 11:00am

TGSF END OF SUMMER PICNIC

Join your brothers and sisters at the TGSF End of Summer picnic, which will be held again this year in San Mateo's Central Park. It is located on El Camino between 5th and 9th Streets. The time is 11:00 to 5:00. Feel free to bring a dish to share.

Sunday / September 25

FOLSOM STREET FAIR

Thursday / September 29 / 7:00pm

TGSF END OF MONTH

The program will include San Francisco Supervisor Bevin Dufty. It will be held at the Cathedral Hill Hotel on 1101 Van Ness Avenue, at Geary.

Friday / September 30

RGA NIGHT AT THE BALLGAME

Join RGA in its annual excursion to SBC Park to watch the San Francisco Giants take on the Arizona Diamondbacks. We'll have a nice dinner at Momo's across the street at 5, then walk across the street to the game. Game time is 7:30 pm. Some of us will meet on Caltrain to ride together on the way up, so please call if interested. Because tickets must be purchased in advance, please RSVP by September 10. For more details, please contact Gelsey on the RGA Warmline at 408-984-4044 or write Roxy at roxy.carmichaelhart@tgsf.org

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.

September's Birthdays

9/02	Lauren Olsen
9/02	Angela Marie Acosta
9/03	Terry Terman
9/04	Selphie Dawn Keller
9/05	Betty Byrne
9/14	Jenny Lou Cotton
9/17	Mary Ellen Ratcliff
9/17	Richard Bonds
9/17	Michelle Gordon
9/17	Bobby Cheung
9/23	Francis Frinak
9/23	Linda Moran
9/25	Bobbi Smothers
9/26	Jacqueline Nugent
9/28	Mark Fries
9/30	Misty Ford
9/30	Jennifer Anderson

Happy Birthday To All!

Cosmetics Lingerie Shoes Nails Wigs Fem Fashions

Nails Wigs Lingerie

Cosmetics Shoes Nails Wigs Fem Fashions Lingerie Cosmetics



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 - September 2005

OTHER BAY AREA GROUPS

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

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@laurasoft.com.

Pacific Ctr for Human Growth (PacCtr)

A counseling oriented growth center sponsors all-inclusive gender support groups on every Friday at 8:00pm, 2712 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley. 510-548-8283.

Rainbow Gender Association (RGA)

Meets 1st and 3rd Friday of the month 8:00pm at the New Community of Faith Church, 6350 Rainbow Drive, San Jose. Mail: PO Box 700730, San Jose, CA 95170 or call 408-984-4044.

Sacramento Gender Association (SGA)

Blue Rose Chapter meets 8:00pm the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month in Sacramento. Write PO Box 162907, Sacramento, CA 95816 or call 916-364-7212 for meeting locations. Website: www.transgender.org/sga; email: sga@transgender.org

Santa Cruz Trans (SCT)

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

SCOUT (SCOUT)

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

Silicon Valley Gender Association (SVGA)

A new TG support group meets at the Billy De Frank Community Center in San Jose on the 2nd and 4th Friday of every month from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. For more information, call 408-293-2429.

TGIF

Social group for transgenders. Meets one Saturday each month at a private home in Santa Rosa for a potluck social from 4:00pm until early evening. Space is limited - Reservations Recommended! Call Diane or Anne at 707-544-1540.

T.R.A.N.S

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

TransVis-HWD

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

					1 7:00 PM DVG RCC	2 8:00 PM PacCtr 8:00 PM RGA	3 4:00 PM DVG BBQ-3!
4	5 7:00 PM PISSR General Meeting 8:00 PM DVG	6 7:00 PM SCT	7 2:00 PM T.R.A.N.S 7:00 PM I Love It Social 7:30 PM MPTG	8	9 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr	10 8:00 PM FWV 8:00 PM SGA	
11	12	13	14 2:00 PM T.R.A.N.S 7:00 PM I Love It Social	15 TG Legal Clinic	16 8:00 PM PacCtr 8:00 PM RGA	17 6:00 PM Carla's Monthly Dinner	
18	19 8:00 PM DVG	20 7:00 PM SCT	21 2:00 PM T.R.A.N.S 7:00 PM I Love It Social	22	23 7:00 PM SVGA 7:00 PM TransVis-HWD 8:00 PM PacCtr	24 11:00 AM TGSF End Of Summer BBQ! 8:00 PM FWV 8:00 PM SGA	
25 Folsom St. Fair!	26	27 7:30 PM SCOUT	28 2:00 PM T.R.A.N.S 7:00 PM I Love It Social	29 7:00 PM TGSF: EOM	30 8:00 PM PacCtr RGA Night @ Ballgame!		

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 August 20, 2005

Assets

Cash	4238.99
Decorations	1000.00
Beverages	200.00
Total	5438.99

Liabilities and Equity

Accounts Payable	0.00
Total	0.00

Statement of Income & Revenues

Income

Memberships	320.00
Advertising	375.00
Donations	185.00
Pride Volunteer Money	2069.00
Total	2949.00

Expenses

Channel	654.95
Phone	49.95
SF Pride Insurance	1558.06
Cotillion	175.41
AIDS Walk	100.00
Total	2538.37

Net Income 410.63

TGSF DONATIONS

Our Friends Who Give
as of August 20, 2005

Roxy Carmichael-Hart	\$117.00
Maria Bianca Martinez	\$100.00
Kim Hraca	\$50.00
Millicent H.	\$10.00
Ayme Kantz.....	\$10.00

Bless You and Thank You for Caring!

CONTACT TGSF!

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Laura Marlowe webmistress@tgsf.org

Calendar **www.tgsf.org**

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

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.

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Special Events and Announcements!

TGSF END OF SUMMER PICNIC AND BBQ!

The end of summer is rapidly approaching, but it isn't over until the fat lady sings. Well, we don't have a fat lady, and she won't be singing (although she says she can), but Dawnne Woodie will be toiling over the barbeque fires again this year to bring you the best hot dogs and hamburgers this side of Texas at the official TGSF End of Summer barbeque and hoedown. Dawnne has also promised all the down home Texas fixins you could possible want.

The barbeque will be held on **September 24, 2005 from 11:00 to 5:00**, or whatever time they throw us out. It will be held again this year at Central Park in San Mateo, on El Camino between 5th and 9th Streets. The location is central to our members from San Francisco to San Jose and may be easily reached from the East Bay via highway 92 and the San Mateo Bridge.

Come and join your brothers and sisters for the final bash of the summer and help send it on its way with a bang, not a whimper. The cost is only \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members. You will be able to join TGSF on the spot, if you choose.

So, bring your family, your friends, your enemies (Dawnne has something special for them) to the best End of Summer 2005 you will ever see. I'll see you there.

Please feel free to bring your favorite dish to share.

Eight-part Original Series to Debut on Sundance Channel September 20, 2005

TRANSGENERATION

NEW YORK — An exclusive online premiere of the first episode of "TransGeneration," an eight-part Sundance Channel original series will kick off the soon-to-be launched PlanetOut Video broadband service in early September 2005. The announcement was made today by Kirk Iwanowski, Senior Vice President, Marketing, Sundance Channel and Mark Elderkin, President, PlanetOut Inc. (Nasdaq: LGBT). "TransGeneration" premieres on Sundance Channel on Tuesday, September 20 at 9:00pm ET/PT; the date of the PlanetOut.com and Gay.com premiere is forthcoming.

As part of a larger marketing platform in support of the series launch, PlanetOut Video will also feature exclusive video clips, episodic promos and behind-the-scenes footage from the show. Episode 1 and the supporting exclusive content will be made available on Gay.com and PlanetOut.com during simultaneous windows. Combined, these two sites reach an audience of more than five million unique visitors per month.

Kirk Iwanowski, Senior Vice President, Marketing, Sundance Channel, said "We chose to collaborate with PlanetOut in creating this strategic marketing platform in support of TransGeneration because of their deep reach in the LGBT market, their success in building unique, interactive programming, and ability to support a fully integrated campaign to this discerning audience. "Sundance Channel looks forward to building this multi-faceted affiliation with PlanetOut beyond the launch of this series."

"TransGeneration" is an eight-episode series following students at four different colleges over the course of the 2004/05 school year, capturing their triumphs and setbacks as they balance the challenges of academia, campus life, and family with their commitment to gender reassignment. "TransGeneration" is Sundance Channel production in association with MTVN's Logo. The director and supervising producer of "TransGeneration" is Jeremy Simmons, whose credits include the television documentaries "School's Out: The Life of a Gay High School in Texas" which aired on MTV and AMC's "Gay Hollywood."

TGSF & RGA

COOKBOOK AND CONTESTS!

Ok everybody, here is your chance to get your favorite recipe published and talk a little about yourself if you want! TGSF, RGA, and possibly Kaiser Permanente (KP) Pride is sponsoring the creation of a community cookbook. More details can be found at RGA's home page: <http://www.transgender.org/rga/>

Recipes should be original and unpublished. In addition to your recipe you may (but it is not required) submit a short (200 words or less) bio about yourself. You may also submit a small passport sized photo. Please be sure to indicate very clearly what name you would like to be published with your recipe. You may also be anonymous. Contact information, however is necessary. An email address as a minimum, so the editor can contact you if he can't tell if you mean a teaspoon or a cup. Contact information will be kept strictly confidential. If there is no contact information and the editor can't make out your recipe, it may not get published.

Recipes, bios, and photos can be submitted in any PC format: disk or floppy. They can also be submitted printed/typed, or even hand-written. Submit any such items to your RGA or TGSF leadership. Photos should be in JPG format. Your submissions can also be sent via email to: TGCommCB@hotmail.com. Submissions will be accepted through October 30th. You are not limited to one submission, but not all of them may be published at this time. If you don't have a scanner available to you, you can even give us the actual passport size photo and we will scan it for you.

Cover Contest!

I know there are lots of graphic artist's in our community, so get your thinking caps on! The cover of the book will be in color, and the design should encompass TGSF, RGA and KP Pride in some way. If you are a TGSF Yahoo Group member, go to the Yahoo Group home page, click on "files", then click on "TG (and others) Cookbook", then click on "add file". Upload your PDF submission of your design directly there. This will make voting on it later easier! If you are not a TGSF Yahoo groups member, or if you prefer, submissions can be made either on disk or floppy in PDF format. Submissions on disk or floppy can be given to any of your TGSF or RGA leadership. Some prizes will be offered to the winner of the contest! Submissions will be accepted through Sep 30. Don't forget to include your contact information.

Naming Contest!

Ok, the "bun" is in the oven, so what do we name it? Ideas and suggestions can be submitted in any format, including email. Get them to your TGSF or RGA leadership. Submissions will be posted on TGSF and RGA websites for a community vote in October. Submissions will be accepted until Sep 30. Submission's can also be sent via email to: TGCommCB@hotmail.com. The winner will receive some prizes, details to follow. Remember to include some form of contact information.

Just a reminder folks, don't ever let go of your only copy of anything. Please make sure you have backup copies of all your submissions. Blessings of good fortune to you all!

Sydney Mason

Special Events and Announcements!

TRANSSISTAHs AND TRANSBROTHAs (TSTB) CONVENTION

On September 14-18, 2005 Louisville's Galt House Hotel will play host to the first annual Transsistahs and Transbrothas Conference. This historic event will tackle many of the issues that African-American transpeople face.

This conference, with its theme of 'Defying Gravity', will bring a nationwide gathering of African-American transpeople and their supporters to Louisville for four days of seminars, networking and community forums. It will also include a praise service with Rev. Aletha Fields, and for the first time at any transgender convention an education and job fair.

"It's symbolic that Louisville was chosen as the site for the convention," commented TSTB organizing committee member Monica Roberts. "We're having it at a hotel on the banks of the Ohio River, which to our ancestors represented freedom from the oppression of slavery. Today their transgendered descendants face oppression in terms of people hostile to our existence inside and outside of the African-American community, underemployment and unemployment, and alarming increases in HIV/AIDS infection rates."

The conference came about as a result of discussions on the 400 member Transsistahs Yahoo list Monica founded on New Year's Day 2004. Several members were recounting stories about their experiences at the transgender community's premier event, the Southern Comfort Conference in Atlanta. Laments about the lack of a similar event geared toward African-American transpeople and a support infrastructure similar to the one the white transgender community has built over two decades galvanized the group to begin planning TSTB in November 2004.

Estimates by the Convention and Visitors Bureau of TSTB's economic impact for the Louisville area range from \$100,000 to \$1.5 million, and the competition was fierce among several area hotels to land the conference.

The convention organizers have committed themselves to utilizing local African-American owned and operated businesses for their services. All who wish to support this historic event will be welcomed with open arms and several local businesses have expressed interest in supporting the TSTB Conference

"We're pleased to have the Fairness Campaign and SONG on board as sponsors for TSTB," stated Dawn Wilson, the Operations Manager for the conference. "We're tired of the negative connotations that being African-American and transgendered have in the community. We're going to remind people that we are not only human beings who are proud of our heritage, but we are intelligent, spiritual, hardworking people who have much to offer to society."

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Mid-Peninsula Support Group

WEDNESDAY, September 7, 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@laurasoft.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.

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

FTM GET-TOGETHER AND 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!

September 2-5!

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

TRANSGENDER SAN FRANCISCO PRESENTS

Hooray for HOLLYWOOD!



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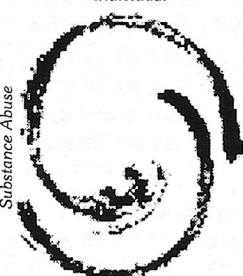
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Substance Abuse



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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.

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

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, or write to: Julie Freeman, PO Box 272885, Concord, CA 94527-2885.



TRANSEXUAL TO MARRY MR. RIGHT!

www.thisislincolnshire.co.uk

Transsexual Sarah Wright is to marry her partner Neil in what is thought to be Lincolnshire's first transgender wedding. The bride, who was born Anthony Lowles, will wear a traditional ivory gown for the ceremony at a Lincoln hotel. The pair, from uphill Lincoln, will exchange vows in front of 90 guests, a bridesmaid and a matron of honour in September. And after they are declared man and wife they will jet off to the Caribbean for a honeymoon in St Kitts.

Miss Wright (56), who took on Neil's surname by deed poll in 1996, was born a man but knew from an early age that she enjoyed cross-dressing. During her days as a student in Newcastle-upon-Tyne she would dress as a woman in secret. "I knew that I wanted to be a girl when I was quite young, around 10," she said. "You think once you get settled with a girl it will go away but it stays with you for life."

But at an A-level party in 1967 Miss Wright met wife-to-be Geraldine. "When I married her she did not know about me being a cross-dressing transsexual," she said. "We married in 1971, she had an affair after about five years and I told her about myself but she decided to stay with me." The marriage lasted almost 30 years but in May 1996, while on a holiday in Devon, Miss Wright, who has two children in their 20s, met Neil Wright and a love affair began.

She was officially a man at the time but within a year she had started taking hormone treatment. She moved to Lincoln and Mr. Wright agreed to help her find £9,000 for gender reassignment surgery. It was during those first days in Lincoln that she threw away her masculine clothes, went shopping and dressed as a woman full-time. "It was when I came along and offered the opportunity of an alternative life that it opened the possibility of something that Sarah previously thought was not possible," said divorcee Mr. Wright (59).

Now thanks to the Gender Recognition Act, which became law in April, the couple can legally marry. In November 1997 Miss Wright, who is an administrative facilitator for the county's Patient and Public Involvement Forums, had a five-hour gender reassignment operation at Sussex Nuffield Hospital in Brighton.

After the operation she was able to have her gender changed on her passport and driving license but not on her degree certificate or birth certificate. But when the law came into force Miss Wright immediately applied to have her birth certificate changed.

"We got the application forms off the Internet and I had to go to the magistrates' court and swear under oath that I'm living as a female," said Miss Wright. "My GP had to sign a form to say I had undergone gender reassignment surgery and I had to provide documentation to prove I had been living a female life since 1997."

She has officially been a woman since May 16 this year but Miss Wright now has a copy of her birth certificate that declares she was born a girl. "We wanted to get married as soon as we got together and as soon as possible," said Mr. Wright, who works for Lincolnshire County Council. "It's going to be as traditional as the new forms of civil marriage are."

Miss Wright added: "It's a dream come true for me." Superintendent registrar Mary Rudkin said: "We are delighted to be assisting Sarah and Neil with their big day."

AUSSIE TEENS FIGHT FOR SEX CHANGE

By Sandra Lee and Tony Vermeer
News.com.au

At least six NSW teenagers are planning legal action to change their sex following a Family Court decision to allow a 13-year-old boy to become a girl. In an application supported by his parents, the Sydney boy recently won the court's permission to take puberty-blocking chemicals to stop developing an adult male's body.

His lawyer, Rachael Wallbank, says the next step is to take oestrogen at 16 to feminise the body with the option of having sex-change surgery after turning 18. The case follows the Family Court's precedent-setting decision last year to allow a 13-year-old girl, "Alex", to become a boy.

Ms Wallbank, herself a transsexual, said six teenagers in NSW were "lining up" to undergo similar treatment. She said they felt trapped in the wrong gender and were sure of what they wanted. "There is no confusion - it's certainty in the face of every other obstacle, and it's unchanging," said Ms Wallbank, who will also appear in the Four Corners program.

But the decisions have created controversy with some doctors and ethicists claiming the teenagers are too young to make such decisions and the court should not be approving them.

Bio-ethicist Dr Nicholas Tonti-Filippini said allowing teenagers to change sex was horrendous and defied psychiatric opinion that indicated they often regretted the decision later. "It's bad enough for young people in their 20s but to see that happening to children is quite horrific," Dr Tonti-Filippini told The Sunday Telegraph last week.

He said the Family Court was ill-equipped to determine such matters. But Family Court Chief Justice Diana Bryant told The Sunday Telegraph the court had no predisposition towards granting sex changes to teenagers. "Each case is judged on its merits," she said. Justice Bryant acknowledged that the issue was controversial but said the court had a welfare jurisdiction that gave it the right to make such decisions. The children are among as many as 40,000 Australians who suffer what medical experts have labeled "intersex" conditions.

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AN EMPLOYEE, HIRED AS A MAN, BECOMES A WOMAN. NOW WHAT?

By Kelly Pate Dwyer
New York Times

On a recent Wednesday, Kim Dower, a Denver pharmacist, arrived at her job of 10 years wearing a cream chiffon blouse, long crepe skirt and black flats. It was an ordinary day, except that the day before she'd come to work dressed as a man. Ms. Dower, 51, is a biological male in transition to becoming female.

In the spring of 2004, she told her bosses she wanted to start dressing as a woman, and they said no. She filed discrimination charges against the company, King Soopers, a subsidiary of the Kroger Company, based in Cincinnati. Lawyers were called in and mediation talks were held.

In 2005, Ms. Dower testified before the Colorado State Legislature in support of a proposal that would have banned discrimination based on sexual orientation or sexual identity. The measure passed; the governor vetoed it. But Ms. Dower, in women's clothes, still has her job.

Although Kroger, like most employers, does not mention transgender people in its antidiscrimination policies, a number of large employers have recently added protections for them.

More legal protections are being added, too. Twenty-eight percent of the population is now covered by laws in cities, states or other jurisdictions that prohibit discrimination against transgender people, up from about 5 percent at the end of 2001, according to the National Center for Transgender Equality in Washington. And lawmakers are debating the issue at the national level. This growing national dialogue is focusing attention on a delicate and often confusing human resource issue.

"It's created some vexing problems for the employer, of respecting the rights of the employee in question and dealing with the employee morale, fears, tensions of co-workers," said Gerald L. Maatman Jr., a Chicago lawyer who has represented employers in five cases involving transsexual employees.

"Transgender" is the broad term covering people who express themselves in the opposite sex, including cross-dressers and transsexuals. Transsexuals live as the opposite sex, and may opt for hormone therapy and surgery. Doctors generally require transsexuals to dress as their desired sex for a year - at home, at work, everywhere - before surgery.

Even though many employers may never need to deal with the issue of a transgender employee, specialists suggest preparing for the possibility. Mr. Maatman advises clients to make sure their policies at least match the laws in places where they operate. What restroom will the employee use? Will co-workers and customers feel uncomfortable when John becomes Jane?

The workplace is typically the last place a transsexual "comes out." That's the way it was for Ms. Dower. As a boy, then a man, she hated herself for feeling female, she said. Only a few years ago, after psychological counseling failed to conquer that feeling, did she consider a sex change - shocking her wife and their adult children.

When Ms. Dower first asked to wear female attire, the company requested access to her medical records. She shared some, and her doctor later wrote the company a letter attesting to her plans for surgery.

Gary Rhodes, a Kroger spokesman, said that after King Soopers received letters from her doctors in May, it granted Ms. Dower's request to dress as a woman at work. Managers asked her to use one of two single-toilet restrooms and told her to report to them if anyone treated her badly, Ms. Dower said.

Customers and co-workers have mostly shown support, but Ms. Dower said she resented that the company initially questioned her choice and commitment. "Who else has to prove who they are?" Ms. Dower asked.



Kim Dower's employer let her wear women's clothes after her doctor wrote a letter.

Twice as many Fortune 500 companies had sexual identity in their nondiscrimination policies at the end of 2004 as did a year earlier, according to the Human Rights Campaign, an advocacy group in Washington. ChevronTexaco, Ernst & Young, Merrill Lynch, Microsoft, Toys "R" Us and Viacom have added sexual identity to their policies this year.

Corporate America may in part be responding to a Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals ruling in 2004 that found that a transsexual firefighter in Salem, Ohio, was a victim of sex discrimination. But big business has other reasons for making changes. Employees "put a name and face and a story" to a policy issue, said Joe Solmonese, president of the Society of Human Resource Management.

At Ernst & Young, a gay and transgender employees' group approached the human resources department. "They said 'this is the next frontier' " for discrimination protections, said Maryella Gockel, the company's flexibility strategy leader.

At the Intel Corporation, the company not only has policies that protect transgender workers from discrimination, it has specific guidelines for supporting them, said Pferron L. Doss, a human resources official with Intel in Hillsboro, Ore., who has handled seven cases of sex transition at work.

When approached by transgender employees, he asks what support they need; co-workers are then informed and educated about working with them through the transition. "I think there's initially a fear of the unknown," Mr. Doss said. "An employee may accidentally say 'he' instead of 'she.' That's part of the educational piece, and you catch yourself and you apologize."

Transgender employees use the restroom of their target sex after a name change and change in dress. A switch in showering facilities follows surgery. A few co-workers have filed complaints based on their religious beliefs, Mr. Doss said, but no serious problems have resulted.

In addition to 6 states, 74 local jurisdictions, including New York City and the District of Columbia, protect sexual identity and expression. Advocates are pushing for a federal law.

Last year, the Human Rights Campaign in Washington said it would support a federal law that bans discrimination based on sexual orientation only if it also bans discrimination based on sexual identity and expression. "It's become clear we can only win equality if we fight together," said a spokesman for the group, Jay Smith Brown, a female-to-male transsexual.

Even as advocacy groups push for policy changes, they note that culture is playing a part in changing public attitudes.

Jeffrey Eugenides's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel "Middlesex" and the Tony award-winning "I Am My Own Wife," based on the life of the German transsexual Charlotte von Mahlsdorf - have helped dispel perceptions of transgender people as "freaks on Jerry Springer," as Mr. Brown puts it.

DOUBT A MAN'S MASCULINITY AND HE'LL GET MACHO

Men Whose Male Identity Is Compromised Will Overcompensate, Study Finds

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NEW YORK - Tell a man that he's not "man enough" and he may exhibit extremely macho behavior to compensate, new study findings suggest. "In general, men in our society are very invested in maintaining a masculine identity," study author Robb Willer, a PhD candidate in sociology at Cornell University, told Reuters Health. When their masculinity is threatened, "they overcompensate," he said.

The idea of masculine overcompensation is not new. With roots in Freudian psychology, the concept has been popularly accepted as true, but not necessarily proven, according to Willer. The current findings suggest that it "actually does have some empirical validity," he said.

In the fall of 2004, 111 male and female undergraduate students at Cornell completed gender identity surveys, in which they rated themselves on a number of traditionally male and female traits, such as assertiveness, forcefulness and yielding. Willer then gave the students random feedback, although the students believed the feedback was genuinely based on their survey responses.

Some men were told that their survey responses were indicative of a female identity and others were told the opposite. The same was true for women, who were used as the comparison group.

Preference for SUVs Increased

Afterwards, Willer had the students complete a survey that examined their attitudes about certain masculine concepts, including homophobia, purchase of a sport-utility vehicle and support for the Iraq war.

Men whose masculinity was threatened — who were told that their initial survey responses were more feminine than masculine — tended to overcompensate for it in the second survey by expressing more homophobia, a higher level of support for the Iraq war and a greater interest in buying an SUV as opposed to other types of vehicles, Willer reports. These men also reported more feelings of shame, guilt, upset and hostility than did those whose masculinity was not threatened.

Also, after the first survey, Willer had the students show a public display of strength — holding a handgrip closed for a certain amount of time. There was no difference, however, in physical strength between masculinity-threatened men and masculinity-confirmed men.

Women apparently didn't care about their identity rating. Those who were told that their survey responses were more masculine than feminine did not show any feminine overcompensation, Willer said.

"Results of the study offer strong support for the masculine overcompensation thesis," according to Willer's report. He is expected to present his findings early next week during the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association.

In future research, Willer wants to examine whether masculinity is associated with attitudes on violence toward women. He also wants to replicate the current study in order to determine whether men's testosterone levels, to be measured via a saliva sample, may be an intervening factor between men's insecurity about their masculinity and masculine overcompensation.

ON TRANSGENDER INCLUSION

PrideSource.com
By Michelle Brown

Originally printed 6/28/2005
(Issue 1330 - Between The Lines News)

Gwendolyn Ann Smith's July 21 column ("HRC tiger can't change its stripes") reminds us all that a part of our community, OUR transgender sisters and brothers, are still struggling for equal representation, parity and inclusion not just from society at large but from the LGBT community as well. This is true not just with Human Rights Campaign but also at many (if not all) national and local organizations and in the LGBT community.

But I do not believe withdrawal from participation in HRC or any other organization is the answer. Like most organizations, HRC is membership based. Rather than withdraw we need to flex our muscle. I was reminded of this several years ago following an HRC dinner when I had the opportunity to speak with the mother of JR Reed, an African-American gay man who was killed in a hate crime.

Until that time I had thought of the Human Rights Campaign as an organization representing the concerns for the most part of gay white men. When I entered the room of mostly gay white men I counted the minutes until I could leave because I did not see anyone like me. But then I began listening to this black woman, this mother and realized this fight for equality was bigger than my uncomfortable feelings of not being around "folks like me."

Later, after telling her what HRC was not doing for my community, Mrs. Reed challenged me to become part of the solution, to not just take my place at the table but be engaged in planning the menu.

I have since become active in the Human Rights Campaign. Last year I joined the HRC Board of Governors and recently joined the National Diversity committee as co-chair. Our Michigan Steering committee has actively reached out to the transgender, African-American, youth and even Republican communities. In March we were recognized for these efforts. We have members of each of these groups not just on our steering committee but in leadership roles.

Although I still go in to meetings in which there are few people like me - African-American and lesbian - I am there, speaking up, working towards change. It is slow, hard work but we can make it happen by always demanding equal representation for all members of the LGBT community. We can accomplish this by not letting HRC or any organization sit on their laurels for partial victories that do not include our transgender community and by showing up and speaking up.

When I was born I was told as an American I was entitled to equality - those inalienable rights that were the birthright of every citizen.

As a child I went out into the community and was denied my birthright because of the color of my skin, so I sought the safety of my African-American community to find equality there. As a teen I went out into my African-American community and was denied my birthright because of who I was and whom I loved, so I sought the safety of my LGBT community to find equality there. Now I am taking a stand in this LGBT community to reclaim our birthright as Americans.

This is no time to retreat, withdraw or disinvest in our LGBT organizations nationally or locally. We all know that those who would deny all of us our rights are evangelizing, recruiting and fundraising to deny every lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender person equality. We are out manned and out financed.

We must be out in our community. Support our organizations - Triangle Foundation, Michigan Equality, Affirmations Lesbian and Gay Community Center, HRC and all the others working 24/7 on our behalf.

If we are serious about equality, if we are serious about ending discrimination, then it's time for each of us to step up to the plate and stay involved and demand more from our organizations and ourselves.

THE FOURTEEN WORDS WE MUST LEARN AND SAY

by Phyllis Randolph Frye
a.k.a. THE PHYLLABUSTER
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This article is about the "gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, INTERSEX AND UNMARRIED STRAIGHT COUPLES marriage AND DIVORCE constitutional amendment." These fourteen (14) words are the "who, what, where, when and why" of the media's misnamed "gay marriage amendment" struggle.

If persistently, consistently and insistently announced by us, in the longer, 14 words form, then the media cannot cut the "who, what, where, when and why" out of a soundbite or bury the "who, what, where, when and why" deeply past the first two paragraphs of a news article.

We must fight this on OUR terms and not the lazy media's terms. We must fight this on OUR terms and not the hateful enemies' terms. We must learn the 14 words and say them each and every time — even amongst ourselves for practice — to insure that the "who, what, where, when and why" of this struggle is not lost in the details.

The Texas Legislature passed a bill that would amend the Bill of Rights to the Texas Constitution. It is up for a public vote in November 2005. Not only does it restrict marriage to being only between one man and one woman (and who knows where the transgenders and intersexed are going to fall in those definitions), but in the second paragraph of the bill, it also blocks anything that even looks marriage-like.

As Attorney Jerry Simoneaux was reported by PFLAG Houston at <http://www.pflaghouston.org/flyer/pflyer0805.pdf>, the amendment will most likely do the following:

- negatively affect unmarried straight couples (by overriding common-law marriage in future court proceedings);
- possibly prohibit governmental entities (such as Travis County) from offering the domestic partnership benefits that they currently offer to both unmarried straight couples and to same-sex couples;
- possibly void in future court proceedings those private contracts between same-gendered couples (such as home co-ownership, wills and powers of attorney that give the unmarried partner "marriage-like" powers that are superior to those of the hateful or greedy blood kin). If they are not allowed to enter into legal contracts, a huge barrier is erected to deny sexual minorities the right to protect their families; and
- possibly void second-parent adoptions in future court proceedings.

It is very important for us to frame this struggle in the 14 words rather than just use a shorthand. If we do not adequately convey the message that it is much more than a media misnamed "gay marriage amendment," then lots of folks who will be adversely affected in the future will be unknowing, possibly unconcerned and probably not bother to vote against it.

Let us consider these words — the "who, what, where, when and why."

First, let us consider why we should say "marriage AND DIVORCE." This legal struggle is about divorce. Some same-sex couples who get legally married in Canada, The Netherlands, Belgium, Spain and Massachusetts, will move to Texas and eventually require a legal divorce. Nope! Can't get one here in Texas! Since there will be no legal recognition of marriage, then there can be no divorce.

But the concept of divorce is really at the heart of this legal struggle. The people who hate us — the people behind this effort to lock a whole class of people out of the Bill of Rights to the Texas Constitution — wrap themselves in their Bibles. They see themselves as being morally superior. And yet they allow legal heterosexual divorce for themselves.

The Scripture they quote to justify their hatred of us is questionable at best, and is found in a few various places — usually on dog-eared pages and highly underlined. Nowhere is their hatred of us based on the Ten Commandments or in the words of Jesus. And yet, scriptural sanctions against heterosexual adultery, heterosexual unmarried fornication, and heterosexual divorce are found in the Ten Commandments or in the words of Jesus.

By our keeping "AND DIVORCE" in the 14 words of this fight, we take away any moral high ground that they may wish to grab. Unless they legally get rid of heterosexual divorce and make illegal heterosexual adultery and hetero-

sexual unmarried fornication, they have no claim of moral authority over our being allowed to marry AND TO ALSO DIVORCE. They will have to spend half of their time defending their own hypocrisy.

Second, let us consider the unmarried straight couples, Jerry Simoneaux said it well (above). The same people who hate us also hate the very idea of straight couples who live "in sin" and do not get married. What better way to hammer these sinners than to hide a legal weapon against them in a sexual minority bill.

My Trish and I have an unmarried niece. She and her live-in beau are very nice and loving to us. But will they both to vote NO in November against the media misnamed "gay marriage amendment?" Probably not.

But will they go to the polls with their other unmarried straight couple friends to vote NO in November against the named by us "gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, INTERSEX AND UNMARRIED STRAIGHT COUPLES marriage AND DIVORCE constitutional amendment?" Much more likely, yes.

Remember, this is a statewide vote. We need 50% +1 person to vote NO. It doesn't matter where in the state they live. We need to gather EVERY vote, so let us get the word to our unmarried straight couple voters about the legal dangers they face.

Third, let us consider why we need to bring the Intersexed into the fourteen words. Again, the answer is numbers. Go to <http://www.tglegal.com/>, and scroll to the link "Petition to the Texas Supreme Court" (which was refused). Read the first two paragraphs and then go to footnote 2. Yes, we have between 20,000 and 800,000 Texans who are intersexed. They do not know about how they could be negatively impacted by a Texas court in the future if this amendment passes.

The intersexed will not know that they are part of this struggle if the media fails to so report or leaves them out of the soundbite or buries them in the bottom of the article. But if you persistently, consistently and insistently announce each time the "who, what, where, when and why" by saying "gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, INTERSEX AND UNMARRIED STRAIGHT COUPLES marriage AND DIVORCE constitutional amendment," the intersexed will hear it and they will inquire as to how they are also targets.

Fourth is the transgender word. Lots of transgenders are closeted and in heterosexual relationships. Many will either vote yes or not vote unless they learn how they can be negatively impacted by the Texas Legislature's amendment. Go back to <http://www.tglegal.com/> and read the rest of the Petition to the Texas Supreme Court (which was refused). Can you believe a Texas Appellate Court got away with such nonsense? If it can happen to one, it can happen to other transgenders.

Fifth is the bisexuals, especially those who know they are bisexual but are currently in a straight relationship. Will they bother to vote? Probably not. But if we push the bisexual term in our 14 words, they may get curious as to why they are included and seek out the details. Every NO vote counts for our future.

And of course, gay and lesbian are part of this mix. Not just gay, but gay and lesbian. A lot of them are busy trying to appear to live straight lives. Many of them are busy with children. Many do not care to marry. Many are closeted. But the weirdness of us using the 14 words may get the attention of these folks. If by using the fourteen words we can get them to see how this will negatively impact their domestic partner benefits, their second-parent adoptions or their will or power of attorney from being attacked by their homophobic siblings, they will go to the polls.

Every NO vote is important. We can get more NO votes if we persistently, consistently and insistently announce each time the "who, what, where, when and why" by saying "gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, INTERSEX AND UNMARRIED STRAIGHT COUPLES marriage AND DIVORCE constitutional amendment."

Don't become so busy that you shorten it, thus giving it back to the media and to our enemies and thereby missing out on even one, single NO vote that we may need. Oh, be sure to register and vote NO yourself!

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THE FLUIDITY OF GENDER

The Oregonian
By Anitha Reddy

A Southridge High grad looks like a girl, but lives like a boy Name: Megan "Danny" O'Dell Age: 18 School: 2005 Southridge High School graduate Danny and the Dance Revolution: Megan O'Dell came out to her mother in 10th grade because she ran out of excuses for staying late after school.

As O'Dell put it, "Only so many times can you tell your mom you're staying after school for Dance Dance Revolution Club," the music video game in which players try to keep up with computer-directed dance moves on a mat outfitted with pressure sensors.

In fact, O'Dell had been attending meetings of Southridge High's gay-straight alliance and coming to terms with her identity as a transgender lesbian. "Just because you were born a female doesn't mean you feel like a girl on the inside," explains O'Dell, who prefers to be called Danny and uses male pronouns to describe himself.

A matter of pride: O'Dell is spending the summer volunteering for the Pride Project, a local nonprofit that provides support and advocacy for Washington County gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth. It's mostly a social outlet for members, but O'Dell hopes to broaden its mission.

"I would like the Pride Project to take on more of a political direction," said O'Dell, who favors T-shirts emblazoned with slogans such as "my boyish charm." People know what gay is. That's old news. I want to do more for trans-awareness."

O'Dell acknowledged earlier that despite his short hair, he will never "pass" as a boy. "My eyes," cornflower blue and shaded by long dark lashes, "are too femme-y."

He has learned how hard it is to explain looking like a girl but feeling like a boy. Although O'Dell said he was never afraid of telling his mom he was gay, he has avoided telling her he is transgender and hasn't asked her to call him Danny.

"She can call me Megan, because that's the name she gave me," O'Dell said, adding that his mom doesn't recognize his new name. "She doesn't like it. She mocks it." Bridge 13: O'Dell, who is working at Plaid Pantry to save money for college, said he hasn't asked his co-workers to call him Danny, because he doesn't want to explain the nickname. O'Dell gave up trying to persuade teachers at Southridge to call him Danny.

"They'd just look at me," O'Dell said. "They have never been exposed to this before. I don't embarrass easily, but I didn't want to deal with that."

O'Dell's experiences at Southridge are one reason he participates in Bridge 13, a group of Pride Project members who meet with teachers and counselors in training, police and others in authority to help them better understand gay, lesbian and transgender youth. (The name refers to Portland's 12 bridges.) "Gender Gumby": At a Pride Project meeting last week, O'Dell led the group through his favorite exercise, "Gender Gumby," a reference to the green cartoon figure with no discernible sex.

Participants marked their assigned sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender presentation on a whiteboard. The idea is that the sex one is born with doesn't necessarily determine which sex you're attracted to, which sex you identify with, or whether you present yourself as a man, woman or something in between.

"It shows how fluid your sexuality and gender identity are," O'Dell told the group, adding that someone's gender map can evolve.

"Some people hear that and say, 'So it's a choice,'" O'Dell said. "It's never a choice, but you can always learn something new about yourself."

THE CHALLENGE OF THE TRANSGENDERED: JUDEO-CHRISTIAN VALUES, PART XIX

By Dennis Prager • www.townhall.com

[Editor's Note: I publish this in order to reveal the religious right's position and thinking in order to provide us all some perspective. Otherwise, it makes me want to barf.]

From a Judeo-Christian values perspective, each part of GLBT (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered) liberation has problems — because Judeo-Christian values affirm the heterosexual ideal. But the last part of GLBT is actually the most troubling.

Most people do not understand why the transgendered threaten Judeo-Christian values. The cultural Left does, which is why "transgendered" is always included.

Transgendered is not the same as transsexual. In theory, Judeo-Christian values have no problem with a transsexual — someone who has undergone a sex change — if that person then behaves in ways associated with his or her new sex.

On the other hand, a transgendered individual is a person of one sex who dresses (or otherwise behaves) as a member of the other sex — actions that directly conflict with core Judeo-Christian values.

It is remarkable that activists on behalf of gay and lesbian acceptance always include the transgendered. What, after all, do the transgendered, who are usually heterosexual men, have to do with gays and lesbians?

The answer is that activists understand that their primary goal — equating same-sex sexual behavior with man-woman sex — can only be accomplished if other Judeo-Christian and Western sexual norms are also rejected.

That is why the very word "sex," when referring to male or female, has been changed to "gender." And society at large has accepted this linguistic change as if it were insignificant. The change on application forms, for example, from "Sex: M or F" to "Gender: M or F" has gone unnoticed. But it is a huge change. In the sexual activists' world, "sex" is fixed and objective; "gender" is fluid and subjective.

Thus, a man's genitalia and secondary male sexual characteristics notwithstanding, if he feels like expressing the woman in him, he should not only be allowed but encouraged to dress in public like a woman. Society should have no more say on whether a man should be allowed to wear a dress in public than what color tie a man should wear in public. That is why the Democrats in California passed a law that forbids employers from firing a man who cross-dresses at work.

Now, why is this important, not to mention opposed by Judeo-Christian values?

Continued on Page 19

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TRANSGENDERS A 'CURIOSITY'

By Michael Kelly
World-Herald Columnist
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Transgenderism is a contentious topic. "It's debatable in some quarters," said Verne Bullough of Westlake Village, Calif., a retired professor of history and sociology who has studied the topic extensively. Most Freudian psychoanalysts, he said, believe it can be cured through therapy. Others disagree.

But the genital surgery, called gender-reconstruction or gender-reassignment surgery, isn't rare, Bullough said. He estimated that tens of thousands of people have had the surgery in the United States.

Bullough, distinguished professor emeritus at the State University of New York-Buffalo, founded the Center for Sex Research at the University of California-Northridge. He retains ties to both universities. Some think the phenomenon of transgenderism is imagined. After decades of research, he said, "I think it's real."

Gender is thought to be determined three to six weeks into gestation. Bullough said much of what happens in the womb remains a mystery. As with homosexuality, he said, the origin of what causes some to conclude that they are transgendered people is uncertain. "Most of us in the field think there are some biological factors involved in it," he said. "That doesn't necessarily mean genetic. A lot of things take place in the womb."

Transgender is an umbrella term for people whose self-identity differs from the sex they were assigned at birth. A media reference guide published by GLAAD, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, says the term may include transsexuals, intersex people (born with ambiguous genitalia), cross-dressers and other gender-variant people.

The clinical diagnosis of Gender Identity Disorder is considered controversial and, to many in the transgender community, offensive. Bullough said the term provides medical justification. "If you're going to use a medical term," he said, "I guess disorder is as good as any. But some people say it's not a medical problem."

He said he has known a number of professors who have changed genders and been accepted. "It used to be that when you had surgery, you went incognito and adopted a new identity," Bullough said. "Now most who are transitioning are doing so publicly and are pretty well accepted, though they may be a curiosity."

Ellie Hites of Omaha, a licensed psychotherapist, said that since 1972, she has worked with more than 200 patients who went on to have gender-reconstruction surgery. "Most don't stay around Omaha," she said. "They want to start life over with a new identity."

Hites is part of an Omaha gender-identity team that includes a psychiatrist, a psychologist, a medical doctor and a psychotherapist. The lifelong feelings of discord that transgendered people experience, she said, "would be terribly frightening because nobody wants to pay attention to it."

Many physicians, she said, know little about transgenderism and tell patients to "go find a good girl or guy, and this will all go away." Being transgendered or transsexual, she said, amounts to being born with the psyche of one gender and the biology of another. She said she doesn't consider it a mental illness.

Megan Smith, another Omaha psychotherapist, is working with 12 patients who are going through the process leading to genital surgery. She has a private practice and has run a transgender program through the Salvation Army's "Wellspring" program.

As for the number of transgenders in an area or in the nation, Smith said, "It's hard to get a fix on the population. They're such an isolated population that it's difficult to get accurate statistics."

Judeo-Christian Values...

Continued from Page 18

One of the major values of the Old Testament, the primary source of Judeo-Christian values, is the notion of a divinely ordained order based on separation. What God has created distinct, man shall not tamper with.

As examples, good is separate from evil (attempts to blur their differences are known as moral relativism and are anathema to Judeo-Christian values); life is separate from death (in part a reaction to ancient Egypt, which blurred the distinction between life and death); God is separate from nature (see part XVI); humans are separate from animals (see part XV); and man is separate from woman. Blurring any of these distinctions is tampering with the order of the world as created by God and leads to chaos. So important is the notion of separation that the very word for "holy" in biblical Hebrew (kadosh) means "separate," "distinct."

This helps to explain one of the least known and most enigmatic laws of the Torah, the ban on wearing linen and wool together in the same piece of clothing (sha'atnez). Linen represents plant life, and wool represents animal life. The two are distinct realms in God's creation.

And that is why the Torah bans men from wearing women's clothing.

"God created the human being, male and female He created them" is how Genesis describes the creation of man and woman. Blurring that distinction is playing God, and doing so in a highly destructive manner.

If a man gets a sexual thrill out of wearing women's undergarments in the privacy of his bedroom, that is not society's concern. It may be his religion's concern, and, religious or not, it may be his female partner's concern (one wonders how many women married to cross dressing men are pleased by the sight of their man in a bra and panties). But it is not society's concern, which is why anyone who cares about protecting the right to privacy should have been horrified by the American news media's reporting about the private cross-dressing habits of a nationally known sportscaster.

However, when a man does this in public, he has publicly blurred the man-woman distinction, and society has the right — and the duty, if it cares about Judeo-Christian values or simply cares about not confusing children as to sexual identity — to say this violates a norm that society does not wish violated.

The war waged by cultural radicals at universities, in state legislatures and in courtrooms against the very distinction between male and female is one of their most significant attempts to undo the Judeo-Christian foundations of American and Western culture. And they know it. That's why fighting to blur gender distinctions is so important to them.

Now the rest of society needs to understand why not allowing that to happen is so important.

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**Go FIGGER:
A CULTURAL CRITIC DRESSES UP**

Daniel Harris's Diary of a Drag Queen

by Joy Press
www.villagevoice.com

Several years ago, cultural critic Daniel Harris published A Memoir of No One in Particular, a supposedly satirical attack on memoir mania in which the author managed to outstrip all those other self-portraitists by being more obsessive and unstintingly focused on the minutiae of his own behavior. But apparently Harris felt he hadn't gone far enough, because now he returns with Diary of a Drag Queen, a discomfiting journal of his descent into midlife crisis and depression via drag.

Harris admits there's a sizable element of masochism in all this. No matter how many wigs he buys or makeup tricks he masters, he makes an ungainly woman. The cruel denizens of his favorite transsexual chat room mock his photos, and his dates sometimes flee at the door. Harris is interested in screwing straight guys, and the portraits of the men who parade through his door are the meat of the book, literally and figuratively. He finds poorly employed black men particularly drawn to his ugly she-male persona, and he is touched by the sentimentality of some of the blue-collar men who come courting, like the Sicilian construction worker who compliments Harris on his "figger." His experimentation with the world of feminine accoutrements yields alternately entertaining and irritating commentary. "I know, far better than most, how hard it is to be a woman," he writes, as if womanhood could be boiled down to beauty products. Still, he's an acute observer of the human condition (his own, at least), and the pages of this diary are littered with enough intelligence and humor to make it worth taking a dip in Harris's bath of self-pity and loathing.

NJ TRANSGENDER TEACHER

WPVI, PA / abclocal.go.com

MENDHAM, NJ — A middle school teacher who ended the academic year known as Mr. McCaffrey plans to be back in September known as Ms. McCaffrey. However, some parents are questioning whether children are mature enough to deal with her sex change. "I feel it's kind of unfair to put this on young children," said Anna Marie Seavey, a mother of three who would prefer that Kerri McCaffrey not be assigned to the middle school. "It is unfair for us to have to explain it."

The transgendered teacher, who underwent sex-change surgery in February, says she's ready to continue helping children. "I just want to be Kerri McCaffrey, a great teacher like I've always been," the 41-year-old language arts instructor told The Star-Ledger of Newark for Tuesday's newspapers. "I'm a good influence on children, and I've dedicated my life to them."

Some parents, such as Caren Cusano, are trying to educate themselves on transgender issues. She said she sent an e-mail to McCaffrey to ask for information and to "applaud" the teacher's decision. "I said to Kerri that if we could have some Web sites so we could explain it in layman's terms to our kids, that would be great," said Cusano, whose children are in elementary school.

McCaffrey, who grew up as Herb McCaffrey, said she struggled with her gender identity since age 7. She married, had two children and taught for 12 years before her surgery in February. Immediately afterward, she still went to school in a jacket and tie. "If I came out with this in February, I wouldn't have been able to teach because it would have caused such a commotion," she said. "I could not be selfish and hurt the kids in the middle of the year."

McCaffrey said she felt summer would be a better time for students and parents to hear about the surgery and come to terms with it.

Janie Edmunds, the district's superintendent of schools, said she could not comment about McCaffrey because personnel and medical issues are involved. "I think it's fine," said Rebecca Tishman, who is going into eighth grade and hopes to have McCaffrey as a teacher. "I'm sorry that she was confused for so long."

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Thank you!

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**MID-MONTH SOCIAL
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

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

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

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