

TGSF Marches With Pride!

The Channel



REMEMBER GWEN

More Parade Pics Inside!

TGSF TransGender San Francisco is a group for all members of the Transgendered Community. Transgender is used as an umbrella term that includes female and male cross dressers, transvestites, drag queens or kings, female or male impersonators, intersexed individuals, pre-operative, post-operative and non-operative transsexuals, masculine females, feminine males, all persons whose perceived gender or anatomical sex may be incongruent with their gender expression, and all persons exhibiting gender characteristics and identities which are perceived to be androgynous.

The Channel

TGSF (TransGender San Francisco, a California non-profit corporation), is a non-sexual, membership based organization serving the educational, social, and recreational needs of gender-gifted people, their spouses, significant others, family members, friends, and professionals in the helping services. For details about TGSF programs, membership, article submission guidelines and classified ads, please write to TGSF Secretary, PO Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486.

ExCom 2003 - 2004 Officers

(Fiscal Year: May 1 - April 30)

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Vice President	Susan Laird
Secretary	Anne Louise Mortenson
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Outreach	Kalani Makanani & Marla Selby
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Fine Print

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

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CHANGING PATIENTS' SEXES, AND KOREAN MORES

By Howard W. French

PUSAN, South Korea - There are precious few hints of the social revolution about Kim Seok Kwan, the 52-year-old doctor who single-handedly brought sex-change surgery to this deeply conservative country. Indeed, first impressions of this medical pioneer, a man who seems to hide shyly behind his oversize, gold-framed eyeglasses, tend to be marked by his self-deprecation. In occasional blasts of comic relief, the mild doctor also reveals a flash of goofy, off-color humor, and an Austin Powers grin to match.

But there is no gainsaying Dr. Kim's audacity in introducing sex-change operations here in 1986, nor do many South Koreans dispute the impact his surgery has had on a society where even quite recently, sexual matters were mostly whispered about, and where few dared live openly as homosexuals.

That all began to change with the emergence as a superstar of Ha Ri Su, a slinky, silky-haired singer, actor, comedienne and model, armed with a 35-24-35 figure, who is now a fixture in the Korean entertainment firmament. Miss Ha, whose adopted stage name is a play on the English phrase Hot Issue, lived most of her 28 years, unhappily, as a man, until Dr. Kim transformed her into a ravishing transgender beauty three years ago.

"Ha Ri Su was of great benefit to social awareness of this issue," Dr. Kim says, with customary humility. "I had no idea who she was, nor how important her example would become. She has encouraged other transgender patients, who have always had trouble holding jobs; for most of them, living in secret, working in bars or as prostitutes was the only thing they could do." Nowadays these people can live regular lives, as teachers, office workers or students.

Dr. Kim, who grew up in an upper-middle-class family in the Gyung-sang region, near Pusan, is a plastic surgeon whose training was in facial and cranial operations. He got his start in sex-change surgery almost by accident, and for years performed the operations largely in obscurity, with awareness of his special skills with a scalpel spreading mostly by word of mouth among transvestites.

"In 1986, a male transvestite approached me and asked me if I could perform a sex-change operation," Dr. Kim said, speaking in his white surgeon's coat in a narrow office at Donga University Hospital, lined with thick professional tomes bearing titles like "The Annals of Plastic Surgery." "At that time, nobody knew anything about this sort of thing in Korea, and I told him I couldn't help him."

A couple of months later, the doctor said, another man approached him asking for a sex change. With that, Dr. Kim said he became intrigued enough to start reading up on the subject. Within a short time, Dr. Kim called the patient back and said he would operate. The surgery was a first for Korea. Not only that, but Dr. Kim also rejected the use of skin grafts for vaginal construction, which was the standard at the time, boldly adopting for the first time, instead, a technique from vaginal cancer surgery known as the Singapore flap.

Although the operation's success exceeded expectations, soon afterward Dr. Kim went to the University of California at Davis for a year to study more about sex change surgery. When he returned, he found a long list of candidates desperate for the operation. Word of the operation spread fast among South Korea's transvestites, but the country's tradition-bound medical community was anything but amused. Senior doctors and other colleagues approached Dr. Kim privately, questioning the appropriateness of his work. "They all asked, 'Is this something doctors should be getting into?'" he said. Others whispered insults behind his back.

More troubling to him, Dr. Kim said, were the opposition of his wife and pastor, both of whom were strongly opposed to his involvement with sex-change surgery. "My minister came and said to me bluntly, 'I wish you would not do this,'" the doctor said. "I questioned the religious aspects of this operation," he said, "whether it was right to change the gender of a patient, whether it was right to alter their most essential nature. I really hesitated."

In the end, Dr. Kim said what persuaded him to work with transgender patients was the urge to heal and comfort that drives nearly every other realm of medicine. "What almost no one appreciated was how much trouble I myself had accepting this kind of work," he said. "But gender surgery is performed to rescue people who are trapped in the wrong body. We are offering the possibility for normal lives to people whose minds and bodies don't match, and even the psychiatrists I consulted told me that this is their only hope."

For the first few years of performing gender change surgery, Dr. Kim said, his patients were overwhelmingly working class or poor, and few could afford to travel abroad for the operation. Even now, Dr. Kim keeps the price of his operations to \$8,000 on average. He maintains a lucrative practice in more traditional forms of plastic surgery.

The first glimmers of celebrity came to Dr. Kim in 1991, with his first female-to-male surgery, which he also pioneered here. That operation caught the attention of the nation's news media, and Dr. Kim saw his face emblazoned under screaming newspaper headlines. He briefly became a popular guest on, or topic of, television programs. The brouhaha eventually died down, but by the time it did, something had changed in Korean society. A taboo had been lifted, and sexual mores were suddenly being discussed much more openly in the media and portrayed with more realism in film.

Continued on Page 10



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Cotillion 2004 Takes Shape!

Yes, the plans for Cotillion 2004 are starting to take shape. More on that in a sec...

First, I am so proud of the members of this organization. Pride weekend was phenomenal! There was teamwork, camaraderie, support and love all around. On the Saturday before Pride, I know I counted at least 20 people who came to help with the float building during the day. There were so many people; quite frankly many of them did not have a lot to do. Of course, lots of work had taken place beforehand, and Susan Laird, Rachel Hill and Kelly Marsh are to be commended for the considerable efforts that they made to get the float ready for assembly. The one thing that impressed me the most was the cooperative spirit, which abounded. There was no negativity or criticisms. Helpful suggestions were made but no one was belittled for their ideas or efforts. There was a common goal and we all worked together towards that goal. I think that you'll agree that our beautiful float, the product of those efforts, was a fine representation of our organization. And we all loved the pizzas with the Bank of America logos (just kidding, although thank you Miss TGSF for arranging this for us).

Maybe I am a bit biased but I think that our float was the hit of the parade. KRON loved it and remarked how colorful it was. We even got considerable air time, highlighted by interviews with Didi Mau and Siobhan Ellis. We got countless requests to toot the horn and it perhaps got more cheers than the girls (just kidding about that too.) I want to thank all those who came to ride on the float. Everyone in our contingent was beautiful and stunning and radiant. As was done for me last year, I extended my hand to several new girls who took their first ride. I know from talking with a couple of them afterwards, that they received the same buzz as I did. They learned why it is called Pride. And double thanks to our safety monitors. We could not have had a contingent without you. You sacrificed a ride on the float for the good of TGSF and I deeply appreciate it. A thanks also goes to my friend Arlyne Camire who took the training but was needed as a monitor for her own contingent. So she donated her monitor's badge to us. Luckily, that was the 12th badge and we just squeaked by with enough monitors.

That is why I want to reiterate something that Siobhan has written. We need to get more people on board and to participate. I know that we prodded you for several months, and stressed the need for monitors. Next year we cannot afford to have this happen. I believe that in fairness, those who served as safety monitors this year should be given the option of riding on the float next year, and those who rode should serve as monitors. I have already received a commitment from one such person.

That being said, I want to commend the effort that was made to bring this float to reality. And, in recognition of her very generous donation of the truck and her time and effort, the ExCom has awarded Roshelle Cunning with Patron level status in TGSF. Roshelle, we are very much indebted to you.

More kudos are in order for Eric Larson and Jim/Kay from Mayflower Productions, two photographers who joined our contingent and took some outstanding pictures which beautifully capture the spirit of the event. Hopefully you will be able to view their work in this Channel.

And last and not least, I want to thank those who worked the Outreach Booth in the Celebration Area. In particular, I want to thank Aiyanna and Everett for being there at 8 AM and for equipping the booth with handout materials and food. This was perhaps the least glamorous but most critical assignment. The booth is where many people, including me, first come into contact with TGSF. Judging from the amount of materials that were picked up, there are many people who need a TGSF to help them answer their questions. I brought 20 of the new Channels and they were all gone in an hour. Fortunately Aiyanna and Everett had brought many back copies. I also want to thank those that helped provide the information and answer questions. I know that during the day Marla (who relieved me), Kara and Anne Louise all participated in this effort. I am sure that you made a difference in someone's life and opened the door for them.

Before the parade, I had the opportunity to speak with Assembly member Mark Leno, whose contingent followed ours. Mr. Leno is, of course, the principal sponsor of AB 196, which would end discrimination against transgendered persons in the areas of employment and housing. I pledged my personal support and the ExCom authorized me to send a letter to the Governor urging his signature on the bill when it reaches his desk. The bill is currently in the Senate Appropriations Committee and is expected to pass the full Senate. The major unknown is the Governor. Hopefully, by this time next month, we will hear some positive news.

And now, the 2004 Cotillion!

Great news. The ExCom has authorized TGSF to enter into a contract with the San Mateo Marriott for Cotillion 2004. I believe that this decision is a fiscally prudent one and will offer us many logistical advantages by having the show and the hotel rooms and the after party all in the same place. The Marriott, which is located at the junction of Highways 101 and 92, has a great location and easy access from most of the Bay Area.

The theme of the show is going to be "Come Together." We are going to stress unity and teamwork and cooperation. We are going to present the Cotillion as an opportunity to renew old acquaintances and to make new ones. Perhaps you know someone only by their name or by an e-mail address. Now, you may have the chance to meet them in person. Or you may see someone you haven't seen in years. You may catch up with someone of whom you were wondering, "Whatever happened to so and so." This theme is going to lend itself to heavy marketing to out-of-town guests and particularly the other gender groups. Because of that, I expect the show to sell out long before January, so unlike previous years, there will likely not be any last minute tickets. This is going to be a very memorable event.

The staff at the Marriott has proven very friendly and easy to work with. They have staged fashion shows and beauty pageants so can easily accommodate our needs. What I have most appreciated about them so far is that they are very gender friendly. Before Susan and I had our first meeting with the staff, they had researched our organization and knew exactly who we were. They were totally comfortable with us. That was an important sales point with me. I went back to the facility and had lunch and was treated with the utmost courtesy and respect - even being called "ma'am" and "young lady".

We have already secured some of our key staff and during the upcoming weeks, we'll be on the lookout for others to step up and help us out. As you know from past Cotillions, there is lots of work to do and usually not enough people to do it. We'll be starting our planning committee in early August so if you have a skill or a talent that you feel would benefit us or you just want to help, please let Susan or me know. We'll be happy to have you as part of our team. Anyway we'll be announcing details as soon as they are sorted out and we'll hit the ground running in September.

I, of course, can't guarantee that we are going to make lots of money from this event, or even make any money at all, but unlike previous years, we are going to have a fighting chance. I want us to be able to come away from this event knowing that not only did we crown a Mr. and Miss TGSF, but we raised money so that we can give back to the community. Perhaps we will be able to reinstate the rap sessions at the LGBT center. Perhaps we'll be able to help one of our members with tuition so that they can attend a trade school in order to get back to work. Perhaps we'll be able to help with childcare for a single parent who must work in order to support his or her family. Perhaps we'll be able to make a difference in someone's life. That is what I see as being the ultimate benefit of this event.

I've cut down on my travels but I did make one notable appearance. On July 6, I was invited to speak at the Universalist Unitarian Church in Berkeley. The Church has a monthly "Good Neighbor" program and during July, they named TGSF as their Good Neighbor, and will make a donation to us at the end of the month. I gave a brief presentation on how TGSF has reached out to those in need and how important it is for our organization to be there for them. I have to say that it went over very well and one young lady told me she started to cry. I must thank my dear sister, Stephanie Ann Blythe, a member of the Church, for making the arrangements on our behalf.

You might have noticed a change in our ExCom. Our Secretary Rys McCusker, requested that due to family issues, that I find someone to take her place. While I was very sorry to lose Rys as part of the ExCom, I was very pleased to have willing and able replacement ready to assume the task, and consequently, appointed her to the position. I am delighted to welcome Ann Louise Mortenson as our new Secretary and she attended her first official meeting on July 6. She has, in fact, been participating all along and I was happy to be able to formalize her participation.

Thanks to Tommie Watson, you received your Channels pretty much on time last month. She came over one evening and we folded and stuffed about 200 Channels. Had she not helped with this, you might still be waiting to receive yours. It's a lot of work ladies. So three enthusiastic snaps for Tommie.

Last note. By the time you read this I'll be legal, as my name change will become official on July 29. I guess on that day I will be legally blonde, too. Do you think I can get Elle Woods as a member of the ExCom?

Until next time,

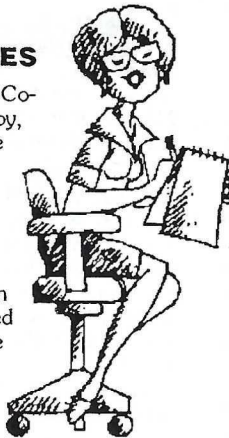
**Love,
Roxy**

July 6, 2003

TGSF ExCom MEETING MINUTES

Present: President Roxy Carmichael-Hart, Social Co-Chair Aiyanna Eveningstar, Outreach Co-Chair Marla Selby, Outreach Co-Chair Kalani, and Secretary Anne Louise Mortenson. Absent: Education Co-Chair Kara Flynn, Vice President Susan Laird, Treasurer Brooke Jansen, Secretary Rys McCusker, Education Co-Chair Kelly Anne March, Social Co-Chair Roxanne Taylor. At Aiyanna's home on July 6, 2003

Roxy noted that Secretary Rys McCusker had sent an e-mail to her requesting that another person be appointed as secretary. Since a vacancy was thus created, using the Prerogative of President according to the by-laws of TGSF, Roxy appointed Anne Louise, secretary of TGSF. Approval was unanimous by the members present. Roxy declared a quorum. Minutes were approved.



President's Report

Upcoming Events are GAPA Runway 15 Event, Roxy and Tyler will attend, and the dance at Aiyanna's. Roxy spoke at the Universalist Unitarian Church in Berkeley and they designated TGSF as good neighbor of the month. Stephanie Anne arranged the presentation. We need raffle items for end of the month. Connie Hall will be coming to the end of the month and she will be raffling off a session next month.

Assembly Bill 196 has been passed out of Senate Judiciary. Roxy would like to write a letter in support to the Governor. All approved. Anne Louise suggested setting up postcards that members could sign in favor of the bill to send to the Governor.

Pride - Everyone was very happy with the float and thanked Rachel Hill and the others who helped with its construction. Roxy also thanked Aiyanna and Everett for setting up the booth. There were many contacts made. There was a very special thanks to Roshelle for donating the truck which was over a \$1,000 expense. Roxy wanted to give her recognition at the Patron Level for TGSF sustaining memberships. Everyone enthusiastically agreed.

Cotillion - The Marriott is very willing to cooperate with us and all our concerns have been met. Bar and Room guarantees will probably be met. Food will be a little more expensive. We will not be able to bring anything in because it is a liability. We don't have to have food at the rehearsal but it does last a long time. There is no rent for rehearsal. Roxy is projecting that we will be able to bring in the Cotillion for under \$14,000. We will work very hard to stay within our budget.

We are going to market to people outside of the area. Aiyanna suggests we try and find members who can help us with equipment and services to help us with whatever we need. Roxy said we need to find people with talent that will be willing to volunteer to help us with the show. We need to focus on advertising and donations. We need more help than ticket sales. We may need to think beyond small businesses because of the economic downturn and we could approach Pride Committee who screens their advertisers for suggestions.

The theme will be "Come Together". January 23 for the rehearsal and January 24 for the show. We'll get the two hospitality suites for no charge. Carla said she'd do makeovers. San Francisco Night Out is a possibility with a van for sight seeing.

We need to set up a way to charge Mastercard and Visa Card on line. This will help to sell tickets. Jamie McConnell will be directing, Susan Laird will be technical producer and Roxy administrative producer. Staff: Wendy Schultz will help us do catering. Judging coordinator is Stephanie Ann. Staffing coordinator, Jackie from RGA will help with staffing. Stage manager is proposed to be Tekla. Stephanie Ann Blythe has agreed to be judging coordinator. Roxy suggested Tiffany Woods for contestant coordinator.

Sponsorship - Aiyanna says we need to seek sponsors. It was good to see the discussion at the last end of the month, but we need, as responsible members of the Ex-Com, to find means of support that will allow us to continue as an organization. We need to work out a compromise with whoever that may want to sponsor us, so that we're both happy. The Ex-Com welcomes anyone from the community to come to the meetings to express their concerns. Aiyanna would like to form a group with Everett, Anne Louise and herself to seek sponsors and advertisers. We have dropped programs like the support group at the LGBT center that we could revive with sponsorship. This may be an incentive for prospective sponsors. We need to take whatever money we get and put it back into the community. We can have rap sessions, help someone who needs job training, help people who need child care.

Kalani will work with present advertisers. Tyler will help as well. He is interested in a silent auction. It will be good to ask vendors before the cotillion to donate services or items so we can advertise that. If advertisers don't want to

advertise, they could, as an alternative, donate goods and services. They may also get the benefit of our giving program (TGSF Sustaining Memberships).

Vote to approve contract with Marriott was unanimous. Aiyanna moved that we follow the outline to produce the Cotillion as Roxy suggested. The vote was also unanimous. It was agreed that we would pay the Marriott \$500 in monthly installments.

Treasurer's Report

\$3800 is in the bank and we are up to date on most of our accounts. We have a few outstanding bills. We didn't do too well with money donations and advertising last month. We had \$475 come in and \$866 go out. Roxy proposed holding off on debt repayment until there is more money.

Secretary's Report

Received an e-mail from Rys expressing that we find someone else to do her job. Anne Louise is now interim Secretary. Susan is taking over the database. Many people have offered to help with the web site. Roxy put out the renewal letter again to the membership. Roxy would like to eliminate TGSF link to Yahoo groups. It was proposed that Anne Louise do her profile for the next Channel.

Education

Need to get information about the status of the Library which is now at the LGBT center.

Outreach

Anne Louise went to the pride parade in Santa Rosa and they did not have a Transgendered booth. She talked to the Parade organizers and we will be able to put up a booth there at no cost and Anne will like to do this for next year. Diane Giles from TGIF has offered to help. The Ex-Com gave their support. Marla is now going to answer the hot line calls. San Francisco State requested a speaker at the Pride Parade.

Social

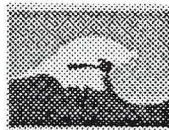
Next Events: EOM August - Nicky Stars may do makeovers, September - Roxy will try to get Mark Leno or someone from his office to come. October - Leather and Lace. The mid-month events - for July there be a dance at Aiyanna's, a donation will be requested. August - Jezabel's. September - Giants game with Milwaukee. October - Halloween party at Carla's.

New Business

Roxy's name change will be legal on July 29. Next meeting - August 3, 2003 at Susan's 4 PM.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Susan Laird

Hi all. Back again after an experiment in terror. The float project was something, to be sure, but I learned that only God can make butterflies flap their wings. Us lesser mortals have to go through a lot of engineering to make that happen.

The float build was a gas and I was gratified that there was a lot of good energy and wonderful people to work with. Getting the project through the pre-build was enormous and many of us were drop dead exhausted by Saturday morning. My sincerest thanks to Rachel Hill (yeah, the same ol' Miss TGSF) who I know only got 2 hours of sleep between Friday morning and Saturday night. If she wasn't helping Kelly Marsh and I get loaded up, she was home loading up her own contributions. I have never seen a harder-working and more dedicated Miss TGSF. We are so fortunate to have her. Also thanks to her employer, Bank Of America, lunch was bought and paid for during the float build.

Which brings me to another point. There were accusations of "selling out" when sponsorship by B of A was mentioned. For one thing, where were these same individuals when it came time to ride the float at Pride? I don't think I saw any of them. GIVE-ME-A-BREAK! This is the same B of A that FULLY supported not only the transition of Rachel at work, but a former friend of mine in 1987! Far better than Pacific Bell, who has a track record of 0 for 3 so far.

Onward. Pride was spectacular. For me, it was a first. Sorry I missed so many chances earlier to do something so empowering. As I was riding, and listening to the music that was from a CD I bought in Dusseldorf, I thought about the days when I walked that same route in Navy uniform in 1967, hiding and terrified that someone would find out about me. If I could have only seen into the future to this special Sunday. We have come so far, so fast. Sometimes progress is more defined in the rear-view mirror even though the road ahead seems long.

I know that Rachel and I said that we would bring the float in at zero cost. But, like most human beings, we got caught up in the spirit of the thing and over-did it. I hope to accumulate numbers on this when I get back from vacation, but I wouldn't be surprised if the cost of the build topped out at over \$1500, not to mention that the trailer was leased by Roshelle out of her own pocket (thank you). Contrast this to the statement made in "float building 101", a class held by a professional float builder that a typical float will cost about \$3000 to build. Of course I, for one, will swallow some of that \$1500 in exchange for not "selling out", but here is my threat. Kind of highway robbery, if you will. Maybe next year, I will insist on letters 18 inches high that say "CUNNING CARTAGE & HAIRZAPPER.COM PRESENTS"

So, some donations towards this year's expenses would be nice (nudge, nudge, wink, wink)

And a special thank you to all of the fine individuals who walked the entire event, carrying the banner and monitoring the float. I plan on walking it myself next year. Hey! Weren't those air horns neat in the downtown? What, What? Speak up. I can't hear you!



A BLAST FROM THE PAST

Susan Laird

As I said in the VP report, I had never attended the S.F. Pride parade before. I am sure stories like this one exist, but I was the most blown-away individual in two blocks that day. It started as we were forming up for the parade. I saw one "T" person dressed as Alice in Wonderland, carrying a basket of candy to hand out to people along the parade route. No big deal. She came up to me and said some nice things about the float and said that she had come down to San Francisco from a small town in Northern California. I said it was strange that many years ago I had kept a post office box in that same town. In fact, I had lived in a nearby locale where I had built a geodesic dome home. She looked at me and kept saying "OH MY GOD" over and over. I thought she was going wacky or something. She asked me if I remembered ODONATA.

Odonata was a 60's revival band that I performed with for about a year and a half or so about 1983. At first, I thought that she was just someone who had seen us back then, but you can well imagine my shock when she said: "It's ME! I was the bass player!"

Each of us had never known about the other during the whole time we played in that band. She ran back and brought back (of course) the Rabbit with the clock, the wife whom I had known for all of that time. It was the most incredible reunion for me. And to think that it would have never happened but for S.F. Pride and my involvement in it.

I believe that the power in such things as Pride lies in gaining visibility and waving our multi-colored uniformity.

But far more than that, far far more, is that we find out how much alike so many of us are and how much could be gained if we only knew that it is the same dark closet that we are all hiding in. For the keyboardist and bass player in ODONATA, it was a supreme waste of 20 years. I think we will be very close friends for many years to come. Maybe we can make up for lost time.

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



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Sunday / August 3 / 4:00pm

TG SF ExCOM MEETING

The Next ExCom meeting will be held on Sunday August 3 at 4 PM at the home of our Vice President, Susan Laird, at 2222 Pruneridge Avenue, Santa Clara. A busy agenda is planned and volunteers are welcome! Please join your ExCom in planning for Halloween and Cotillion 2004 and more!

Saturday / August 9 / 4:00pm & 8:00pm

BROUHAHA: A PARTY FOR TRANS, INTERSEX, GENDERQUEER FOLKS AND THEIR BUDDIES

El Rio 3158 Mission St. @ Precita, San Francisco. Admission: \$5 - \$10 Sliding Scale/ No one turned away for lack of funds. See notice on Page 8 for all the details!

Wednesday / August 13 / 7:30pm

TG SF MID MONTH SOCIAL

Talk and Drinks at Jezabel's Joint, 510 Larkin in SF. For more information call Aiyanna at (415) 753-6475.

Thursday / August 28 / 7:30pm

TG SF EOM EVENT

The Blue Muse 409 Gough Street, San Francisco. Special Guest: Nicki Stars and Special Raffle! For more information contact the hotline or Roxy Carmichael-Hart via email.

Coming in September!

Friday / September 12/ 5:00pm

TG SF MID-MONTH EVENT: LET'S GO TO THE BALL GAME!

San Francisco Giants vs. Milwaukee Brewers. Meet at Momo's at 760 2nd Street at the corner of King at 5:00pm. Call Aiyanna at (415) 753-6475 for reservations.

Saturday / September 13 / 1:00pm

TG SF BACK TO SCHOOL BBQ

Pot-Luck BBQ hosted by Ayme Kantz (Editor of The Channel) and her partner, Sappho Calfas, at their beautiful home in the hills above Walnut Creek. For sign-ups, information, reservations and directions email MissAyme@aol.com or call 925-939-5397. We should be having our annual Indian Summer weather about then, so bring your bathing suits and enjoy the new hot tub and the glorious view of Mt. Diablo.

August's Birthdays

8/01	Jennifer	8/16	Casey Cole
8/01	Kenette Faulkner	8/17	Beborah Anne B.
8/01	Tracy Foiles	8/19	Susan Taylor
8/02	Nicole Mossinger	8/19	Marilyn Koletzke
8/03	Cheryl Sheppard	8/20	Jeannette Heulin
8/03	Susan	8/20	Roxanne C.
8/03	Angel Louise Grant	8/21	Esmarelda J. Alderete
8/03	Maria	8/23	Joyce Jones
8/04	Lili Dubois	8/26	Kay Mathews
8/05	Bill Jones	8/27	Louise Warren
8/07	Debra Bolle	8/27	Joesanne
8/09	Billie Jean Hall	8/27	Lulu Blau
8/11	Mary Elicker	8/27	Sabrina Evans
8/13	Sabel Samone	8/28	Evelyn Perry
8/13	Susan Seger	8/29	Erin Russell
8/13	Andrew Firebaugh	8/29	Lea Lee
8/14	Kran Kilpatrick	8/31	Darcy Leopard
8/16	Gail Stern	8/31	Bardi Detro

Many Happy Returns of the Day!



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Calendar of Events - August 2003

OTHER BAY AREA GROUPS

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

Diablo Valley Girls (DVG)

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

DVG Rap Group (RCC)

Meets 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month, 7:00pm at Rainbow Community Center, 2118 Willow Pass Road, Suite 500 in Concord. For more information call 925-937-8432.

FTM International

A support group for Female-to-Male CDs and TSs; Holds open Informational Meetings and closed Support Meetings. Write FTM International, Inc., 160 14th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103 or call 415-553-5987.

TGIF

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

Silicon Valley Gender Association (SVGA)

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

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

The Mid-Peninsula Transgender Group (MPTG)

A support group for the LGBT community that meets at 7:30 pm on the first Wednesday of each month at the Women's Health Boutique, 1115 South B Street, San Mateo - (408) 619-2908.

Central City Hospitality House (CCHH)

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 8:00 PM PacCtr 8:00 PM RGA	2
3 4:00 PM TGSF: ExCom Meeting	4 5:00 PM CCHH 7:00 PM PISSR General Meeting 8:00 PM DVG	5 7:00 PM SCT	6 7:30 PM MPTG	7 7:00 PM DVG RCC	8 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr	9 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
10	11 5:00 PM CCHH	12	13 7:30 PM TGSF Mid-Month @ Jezebel's	14	15 8:00 PM PacCtr 8:00 PM RGA	16
17	18 5:00 PM CCIII 8:00 PM DVG	19 7:00 PM SCT	20	21 7:00 PM DVG RCC	22 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr	23 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
24	25 5:00 PM CCHH	26 7:30 PM SCOUT	27	28 7:30 PM TGSF: EOM @ Blue Muse	29 8:00 PM PacCtr	30
31						

TGSF MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership Year is May 1 to April 30 / \$40 Single Membership; \$45 Family.

Please Print / Check all that apply:

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

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

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

Member at a TGSF Social.

Special Events!

BROUHAHA!

Hi everyone! I'm helping to put on a benefit/party and would love it if you all would join us. Please mark your calendars.

Gili

Contact: iwouldwalk500@hotmail.com

Killing Time Productions and United Genders of the Universe Present:

BROUHAHA: A PARTY FOR TRANS, INTERSEX, GENDERQUEER FOLKS AND THEIR BUDDIES

Where: El Rio, 3158 Mission St. @ Precita, San Francisco

When: **Saturday, August 9, 2003**

Performances from 4:00PM – 8:00PM

Admission: \$5 – \$10 Sliding Scale/ No one turned away for lack of funds

Performers:

Shawna Virago - Featuring local trans-activist and advocate for Community Against Violence (CUAV) Shawna Virago on guitar and vocals.

Other Brothers - A performance group comprised of People of Color on the Butch and FTM spectrum will astound with their spoken word.

Thea Hillman - This intersex activist is the author of the critically acclaimed *Depending on the Light* (Manic D Press). A San Francisco poetry slam champion, Thea has performed her work at festivals, bookstores, and reading series across the country.

Robo Sapien - This group will show off their moves, music, and smooth rhymes in a genre-defying performance with Wax Master C cutting it up on the turntables.

Katastrophe - This gendernessin' FTM hip hop MC who has rocked the mic, charmed the ladies and educated the masses across the USA. With his tongue-twisting rhyme style, political frankness and a disarming sense of humor, he has become a primary player in the growing national queer hip hop underground.

And more!

Special Guest Speaker!

PLAN AHEAD! SAVE THIS DATE!

Dear Trans Community Members,

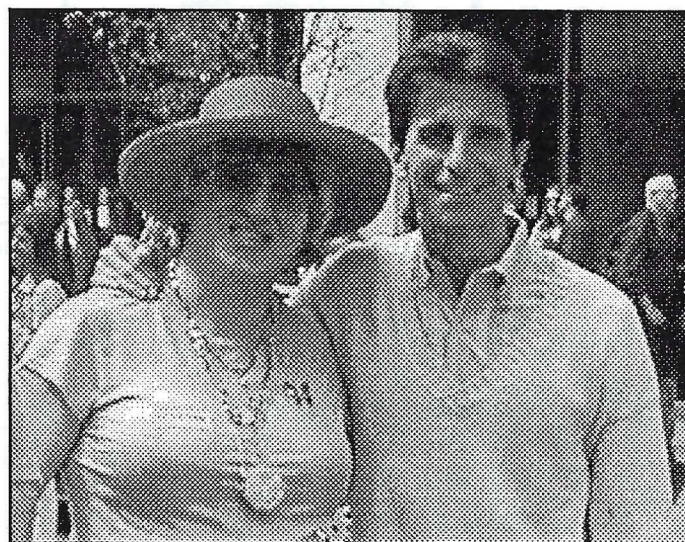
The Monterey Transsexual Support Group, for both FtM's and MtF's/Pre-op and Post-op, will be having a guest speaker, **Aleshia Brevard**, author of *The Woman I Was Not Meant To Be*, at our next group meeting will be **on Saturday, August 9, 10 a.m. to noon**. Aleshia transitioned in the early 60's, and had SRS in 1962. She subsequently worked as an actress in Hollywood in the television and film industry, and now lives in Scotts Valley. Her story is entertaining and rich with trans-history. It's next meeting regular meeting this coming Saturday, June 14th, from 10 a.m. to noon.

For those who do not know, this is a closed (see note regarding guest below), confidential therapy support group run by gender specialists Stephen L. Braveman, M.A., L.M.F.T., D.S.T. (Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist, AASECT Certified Diplomate of Sex Therapy and Gender Specialist, Member of the HBIGDA) and Maren Martin, M.S.W., L.C.S.W. (Licensed Clinical Social Worker). The group meets at Stephen's office in Monterey. There is a \$25.00 fee per group and a free, one-hour intake is required to be a regular part of this group. There are currently a couple openings for new members available.

Guests in the trans community, who are not part of this group, are welcome on special occasions such as this one. However, this is by reservation only. Sorry, no drop-ins are allowed.

Call or write Stephen at the number/e-mail address below if you are interested in joining the group, being a guest at a special meeting and/or both.

Stephen L. Braveman
494 Alvarado Street, Suite A
Monterey, CA 93940
Phone: (831) 375-7553
www.bravemantherapy.com
stephen@bravemantherapy.com



Our illustrious President, Roxy Carmichael-Hart - with the equally fabulous Assemblyman, Marc Leno, at SF Pride Parade

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.

Special Announcement!

TGSF Sustaining Memberships

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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

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Recognition in Cotillion Program
Recognition Certificate

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Thank you for your support of TGSF!

Heart To Hart

EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED

by **Roxy Carmichael-Hart**

The decision of whom to tell about your decision to walk into the light is often an entirely subjective one. A good rule of thumb is to start with those whom you feel are the most accepting, then go from there. Although this makes sense, it is not a perfect system. My own decision has resulted in a couple of surprising reactions and not at all in the manner that I expected.

I'll start with my brother. To begin with, he is not a nice person. He is intolerant, prejudiced, arrogant and judgmental. We have had an on and off relationship for the past several years. So, he was near the bottom of my list of people to tell, if at all.

Why even *think* of telling him, you ask. My answer is, rather simply, because he is one of the dwindling members of my family. I told my sister several months ago and she is fine with it. And as far as immediate family goes, that's it. This is why I look to the people in TGSF and elsewhere as my family because many of them have been there for me more than my own family has been.

I had told my brother's ex-girlfriend and current neighbor, Linda. She has been very supportive and invited me for a girl's day out shopping. She advised me never to tell my brother because she anticipated his reaction (it took her about 5 years to find out what I had told her when they had started dating but that's another story). One day she wrote me and mentioned that my brother had called my home and had discovered Roxy's name on my outgoing message. He thought I had gotten married or was living with someone. I figured that was the time to spill the beans.

So the night of Rachael's BBQ, I called him and his first question was "Who's Roxy?" I explained it as delicately as I could and after about three times, he finally caught on. Of course, his first question was "Are you gay?" I told him no and explained it as best as I could. During our three-hour discussion, he asked every question one would expect to be asked, but he was never degrading or demeaning or negative. I wouldn't say he was overjoyed but he wasn't hostile either. His conclusion was "well, if you're happy I've got no problem with it." His only criticism was "You should know me well enough to have told me instead of Linda."

The problem was that I did know him, or at least I thought I did. He was right, though. I should have been up front and let the chips fall where they may. Our subsequent calls have been ok and I think he is dealing with it and trying to sort things out. He asked me if I had to call me by my new name when it is legally changed. I replied that many of my friends are having difficulty with acceptance from their loved ones and I never would force him to do anything that was uncomfortable. I told him that I knew it would take time. He was ok with that and I felt that one more barrier in my life had fallen.

The other surprising reaction came from a very dear friend of mine and someone I have known for almost 6 years. She has been an inspiration to be because of her work ethic and her endless enthusiasm. She is one of the most loving and giving people I have ever known and thus, was one of the first people I told. She even gave me jewelry. So, when I told her about my transition process, she replied "Does this mean that there will be no more Don? I love Don and I don't want to lose him. I don't know if I will like Roxy. I know I've never met her but I don't think that I want to. I think it would be best if we not see each other anymore."

Of course that hurt. And of course I cried when I read it. This is someone whom I love very much and I thought I knew her very well. Apparently, I didn't. I tried to explain to her that I am still the same person inside and she has always known that person. Only the packaging is different. I sent her a copy of the letter explaining my decision to my co-workers. No response. I called her answering machine and have sent her subsequent e-mails. Nothing. She terminated our friendship because she felt I was not the person that she thought she knew.

Two people, two reactions. Both totally unexpected. Two people I thought I knew and completely misread. It shows how difficult it is to try to judge whom to tell. So I guess that in the future I won't expect any kind of response or worry about how someone will react. Because if there is a problem, it isn't mine.

IMPORTANT WEBSITE UPDATE!

If you want an ID/Password to access the new **Member's area** on the TGSF website, send an email request to Susan Laird: Susan@hairzapper.com.

Beauty Boost

by **Wendy R. Schultz**

HAIR TODAY, GONE TOMORROW

Hair removal isn't something that comes up in conversation very much. In fact, it's probably as popular as going to the dentist. Still, like dental visits, hair removal is a part of life, and one that should be as painless and easy as possible. There are several available alternatives.

Shaving

Shaving is the quickest yet most temporary way to remove hair. Disposable razors, shaving cream, and gel are inexpensive. The better the razor, the better the results. Better razors reduce the chance of nicks and cuts. Shave gels with moisturizing ingredients are terrific, and produce great results. Electric razors are also a good choice but don't give as close of a shave.

Tweezing

Tweezing is excellent for removing hair in smaller areas, like the brow line, and is an excellent way to shape and arch the brow. When tweezing, it is especially helpful to use a magnifying mirror to see each individual hair. Invest in a good tweezer with an angled tip, which makes it easier to grasp each hair individually.

Waxing

Soft waxes are used with a strip and hard waxes become their own strip. In addition, pre and post wax products are important to prep the skin prior to waxing as well as reduce irritation afterward. To help the wax adhere better to the skin, lightly powder the area with cornstarch to absorb excess oil and perspiration. Apply wax in the direction of hair growth. If using a strip, smooth the strip in the direction of hair growth, and then hold the skin taut with one hand while pulling the strip in the opposite direction, as close to the body as possible. Don't exfoliate or sunbathe the waxed area for 24 hours.

Laser and Electrolysis

The laser hair removal process is done by delivering light at a specified wavelength from a hand piece into the skin where it targets dark material and causes thermal damage to the hair follicle. People with light skin and dark hair are the best candidates for this procedure. This procedure is ideal for large areas like the back and abdomen, as well as the face.

Electrolysis is great for small amounts of hair, and is done by sliding a thin metal probe into a hair follicle. Electricity is delivered to the follicle through the probe, which damages the area that generates hair. For both laser and electrolysis, some regrowth is possible, so multiple visits may be necessary. The procedures are expensive, but the results last longer.

Product Review

This month's product is Tend Skin. Used twice daily, Tend Skin is an excellent product that helps to eliminate bumps and ingrown hairs after shaving. Tend Skin is available at beauty supply stores as well as salons.

Questions and feedback are always welcome. My email address is BeautyBoost@msn.com.

Although I'm a licensed Esthetician, I'm not a healthcare professional. As such, please consult with your doctor prior to beginning any new skin care regimen.

Changing Sexes, Korean Mores...

Continued from Page 2

Nowadays, several other doctors perform sex-change surgery in South Korea, and a bill before the South Korean Parliament would legally recognize the new gender of patients who have undergone the operation. "Even my minister has come to understand the need for the surgery," said Dr. Kim, who described himself as a devoted Presbyterian. "In fact, I've had other ministers and clergy approach me for the operation."

If few criticize his surgery today on moral grounds, or even out of prudery, some still object that sex-change operations here are the ultimate expression of a plastic surgery culture in South Korea that has run amok. By most estimates, South Koreans go under the knife for cosmetic alterations more than anyone else in Asia, with everything from eye and nose operations aimed at achieving a more Western look, to breast augmentations and calf remodeling among the most popular types of surgery.

Dr. Kim brushes off such complaints, just as he hesitates to take credit for the social changes set off by his operations. "These operations are a difficult form of surgery, and can last as long as 12 hours," he said. "Other than that, there is nothing particular to be proud of. Yes, perhaps South Korea has changed, but what gratifies me is knowing that a lot of people can live happier lives now."

ExCom Profile

ANNE LOUISE MORTENSON



One night when I was about five or six, some high school students came to our family's home and asked my parents if I could be a flower girl in a mock wedding. All the boys would be dressed as girls and all the girls as boys. My parents thought it was a fun idea, they loved parties. My mother made me a crepe paper dress in pastel colors. I remembered how it crinkled when I walked down the aisle as I carried the bride's train. I felt so pretty in that dress. After that night I would sneak into my parent's room and open the bottom draw of my mother's bureau and take out the crepe paper dress. As I wore my frills and felt and heard those crinkles again, I remember the sun shining through the Catalpa tree in the backyard and world seeming to be brighter and happier than it ever had before.

Being transgendered has given my life a different perspective. When I was very young, something was always suspiciously wrong. It would bother me to wear shorts. Somehow it got mixed up with exposing my feminine side and I knew I couldn't do that. I had no sisters, so I wore my mother's clothes, learned how to wear her lipstick and get it off without being discovered, learned to hide and to keep secrets. No one had taught me to do that. Why did I do that? And there was the problem of girls. As a teenager, I finally told someone about what was troubling me. She was the first girlfriend I really cared about, who I thought I could say anything to. It was a disaster. Her reaction was an indignant, "You want to wear my clothes?" That wasn't what it was about, although I would have loved to wear her clothes if she gave me the opportunity. It was so strange and confusing for me. It was another 15 or 20 years before I ever told anyone else.

I was in my late forties before I finally found the community that I was looking for. Up till then I had felt isolated. I had this idea that

everyone had their dirty secrets that they had to hide to fit in with society, mine was being transgendered. It was hard for me to conceive that people could be open and happy about being transgendered. But I knew there were other girls out there. I had trudged down the streets of the Castro, tried the hot line for ETVC, but was afraid to leave my name and number, searched through the pages of *Tapestry* that I found in the Sex shops. Finally I phoned a little entry in *Tapestry* for group called the Redwood Gender Association. A human voice answered who was not surprised at all by my request to find someone who was like myself. That was many years ago. A month ago at the Pride Parade Booth, I met someone who cried when I told her it was ok to accept her gender identity. I told her how easy it was for me to see how compassionate and nurturing she was. We were both crying by the time we hugged goodbye.

I've been a contestant in the Cotillion for the past two years and hope to again compete this year. It is fun to be in the Cotillion but of course the important part is to be a representative of the community. You become a representative by being on that stage. I feel honored to have the responsibility of representing girls like myself to the greater community. TGSF has become an important part of my life and I believe we as an organization can make a significant difference in the lives of all transgendered people in the Bay Area and beyond. I feel that it's even more important now when we live in a time of social unrest and economic hard times to support in whatever we can our struggle for acceptance. It's not that we can't have a good time too, please don't misunderstand - I also like to party. I just want our organization to be a strong voice in our society.

About a week ago at an ExCom meeting, Roxy gave me the opportunity to put my beliefs into practice when she asked me to become Secretary of TGSF. I will work to help make this year, a great one. We have a wonderful president and ExCom, full of loving, giving people. We have excellent plans for the Cotillion and TGSF events and we have TGSF itself, all of us together making a difference. I know in some ways my quest is selfish. I want your support to help me learn how to accept myself for who I am. But it also puts me on the line to be the compassionate person that I've always wanted to be. I think being Secretary will be like being a contestant in the Cotillion: it will make me want to be the best person I can be.

Anne Louise Mortenson

Mr. TGSF 2003



FROM THE DESK OF MR. TGSF...

Tyler Fong

San Francisco Gay Pride was a bit more interesting this year as I was flying back from a 5-concert tour of France with the UC Davis Symphony Orchestra. I flew back one day early so as to ride the TGSF float during my title year. I was in a bit of shock as the flight desk person put me on the stand by list for Sat. and noted that the next flight would be Sun. afternoon. As luck may have it, my fears were soon resting in first class for the next 10 hours to SFO from Paris. I could not partake of the wine/hard liquor list, as my body does not tolerate it now that I've taken on the "gym rat" lifestyle. I did enjoy my preflight OJ and a varied assortment of sodas and water during my onboard flight meals.

The parade on Sunday was very exciting, as I was able to chat with TGSF members, friends and photographers. On route I made eye contact with coworkers from the East Bay and friends from the leather community. I even made some parade viewers smile/wave harder as I looked there way that morning. The weather was cool, but hearts were warm as we traveled down Market Street.

My efforts and ties with TGSF have only grown stronger with time. I will forge new paths and continue to do so even after my title year. Have you grown this year, too? Share your thoughts, take it slow and you will see personal growth as well.

Miss TGSF - Rachel Hill

Miss TGSF 2003

I'm back! First I would like to apologize for disappearing over the last two issues. Life took some twists and turns that were much harder to deal with than I had thought they would be. Most of the chips have fallen by this point but I'm still finding my way through day by day.

I recently moved into my new place - a long awaited event. I am proud of my new home and am really pleased with how things turned out. That didn't seem to matter though. Robin and I both spent the next three weeks with our eyes swollen from crying. Doing it is much different than talking about it. We still eat together whenever we are both home on any given night and the kids now vary where they want to sleep each night. At least they seem to be doing ok with all this.

On June 6th I celebrated my RLT anniversary. This is the type of anniversary that doesn't seem to mean a whole lot to anyone else except to the person celebrating. All day long I had this incredible smile on my face and nothing could bring me down - and nobody knew why. (Ok, maybe a few)

By that date I had already received both of my referral letters and was able to schedule my appointment for February 2nd. That's right, four days after the Cotillion, I'll be on my way.

MissTGSF On The Road

This is where I will keep you up to date on where I have been and hopefully where I am going to be. Where I have been is easy. Where I am going gets a little harder due to the required publishing deadlines and sometimes I only have a 3-4 day notice. If you think it is a good idea for me to post my commitments on the events calendar, e-mail me with your comments.

Sunday June 8th, San Jose, Ca.

SAN JOSE PRIDE PARADE

It was a cool morning, but you could tell it was going to get warm. Just a little patience. Big thank you to Rachael Janelle for arranging a convertible for the Mr. and Miss TGSF contingent. The boys who decorated it did and absolutely fabulous job! I was very proud. We had about 12 people show up to march, which fit the size of the parade (took about 12 minutes). It will be great to watch this parade grow year after year.

Saturday, June 21st

BEST BUCK IN THE BAY - RODEO, DRISCOLL RANCH, LA HONDA, CA.

I was so looking forward to this event since we own horses and have been around rodeo events for years. This was my first time with GSRA. Congratulations to Doug Graff and his group for putting on an incredible event. What a tremendous amount of work and coordination it must take to make sure everything happens as it should - Hats off to you Doug!! I'm determined to compete next year in barrel racing so don't miss this one next year.



Saturday June 28th and Sunday June 29th

SAN FRANCISCO PRIDE PARADE, SAN FRANCISCO, CA.

Preparation for the Pride parade had actually started 2 months earlier and I want to give a special thank you to Susan Laird for producing this event. She spent tireless nights with design and construction not to mention a ton of money. When I came by her house on Friday night, she and Kelli Ann Marsh were cutting wood, painting and finishing the butterflies until late into the night. Thank you too Kelli!

That night I went home and loaded the trailer with the mushrooms, carpeting, tools and whatever I thought we would need. Saturday morning we paraded into pier 27 ready to rock and I wasn't disappointed. We ended up with almost 30 people there to help - all willing to do whatever they needed to. It was nice to see such cooperation. Pride was in the air. Bank of America provided lunch and we all worked well into the six o'clock hour. I was very proud of our efforts.

Rochelle, girlfriend, thank you so so much for arranging the trailer and providing the rig to pull it. Your truck was absolutely beautiful and made a huge statement. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Saturday night I had wanted to go to the Dyke March, but we were completely exhausted and had just enough energy to have dinner and go to bed. I am very proud of our efforts, but next year I want to enjoy more of the event.

Sunday morning the energy was in the air. The float was able to accommodate all the girls who wanted to ride. Thank you to those who volunteered to be the safety monitors - we wouldn't have a parade without you! The streets were packed and the adrenaline began to flow as we crept onto Market Street. Thousands of smiling faces, waving and cheering. There is nothing else like it. I am so blessed to have stood beside Mr. TGSF, Tyler Fong and represent TGSF. It is something I will never forget.

Hopefully we were able to give that same feeling to many of the girls who rode for the first time - I still remember my first time.

Yesterday, I attended the wedding ceremony of Merrisa Coleman and Dianne Bishop and today I am off the SF AIDS WALK, I'll tell you about those in next month's *Channel*.

HEY!

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

Tall, feminine, graceful closet CD seeks Big Sister to help with shopping and makeup tips. I live alone so it's helpful if you can come here, but I can certainly travel. SF Area. Call (415) 000-0000.

Up to 40 words only \$10.00. Send text of ad and Check or Money Order to TGSF's PO Box, ATTN: Editor. Reach out and come out!

ONLINE SO LIST!

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

Readers Respond

BLOG - TRANSGENDER PARTY GIRLS

Jamie Fay Fenton

Jamie's been a Transgender Party Girl for the last several years. It's been wild and fortunately she has taken notes. The result is this occasional column entitled "Jamie's Guide to Living Dangerously." (The philosophy is explained in the final section on harm reduction). Here are some excerpts:

The Reality Condom

I just discovered these (www.femalehealth.com/theproduct.html). The Female Health Company (FHC) is the maker of FC Female Condom, the first and only female-initiated barrier method of contraception and disease prevention.

FHC was created as a worldwide company in February 1996 with the purchase of Chartex Resources Ltd., the holder of exclusive worldwide rights to FC. FHC is the sole manufacturer and marketer of FC in the world. FHC manufacturers all FCs in a state-of-the-art facility in London, England.

While they are marketed to genetic females for conventional intercourse, they also work rather well for anyone serving as the receptive partner in anal sex. (I am not the first person to think of this by far - this "off-label" use is well known in the GLBT community).

For trannies, they have several incredible advantages. First, you can put it in while you are preparing to go out, rather than waiting for the hectic time when passions are hot. Second, you can use it with yourself for exploration and masturbation - your sex toys stay clean and you would never know it was there from the sensations! They do cost \$3-\$4 each and are single use (unless you use a particular unit on yourself only, in which case you can re-use them).

Are You A Gynandromorphophile?

The Spring 2003 *Transgender Tapestry*, in a special issue devoted to "Gender Education 101," featured an article by the Maine Gender Resource & Support Service called "The Chinese Menu." It makes the point that sexual morphology, gender identity, and sexual orientation are three completely independent facets of a person. For one of the examples of sexual orientation, they toss out the term "Gynandromorphophile," which they define as applying to "male-bodied people attracted to other male-bodied people, who happen to appear very feminine."

[In other words] a technical sounding name for "Tranny Chaser". Trannies learn about Tranny Chasers early on. Quite a few Trannies are Tranny Chasers themselves. I know more than a few genetic female-bodied Tranny Chasers too.

So, are you a gynandromorphophile? - I am. I can also use that question as a smart alec response to a bad pickup line!

Harm Reduction for TG Party Girls

I have been kicking around the idea of creating a harm reduction web resource for TGs, particularly young TGs.

The murder of Gwen Araujo last year shook up everyone in the Bay Area gender community, myself included. I have been asking myself "what can we do to prevent more of us from dying young like Gwen did?" Some of the answers may lie in a philosophy called harm reduction.

Harm Reduction is an emerging concept for coping with the dangers of sex and drugs. Unlike traditional approaches that emphasize moral outrage and coercive control, this new approach focuses on reducing damage through education and support.

An example of this is needle exchange programs for IV drug users. They reduce the incidence of injection mishaps, stem the spread of HIV, and bring information about drug treatment options to active users. Still, these are often criticized for "enabling or condoning IV drug use" and remain illegal in many jurisdictions.

San Francisco has a number of forward-thinking programs like this. Last fall, I visited my friend Michelle Garcia, who was at the time working for the TRANS Project in the Tenderloin district of San Francisco. The TRANS Project works with street trannies - they have a drop-in center where a TG gal can come in, take a shower, grab a bite to eat, and if they were interested, participate in an education program for pay. The sessions cover things like how to negotiate with a customer, how to lower the risk of getting AIDS, HepC, & other STDs, where to find needle exchange, and so on.

On the Internet, there are a number of useful resources for party girls who live dangerously. Here are a few of them:

www.dancesafe.org has a lot of good information about ecstasy/MDMA and the other club drugs. They also participate in a program that lab-tests pills called www.ecstasydata.org

HE SAID, "THANKS"

It was the end of Pride week, 6-29-2003. All the preparations and the float building were accomplished with great camaraderie from so many of you. The special Saturday evening in the hotel with Susan, Rachel and Rochelle was complete. Even the thrill in my soul at the sight and sound of the cheering crowd was now an everlasting memory in my book of life. The float was torn down and friends have hugged and said our good-byes. What more could this special event possibly have in store for me? My mind was still racing, my heart was full, and my cup was surely running over at this point. Yet I still was not quite ready to leave this proud city. A good friend, Sophie, and I decided to stay a bit longer and have dinner at a small Italian restaurant that we enjoy.

When we got there, I set with my back to the window with Sophie across from me. Behind her were three G-girls. Soon, an older gay couple sat beside us. We exchanged greetings with the gentlemen. To my right sat a young couple. They appeared to be a young white G-girl and a young black F to M. I made eye contact with the young man but we didn't speak.

Soon, the three G-girls got up to leave and stopped to ask if any of us were going to a play that was happening the next night. That sparked a conversation with Sophie, the two men, and myself, about old plays and famous dancers and the like. After the girls left, we continued talking with the gentlemen about pride week in general and how much it meant to us all. We got up to leave, and as I walked by the table where the young couple was sitting, the guy got up and approached me extending for my hand. As our hands met, he looked me in the eye and said, "We've really enjoyed eating beside you so much."

My response was "thank you, that's very nice." Then he said, "I recognized your U.S.M.C. tattoo. I just want to thank you for making my way easier." I was stunned. All I could think of to say at the time was "You're so sweet," and I turned to the girl and said, "He's such a gentleman." Her reply was "I know." I was so moved. My heart was in my throat. It was all I could do to fight back the tears on the walk back to the apartment where Sophie was staying. I got my camera and as we were on our way to the car went back by the restaurant but they were gone. I wish so much I could have expressed to him just how much those words mean to me. They will live in my heart forever!

I just wanted to share this experience with as many of you as possible. In living our controversial lives, it's so common to feel the daily oppression and judgments of others upon us. But so often there are those quiet observers that look up to us for the loving courage that we exhibit in living our lives as who we are in our hearts. Most won't have the strength to speak to us directly, but we must not forget that for every off-handed remark, there are many unspoken words of encouragement, appreciation, and absolute Love.

So please, take your memories of a week of Pride expression and carry them proudly through all of your daily lives.

**Yours in heart and soul,
Kelly Anne Marsh**

www.bluelight.nu covers ecstasy, THC, coke, meth, shrooms, and the rest. They have a large database of user-supplied reviews of ecstasy brands.

www.tweaker.org is for gay users of crystal methamphetamine. Lots of trannies and drag-queens use crystal as well, and can benefit from the information here.

Several months ago I reported on a guide to sex work published by the Harm Reduction Coalition. It is still there at www.harmreduction.org/pamphlets/MALESCORTHANDBOOK.pdf (It has a section on MtF sex work). They also have a guide to safer injection of IV drugs: www.harmreduction.org/pamphlets/saferinjection.html.

All of the above are examples of the harm reduction approach. All the facts, the good and the bad, are to be found in these places. What you don't see is preaching, shame, denigration, or evangelism.

What would a TG harm reduction web site contain? I have already started a brainstorm list of topics. Everything from how to sneak a condom onto a cock during a blowjob, to how to spot and avoid an undercover sting operation.

Plenty of ethical questions, too. For me, many of these settle out under the basic principal that it is better that we be alive than dead.

If you have comments or suggestions, please contact jamie@tgforum.com.

Pride Parade 2003!

FROM THE EYES OF THE TGSF FLOAT

I was invited to join your club from that special lady herself, The Outrageous Miss Didi Mau. She posted a write-up about the SF Gay Pride Parade this year in my club and since I'm a bit behind, I finally got to it in the midst of the summer heat. Thought I would share with everyone here about my awesome experience at the parade. This was my first parade ever...read on...

Well everyone, Didi was right. It indeed was a fabulous day at the SF Gay Pride Parade. Riding a float wasn't something I was expecting or intending to do at all, in fact, this was the first parade I've ever been to (honest!) and so now, I have been ultimately de-virginized by the biggest and coolest one of them all!

The day started early at 6am layering on makeup and mostly consisting of waking up and lazily putting on my "clothes". Then it was straight to Starbucks for a morning jolt and purchased film that never fully developed! Arrgh!

My buddy Don and I arrived nearby (Didi, where did we stage up? I can't remember already) around 9am. We finalized our costumes and getup in the car. As I oh so delicately applied my rhinestone pasties there were a few tourists that came by getting a San Fran eyeful. Well, that was a first for me I'll tell ya! Tee Hee!

Oh how I'm so glad I wore my converse hightops that day. I have so much respect for Miss Didi Mau. Boy does she tower over me like a mile high stack of stilettos. And that headdress? Oh please, don't get me started, holy Toledo, I was in pain just by looking at her predicament. To the one who is Tall, Beautiful and most definitely...NOT: Salute!

The float was so pretty. There were mushrooms and giant butterflies all over so I fit right in with my wings and Chinese umbrella. After we got staged on the float and we got around the corner, my jaw literally just dropped. I have never seen so many people taking so many pictures in all my life! It was so hilarious and so crazy all the same. As some of you may know, this actually was my first public appearance ever in pasties. How liberating! LOL! I was tripping out and couldn't believe that I actually did it.

Before the parade, I told a close family member that I was going to go in pasties and the response I got was "it's not your style". Well, so I did it anyway. I felt like such a mischievous sprite, of course for me, that is risqué!

Everyone we met on the float and off were so cool. I got a lot of nice compliments on my costume and saw some really outrageous ones (Didi's especially!) Miss Didi Mau had the biggest headdress of them all, and she walked the entire time. I was wanting to hop on and off, but as the rules were I either had to stay on the whole time for safety reasons or walk.

Who knows if me and my half-naked torso made it on TV but my golly there were so many people there and probably over a million pictures taken. I did see a friend of mine behind the rail in the spectators section, she was one of the girls I worked with in the Davis All-Curl Revue back in March 2003. How surprising it was to even see a familiar face.

By the end of the parade my face was hurting. My red rosy round cheeks had frozen into a permanent position of baring my pearly whites for a whole 3 1/2 hours. I have never smiled so much in my godforsaken life! It felt I had this crazy pasty plastic smile on my face like a porcelain china doll (except doll's don't smile) for a very slow 1 1/2 mile in front of almost what seemed like a million people, cameras and TV crews. Hehe what a riot!

Didi stayed for the final festivities at the Civic center while Don and I hitched a ride back to the beginning on the float. I would have stayed, but duty calls when you have rehearsal. I didn't post any pictures of my date, he's shy.

Next year, I shall perform the march and do it alongside The Outrageous Didi Mau, and in heels :) its not the sort of thing you do in sneakers, after all, it's the SF Gay Pride Parade and its not just Gay, it's Happy.

Thank you Didi so much for this great experience, it was a smiley day I will never forget. You are a true Queen.

**Sprinkle stardust in your eyes,
Cherry**



IMPORTANT WEBSITE UPDATE!

If you want an ID/Password to access the new **Member's area** on the TGSF website, send an email request to Susan Laird: Susan@hairzapper.com.

Pride Parade 2003!



Elderly LGBT Folks Have Many Concerns

FEAR ASKING FOR SOCIAL SERVICE

By PAUL LEVY
Minneapolis - St. Paul Star Tribune

Many of Cathy Croghan's older friends need medical attention, housekeeping help or meals delivered. But they don't dare ask. "As soon as you ask for help, you're vulnerable," said Croghan, chairwoman of GLBT Generations, a group that studies the needs and concerns of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered seniors. "That's hard enough for a straight person. Now imagine what it's like to be a senior in the gay community."

While Gay Pride Weekend is celebrated this weekend, many gay seniors will stay at home — and in the closet — wondering if nursing homes, meal-delivery programs or insurance companies will accept them for who they really are. "Society makes a point of ignoring old people — especially our group," said Annalee Stewart, 75, of Minneapolis. Stewart is a member of Old Lesbians Organizing for Change, a national group in Houston.

"Old lesbian women go back to the closet" when they need help and are afraid they'll be rejected, Stewart said. An estimated 1 million to 3 million Americans over age 65 are gay, and many are afraid to let their sexual preferences be known.

Nearly half of the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging affiliates that were surveyed nine years ago said that gay or lesbian elders would not be welcome in their facilities. Those agencies provide the bulk of federally supported social services for seniors. Many gay seniors don't know where they will receive care if they need assistance — and two-thirds of a sample of gay seniors in New York said they did not know who would care for them if they became disabled, according to a Pride Seniors Network report.

When a transgendered woman suffered a stroke at Spirit of the Lakes United Church of Christ in Minneapolis, the woman had to revert to her male self before caregivers would treat her, said Barbara Satin, 69, a transgendered woman.

"But it's different between the lesbian community, where there's a strong social network and a great respect for age, than it is with gay men," said Satin, 69, who created GLBT Generations with Roger Youngs, a gay man, and Rebecca Voelkel, 34, a minister. Youngs, 60, said he cringes at the stereotype of men who frequent gay bars — "young, energetic and obsessed with appearance." "What about people like me?" Youngs asked. "Men my age are much more closeted than young people. I met a man who lived with another man for 60 years. After (the man's partner) passed away, the man said he didn't even know there was a gay community out there for him. He said he didn't know of any gay community for people beyond their 20s."

"I've been rejected by Christian friends. I lost a lot of friends in Vietnam. AIDS came along and I lost friends to that. When you're gay and 60, you've already lost so much."

The GLBT Generations does sensitivity training at nursing homes and other senior service providers. "We wanted to get beyond the stonewall generation and remind some of our congregants in their 50s and older that they are still vibrant members of a community," said Voelkel.

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Visible Man

BY THE BOOK

Jamison Green

Jamison Green offers a man's POV on life in the trans lane. Opinion, advice and information from an internationally respected leader of the FTM community.



We live in a society of law and policy. Books are our source of collective wisdom. Rules and principles of law validate or condemn, and yet the beauty of wisdom is that it evolves just as we do. June 2003 brought considerable evolution of historic import.

The Supreme Court decision in the Texas case — which affirmed the right to privacy and struck down laws against specific sexual behavior in private between consenting adults — was probably the most significant event for gay people in the U.S since homosexuality was removed from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM).

The DSM defines mental disorders for American psychiatrists and psychologists. When, in 1973, the American Psychiatric Association determined to remove homosexuality from its disorder category, it took away one of Western culture's canonical justifications for denying civil rights to people who are viewed as "different."

Also in June 2003, the highest court in Ontario, Canada, redefined marriage as the committed union for life of two people, removing the requirement of one man and one woman. It took a while for vocal reaction to come from official channels in the United States — either from the Human Rights Campaign, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force or our elected government officials. It seemed as if everyone was trying to figure out what it meant before reacting. Turned out it was very good for LGBT people who are in committed relationships and want to be married, and very bad for people who want to reserve the privileges of marriage to heterosexuals. (Incidentally, the latter camp is often primarily concerned with Christian marriage rites. Its members tend to adhere to other exclusionary beliefs and practices that their prophet, Jesus, might never have encouraged.) If events proceed favorably for LGBT people, next June may be an even bigger wedding month than usual.

I am not a Biblical scholar or theologian, nor am I so intimately familiar with any religious text that I feel qualified to debate fine points of meaning, but it seems to me that — at least insofar as homosexuality is concerned — we are entering a climactic period when we can expect a cultural shift with regard to "sexual minority" status.

What does this have to do with trans people? First of all, any principle of law, morality or justice that is inclusive — that truly treats all people equally — benefits trans people as well. With respect to legal and public marriage, removal of the requirement for the parties to have physical difference (or at least difference in the form of sex designation on their birth certificates) means that trans people can also marry without being "forced" to have genital reconstruction or having to represent themselves as the abandoned sex of birth. The U.S. Supreme Court decision preserves our right to sexual privacy, too.

Trans people still have a way to go with respect to the Gender Identity Disorder (GID) designation in the DSM. What constitutes GID is still too broad, in my opinion — it can be used to justify coercive and harmful treatment of LGB and T people. Children and youths who express gender variance are still highly vulnerable to abuse under current potential interpretations of the DSM GID text.

The Christian Bible proscribes wearing the clothing of the opposite sex, but it does not otherwise impinge upon the existence of trans people. Nowhere does it say people cannot change their sex. Recently developed Vatican policies, however (transsexual treatments, they say, are superficial and do not change the sex of origin), specify that transsexual people may not be married nor serve as clergy in the Catholic Church. I believe this policy shows a profound lack of understanding and compassion, and an equally profound ignorance in the presumption of the veracity of historical sex classification. This policy is another one Roman Catholic trans people must work to have revoked.

We live in a society of law and policy, a society founded on words. We have not yet discovered the whole truth about ourselves as humans. As we wrestle with discrepancies between what we experience versus what we've been taught, we revise the words we live by. But it is difficult to change, or even challenge, the beliefs of others. As decisions such as those from the United States and Ontario high courts are taken in by those who disagree, we may experience some backlash. Change will not come easy for those who have long felt validated by either the book of law or religious scripture. The extension of civil rights to LGBT people under the principles upon which the United States was founded may force some of those who oppose LGBT equality to expose their hypocrisy. It may not be pretty. LGBT civil rights may well be ratified by a reaffirmation of the separation of church and state — a battle the Bush administration seems all too willing to engage.

Takin' Care of Biz...

STATEMENT OF TGSF ASSETS, LIABILITIES, AND EQUITY

as of 15 June 2003 (July Report unavailable at press time)

Assets

Cash	\$3,967.93
Event Equipment	
Decorations	\$1,000.00
Food Service	\$200.00
Office Supplies	\$50.00
Total Assets	\$5,217.93

Liabilities and Equity

Accounts Payable	\$3,836.50
Equity	\$1,381.43

Total Liabilities and Equity \$5,217.93

Statement of TGSF Income

Revenue

Memberships	\$150.00
Donations	\$180.00
Advertising	\$145.83
Total	\$475.83

Expenses

Cotillion	\$500.00
Newsletter	\$317.80
Operations	\$48.46
Total	\$866.26

Net Income (\$390.43)

TGSF DONATIONS

*Our Friends Who Give
as of July 15, 2003*

Patron Level

Roshelle Cunning	\$1,000.00
<i>(In-kind donation for the Pride Parade truck)</i>	
Roxy Carmichael-Hart	\$150.00
<i>(Postage)</i>	

Bless You and Thank You for Caring!

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Calendar www.tgsf.org

*Submissions can be made online directly.
Cancelling mistakes or for other problems,
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TRANSGENDER SUPPORT GROUP

Safe ongoing group
All gender queers welcome
Transitioning NOT required
Monday eves * East Bay near BART
FREE interview * Sliding scale \$20-45/wk



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Domestic TG News!

It Bans Discrimination Against Transsexuals

CA SENATE OK'S 'GENDER IDENTITY' BILL

Jim Herron Zamora, SF Chronicle Staff Writer

A divided state Senate voted along party lines Thursday for a bill banning discrimination against people whose "gender identity" is different from their biological sex at birth. Assembly Bill 196, if signed by the governor, would provide sweeping new rights to transsexuals. It was approved 23-11 with six senators either not voting or not present.

"This bill will help ensure that all Californians, regardless of their gender, are protected from discrimination...and, hopefully, treated with the respect and dignity all individuals deserve," said Assemblyman Mark Leno, the San Francisco Democrat who was author of the legislation. The Assembly approved it in April by a vote of 41-34, the minimum needed to pass.

The bill would outlaw housing and job discrimination against people whose "perceived gender characteristics are different from those traditionally associated with the individual's sex at birth." The bill would amend the state's Fair Employment and Housing Act by adding the language "gender identity or expression" to the existing prohibition of sex discrimination.

Supporters said the bill would clarify legal decisions in California that already interpret laws prohibiting bias based on gender identity or expression.

"This is a simple matter of civil rights," said Sen. Sheila Kuehl, D-Santa Monica, who shepherded the bill in the Senate. "California law already protects against hate crimes based on gender stereotyping. A person's gender identity has nothing to do with their ability to pay rent or to act as a competent employee, and we should not tolerate such arbitrary discrimination."

If the bill is signed into law, California would join New Mexico, Rhode Island and Minnesota in offering such protections. The bill has been opposed by some conservative religious groups on ideological grounds and by business organizations, which fear it could lead to lawsuits.

But a list of 50 groups supporting the bill includes churches, unions, civil rights organizations and some business groups, including the California Apartment Association.

Nebraska Supreme Court Rejects New Trial For Convicted 'Boys Don't Cry' Killer

SCOTT BAUER, Associated Press Writer

A man condemned to die for the murder that inspired the movie "Boys Don't Cry" will not get a new trial or reduction of his death sentence, the Nebraska Supreme Court ruled Friday. John Lotter's attorney argued that his client's sentence should be reduced because of a 2002 U.S. Supreme Court ruling calling for juries — not judges — to decide when the death penalty is warranted.

Nebraska's high court said that ruling didn't apply retroactively to Lotter, who was also convicted of killing two other people. Lotter was sentenced in 1996 by a three-judge panel rather than a jury. Nebraska Attorney General Jon Bruning hailed the opinion, saying it was a landmark decision for Nebraska. "It is a huge victory for the state and the victims of these crimes and their families," Bruning said. Lotter's attorney, James Mowbray, said he was not surprised with the decision.

Lotter and Marvin Nissen were convicted of killing Brandon Teena, who was born a woman with the name Teena Brandon, but lived as a man in southeast Nebraska and dated a female friend of the two men. Prosecutors said Teena was killed because he told the local sheriff he was raped by Lotter and Nissen after they discovered the 21-year-old's biological identity. The men also killed Lisa Lambert, 24, and Philip DeVine, 22, who had witnessed Teena's death. Lotter claims that Nissen killed the three.

The killings outraged gay activists and inspired the 1999 movie "Boys Don't Cry," along with several documentaries. Both men were convicted of murder. Nissen, in a deal with prosecutors, testified against Lotter and was sentenced to life in prison. Lotter received three death sentences and awaits execution in Nebraska's electric chair.

Lotter has another appeal pending before the state Supreme Court in which he argues that DNA tests would prove Nissen actually killed Brandon.

LAMBDA Letters Alert

AN ASTOUNDING TEN MINUTES!

Just a few minutes ago the California Senate made history. First it passed AB 196, a bill to ban employment and housing discrimination against transgender people. Barely 10 minutes later it approved AB 458, a bill to protect lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) foster kids and LGBT foster parents and care givers from discrimination and harassment. Both bills were passed without debate and without rancor. It was, Ho Hum, just a couple more bills.

But don't you believe it! These are historic bills. Lesbians, gays, and bisexuals were protected from discrimination in California by AB 1001 passed in 1999. Transgender people were not. Congress has had a bill to ban discriminations against lesbians, gays, and bisexuals before it since the mid 1970s. The most recent author of this bill, Congress Member Barney Frank, has explicitly refused all requests to include transgender people. I spoke to Frank's staff person working on the bill just a few days ago, and he made it very clear that Mr. Frank absolutely opposed adding transgender people to the bill.

The passage of a bill to protect transgender people has been a personal quest for me ever since the winter of 1998. That was the year in which I stood up at a membership meeting of the California Alliance For Pride and Equality and called for the passage of such a bill.

Since then, three bills have been introduced in the state legislature to accomplish this purpose. In 2000 AB 2142 was the first version of the bill. Another version, AB 1649, was introduced in 2001. Both bills were approved by the Assembly but died in the Senate.

Why do I take this issue so personally? I grew up in the 1940s and 1950s. Since then considerable, although not complete, progress has been made in ending discrimination and harassment of almost every minority group in this country. I am a gay man and I must say that, even for people like me, life is much better than it was in the years of my childhood.

However, there is one glaring exception to this picture of progress. Transgender people still suffer horrendous discrimination, intimidation, and harassment. Life is very difficult for them and the strife and stress they face drives many of them even to suicide. Many, unable to find more acceptable work because of employment discrimination, are forced to become sex workers to support themselves.

One of my Lambda Letters volunteers took her own life, just a few years ago. I have known others who have tried to do that. I decided I cannot sit idly by and let this continue. I decided we must pass legislation to protect transgender people from employment and housing discrimination. That has been my chief legislative goal since 1998. I am very close to seeing that goal accomplished.

AB 458 is a very important bill as well. It deals with another seriously at risk group, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender foster children and their LGBTI care givers. Children in our foster care system are inherently at risk. Usually they come from broken homes, or they are orphans, or their parents had substance abuse problems, or emotional illness, etc.

Foster children who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender experience an additional set of challenges in life. Often they are bullied by their age mates, or mistreated or abused by their care givers who don't understand or accept the child's sexual orientation or gender identity. Often they are labeled "hard to place" because of their sexual orientation or gender identity issues. These youth are far more likely than their heterosexual age mates to attempt suicide. That suicide rate is a direct result of all the abuse and lack of understanding and support experienced by these young people.

Under these circumstances we need to make it absolutely clear that gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender foster children deserve all the respect and support given to any other children. That is what AB 458 would do and it deserves all the support we can give it.

AB 196 is now ready to go to the Governor. That will happen in just a few days. Once it is officially delivered to the Governor, he will have ten days to sign or veto it. If he has done neither of those things by the twelfth day, it becomes law without his signature.

AB 458 was passed first by the Assembly. However it was amended in the Senate before the Senators approved it. That means it must go back to the Assembly for their concurrence with the changes made to the bill by the Senate. If they concur that bill will go to the Governor as well. You can rest assured that we at Lambda Letters will continue to work hard to make sure these bills do get passed and signed this year.

**Boyce Hinman
Lambda Letters
Chief Lobbyist**

International TG News!

ARGENTINE TG WINS IN GENERAL ELECTION!

A 32 year old Argentine who prefers to dress as a woman became the first transvestite to win an election by being elected mayor in a northern provincial city.

Rodolfo Humano, who goes by the name "Rody," was elected last Sunday to be the municipal mayor of Bella Vista, a city in Tucuman province in the northeast of the country.

The new mayor told journalists that (s)he decided to take on the prejudices and enter the political arena to try to resolve social problems of the community, especially in light of the 65% unemployment rate in Bella Vista.

"I will continue to help the people as I have before, but with this job, I will be able to obtain more financial assistance to help people receive basic needs," said Humano, who before being elected to this position, worked as a psychic, though (s)he insisted that (s)he was a devout Catholic.

(S)he recalled that during the electoral campaign, (s)he would arrive dressed as a woman and in make up, and (s)he had to deal with discriminatory acts of the other candidates.

(S)he confirmed that his(her) opponents, fearful of losing the election, "began to spread rumors about me, but I was always up front about who I am; not like those who lead a double life and wear a suit and mustache during the day but something completely different at night."

Humano, who said (s)he is an admirer of ex-President Juan Domingo Peron, made assurances that (s)he would donate his(her) salary to those most in need, "who in my province are many."

JAPAN RECOGNIZES RIGHTS OF TRANSGENDERED

by Peter Hacker

365Gay.com Newscenter, Asia Bureau Chief

(Tokyo) Japan's transgendered will be allowed to put their corrected sex and use their new names on official documents under a new law passed with unanimous consent Thursday by the House of Representatives. Births in Japan are listed in official family registries. The new law allows for the first time those entries to be altered.

The legislation was authored by a committee of the ruling coalition and approved by the Judicial Affairs Committee before heading to the House for a vote. The law is scheduled to take effect next year. But, altering official documents still will not be easy.

In Japan the transgendered are referred to as people with "gender identity disorder". To change their documentation TGs will have to be diagnosed by at least two doctors as "having a different psychological makeup from their biological sex" and a desire to live as the opposite gender both physically and socially.

Applicants must be at least 20 years old, unmarried, have no children, and no longer have functioning reproductive organs as a result of undergoing gender reassignment surgery. They must then go to family court for final approval.

There is still a stigma attached to being transgendered in Japan, and many TGs encounter trouble gaining employment and voting because they appear to be one sex but their official papers indicate they are another.

London Police To Give TG Workers Paid Year Off For Transition

by Peter Moore

365Gay.com Newscenter, London Bureau

(London) Police officers in the British capital preparing to undergo sex reassignment will be given a year's paid leave while they have the surgery. The announcement was made Monday by the MET, London's Metropolitan Police force, part of an effort to attract more transgendered police officers. Under the new policy, any officer undergoing reassignment surgery will get 12 months paid leave with 183 days at full pay.

It also directs commanders on how to reference officers who have transitioned. Among the instructions, the policy says that all references to an officer's previous gender should be removed from records. The force hired its first transsexual recruit earlier this year. Currently there are 10 transgendered officers in the 28,000-strong force.

MEXICO'S TRANVESTITE CANDIDATE MAY WIN!

Queery.com

IXHUATAN, Mexico (AP) - Four female impersonators, all exquisitely made up, lip-synch and dance to pop music in Ixhuatan's town plaza. Traffic freezes as drivers and pedal-cabbies halt in the street to watch. Then out comes candidate Amaranta Gomez - the first transvestite to have at least an outside chance of winning a congressional seat in Mexico. Campaigning in a flower-print skirt, and making no attempt to hide the fact that she lost an arm last year in a bus crash, she has become a symbol of the tolerance for diversity promoted by a small, new political party, Mexico Possible.

"Our themes are very clear," Gomez said after her speech in this Pacific Coast fishing town of 10,000 people, 360 miles southeast of Mexico City. "We don't go around with ambivalence or double-talk. We call things by their names."

Gomez, born Jorge 26 years ago, is running for Congress two ways: in an individual district and as an at-large candidate. Even if she loses in the individual district she could get a congressional seat if Mexico Possible wins about 3 percent or more in the nationwide vote Sunday.

Polls indicate it may not even get that many votes, but the party has won national attention by filing legal complaints against Roman Catholic priests and bishops who had urged Mexicans to vote against parties favoring abortion and gay marriage. Under Mexican law, clerics are forbidden to meddle in partisan politics.

Mexico Possible also has attracted human rights and environmental campaigners, left-wing academics and gay rights activists with a platform that includes calls for broader legalization of abortion, homosexual marriage and legalizing marijuana.

Several leading intellectuals signed advertisements endorsing the party. They said they were disillusioned with a larger left-wing party, Democratic Revolution.

Gomez is part of a Zapotec Indian culture in the Juchitan area of southern Mexico that treats male homosexuality with unusual openness. Homosexuals, or "muxes" (pronounced MOO-shay), are generally accepted in the community as home helpers, embroiderers, decorators, cooks and entertainers. It's common to see transvestites in the streets of Juchitan, 35 miles west of here.

According to anthropological studies, some women encourage sons' muxe leanings because they tend to stay home and care for their parents rather than getting married. Until now, however, few have ventured into politics, and none so dramatically as Gomez.

Gomez said she was working in transvestite shows about nine years ago when "I saw that my friends were dying, that relatives, too, were dying of a problem that we saw as very far off, that we saw as a problem of the big cities."

She helped found and develop an AIDS education program that gained international support. She uses her campaign for AIDS education. Her brief speech appealing for honest, open government was followed by a condom-promoting skit, partly in drag, that drew roars of laughter.

The leader of the dominant Institutional Revolutionary Party in Juchitan, Jesus Mendoza Ferra, insisted he wasn't worried by Gomez's campaign. Yet he repeatedly mocked her by calling her "Amaranto," putting a masculine ending on the name. And Mendoza's party obviously took note. It held its own rally for muxes last weekend.

Gomez said her high-profile sexuality tends to obscure her record on political and economic issues, but she hopes voters will recognize that transvestites have a place in politics. "You don't have to stop being a transvestite," she said. "You don't have to stop wearing makeup. You don't have to stop being what you want to be to be involved in politics."

Gomez's openness impressed Fulvio Toledo, a 36-year-old brewery worker among some 500 onlookers at her campaign stop. "I admire her," he said. "She doesn't have complexes about anything."

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79's On Stage!

"I Am My Own Wife" Makes Theatergoers Take Notice

By Peter Santilli, Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Three years ago, when actor Jefferson Mays began work on recreating the historical character of Charlotte von Mahlsdorf for Doug Wright's play "I Am My Own Wife," he wasn't thinking it might be a role that would make the New York theater community sit up and take notice. Instead, it was the irony of the situation that struck him. "My first reaction was, 'God, this is just so crazy. I'm going to Utah to play a 65-year-old East German transvestite,'" the actor said. "It made no sense to me, so of course I had to do it."

The one-man show, which is enjoying a not-so-quietly successful run at off-Broadway's Playwrights Horizons, began to take shape in 2000. That was when Robert Blacker of the Sundance Institute in Utah called Wright to invite him to a three-week program to develop the piece.

Wright explained there was no play. He only had boxes and boxes of original research about an antique collector born Lothar Berfelde, who lived in East Berlin as a woman (Charlotte) under the intimidation of the Nazis and later, during the Cold War, the Stasi secret police. Blacker assured him to just bring a director he trusted and an actor he really loved.

Enter Mays

"I was in the very awkward predicament of asking an actor to commit to a role that hadn't yet been written," Wright said. "So I called Jefferson and said, 'Look, I have this wild idea for a play and I have no idea what shape it's going to take. But do you want three weeks in the beautiful mountains of Utah?'"

Mays had already worked on a few of Wright's plays, including the 1995 "Quills," which made a splash off-Broadway and was later made into a feature film. The two first became aware of one another in the mid-1980s as undergraduates at Yale University. Wright had been there a few years studying theater and art history when Mays entered as a freshman. Mays, who grew up in Clinton, Conn., majored in the classics and art history, but did not participate in the school's well-regarded theater program.

"I did theater extracurricularly," recalled Mays, 38. "There were tons of productions every year — 80 to 100 in squash courts and dining halls. I think that's the best way to learn, to do as many plays as you can and just blunder stupidly." By the end of his time at Yale, Mays' love of theater had eclipsed his academic interests and he went on to study acting at the University of California-San Diego.

Wright, who didn't work on any productions with Mays while at Yale, said "we didn't truly become friends until we were forging our way in the perilous waters of the New York theater world." It is in those waters that Mays, a previously little-known veteran of off-Broadway and regional theater, now finds his latest performance being hailed by critics as extraordinary.

"It's a magnificent gift. It does feel like a break, of sorts," Mays said, looking slightly revolutionary in a dark sports jacket and beret. "I'm so glad the response has been so positive to it. But it's such a reward, in and of itself, to be doing this."

In the three weeks at Sundance in 2000, Wright and Mays worked together with director Moises Kaufman ("Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde" and "The Laramie Project") to carve out a rough draft of the first act. "We just started reading through the archival material," Wright said. "Transcripts of tapes I had made with Charlotte, letters we had exchanged, documents she had given me over the years, newspaper accounts of her life. Slowly, from those sources the play started to emerge."

Continued on Page 21

Gals Dressed Like Guys
— Complete With
Hairgel-Filled Condoms
In Their Pants

KING FOR A DAY

By Joyce Slaton,
SF Weekly

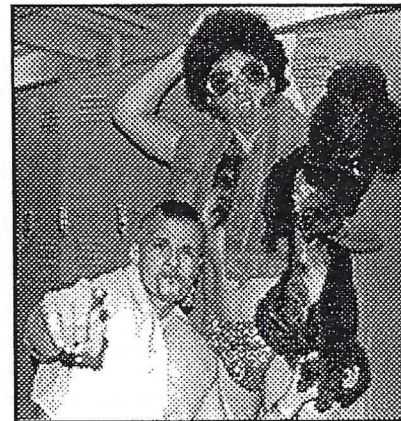
Even squares are used to drag queens by now. Watching men packed into satin dresses slithering across a stage was a favored way to spend an evening as far back as World War II in San Francisco, when servicemen used to take their dates to the drag shows at Finocchio's for a laugh.

Drag kinging, now, that's something new. Lesbian subcultures have always had a few cross-dressing "drag butches" or "stone butches," but the community often scorned gender fakery as sexist and silly. That is, until the lesbian sex wars of the 1980s, when anti-porn and anti-BD/SM lesbian-feminists clashed with dykes demanding their right to freewheeling smut. Suddenly, fitting into the lesbian world no longer meant cultivating an androgynous look, living on a separatist commune, and discussing gender politics; the new strain of sex-positive queer girls was too busy getting laid to care. This crew tarted itself up in fetish fashions, high-femme gear, punk rock duds, and even boy-wear: zoot suits, shirts and ties, pants tight enough to show off the condom filled with hair gel packed into their tighy-whities.

Girls with biceps to die for were no longer politically incorrect oddballs. Instead drag kings were hot, particularly in our open-minded neck of the woods. You couldn't swing a whip in an S.F. lesbian club in the 1990s without hitting a girly-boy with bound breasts and glued-on facial hair. And starting in 1994, those boychix gained official bragging rights with the first San Francisco Drag King contest. That inaugural event was a tiny party at the Eagle Tavern in SOMA. But just as little seeds grow into big trees, so has the annual Drag King Contest & ConFab become a full-blown daylong extravaganza expected to draw 1,000 kings and their fans. It's a long, long way from 1994, says ConFab co-producer Anders (formerly known as Annie) Toone, aka Frankie Tenderloin.

"In San Francisco, where modern kinging began," crows Toone, "we are so pomo-homo, post-genderatti/cliteratti for days that we have faux kings — kings trapped in real boy bodies — femme kings, trans-kings — of which I am one — and, most recently, an MTF [male-to-female] drag king. The binary has busted wide open, and anyone can be king."

At least for a day. Those who have already created drag king personas strut their stuff onstage and off at the ConFab. Those who haven't can get up to speed at the ConFab's workshops on drag king costuming and performing. Workshops are followed by a panel on drag king culture featuring Judith Halberstam, author of *The Drag King Book* and *Female Masculinity*. Post-panel dykes out for a stroll can indulge in a king makeover, check out an exhibit of drag king portraits, or watch performances by hunky drag stars like the Woodyz, Fudgie Frottage, and Frankie Tenderloin. The contest begins at 8:15 p.m. and lasts as long as the cavalcade of competitive kings holds out.



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PlanetOut Sexuality The Day My Life Changed: A Personal Account Of Sexual Reassignment Surgery



by Donna Rose

Q: What is the difference between a caterpillar and a butterfly?

A: Everything.

It was late and I was tired. The nurse had finally decided to leave me alone and let me rest. My roommate had long since drifted off to a morphine-induced sleep. I suddenly realized that twenty-four hours later, I would be in a similar situation ... surrounded by machines and wires and drips hissing and bleeping at me, interrupted every couple of hours by the pokings and proddings

of the night nurse on her quest to take my blood pressure or my temperature.

The last eight hours had been spent prepping me for the major surgery scheduled for early the next morning. I had been warned many times that the "prep" process was more unpleasant than the surgery itself, although considering the nature of it all I was naturally skeptical that this was possible. I had had to drink a full gallon of nasty liquid to clean out my insides, and had spent a good deal of the night stumbling back and forth from my bed to the small hospital bathroom just a few steps away. My insides were sloshing with each step, bent over from the cramps and shivering from the loss of body heat. Compared to other things I had endured over the previous couple of years, though, it really wasn't all that bad.

My mom had been there with me for much of the evening. I wondered what she thought as she watched what was happening to her firstborn. With my blessing, she eventually decided that she didn't need to watch me in my discomfort any more and had retreated back to her hotel room.

My feelings about her being here with me at this time and at this place had come full circle, from excitement, to nervousness, to doubt and then back to excitement again. The previous night we had shared a deeply intimate talk about the nature of parents and children, and I realized that she had come to her own personal sense of peace with what I was doing. In fact, I had noticed in her luggage that she had a box of pink bubble-gum cigars with "It's a Girl!" printed on the ribbon, ready to give to anybody who would take one after the symbolic rebirth that was to come. I was so proud of her.

In fact, I was filled with pride. I was proud of the people I had met, of the courage that they had given me and of just how far I had come on my journey of self-discovery. I was proud to have maintained my sense of integrity and dignity through very difficult times. I had learned first-hand that the level of satisfaction in achieving something is directly proportional to the difficulty in achieving it, and by that measure I felt lucky to have even survived.

It was astounding to realize that pride was the emotion that had filled the gaping hole left where fear, guilt, shame and despair once plotted to direct my life and my destiny, now banished to the nether-regions of my soul. However, this was not a time to dwell on the pain or the negative emotions, so I let my mind drift to other thoughts.

I had been prepped, shaved, painted with Betadine and given a pill to help me sleep. I wondered to myself, "How the heck did I get here? How the heck did I unravel myself from the tightly bound ball of my entire life, start a brand new life and work myself to be here, at this holy place? How did I overcome all the barriers, all the fears and all the defenses that our society brings to bear toward anyone who dares to wander too close to the gender barrier? Surely this must be a dream.

Sex. Gender. They are not one and the same. While most people rarely find a need to consider the fine points that differentiate the two, or the significant impact each has on their lives, transsexuals can often think of little else. In fact, it was my own need to understand the complex distinction and interaction between the two that had perplexed me for much of my life.

In its most basic form, the concept of a person's sex was relatively simple for me to define. Sex is a "body" thing. It is the mere presence or absence of a Y chromosome, causing a body to develop the physical attributes that define a human body male or female.

What, then, is gender? That is the question I had struggled to answer for as long as I could remember. The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines gender as "the behavioral, cultural or psychological traits typically associated with one sex." It is the complete set of culturally based roles, expectations and expression assigned to each person based solely on whether they have a penis or not.

Gender is not directly a body thing. It's not a sexuality thing. It is a culture thing. It is a mind thing. It is a self thing. Usually, mind and body are so closely

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"I Am My Own Wife"...

Continued from Page 20

The sources included more than 40 hours of taped interviews Wright recorded on four separate trips to Germany _ each of about six-weeks. "In Jefferson's hands it became truly theatrical," Wright said. "It was astonishing to write so closely with one actor in mind. I had never done that before."

The initial decision to limit the play to one actor was borne of pragmatism more than anything. "Since I hadn't written a single word, it would be greedy to ask for more than one actor," Wright said. "So I saved Sundance the extra plane fares."

But as the play began to develop, the men warmed to the idea. "We realized the second or third day of rehearsal," Mays said, "this kind of makes sense, given the multiplicity of personas she had to adopt to navigate her way through these dangerous times. It made sense to have one actor do it." Wright agreed. "It just felt thematically very correct, the notion that no matter how many characters Jefferson plays, all of them would ultimately wearing a little black dress and a string of pearls," the playwright said. "And, as a result, I think transvestism becomes normal instead of exotic."

Besides Mays' portrayal of the complex and enigmatic von Mahlsdorf, he takes on about 40 other personas in the play _ of widely disparate origins and dispositions _ including that of Wright. Many characters appear in very fast succession. "It's like having your head picked up and smashed nightly," Mays said. "I do feel a little yanked around and wiped out at the end of the evening _ like 'Sybil.'"

"I also have this feeling of, 'Where am I in this play?'" He added, "I am responsible to this historical figure and I'm responsible to a living playwright and a friend, who I impersonate nightly. There's no room anywhere for my own neutral, natural voice _ the way I speak."

Wright is impressed with Mays' depiction of him. "I'm letting him answer some of my business calls and go on a few of my first dates," he joked in a telephone interview, which was presumably authentic.

"I Am My Own Wife" is the first one-man play Mays has performed. The biggest challenge of being the only actor, he said, is continually keeping scenes fresh and new. "But the cast gets along well," he said with a smile. After the preliminary work at Sundance, the men revisited the work the following year at the La Jolla Playhouse in California. There they created the second act. In 2002, they brought the play to Chicago, where it was tweaked and polished.

"It's a rare luxury to be able to work on something on-and-off for a couple of years," Mays said. "Just a few weeks here and there essentially." It was von Mahlsdorf's defiance of the danger she inhabited that inspired Wright to document her life. The late revelation that she may have been a collaborator with the East German secret police clouded her heroism. She died in 2002.

Wright, who went to Germany to attend her memorial service, said he tried while von Mahlsdorf was alive to persuade her to fly to the United States to see the play performed. But her fear of flying prevented her from doing so. He thinks she would have received it well. "Some of the content may cast a challenging light on her nature," he said. "But I think in the end she would acknowledge it for the love letter that it is intended to be."

Mays is still not sure exactly what to make of the main character. "She is as much an enigma to me as I hope she is to the audience," he said. "And that's the thrilling thing about playing this role is that I have made no choices in it. It's lovely to encounter this character every night on stage and have another go at figuring her out."

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Fri, Jul. 25, 2003

JUDGE REAFFIRMS NO-BAIL RULING

Man Held For Trial In Slaying Of Transgender Newark Teen

By Yomi S. Wronge,
Mercury News

An Alameda County Superior Court judge Thursday stood by his decision to keep a Fremont man behind bars until his trial begins for the murder of transgender Newark teenager Eddie "Gwen" Araujo.

Describing Michael Magidson as the ringleader in the Oct. 4 killing, Judge Kenneth Mark Burr said revoking Magidson's bail would not only ensure the 23-year-old showed up for court but keep the public safe from harm. "It would be very easy for him to walk away," Burr said in an Oakland courtroom, "and anybody who was standing in his way could be in danger." Burr's words left Magidson's family members with tears in their eyes.

Meanwhile, Araujo's mother, Sylvia Guerrero, nodded in silent agreement as Burr went over transcripts from a preliminary hearing, in which witnesses keyed Magidson as the primary aggressor in the attack against Araujo. Police say Araujo, who was born male but identified and lived as a female, was tortured and strangled in a Newark home by Magidson and three of his friends.

Prosecutors say the men were enraged after they discovered that Araujo, whom they knew as a girl named "Lida," was anatomically male. One of those men, 20-year-old Jaron Chase Nabors of Newark, confessed to the killing 10 days later and led police to where he and his friends buried the body in South Lake Tahoe.

During the preliminary hearing to determine whether the men should stand trial, Nabors struck a deal in February with prosecutors in exchange for his testimony. It was his account of the grisly event that led Burr to keep Magidson behind bars. According to Nabors, it was Magidson who repeatedly choked, hit and kicked Araujo. It was Magidson who initiated each new level of violence against the teenager. And it was Magidson who ultimately tied a rope around Araujo's neck and kept twisting.

"Mr. Magidson had numerous opportunities to stop and reflect on death vs. life," Burr said. "He chose death. The death of Lida." Magidson was granted bail in January and was released a month later after his family raised the \$1.68 million bail. Burr revoked Magidson's bail in March, and Magidson's lawyer, Michael Thorman, appealed the ruling. Thorman said Thursday that while the circumstances described in court were extreme, there is nothing to suggest his client is a threat to society.

"This incident, all by itself, rose out of a reaction to a situation that is unlikely to re-occur," Thorman said. He has 10 days to decide whether to again appeal Burr's decision. Outside the courtroom, a small gathering of transgender activists held a picture of Araujo and signs protesting Magidson's bail. They hugged Araujo's mother as she was leaving.

"I'm pleased with the decision," Guerrero said after the hearing. "This is what I had hoped would happen today."

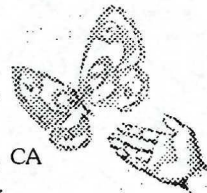


February 24, 1985 -
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Commentary Fear, Hatred, and Mistrust

One would not be thought wrong to affirm that, in today's society, few groups are as disadvantaged and kept from their rights as the transsexual community. The fear and hatred that we seem to inspire as well as the hostility that we attract by our simple existence directly touch on and are part of the fundamental rules of human rights.

Did you know that a transsexual woman was the first to stand up to police on the night of the Stonewall riot? (she is thought to have thrown the first bottle) - her name was Sylvia Rivera. Ms. Angela Douglas helped organize the Gay Liberation Movement in both New York and Los Angeles.

Did you know that "Mustang Sally" transitioned in the early '70's and that she joined the Daughters of Bilitis, becoming vice-president of the San Francisco Chapter? She was "outed" at a major feminist conference in 1973, she was trashed and discriminated against because she was a transsexual woman. Did you know that some years ago, Lesbian identified MtF's as well as gay identified FtM's were not allowed SRS (sex reassignment surgery) because they were not adjusted (straight)?

There is tremendous social bigotry and often outright violence expressed towards the transsexual, and this often makes the life of the transsexual very difficult. Transsexuals suffer many hurdles to achieve their required correction of the error of their birth. They must face society, the medical establishment, the common loss of all family and friends, the cost of treatment, the extreme difficulty of the required "half-way" phase of transition which may last up to two years or more, and the inner turmoil of self-doubt and conditioned self loathing of themselves.

It's estimated (1981) that about 50% do not survive the malady, ending up dead by the age of 30, usually by their own hand. Almost all this morbidity is attributed to the additional burden caused by the violent unacceptance of society, the rejection of family and friends, and the inability to find decent health care.

The drive that motivates the transsexual is essentially a matter of life and death. Just a quick insight on what we, transsexuals live on a daily basis, all the while waiting, and yes, sometimes ranting, because we are constantly forgotten in the great LG agenda...the problem is, we are for the most part also gay or lesbian identified. And please, no moralizing or telling me all that "you" have done for us. Remember Stonewall the next time you need someone to go to the barricades and give their blood for you. Remember that a transsexual woman helped put together the Gay Liberation Movement.

Do I sound pissed, upset, and hurt? I would do and actually am involved in a LGBTQ youth group and I try to convey the ideal of a true LGBTIQ (sorry, get confused in the letters) community...not a repeat of patriarchal society exclusionism of the less fortunate, or numerous, etc., I'm only pissed and upset because of the repeating pattern I see within our Communities of copying "hetero" patriarchal stereotypes. Can a woman be with a woman, no matter what her body looks like or formed as? Can't a man be with a man even if he doesn't yet have all physical attributes?

I say...stop the discrimination, stop pushing us aside, stop pretending that we do not exist! We are Here, We are Queer and We Will keep on fighting and ranting until you, the LG communities recognize that we are "YOU", your brothers and sisters.

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Continued from Page 21

aligned that most people consider sex and gender to be one and the same. Those of us who are considered to be "gender gifted" know otherwise. That was the big revelation.

Anthropologists know that some Native American cultures categorized people using three categories of gender, not just two. There were, of course, male and female. However, a third group that exhibited traits that were considered to be both masculine and feminine were identified as dual-spirited. They believed that God surely felt these people were special to bestow such a precious gift upon them. These people were honored and revered, and were often asked to teach the children of the tribe in hopes that their wisdom and insight would be transferred to the future tribal leaders. In that society, people had to actually prove that they truly were gender gifted.

Now, it is something that is considered to be so heinous that we have to seek surgery to correct it. I had struggled with that for so long. Could it be that I truly was a transsexual? Was I one of them? How could that be? I felt so ... so ... normal.

A transsexual is a person whose physical sex and whose sense of gender identity do not match. They are people who become increasingly uncomfortable and unhappy in the roles that society assigns to them based on their physical sex. Their brain and soul tell them one thing, but their body and the rest of society tell them something else. It is a very difficult and confusing existence.

We are all born into this world with infinite possibilities. We have the potential to speak any and all languages. We can adapt to any and all cultures. We have an arsenal of talents and skills just waiting to be discovered and developed. Our boundaries are only those physical limitations we inherit by being human.

From the moment we are born, however, our lives are spent narrowing those possibilities. As we learn a culture and a language, and as we face the realities of our socioeconomic world, our potential is continually narrowed. As time passes we build mental barriers that are as constricting and as limiting as anything imposed on us in the physical world. Unexplored horizons remain uncharted. Untapped skills go undetected and undeveloped. Sadly, by the time we reach adulthood, that once unlimited potential has become a mere sliver of its original promise.

Although I doubt most people stop to think about it, the determination of a person's gender is the first and ultimately most significant limit imposed on a child. This seemingly obvious proclamation, based solely on a visual inspection of a newborn baby's genitals, is the single-most defining moment of any child's life. The implications reverberate in everything a child does from the moment of birth forward. They will affect how others view and treat a person throughout his or her entire life, as well as how they feel about themselves.

As I lay in my hospital bed considering it all, I knew that I had already changed gender. I had crossed the gender divide, and had adopted the roles, the expectations and the limitations that our culture reserves specifically for women. I had lived successfully in that world for nearly a year, and few people who met me had any indication of my unique pedigree.

Now I was about to change my sex. The next night I would not have a penis. It would be gone, reshaped and reborn into something more appropriate for my new life. Would a real man allow such a thing to happen? Would a man allow the very thing that our society uses to define him as a man to be taken? I had male friends who would literally rather die than have anything happen to their precious jewels.

I thought of the words that some people used to describe the surgery: "sex change," and I smiled. It just sounded so dramatic, so "out there." A nip here, a tuck there and it would all be over. Would that change my life significantly? At that point, I doubted it. Certainly, it was the pinnacle of my physical transformation, a point of no return. The thought of it filled me with a calm sense of peace and satisfaction, and that's what seems to have been missing from my psyche for so long.

Self-mutilation? My own mother had once used those words! Why do others feel so free to judge my motives like that? They had not endured what I had. They did not know what I knew. They were comfortable in their skin, and couldn't begin to imagine that others might not be. They were not ready to die to get to this point, as I was. No, this was not self-mutilation. It was self-preservation.

With a sense of sadness, my mind wandered to thoughts of my wife and son, home in bed a thousand miles away, unaware of what was about to happen. I had not seen my wife since the day, 14 months before, when she forced me to make a choice — "Be what your son and I expect you to be or leave!" — and I made the one that led me here to the brink of my new life.

I had been married for nearly 20 years. Although the marriage had still not legally ended, spiritually and emotionally it had flat-lined a long time ago. I still loved my wife. She, on the other hand, loved a person that she felt had died, or perhaps never even really existed. He had seemed almost too good to be true — a mirage. The fact that our marriage and our bond had imploded was a tragedy of "Romeo and Juliet" proportions, our love a casualty of cruel irony, circumstance and fate.

She totally, completely rejected me, which I could initially understand and accept, but it ultimately made me frustrated and angry. I had come to feel that her tactics were little more than emotional blackmail to get me to go home again. However, in calmer moments I realized that it was all probably for the best. I considered the difficulty I would have mixing my many conflicting roles: Dave and Donna, man and woman, husband and father vs. selfish home-wrecker. I could never again be the person that she wanted and expected. Perhaps it was better to make a clean break rather than continue to tantalize and torture each other with things that could never be.

At one point I had promised myself that the last words on my dying lips would be my wife's name, symbolically demonstrating my love and devotion to her, hoping the depth of my feeling would somehow make it from my heart to hers. Each time I went into surgery I would repeat her name over and over and over as the warmth of the anesthesia washed over me, just in case I never woke up. In the face of her continued painful rejection, I felt it was fitting, at this threshold, to finally break my vow and my link to her.

It is rare in our lives that we arrive at a milestone where one chapter abruptly ends and another begins. As I lay there in my hospital bed, comfortable and relaxed, I knew I was at that place. I knew that the dawn of the next day would start on a blank page of a brand new chapter, but it wasn't a whole new book. Rather, it was the sequel of the life and the spirit inside me, continuing like a thread that changes colors midway through the spool. Penis or no penis, I was still me. I reached down to touch it one last time ... and to wish it a peaceful voyage, as the caterpillar enters its cocoon and transforms into a butterfly.

As I slowly drifted off to sleep, I couldn't help but feel that this was like dying. I could see the pages of the previous chapters of my life turn slowly through my mind, viewed as if by a stranger at the cinema ... wondering how the hero would escape the clutches of fate this time.

This text was excerpted with the permission of the publisher from "Wrapped in Blue: A Journey of Discovery," by Donna Rose. For more information about Donna, visit her Web site at www.donnarose.com. For information about "Wrapped in Blue," visit the publisher's Web site, www.living-legacy-press.com.

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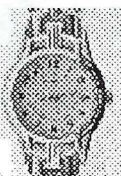
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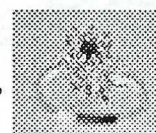
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SLDN Launches National "Lift The Ban" Ad Campaign, Featuring Calpernia Addams

Washington, DC - Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN) today unveiled a national ad campaign as part of its ongoing effort to repeal the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. The campaign, which features transgender activist Calpernia Addams, asks constituents to visit www.lifttheban.org and urge Congress to repeal the law which prohibits gay Americans from serving openly in the armed forces.

The campaign features a photo of Addams with the headline *Soldiers Murdered Her Boyfriend. Now, You Can Help.* "In 1999, PFC Barry Winchell was brutally murdered by fellow soldiers who perceived him to be gay," the ad says, "because of his relationship with Calpernia Addams, a transgender woman he met while serving in the Army. The time has come to end discrimination in our armed forces. Log on to www.lifttheban.org and tell Congress to end 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' once and for all."

The campaign will launch on August 1st as a Go-Card postcard ad in Washington, D.C., and will be featured in publications throughout the country. Numerous publications, including TWN: South Florida's Gay Community Newspaper, San Diego Update, Transgender Community News and Virginia Gayzette have donated ad space for the campaign.

"As a veteran, I know that every American, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity, is touched by 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell,'" said Addams, who was the subject of Showtime's recent film *Soldier's Girl*. "This campaign honors Barry, the dedication of his parents and the work of SLDN. It continues, together, our important campaign to repeal the military's unjust and discriminatory policies."

SLDN, together with American Veterans for Equal Rights (AVER), launched www.lifttheban.org in May 2003. To date, more than 5,000 individuals have signed the online petition.

"Calpernia understands, more than most of us, the terrible tragedy 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' inflicts on our lives and our families," said C. Dixon Osburn, Executive Director of SLDN. "SLDN is honored to be standing with her as we both work to make sure Barry's murder is not forgotten and his legacy of progress continues."

Servicemembers Legal Defense Network is a national, non-profit legal services, watchdog and policy organization dedicated to ending discrimination against and harassment of military personnel affected by 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' and related forms of intolerance. For more information, visit www.sldn.org.



TGSF Contingent Members pose at 15th Annual GAPA Pageant

TRANSSEXUALS ACCUSE PROF OF MISCONDUCT

KRON Website

CHICAGO (AP) — At least two transsexual women have accused the chairman of Northwestern University's psychology department of using them as research subjects without consent in a controversial new book on gender-bending. The women say Professor J. Michael Bailey engaged in research misconduct, and they further contend the book makes them out to be perverted freaks.

The book, "The Man Who Would Be Queen: The Science of Gender-Bending and Transsexualism," is "a slam, a major derogatory expose of transsexuals," said Anjelica Kieltyka, 52, who filed a complaint with Northwestern earlier this month. Bailey mentions Kieltyka by name in the book as having introduced him to transsexuals in Chicago. Kieltyka said Bailey also uses pseudonyms in referring to her and several acquaintances in discussing theories that depict some transsexuals as having a mental illness involving sexual fetishes. University of Pennsylvania bioethicist Art Caplan said the complaints are groundless if the women simply disagree with his theories, since Bailey is protected by free speech.

But the women allege that the book was a research project and that they were never asked to consent to participate — claims that, if true, could violate university ethics guidelines. Universities take such issues pretty seriously, and scientists have been suspended from doing research or lost their jobs over such claims, Caplan said.

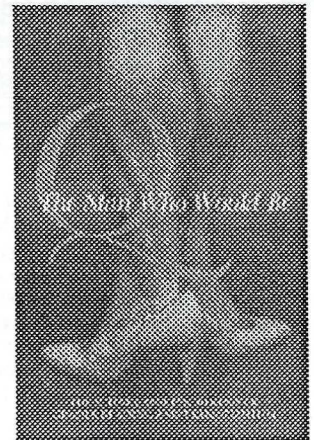
In an e-mail Thursday, Bailey declined to address Kieltyka's claims. But he said some prominent professors at other schools who have sided with the women are trying to censor the book. Bailey discusses the controversy on his Web site and says claims that his book portrays transsexuals as deviant are "hysterical and false." He says the most criticized part of his book involves another researcher's theory that male-to-female transsexuals include some men who are not gay but become sexually aroused "at the idea of being a woman." Kieltyka said three women featured in the book had filed complaints so far and that more may be coming. Some of the women are in this country illegally and do not want to be identified, said Kieltyka, who calls herself their mentor.

Northwestern spokesman Alan Cabbage said Thursday that he knew of only two complaints and that the university has referred them to the school's office of vice president for research. Northwestern "will respond to the complaints using its established policies and procedures," Cabbage said in a statement. He declined further comment.

Kieltyka, who was born a man, had sex-change surgery in 1992. An artist and photographer, she enrolled as an undergraduate at Northwestern in the late 1990s. She said she is on medical leave from the school. She had previously met Bailey and referred several transsexual acquaintances to him so that he could sign approval forms they needed to get sex-change operations. Some of them also gave talks to some of his classes and shared details of their lives with him, she said.

Afterward, Bailey told them, "Guess what? I'm writing a book," Kieltyka said. She said that she thought it would be a "journalistic" piece, not a science-oriented, theory-based work, and that she strongly objected to the book when Bailey showed her a draft. "I was misused and the other girls were misused, and the book that is the result of his bogus research is absolutely hurting," she said.

Caplan said books and other publications are generally considered research if they are based on a systematic method of collecting data, including an analysis of field notes or questionnaires. "If you're just collecting stories, that's not a research method," said Caplan, who had not read the book. Academic scientists are required to notify their schools' institutional review boards about proposed research, and it is up to the boards to determine when participants' consent is necessary, Caplan said.



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