

Cotillion 2004 Memories!

The Channel



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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Secretary	Anne Louise Mortenson
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Education	Kara Flynn Kelly Anne Marsh
Outreach	Kalani Makanani Marla Selby
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Fine Print

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Business Card (3-1/2 x 2)	\$ 25	\$125	\$ 250
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Full Page	\$100	\$500	\$1000

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FROM THE EDITOR...



Last month I talked a little about taking a leap of faith. Well, Madame President has really gone out on a limb.

And it's clear that she does so not for any personal gain, but because she loves and cares deeply about TGSF as an organization. Finally, we have an elected leader with enough courage to be willing to state the obvious! After you've read Roxy's commentary on Page 4, some of you "old-timers" may recall that the sentiments expressed about the Cotillion's purpose and the fiscal irresponsibility associated with it, have been recounted in this column before. Several times in fact, and often at the expense of being the sole voice crying in the wilderness. In my February 2002 column (keep in mind this was written before Cotillion 2002 took place), I wrote:

"Whether or not the 2002 Cotillion bankrupts the club remains to be seen, but for the life of me I don't know where the money is going to come from." And, "This time next year I'll either be doing something else one weekend a month, or I'll be scratching my head after another Cotillion wondering "how the hell did they do that!" I'd even go so far as to predict that there won't even BE a Cotillion next year!"

Well believe me, I'm scratching my head this morning. But even then, after further ranting about the woeful state of our treasury, infrequent and meager fundraisers, and the lack of leadership continuity due to one-year terms, I also went on to say about TGSF as a whole, "... this club has been around a hell of a long time. And it has been of invaluable help to countless numbers of non-TG and transgendered souls alike.

TGSF (and the then ETVC) has educated thousands about what it means to be transgendered. We've taught our own about the wide variety of issues that are important to us. We've shared our experiences, and have been a voice for changing public opinion and governmental policy. We've reached out to other demographics because the T-community is all about inclusiveness. We've gathered together to express the joy of living our dreams. TGSF has meant so much to so many over the years, and we've been fortunate to have had some terrific and talented people lead the way.

It'd be a damn crying shame to see it all collapse (emphasis added). But that's what I see happening unless you do something about it. I dunno, maybe TGSF has outlived its usefulness. Most of you can get what you want on the Internet these days, and you probably get more bang for your buck there too. TGSF isn't the only game in town any more, as evidenced by our dwindling membership rate and the proliferation of other support/social groups in the Bay Area. Guess we've all got a choice: either jump ship, or start bailing..."

Got A Bucket?

I can certainly feel Roxy's pain and frustration oozing off Page 4. And having the benefit of writing this the morning after Cotillion 2004 - and judging by the turnout - her worries about attendance were probably premature. But the bottom line will always be how many of those there last night were paying customers. Disappointing ticket sales even a week before Cotillion 2004, pointed to the inevitable conclusion that the membership was letting their wallets do the talking. But it is still too soon to determine if TGSF, at the least, broke even, or lost their proverbial shirt. It is doubtful that we made a profit. And with a past-due debt carried over from last year's Cotillion, I think there are just too many leaky holes in this grand old barge called TGSF - and that's being kind. No amount of bailing is going to help any longer. It's high time we brought this bucket into dry dock for some much needed overhauling. And soon.

In Roxy's President's report opposite, she also outlines some steps she hopes to take (if re-elected) to remediate the damage. Or at least stop the bleeding. Well, if she decides to run, she'll get my vote. I, for one, support her plans whole-heartedly. I see no alternative, nor do I see anyone else coming forward with a better vision. Or for that matter, even a realistic one.

Some painful decisions need to be made, and the only way for TGSF to survive is to change the way it does some things. But the organization has survived for 23 years, through thick and thin. Think about that for a moment. Times right now are wrought with uncertainty, divisiveness and outright fear. But it's nothing we haven't been through before. We must be doing something right to have lasted this long, and there's no reason to think it won't continue.

But ultimately, it will come down to you. Our new Mr. & Miss TGSF 2004 (congratulations to Bobby Cheung and Anne Louise Mortenson), both have a vision of a more-inclusive and active transgendered community. The membership of TGSF now needs to decide which direction to take at this critical junction. TGSF can emerge from it's retrofitting lean, mean and shiny new - better than the original and more suited to the reality of our times. The big questions are, will you participate? And do you have what it takes to measure up to commitments you make? Elections are right around the corner and your opportunity is at hand. Life is about ever-evolving change, and if you truly care about the life of TGSF, if it holds any positive meaning for you at all, then help support and create the coming changes. In the immortal words of The Boss, "may your strength give us strength, may your faith give us faith, may your hope give us hope, and may your love bring us love."



**PRESIDENT'S
REPORT**
By Roxy Carmichael-Hart
**And The Winners
Are....**

Gee Mr. Spicoli, I don't know. What the hell is that girl talking about you ask?

I'm caught in another time warp. You see the calendar hasn't even changed to 2004 yet, in fact it is not even Christmas but here I am writing

my February report. By the time you get this, Cotillion 2004 will have come and gone and a new Mr. and Miss TGSF will have been crowned. I know that all of the contestants will have done a great job and that our new Mr. and Miss TGSF will be enthusiastic, energetic, passionate, committed and beautiful (and handsome). Please provide our Mr. and Miss TGSF with as much support as you can during this upcoming year. It will be filled with challenges.

In my next month's report I will talk about the Cotillion in detail and provide a plethora of thanks to those involved.

Before I go further I want to extend my deepest thanks to my colleagues on the ExCom for the lovely pink teddy bear I received at the December 18 TGSF Holiday Party, presented to me by the lovely Anne Louise. I was sincerely moved by this gesture. When I became President, my goal was not personal recognition or honors. I just wanted to do something to help all of our sisters walk into the light. I hope I have helped.

But between the Cotillion and now, much is going on. We are feverishly working on the finishing touches for the show and putting together the program. Susan is trying to finish the script while getting the new roof on her home between raindrops. A big storm is a-brewing as I sit here typing away. The printer is whirring and I am going through cartridges like the Iraqis go through car bombs.

So with the Cotillion put to bed, where do we go next? Our first activity is the Red and White Ball on February 21 at Carla's. This event is being organized by the same lovely lady who was the brains behind the Halloween party, our own Ann Louise. She has been planning this activity while helping with the Cotillion and while competing as a contestant. She certainly is a Jill (or a Jacqueline) of all trades. We are planning some additional activities as well and you'll be reading about them in the months ahead.

Then we turn our attention to elections. All candidates will need to announce by March 25 in order to get their names on the ballot. I know some of our contestants are planning to run and I hope my ExCom members will continue if possible. As for me, I certainly do want to run again and continue to lead this organization. In another column I will lay out my platform and then the members can decide if they would like me back. I will also be proposing two changes to the bylaws. One is an idea I proposed a few months ago regarding staggered two year terms for the ExCom members. I believe that this would provide this organization with some consistency and continuity as well as the opportunity to learn the job.

My other proposal addresses attendance. I feel that once you decide to serve on the ExCom, that represents a commitment to participate - a commitment you make to the members. If you do not feel that you can keep the commitment, then you should not run. I recognize that all of us have busy lives and many activities and there may be a time when a member cannot make a meeting. But because I feel that whenever an ExCom meeting is missed, an extra burden is placed upon the other members. This is why we have our Education co-chair answering the hotline and our Secretary planning social events. Consequently, I will propose that any ExCom member who misses three meetings during the course of the year will be replaced. These can be looked at on a case by case basis and exceptions can be made when necessary. But I think we need to stress the importance of attendance and this is another way to do it.

I will not propose this as a bylaws change but I strongly feel that every ExCom member must have a working e-mail address. I communicate frequently by e-mail, I send out all of the agendas and staff reports by e-mail and sometimes I need to get a hold of my ExCom members very quickly. If I have to write you or call you this slows me down and takes time away from other things I need to be doing. It is not hard to have access to e-mail these days and I do not feel this is a hardship.

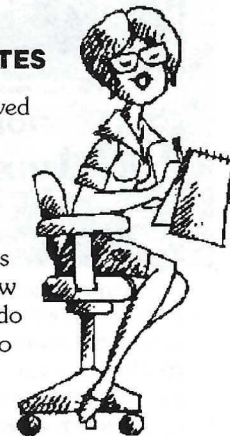
Well I am going to e-mail this to Ayme and then it is off to Palm Springs for some R and R before the Cotillion. When I get back, it will be time for the MAC event organized by Siobhan, a doll show at Ricky's Hyatt House and the sock hop at the Savoy. And the following week, a little thing called the Cotillion.

I hope you all enjoyed this wonderful night as much as we did in bringing it to you.

January 4, 2004

TGSF ExCOM MEETING MINUTES

- 1) December 7, 2003 minutes approved
- 2) President's Report
 - Return of coat is up to Rachael Hill
 - If this Cotillion loses money, it is possible that this sort of huge show is no longer viable so we could do smaller, less expensive events to raise money for TGSF
 - Roxy will try to get the Marriott to take 50% of final payment before show and let us pay the balance after. Roxy noted that the financial status of the Cotillion should not be a surprise to anyone on Feb 8.
 - Big sponsors are needed - \$1000.00 each
 - Thanks to Siobhan for sending Pizza for contestants meeting.
- 3) Vice President's Report - Susan
 - Cotillion update
- 4) Treasurer's Report - Roxy - (Brooke absent)
 - Approx \$4,500 in bank
 - Roxy will pay insurance and send \$100 to the Design Center
- 5) Secretary's Report - Anne Louise
 - Tommi will pickup the mail-needs a key
 - Tommi is the next profile.
- 6) Education - Kelly and Kara
 - Trying to fit in Advanced Laser
 - Looking for an Esthetician
- 7) Outreach - Kalani and Marta
 - No funding for outreach in schools - we should do it for free as an investment in our community
 - City of Oakland needs a speaker
- 8) Social - Aiyanna and Tommi
 - Red & White ball flyer-Tommi will print 500 copies-finished by Cotillion to hand out there.
 - Anne Louise will create social event list for 2004
- 9) Old Business
- 10) New Business
 - Any prospects for ExCom members
 - Run ballots in March Channel
 - Future ExCom meetings- Feb. 8, March 7, April 4, May 2 (with new ExCom)
- 11) Adjourn



Significant Other Support - East Bay

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

Hart To Heart

CONFESSIONS OF A DANGEROUS MIND - PART DEUX

By Roxy Carmichael-Hart

I love sequels. So this is the sequel to my last article.

Some unfinished business from last time. Here is a picture of my family.

I don't see the resemblance. I must be adopted.

Below is a picture of me in graduate school. I was president of my sorority.



Even then I liked pink. I've been told that I looked like Reese Witherspoon, only older and fatter.

But I digress. I want to talk about some real serious shit.

Now What?

The Cotillion is over. It was a beautiful show. I applaud everyone who worked on it, especially the contestants. They worked hard and represented themselves in manner that reflected well on them as well as on TGSF. But...

I sit here on January 12, 2004, 12 days before the Cotillion in my Palm Springs hotel room. This is supposed to be vacation but with a show coming up I can't just let shit happen and not be there for it.

As of now we have sold 120 tickets and precious little advertising. At this rate we are going to lose money again. I could be surprised and there could be a massive walk up but I think that at best we are going to lose money again. We have done our best to cut costs. Things have been donated. No one can look at us and state that we were extravagant. Some will blame the venue and some will blame ticket prices. But we are going to get about the same revenue that we got last year. Had we gone back to the Design Center or another venue in San Francisco we would have taken a financial bath. No, the problem is not the expenses or the ticket prices. It's the event itself.

One problem is the overhead. It's about \$10,000. That is a hell of a lot of money for an organization that it \$3500 in debt with no possibility of paying it back. We are not generating revenues fast enough to ever operate in the black. Unless we have fund raisers every other month - and we are starting with the Red and White Ball on February 21.

The Red and White Ball will succeed as the Halloween Party did because of good promotion and low overhead. When we had the Halloween Event at Carla's, our overhead was about \$400 and we made over \$1200, including the bar. When you have an event at a hotel or some other facility, you pay their room charges and they keep the bar. When your overhead is \$400 and you set ticket prices at \$15, it does not take a rocket scientist to figure out that you break even with 27 people. We had about 125 for Halloween. If we can do that every other month, then it won't be long before we begin to generate some cash and then we can talk about things we can do FOR the community.

Another problem is the meaning of the Cotillion. It used to be that this was the major coming out party - a girl's first time to really dress up and get out. But now, you can do that almost any weekend in the City. You can go to Trannyshack or Diva's and drink yourself sick or dance up a



storm. You can hang out at Jo-An's every Wednesday night where you can play dress up to your heart's content with perfect safety and privacy. You can go to Carla's and hang out or have dinner at the CATS or at a Fifth Friday. You can go to the Savoy or King of Clubs and these days you can basically go anywhere and dress the way you want and no one will bat an eye. With so much to do and so many opportunities to go out, why have a Cotillion? What purpose does it serve?

Yes we do select a Mr. and Miss TGSF. It's a nice event. You could do the same thing by having the equivalent of a high school prom, where you go to Carla's and have a dance and then the audience votes for king and queen. Very little expense, little stress and lots of fun which is the missing ingredient for me.

The Cotillion takes work. Lots of work. Very few people realize that. Marla told me she was shocked that I was up to 1:00 AM working on the Cotillion. But there was a program to write and a judging event to prepare for. There are little bits and pieces of things that have to get done. They may seem small but you would notice them if they weren't there. I almost considered canceling my trip but I decided that I needed this break and after my experiences today I am glad I came. The Cotillion saps all of our resources - financial and mental and emotional. It has hurt this community rather than helped it. This is the second Cotillion with which I had been involved and the second one in which I saw friendships destroyed by this huge monster which has devoured us.

So now I will do the unthinkable. I will suggest that it is time to put the Cotillion to bed. Time to move on to other areas. Spending \$10,000 on an event when we are \$3500 in debt makes no sense to me.

Yes this is heresy and sacrilege and I deserve to be burned at the stake. But when you stop and seriously think about it, doesn't it make sense? We don't need to abandon the idea of a Cotillion we just need to find a way to do the same thing cheaper - A LOT cheaper. We can't keep spending money like this or we will cease to exist and if we do that will be the tragedy.

I do not want to go through this again. I do not want a third Cotillion to destroy TGSF. I will be happy to take charge and lead this organization on a new path of financial stability. If you believe as I do that TGSF should focus on education and outreach and helping new girls walk into the light, then join me in this effort. If you believe that we should have business as usual, I will move on with no regrets and completely satisfied that I tried to do the right thing.

A glimmer of hope is that in the last few days, several people have expressed the same sentiments. They agree. The Cotillion should benefit the girls, not drain them.

Yes I took a chance writing you about my thoughts. You take a chance every day when you wake up, walk across the street or stick your face in a fan. I know some of you are thinking, "I'll never vote for that bitch again!" That is the least of my worries. I would really worry if one day I called the hotline and heard "the number you have reached has been disconnected."

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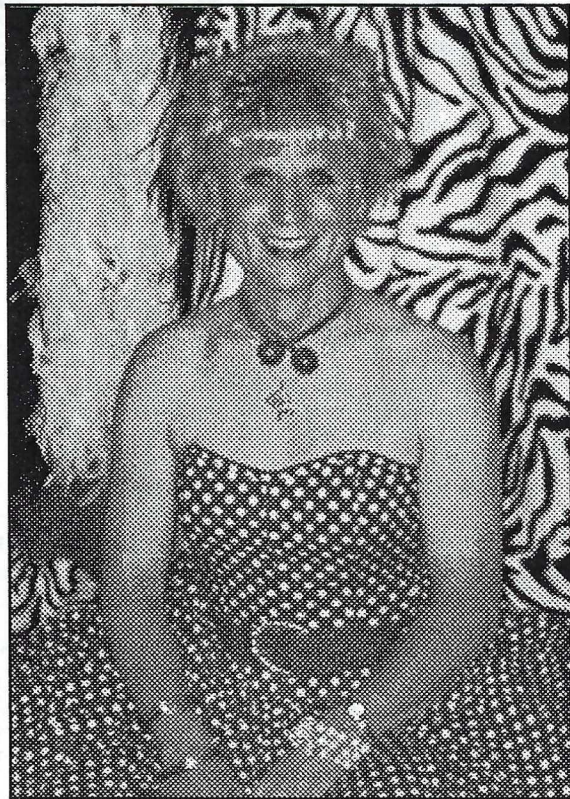
Tall, feminine, graceful closet CD seeks Big Sister to help with shopping and makeup tips. I live alone so it's helpful if you can come here, but I can certainly travel. SF Area. Call (415) 000-0000.

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!

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**.

ExCom Profile



Hi, my femme name is Tommi. I tried Karen, but it never occurred to me when someone used it that they were actually addressing me. I am currently the Social Co-chair for TGSF.

I decided that I should have been a girl around the age of 12. I was painfully shy and small as a ten-year-old. Although I didn't seriously think of this as a solution to my problems, it was exciting to pretend and to wear my cousin's clothes and sandals. I am still small, but now I am so happy I never grew up!

I am married, (for 28 years), but heading for divorce; we are friends, but it is just time to move on. In one way my TG soul is involved. Until I released it a year ago, a lot of joy was bottled up and made me difficult to live with and very uncreative and very dull. I am gorgeous now and everyone adores me. (laugh) I will never be a party girl, but am getting to be more fun.

My primary interest in life is, believe it or not, growth as a compassionate human being. I am letting that guide my growth as a TG, so I am avoiding a transition agenda and going with my heart, creating friendships and keeping TG activities public.

So what else can I say? I own my business and have a partner. We run a storage and distribution warehouse. We are surviving this vicious economy and are looking forward to a great 2004. I have a beautiful 18 year old daughter, who is going to the MAC makeover with me on Jan 17th (yeah!!!) and two cats.

What do I do for fun? I hang out at "I Love it" in Fremont every Wednesday where we have a core group of girls who are warm, fun, crazy and actually very mature for their ages, which as girls are somewhere between 6 months and three years. (laugh)

I am a Buddhist and have been chanting Nam Myoho Renge Kyo since 1972, the primary reason for my survival and sanity I think!

I have lots of people to thank for the joy I feel these days. One is Nikki Star who taught me makeup and hair and gave me confidence that I could actually be a convincing girl. Joan Torres who is teaching me clothing, Roxy Carmichael-Hart who has been a steady friend and last and definitely not least, Rachael Janelle-Light (who else?) who has given me solid advice and gotten me through some tough times. There are too many others to mention, but I must say that I have learned from everyone and I really appreciate your support.

**Love and Hugs,
Tommi**

Beauty Boost

by Wendy R. Schultz

THREE CHEERS FOR LIPSTICK!



I recently became a fan of lipstick. Those who know me well know that this is huge. I, the self-proclaimed "Lip Balm Queen", have taken a big step. I own tons of lipstick, ironically, most not by choice. Some came in a kit I had to buy for class. Others were a gift from a friend who buys skin care products and gets those "GWP's" or Gift With Purchase. They happily joined my collection and sat lonely, until I decided to wear them, which wasn't real frequently. I never had the patience to apply lipstick, and reapplying throughout the day wasn't even a thought. But, that's all about to change. Lipstick finishes the look. I found out from many holiday photos this last Christmas that wearing lipstick makes all the difference when you really want to look put together.

Then and Now

The earliest forms of lipstick were used by the Egyptians, who used compounds containing lead and antimony to paint their faces. These toxic compounds caused damage to the skin and body. They also used henna to stain the lips. Other societies throughout history used plants and herbs for cosmetics, usually resulting in a safer, more natural application.

Nowadays, lipstick is a modern combination of waxes, pigments, and emollients that are kinder to the lips and our bodies. Available choices include lipsticks, lip stains, lip crèmes, and lip glosses or glasses. And, within these choices one can expect a myriad of colors as well as styles which include mattes, frosts, stains, sheers, and long-wearing color. Older versions of long-wearing products left lips dry, but newer versions moisturize the lips. Lip colors with SPF are fantastic too.

Finding the perfect lipstick is easy. Sephora and Victoria's Secret Beauty are excellent places to sample new colors. Once you know your perfect color, you can either purchase it on the spot or find a less expensive equivalent at your local drugstore.

Lip Tips

For longer lasting color:

- Use a gentle scrub or a soft washcloth in the shower to exfoliate lips and make them smooth.
- Apply foundation or powder to lips prior to color application.
- Line the lips with pencil, and then use that same pencil to fill in lips prior to color application.

And...

- If you have thinner lips, use a lighter shade of lipstick in the center of lips to give the illusion of a fuller mouth.
- If you have fuller lips, a darker shade will make the lips appear thinner.

And finally, not everyone can wear true red. There are several variations of red, including red mixed with brown, violet, orange, or pink. Experiment with these shades and you'll find the perfect match. Have fun!

Questions? Feedback? Need help finding products? Send me an email - 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.

Tuesday / February 2 / 8:30pm

GENDERENDERS

Hey everyone, don't miss this month's GenderEnders, a community-building show designed to "dot the i's and cross the t's in the LGBTIQ performance community". All genders, sexualities, and identities are welcome at GenderEnders!

Each show will have a performance open mic - attendees are encouraged to bring their spoken word, music, stand-up comedy, performance art, whatever! Plus there will be a "community bulletin board" for folks to announce their upcoming shows.

GenderEnders takes place on first Tuesday of every month at The Cherry Bar, 917 Folsom Street, San Francisco. Open mic sign-up 8:30pm sharp, cover \$4-7 (sliding scale). Host: Julia Serano. Info: <http://www.genderenders.com>

Sunday / February 8 / 4:00pm

TGSF ExCOM MEETING

The Next ExCom meeting will be held on Sunday October 5 at 4 PM at the home of our Vice President, Susan Laird, at 2222 Pruneridge Avenue, San Francisco. A busy agenda is planned and volunteers are needed! Please join your ExCom and help out!

Thursday, February 19 / 6:00pm - 8:00 pm

FREE TRANSGENDER LEGAL CLINIC

AIDS Project East Bay and the Transgender Law Center sponsor a free legal clinic on the 3rd Thursday of each month in Downtown Oakland. Meet one-on-one for 30 minutes with an attorney to discuss transgender legal issues. Clinic appointments can be made between 6 and 8 by contacting Chris Daley at (415) 865-0176 or chris@transgenderlawcenter.org / 1800 Telegraph, 2nd Floor (at 18th Street).

Saturday / February 21 / 7:00pm

TGSF PRESENTS THE RED & WHITE BALL

Carla's Salon & Boutique, 124 Race Street, San Jose, CA. Dress Semi-Formal in Red & White (but you don't have to). Dance Contest and Prizes. Refreshments! \$15 includes one drink ticket. Surprise Entertainment. Easy Parking next to Carla's. See Ad on Page 8!

Thursday / February 26 / 7:30pm

TGSF END OF MONTH EVENT

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February's Birthdays

2/00	Suzan Reed	2/14	Gia Luisa Cancio
2/01	Thea Homer	2/16	Tamara Hinds
2/01	Francis Vavra	2/16	Vicki Gray
2/04	Michelle Hoffman	2/16	Gloria Mitchell
2/05	Karen Clark	2/17	Carla Blair
2/05	Carol Anderson	2/19	Jill Jansen
2/05	Robin Barrett	2/20	Linda
2/05	Anne Russell	2/20	Debra Darling
2/07	Richelle	2/22	Willow Hills
2/08	Laura Butler	2/23	Audrey Jackson
2/10	Alexis Haines	2/23	Lauren Hotchkiss
2/11	Bree Wood	2/23	Brenda Altman
2/11	Diane Hutchinson	2/25	Kate Goldman
2/12	Vanessa Schaefer	2/25	Hilary Howes
2/12	Sara Warren	2/28	Gabrielle Marshall
		2/28	Christine Miche Ricci

Happy Birthday To All!

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Calendar - February 2004

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	2 5:00 PM CCHH 7:00 PM PISSR General Meeting 8:00 PM DVG	3 7:00 PM SCT 8:30 PM Gender Enders	4 7:30 PM MPTG	5 7:00 PM DVG RCC	6 8:00 PM PacCtr 8:00 PM RGA	7
8 4:00 PM TGsf: ExCom Meeting	9 5:00 PM CCHH 6:00 PM TG PRIDE Rap Session	10	11	12	13 7:00 PM SVGA. 8:00 PM PacCtr	14 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
15	16 5:00 PM CCHH 8:00 PM DVG	17 7:00 PM SCT	18	19 7:00 PM DVG RCC TG Legal Clinic	20 8:00 PM PacCtr 8:00 PM RGA	21 7:00 PM TGsf Red & White Ball V-Day Los Angeles
22	23 5:00 PM CCHH	24 7:30 PM SCOUT	25	26 7:30 PM TGsf: EOM @ Blue Muse	27 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr	28 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
29						

TGSF MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Please Print / Check all that apply:

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

Preferred Name: _____ Birthdate (Month/Day): _____ / _____

Mailing Name: _____

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

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Country: _____

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

*Email: _____ Website URL: _____

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

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

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

Special Events!

Gender Identity Center of Colorado's Annual Colorado Gold Rush!



The Colorado Gold Rush is an annual conference held every year in beautiful Denver, Colorado! Come for the excitement and leave with something of value.

All are welcome to attend:

- Cross dressers
- Female to male transsexuals
- Male to female transsexuals
- Family, friends and co-workers
- Our significant others
- Those who want to learn more

Workshops include:

- Voice
- Presentation
- Demeanor
- Dressing
- Job/Family issues
- Various surgeries available

Saturday night is our **Mardi-Gras Gala Ball**, so be sure to bring your best evening gown or tux and let the glamorous person in you out to play!

For more information, call 303-202-6466 or our visit website at <http://www.cologoldrush.org>.

Date: **February 26 - 29, 2004**
Red Lion Hotel Denver Central, 4040 Quebec St.,
Denver 80216 / 303-321-6666

First Ever TG Cast!

The Vagina Monologues

Saturday, February 21, 2004, 2004 V-Day will take place at the Pacific Design Center (the "Blue Whale") in Los Angeles (not local to my area, sure, but at least in the same State), which will include the *first-ever all-transgender cast* for The Vagina Monologues.

I'm assisting with this, being involved with their keepsake booklet (expect some of my writing to be in it) and such. That's about as far as my involvement goes, though, so feel free to go to the above link with any questions on it.

I was also in L.A. this weekend to be interviewed by Eve Ensler, the playwright of the Vagina Monologues, for a new trans-specific monologue.

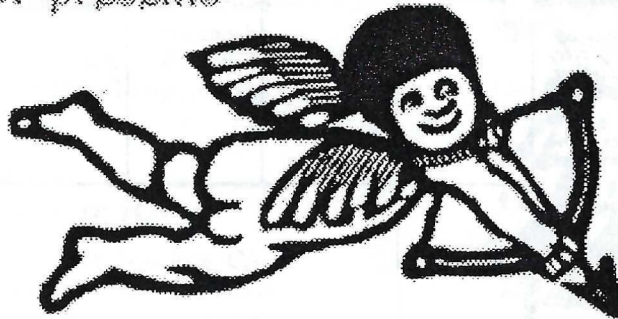
(Aside: for those interested in how that weekend went, which was life-affirming and wonderful, please feel free to read my weblog, at <http://www.gwensmith.com/>)

IMO, this is an excellent opportunity for our community, especially given the historical schism between some feminist organizations and many transfolks. The playwright is very deeply interested in trans issues, and yet has taken some flak from other feminists about being involved in a trans-cast Vagina Monologues.

Check out their site at <http://www.deepstealth.com/vday/>

Cheers,
Gwen Smith

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The Red & White Ball
Carla's Salon & Boutique ♡ February 21st
124 Race Street, San Jose, CA



Dress Semi-Formal in Red & White
(or in something fun)

Dance Contest and Prizes ♡ Refreshments

7 PM till 12 Midnight • \$15 includes one drink ticket

Surprise Entertainment • Easy Parking next to Carla's

Special Events!

February 9th!

TRANSGENDER PRIDE RAP SESSION 2004 What does the "T" mean in LGBT SF Pride Celebration?

Calling all trans folks - MTF, FTM, Genderqueer, Transgender, Transsexual, Bi-Gender, Gender-Fluid, Omni-Gender, and all other gender-variant people:

Would you like to give your feedback, suggestions and proposals to the San Francisco Pride Committee to ensure that trans folks participate in SF PRIDE 2004?

**Do we need a TG stage?*

**Do we need a TG party?*

**How can I march in the parade?*

Get all the answers and let's get busy in making the TG community visible in the SF Pride Celebration!

WHEN: Monday, February 9, 2003.

TIME: 6:00-9:00pm.

WHERE: LGBT Center Ceremonial Room.

CONTACT PERSON: Nikki Calma (415) 292-3420
Ext. 348 or titaaida@apiwellness.org.

Please RSVP if possible.

February 14th!

God's Beloved:

A Free Healing Workshop for LGBT Persons and their Family, Friends and Allies

This Valentine's day, make a date with the One who loves you like no other. On February 14, University Christian Church of Berkeley is sponsoring a healing workshop for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons and their family, friends and allies called "GOD'S BELOVED" from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the church. University Christian Church is located at 2401 Le Conte Avenue, Berkeley, California. The workshop is free but registration is requested either by phone, (510) 848-3788, or by email: bvaca@uccb.psr.edu. Please indicate if you need childcare.

Based on her new book, *Reconciling Journey*, Pastor Michal Anne Pepper will help participants identify how shame interferes with their relationship with God and how the bible is misused to create that shame.

A healing ritual will provide participants with an opportunity to encounter God's grace. Pepper's book grew out of her work with people struggling with religiously inspired internalized homophobia in her practice as a psychologist. This workshop offers an opportunity for all participants, whether or not they identify as Christian, to encounter God's healing grace.

University Christian Church of Berkeley is affiliated with the Disciples of Christ. The church has a history of advocating for GLBT persons within their denomination and the larger church.

This church describes itself as "...committed to lifelong spiritual growth as disciples of Jesus Christ. We celebrate who God has made us to be, and encourage authentic relationships with each other and with God. We pursue God's righteousness on earth in social justice.

We hope our hospitality provides a place for strangers to encounter God's grace. We believe we can best live out our discipleship in a community as radically inclusive as the realm of God."

New Event at SF's El Rio!

Review by
Kathleen Wilkinson, SF Gate

KARMA

With the Stud nailing the perennially popular Trannyshack and the Cherry popping up with GenderEnders, it seems only natural El Rio would join the wave.

Calling itself the "SEXXXIEST new queer and trans club event," Karma opens with MC's: Skeeter and Tina D'Elia of "Groucho" fame. The talent with moves includes Hott Go-Go Dancers and the burlesque Harlem Shake. For kings there's Rusty Hips, Fresh!, Alex U. Inn & Boyz, and The Transformers, as well as faux queens Stiletto and Celestina Meow Meow.

From Deep Dick: Juba Kalamka and Mysha Perry chime in with their spoken word talents. Lipstick Conspiracy and Shawna Virago & The Deadly Nightshade Family provide the live music, while DJs Anita Lofton & Garcia Sinclair spin the grooves.

Proceeds benefit the artists. With all that good energy, it definitely seems like Karma'll continue coming around.

El Rio, 3158 Mission St., San Francisco, CA 94110
(415) 282-3325



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Visible Man:

SELECTIVE SERVICE

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.

Do FTMs need to worry about this? Six months ago, at the end of July 2003, General Peter Schoomaker, then under consideration as Army chief of staff, appeared at his confirmation hearing before the Senate Armed Services Committee and told the world he thought "we need more people" (according to the New York Times of July 29, 2003).

Early in January 2004, he reported that the number of active-duty soldiers had reached 500,000, despite the fact that Congress had already set a ceiling of 480,000 troops as the Army's manpower limit.

According to a report in the Los Angeles Times (by Esther Schrader, January 4, 2004), "Senior Army officials have been complaining for more than six months that the Army needs to grow to handle its burgeoning commitments in an age of global terrorism."

Are we close to reinstating a military draft? Who knows. Will FTMs be affected? We already are!

The question comes up regularly among FTMs who are between the ages of 18 and 26: Do I need to register for the military? If you are living as a male and listed as male with Social Security, the answer is YES, you must register. All young men of military service age are required to do this, and if you are attending college and hope to receive any federal grants or loan program assistance you will not be eligible if you have not dealt in some fashion with the military registration system.

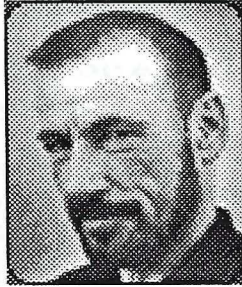
Registration is not the same as being classified for service, though. If you are called into service because you registered, you would still have to be classified at that time — and it is unlikely that the Armed Forces would want you if you were transsexual. The Israeli army has FTMs on active duty, but for young American transmen who would like to serve in the military, the sad news is our armed forces are not yet prepared for transpeople in service.

If you are over 26 years old, attending college as a male and applying for financial aid, your school may ask about your military status and whether you registered for the draft. You may also receive that question on a job application, especially if you are applying for a federal job. If you were born in 1959 or earlier, you can say you were not required to register or you were exempt, and it may never go any farther. If you were born after December 31, 1959 and did not register before you were 26, you WILL need to get a "status information letter" from the Selective Service to indicate why you were not required to register. Transsexual status is a legitimate reason for not registering.

You can get more information and find the Selective Service form to request a status letter at www.sss.gov/instructions.html. Instructions for transsexuals are listed under "Nonresident/Alien" (just another little hint that we are not considered "real"). According to the site, "you must indicate what gender you were born as, and attach documentation which indicates this as well." Do not send original documents, because nothing you submit will be returned to you. All you will get back from the Selective Service System is a status letter indicating you were not required to register for the draft.

Some FTMs have veteran status already, since they may have served while they were still in female bodies. And there are probably hundreds of transwomen who are veterans of military service. Many of them will gather on May 1, 2004 in Washington DC to connect with each other and march with the Transgender American Veterans Association to the Veteran's Wall, where they will hold a quiet memorial service without any political speeches. It will be a nonpolitical, nonprotest event, and all transgendered and transsexual veterans are welcome to attend. For more information go to www.geocities.com/tg_vet_march_to_the_wall/.

No matter how one feels about the present military efforts in the Middle East, it is impossible to deny the sacrifice made by all of our veterans of the Armed Forces. Our transgendered and transsexual veterans deserve our respect and support as they continue in their struggle to receive recognition and ongoing healthcare services and benefits equal to their nontrans comrades.



A NEW AMSTERDAM IN SAN FRANCISCO?

By Jamie Faye Fenton

Part of the fun of living being a transgender gal in San Francisco is that men sometimes think I am a hooker. I get horn honks, queries from cars, and offers to buy drinks. It's even happened when I had my hair up and was wearing a long dress. Considering how old I am, I view it as a compliment, although I have always declined to negotiate terms.

San Francisco has always been "the wickedest city in the Americas". Before World War One, there were thousands of bordellos, as well as every other imaginable form of vice. During the moral upsurge of the early 1900s that included Prohibition and the criminalization of drug use, San Francisco cleaned up. Prostitution and gambling were banned.

This had the practical effect of cutting the police in on the action and making it much harder for a sex worker to be self-employed. The legal trade moved to Nevada. This state of affairs persists today, with many streetwalkers, strip clubs, and outcall agencies operating in the City.

The sex workers of San Francisco began to organize as a political movement in the 1960s. For a while they had "The Hookers Ball" every year. Today they have several unions, a free clinic, and even a film festival.

One intelligent friend of mine has an interesting idea: Convert part of the Tenderloin into the official "Red Light District" of San Francisco, like they have in Amsterdam. Architecturally, this means rows of small rooms with a large window in the front where the prostitute stands or sits as the customers file by. When a customer selects, they go into the room and draw the curtain.

I have seen this spectacle in Amsterdam and other European cities. The smorgasbord tends to self-organize along racial and sexual variation dimensions. There is a transgender section.

Doing this in San Francisco, precisely the way she imagines it, makes enormous sense. Sex work would be much safer for everyone, and the complaints from the neighborhoods about streetwalkers would cease. Workers won't be assaulted or murdered. The middlemen are disintermediated so more of the money goes to those who earn it. Customers won't get robbed, cheated, or infected with STDs.

If you read this and say "It will never fly", you are probably right. While those in San Francisco might go along, the rest of California has plenty of unreconstructed moralists who would block this. This is sad, because this moral stance allows corruption, misery, disease, and death to flourish.

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Book Reviews!

"MY HUSBAND BETTY"

Book by Helen Boyd
Thunder's Mouth Press
<http://www.myhusbandbetty.com/>

This is a breakthrough book in many terms; and all of us who have had any experience with transgenderism should read it very carefully.

Advance Praise

"The forthright wife of a transvestite offers a revealing look inside the little-known world of transgendered men and their female partners. Boyd (a pseudonym), founder of an online support group for cross-dressers and their partners, pulls no punches here in telling her primary audience, women with cross-dressing boyfriends or husbands what she has learned from both personal experience and five years of research. Among the questions she tackles are why some men cross-dress and why women choose to stay with them.

Profiling six couples from her online support group to demonstrate that there are various ways of dealing with cross-dressing, Boyd opens with a brief introduction to each couple (and photos of some), then let them describe themselves and their relationship in their own words. Elsewhere, she discusses the pros and cons of coming out, the most common sexual problems of cross-dressers, and the differences and similarities among cross-dressers, transsexuals, and homosexuals.

She argues that cross-dressers, some of whom are quite adamant about being heterosexual and resist any linkage with other transgendered groups, could learn a lot from the gay community about facing harassment, discrimination in employment, and rejection from friends and family.

The book has a helter-skelter feel: Boyd mixes big topics like history, politics, and psychology with up-close and personal material about cross-dressers she has come to know and like, her personal experiences living with a cross dresser, her clashes with those whose views she does not share. Whatever its organizational faults, however they're balanced by the author's honest voicing of her opinions, misgivings and fears. Back-of-the-book material includes a glossary of expressions and abbreviations used in the transgendered community, with supplemental terms that should have been folded into the main entry; an alphabetical list by first name of all the people mentioned in the text, which serves no readily discernible purpose; a chatty annotated bibliography, and a list of resources from cross-dressers and their significant others. Makes abundantly clear the complexities of life with a cross-dresser."

- Kirkus Reviews, 11/15/2003

"My Husband Betty is a frank and engaging look into the world of crossdressers and their adjacent neighbors in the transgender community. Helen Boyd peers inside this world with an intent stare, fixating on the fact behind the facade. My Husband Betty gives even treatment to both crossdressers and their spouses, with hard candor and tender insight and empathy. Some readers may bristle at comments that perhaps hit too painfully close to home. However, it's done in the same vein as a mother would chasten her rambunctious

Continued on Page 13

Joan Roughgarden's

EVOLUTION'S RAINBOW Diversity, Gender, and Sexuality in Nature and People

"*Evolution's Rainbow* is an expansively creative challenge to the modern orthodoxies of sexual selection. Roughgarden's intellectual generosity may jump-start the careers of a new generation of diversity-affirming Darwinian scientists." — Patricia Adair Gowaty, author of *Feminism and Evolutionary Biology*

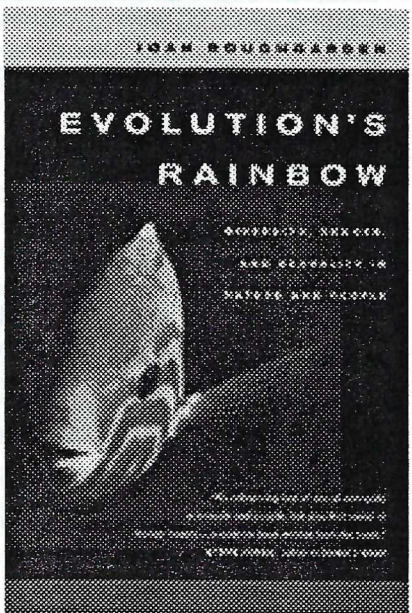
"An entrancing tale of sexual ambiguity in animals and people, but also that rarest of literary beasts—a science book written from the heart." — Steve Jones, author of *Darwin's Ghost*

"A thoughtful and scholarly, yet deeply personal, perspective from a brilliant theoretical biologist. This articulate and provocative disquisition is must reading for anyone fascinated by one of the most important contemporary social challenges." — Simon Levin, author of *Fragile Dominion*

Description

In this innovative celebration of diversity and affirmation of individuality in animals and humans, Joan Roughgarden challenges accepted wisdom about gender identity and sexual orientation. A distinguished evolutionary biologist, Roughgarden takes on the medical establishment, the Bible, social science—and even Darwin himself. She leads the reader through a fascinating discussion of diversity in gender and sexuality among fish, reptiles, amphibians, birds, and mammals, including primates. *Evolution's Rainbow* explains how this diversity develops from the action of genes and hormones and how people come to differ from each other in all aspects of body and behavior. Roughgarden reconstructs primary science in light of feminist, gay, and transgender criticism and redefines our understanding of sex, gender, and sexuality. Witty, playful, and daring, this book will revolutionize our understanding of sexuality.

Roughgarden argues that principal elements of Darwinian sexual selection theory are false and suggests a new theory that emphasizes social inclusion and control of access to resources and mating opportunity. She disputes a range of scientific and medical concepts, including Wilson's genetic determinism of behavior, evolutionary psychology, the existence of a gay gene, the role of parenting in determining gender identity, and Dawkins's "selfish gene" as the driver of natural selection. She dares social science to respect the agency and rationality of diverse people; shows that many cultures across the world and throughout history accommodate people we label today as lesbian, gay, and transgendered; and calls on the Christian religion to acknowledge the Bible's many passages endorsing diversity in gender and sexuality. *Evolution's Rainbow* concludes with bold recommendations for improving education in biology, psychology, and medicine; for democratizing genetic engineering and medical practice; and for building a public monument to affirm diversity as one of our nation's defining principles.



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Merrisa L. Coleman

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Financial Planning And Transgender Issues**

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4960 Almaden Expressway #317, San Jose, CA 95118

Book Reviews!

My Husband Betty...

Continued from Page 12

child, with a swift swat followed by hug and reminder that she still loves and understands. Helen has observed what few have seen, and much fewer speak of openly. Thank you for penning such a wonderful and informative book!"

**Vanessa Edwards Foster,
Chair and Co-Founder,
National Transgender Advocacy Coalition**

"Helen Boyd's insight, humor, and no-punches-pulled style provide a refreshing, spouse-eye-view of crossdressers and what makes them tick. Both a loving wife and a self-proclaimed "Stefani-Steinem Feminist", she offers clear counsel and common sense perspectives for those who may be in conflict about this highly misperceived topic. My Husband Betty should be liquefied, bagged, and plugged in as an IV drip for all self-questioning crossdressers and those in their lives."

**Lacey Leigh, author of *Out & About* and
*7 Secrets of Successful Crossdressers***

"Crossdressers are an important and underserved part of our American community. Cutting, incisive, sometimes maddening — My Husband Betty will help bring them back into the public debate."

Riki Wilchins - GenderPAC

"The most thorough study on crossdressing I've ever read. A must for every Transgendered person and their families. Helen Boyd speaks the truth, eloquently!"

Gina Lance, GIRL TALK Magazine

"This is an insider's view of transvestism. It is sympathetic, understanding, but also realistic and critical. It should be essential reading not only for wives of transvestites (the author is a wife of one), but for transvestites and transgender individuals themselves. I know of no other book that gives such a realistic and all encompassing view of the topic. For those who are not involved in or with the transgender community, it ought to be a fascinating read about a group of people of whom they know little. I recommend it highly."

**Vern L. Bullough,
SUNY Distinguished Professor Emeritus,
Past President of the Society for the Scientific
Study of Sex, Honored with the Kinsey Award for
his research, and author of
*Crossdressing, Sex, and Gender***

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.

SEX CHANGES

**Review By
Charlotte Cooper
Rainbow
Network.com**

Sex Changes, by Patrick Califia is now in its second edition and it's stronger than ever.

The book first appeared in 1997 at a time when there was little in the way of writing about transgenderism that wasn't people's personal accounts of transitioning, or medical texts, or mean and misinformed radical lesbian feminist dogma. Califia, who was undergoing gender changes of his own at the time, fused the personal and the political to produce a book that is still challenging and pioneering.

Sex Changes takes the position that diversity in gender identity is widespread and normal. Within eight chapters Califia takes apart medics and academics, as well as feminist writers such as Jan Raymond, who wrote the notoriously transphobic yet once celebrated book *The Transsexual Empire*, and shows how hatred of transpeople has underscored popular thinking about the subject. More than this, the author suggests alternative ways of thinking about transgenderism, of celebrating rather than damning the culture.

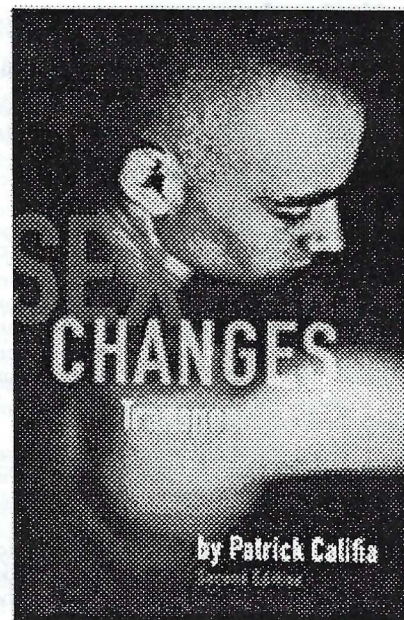
As with all of his work, Califia is a provocative writer who takes no prisoners. His chapter on the transformative power of activism should be required reading for everyone, and his thoughts about the future of transgenderism are prescient and well-considered.

It should be noted that the first publication of 'Sex Changes' marked the beginning of Califia's own transition. He wrote the book before he identified as a transsexual. This gives great weight to his comments about the role of allies within new civil rights movements, and is one of the reasons that this book is so powerful.

Now, six years on, he is able to reflect upon the turbulent time that surrounded publication. As ever, he still feels ambivalence about his identity, about gender privilege, and about his place within a society that remains sexist and homophobic. Yet there is also a feeling of hope in the writing, especially within his discussions of the future of legislation protecting transgendered people, of the dying gasp of transphobia within feminism, and of the moves away from classifying gender dysphoria as a mental illness. Despite post 9/11 paranoia and conservatism, despite violence and continuing medicalisation, Califia makes some startling points about the inevitable growth of civil rights for trans-people.

If you only read one book this month let this be it.

Sex Changes: Transgender Politics by Patrick Califia. Published by: Cleis Press



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Update!

TRANSGENDER VETERANS MARCH TO THE WALL

The Transgender American Veterans Association (TAVA) will gather veterans at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, in Washington, DC, on Saturday, May 1, 2004. Organizers hope to draw a significant number of supporters to honor the many transgender people who served our nation with pride and honor.

Individuals or organizations who wish to make donations may do so through the TG Fund. Diane Dale, Co-Founder of The Transgender Fund says, "Through this march, the TAVA is making a profound statement to all that transgender Americans are, and have been since the beginning, an inseparable part of the fabric that made this magnificent democracy what it is today. We at The Transgender Fund are proud to be associated with this event." The main address for the TG Fund is: <http://www.tgfund.org>, and the page specifically for donations to the TAVA event is: <http://www.tgfund.org/page5.html>.

Several outstanding national and local organizations have come forward to publicly support the event, including the Human Rights Campaign (HRC,) the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition (NTAC,) the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN,) and the Puget Sounds, New York City and DC Chapters of the American Veterans for Equal Rights (AVER.) Some have already supported this event with donations, including the National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE) and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF.)

Individuals or organizations wishing to donate services may contact TAVA Special Projects Director, Angela Brightfeather at: projects@tavausa.org. She says, "It is very heartening to see the support from the GLBTS community for the TG Veterans making this March to the Wall. It is a wonderful example of respect and unity that will form a foundation for many more such ideas and goals. This is very special for all of us and especially those TG Veterans who sacrificed so much for our freedoms."

Monica Helms, President of TAVA, encourages anyone – whether transgendered, gay, lesbian, bisexual or straight – who wishes to join this event to register your participation and for a hotel room by going to http://www.geocities.com/tg_vet_march_to_the_wall.

New in Los Angeles! New FTM TRANS "Coming Out" Support Group

If you were born female and are now looking for support and information as you start to discover and explore more of who you are and what it means to be masculine, male, transgender, genderqueer, tranny, trans-but, a transguy or whatever, consider being part of this group.

We are currently looking for new members to join this ongoing support group. A new 12-session cycle will begin early in 2004 and will meet weekly on Thursday nights in Hollywood. The group is facilitated by Daniel Gould, M.S.W. (who is also FTM and an FTM Alliance Board member) and Dennis Sondker, Psy.D.

All prospective members need to speak with either Daniel or Dennis before joining the group. Because we want the group to be a safe and comfortable place to talk, the FTM Trans Coming Out Group is a "closed" group (i.e., not a drop-in group) and regular attendance is expected of members. There is no cost to attend the group.

If you have questions or think you might be interested in joining this group, please leave a message at 323-860-5863 and either Daniel or Dennis will return your call.

**(Group co-sponsored by the
Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center)**

NTAC Sets Date for Lobby Days 2004, Schedules Fundraiser

The National Transgender Advocacy Coalition (NTAC) has announced the dates of its Congressional Lobby Days. The lobbying effort will take place in Washington, DC from April 29 through April 30, 2004, beginning with a plenary training session on April 28. Transgender activists and supporters are asked to mark the dates on their calendars and make plans to join NTAC in educating Congress on the continuing need for nondiscrimination and hate crimes legislation protecting transgender and intersex citizens.

Plans for training, scheduling of congressional office visits, and hotel accommodations are under development and will be announced on the NTAC website <<http://www.ntac.org/>> as well as in the media.

Speaking of the need to have our message heard in Congress, NTAC Lobbying Chair, Dr. Marisa Richmond, noted that more transgendered people have been murdered in the United States in the past year than in any other country. "The most dangerous city during that same time span," she said, "is Washington, D.C., where three of those murders have occurred. This was even noticed by Newsweek in its September 8 issue. Despite this, we have seen no action, or even outrage, by our elected representatives in Congress."

"The transgender community is diverse, representing all walks of life," added Dr. Richmond. "We come from every ethnic, religious, and socio-economic group. Many of the victims of hate crimes, however, come disproportionately from minority groups. We are working to ensure that their voices will be heard."

"It's imperative that we as a community make our presence known at least once in every congressional session," said Vanessa Edwards Foster, chair of NTAC. On November 20, the Day of Remembrance memorialized a record number of transgender victims worldwide, including seventeen from the U.S. "Congress seems to only want to stop gays and lesbians from marrying, but has no problem with transgenders being targeted and killed because of who we are!" Foster noted. "Those are poor priorities when lives mean little. Compassionate Conservative 'leadership' is killing us!"

NTAC is planning on participation by hate crime survivors and family members of transgender murder victims. Their participation will help Congressmen to put a face on the senseless violence and un-American discrimination heaped on one of America's most maligned minorities.

To raise funds in support efforts to bring hate crime victims and family to Lobby Days, NTAC's Ethan St. Pierre, himself a victim of employment discrimination, will host a three-hour telethon on TransFM Internet Radio. The telethon will run on **Friday, February 29, 2004** from 7 PM to 10 PM EST (6 to 9 Central and 4 to 7 Pacific) at <www.TransFM.com>.

"Since 1995, members of the Transgender Community have met with members of Congress to increase awareness of trans issues, and specifically the prevalence of violence against trans persons," concluded Dr. Richmond. "We hope that the 2004 Lobby Days will produce a large and visible turnout."

The Transgender American Veterans Association (TAVA) will hold a nonpolitical gathering of transgender veterans at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on May 1st Although the TAVA memorial gathering is not connected with NTAC nondiscrimination and hate crimes lobbying efforts in any way, NTAC members — particularly those who are veterans — are encouraged to support the TAVA event. TAVA participants are likewise welcome to come early and to support NTAC Lobby Days activities.

Join NTAC for Lobby Days and let your voice be heard.

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Transsexual TV Show Contestants 'Get £500k Compensation'

Sky One has reportedly agreed to pay £500,000 compensation to five men who were tricked into dating a transsexual. The British contestants on the show titled "There's Something About Miriam" had threatened legal action because they were unaware of the star's past.

In the reality show Miriam was revealed as a transsexual only when filming came to an end. The men complained that during dates with Miriam they had got into "intimate clinches," reports The Star. The threat of action was enough for Sky to postpone transmission, originally planned for November.

Now the broadcaster is said to be on the verge of a deal which would see the men receive compensation at the same time as allowing the six episodes to air on the channel.

DENVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS PROTECT TRANSGENDER STUDENTS

The Denver Public School System (DPS) recently amended their policy, stating that transgender and gender non-conforming students will be protected under policies unanimously adopted by the school board at its January meeting. The school board voted to add the term "gender identity" to other categories protected under the policy that declares "Equal Educational Opportunities" for students.

The amended policy will read as follows: "All students within this school district regardless of race, color, religion, sex, marital status, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity shall be entitled to the benefits of a good education. To secure such benefits, the needs and aspirations of all students shall be considered."

"We were able to convince the school board that since the Denver City Council had passed an ordinance that included transgender people in anti-discrimination policies in 2001, that transgender students in DPS should not be [covered by the city's non-discrimination ordinance] on the streets of Denver, but lose that protection once they walk through the doors of their schools," said local transgender activist, Zia Klamm. "This was the real force in our presentation," added Klamm, who volunteers for Rainbow Alley Youth Center in Denver. "They really got this."

"We made a promise four years ago to get this done," said Keith Lucero of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Education Advisory Council (LGBTEAC), "and now we've finally fulfilled that promise."

"Transgender student safety in schools is a critical problem across the nation - one that virtually no district in the country will recognize, much less address," said Vanessa Edwards Foster, the chair of the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition (NTAC). "Far too often, students whose gender doesn't conform are mercilessly harassed, threatened and assaulted, resulting in a pandemic drop-out rate among transgenders."

"I grew up in a Denver suburb and by middle school I was harassed and physically attacked, sometimes as a daily event," related Klamm, also an LGBTEAC member. Another Denver suburb was the subject of intense media attention when two students from Columbine High School - themselves targets of unchecked harassment - snapped and reacted violently to years of abuse.

"When I asked for help, adults told me it was my fault for these attacks because I didn't 'act normal.' I did not know any other way to act," Klamm added. "By adding gender identity to the school policy, my hope is that other kids will not have to go through the kind of harassment that I experienced" she said.

"The Denver Schools policy change shows a commitment to ensuring that education of all its students is paramount," added Foster of NTAC. "A safe learning environment is key to that."

The LGBTEAC worked with advisors to DPS as well as lawyers from the Colorado Legal Initiatives Project (CLIP), for the past two years on developing policies and protections for those students whose gender expression is not traditional. NTAC praises both LGBTEAC and the Denver Public Schools for valuing education for all students in Denver.

LGBTEAC contributes to district aims to improve student achievement, and to help provide a safe nurturing environment, which all students need in order to learn and thrive.

CLUB GIVES MICHELLE THE PUSH

by Gordon McCully

A GRANDMOTHER believes she has been thrown out of a singles club because she is a transsexual. Michelle, 53, was stunned when she received a letter from the club, Northern Link, informing her they were terminating her membership.

Karen Seddon, owner of the Horwich-based club confirmed the expulsion, but refused to say why Michelle was barred. She said: "It wasn't because of Michelle's sexual orientation, but I'm not prepared to give a reason."

Michelle, a self-employed accountant, formerly of Lostock Hall, but now living in Chorley, was born a male, named Michael, in Blackpool. She grew up as a boy, married, and fathered three children, a son, now aged 26, and two daughters, 24 and 18. She also has two grandchildren.

It was after getting divorced and undergoing the sex change operation that she joined Northern Link in March 2003. "I informed the owner of what I was before I joined and she replied that this was a singles group, not a dating agency," said Michelle, now a tall, slim, ash blonde.

She says she was kicked out of Northern Link in November under the club's Rule Eight, which allows it to terminate membership without giving a reason. Another transsexual was also excluded at around the same time.

The club, which has 2,000 members, returned £20 of Michelle's £25 annual subscription, and the £14 she had paid for a Christmas meal with a note asking her not to attend.

Michelle, who lived in Lostock Hall for 16 years and had an office in Bamber Bridge, where she was also a school governor, says she rang to ask why she had been expelled, but no one would talk to her. She said: "I doubt if I will ever go back to Northern Link even if they did re-admit me, but it might help somebody else in the future if I stand up to them now. "I enjoyed the club, it gave me a social life," said Michelle, who now has a male friend whom she met through Northern Link.

Michelle said she had always felt like a female — even growing up as a boy in Blackpool where she attended the town's grammar school. She underwent a £9,500 sex change operation in Brighton in 2001 after living full time as a female since December 1999. And she still keeps in touch with her ex-wife following their divorce. "She was laughing that much she fell off a stool when I told her I was a woman," revealed Michelle. "It took her a few months before it finally sank in I was serious."

Michelle, a former parishioner at Our Lady and St Gerard's RC Church, Lourdes Avenue, Lostock Hall, added: "The public don't realize that transsexualism is a medical disease. "It is not a state of mind, the public can't see this.

"What is needed is more education for the general public to show we are not two headed monsters, but normal human beings with normal aspirations and desires. Not something to be afraid of. "I have been pushed around all my life and it is time to start fighting back."

She is now taking legal advice and is considering the possibility of launching a judicial review to challenge the decision by Northern Link. She said: "As far as I'm aware I have not broken any of their rules."

Karen Seddon, 47, of Poulton-le-Fylde, said: "In my rules it states I have total discretion. "I want a certain type of people. It is nothing to do with her sexual orientation at all."

She confirmed another transsexual had been barred in the same week, and that any other previous exclusions had taken place four months ago. She added she had terminated "seven or eight" memberships in the last year "for all sorts of reasons".



SHUNNED Transsexual Michelle has been banned from a singles club

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.

Bailey Controversy Redux

Open Letter from Anjelica Kieltyka, Lynn Conway, Andrea James and Calpernia Addams

To: Faculty of the Department of Psychology at Northwestern University, regarding the Southern Poverty Law Center Intelligence Report on Transgender Hate Crimes, and How Pseudo-Science Fuels The Hate

Subject: Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) Intelligence Report on Transgender Hate Crimes, and How Pseudo-Science Fuels The Hate

Dear Faculty Members:

The widely respected Southern Poverty Law Center has now come forward on the realities and causes of the terrible wave of hate crimes against transgender and transsexual women now rampant in many U.S. cities.

The Winter 2003 SPLC Intelligence Report (Issue 112) directly links these acts to the parallel historical legacy of discrimination against people of color, alternative religion, and lifestyle. The Intelligence Report also exposes the role played by academic bigots and right-wing pundits in their attempt to legitimize and promote their pseudo-science and thereby justify and intensify the prejudice and hatred of transgender people.

With this letter we wish to inform you that the Intelligence Report identifies J. Michael Bailey, the Chairman of the Department of Psychology at Northwestern, as a central figure in an elite reactionary group of academics, pundits and journalists now especially active in an insidiously noxious "scientific" and "scholarly" pursuit of institutionalized bigotry and defamation of transsexual women.

Why We Bring This News To You:

We are socially assimilated trans women who are mentors to many young transsexuals in transition. Unable to bear children of our own, the girls we mentor become like children to us.

These young women depend on us for guidance during the difficult period of transition and then on during their adventures afterwards - dating, careers, marriages and sometimes adoption of their own children. As a result, we have large extended families and are blessed by these relationships.

Through our extended families we know first-hand how Bailey's junk science is hurting young trans women. Struggling to transition in a society already dangerously hateful towards them, they must now face officially sanctioned stereotypes and defamations heaped onto them by this "sex scientist" - and watch in shock as his pseudo-science fuels the social hatred of them.

We see the reality of the pain being inflicted by this pseudo-science on these innocent young women. We know firsthand of cases where it is destroying their relationships with families and friends, limiting or even ruining their chances for employment, and causing deep emotional angst. One woman wrote to us describing how her mother came running into her bedroom after reading Bailey's book, and threw the book at her shouting "Now I know what you are!" ...

You may have wondered why hundreds of successful, assimilated trans women like us, women from all across the country, are being so persistent in investigating Mr. Bailey and in uncovering and reporting his misdeeds. Now you have your answer: We are hundreds of loving moms whose children he is tormenting!

In Conclusion:

Only by stepping back and grasping the tragic realities of the social context into which Mr. Bailey ingratiated himself, surreptitiously conducted research studies, and then published his "results" - only then can one see the exploitive and predatory nature of his work, the true dimensions of his misconduct, and the horrific impact of his corrupted pseudo-science on vulnerable young lives.

Future generations of children, diverse and variant, yours and ours, must be made safe from prejudice and hate, both on the streets and alleys of the cities and in the classrooms of our schools and colleges. Our children must no longer be exploited, victimized, and made to look pathetic and ridiculous by fraudulent and dubious researchers, academics and yes, even some who are your colleagues and "friends". It has to stop here and now.

We urge you to suspend disbelief. Read those SPLC Intelligence Report articles for yourselves. Then contemplate the role that some psychologists, including your Department Chairman, are playing in fostering hate and violence against young transsexual women.

ATTACK ON PROF. BAILEY PUTS FREE SPEECH AT RISK

via Daily Northwestern
Nadir Hassan

A whiff of academic totalitarianism is polluting our air, and psychology Prof. Michael Bailey is at the forefront fighting it.

Bailey — who has been accused of not obtaining permission from research subjects and engaging in sexual relations with one of his subjects — has been drawn into a battle over his work and reputation by transgendered activists.

The main point of contention between Bailey and the activists is the theory of autogynephilia, which states that one type of transsexual is driven to become a woman by his erotic desires rather than an urge to inhabit the female form. In his book, "The Man who would be Queen," Bailey reiterated that theory and applied it to transsexuals he had interviewed.

Bailey has seen an unprecedented smear campaign launched against his character that has included not-so-subtle Nazi references by activist Lynn Conway. Conway says on her Web site that Bailey has turned the field of psychology into a "Nazi-like propaganda machine — this time directed not against Jewish people but against transsexual women."

On the same site History lecturer Lane Fenrich compares Bailey to racist scientists, saying his work "is no different from the way in which people were looking for the alleged basis of racial differences in people's bodies."

Most disturbing of all has been the use of Bailey's teenage children in a Web page by activist Andrea James that showed them mouthing obscenities to their father.

Their savage attacks have been inflicted on right-wing commentator John Derbyshire of National Review who had the gall to write a positive review of Bailey's book. Derbyshire's inclusion in the vast transphobic conspiracy comes courtesy of his sharing the same publisher as Bailey, despite the fact they've only met once.

Also part of this supposed conspiracy are transsexuals such as Willow Arune, Kendra Blewitt and Anne Lawrence who dare to stray from the plantation and support Bailey.

The anti-Bailey activists now have teamed up with the Southern Policy Law Center to accuse Bailey of "hate crimes." But the only crimes he seems guilty of are thought crimes. In the Orwellian world of the transgendered activists and the Southern Policy Law Center, Bailey has already been judged guilty of daring to publish politically incorrect views.

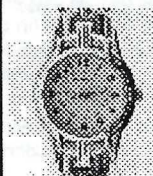
He is unable to comment on the charges against him. If he is found guilty, he should be punished appropriately.

But regardless of the outcome, academic freedom is under fire here and precious few have noticed it. Most people are concerned with the allegations against Bailey, but they have ignored the threat these activists are posing to free speech.

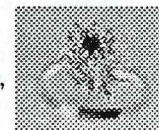
Ironically Bailey, who says a "climate of fear and intimidation" has been created by his detractors, has done a lot to bring transgendered people into the mainstream. His critics would be better served to offer constructive critiques of his book rather than to try to shut him up.

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Bailey Controversy Redux

QUEER SCIENCE

An 'Elite' Cadre Of Scientists And Journalists Tries To Turn Back The Clock On Sex, Gender And Race

By Heidi Beirich and Bob Moser

On a book tour last spring and summer, Northwestern University psychology professor J. Michael Bailey gave his audiences a sampling of recent scientific thinking about sexual and gender identity.

After playing audio recordings of four men's voices, Bailey asked: Which is gay? The crowds inevitably picked out the voice with exact articulation and lispy "S" sounds. Precisely! Bailey cheered.

His point: Determining somebody's sexual orientation is just that easy, just that obvious. Needless to say, Bailey's brand of "queer science" has not met with cheers from GLBT activists — nor from many fellow scholars, who see his studies as attempts to lend scientific credence to age-old stereotypes.

But Bailey does have company. Many of those who praised his recent book, *The Man Who Would Be Queen: The Science of Gender-Bending and Transsexualism*, belong to a private cyber-discussion group of a neo-eugenics outfit, the Human Biodiversity Institute (HBI).

This exclusive group of academics, race scientists and right-wing journalists — along with a reported handful of liberals — exchanges thoughts about "differences in race, sex and sexual orientation" for a chilling purpose: promoting and studying "artificial [genetic] selection."

The Man Who Would Be Queen is only the latest in a series of controversial studies and articles by HBI members, many of whom are bent on overturning the most widely held psychological and scientific views of gender, sexual identity and race.

But Bailey's book has brought negative publicity to this "anti-PC" movement, both because of Bailey's controversial conclusions and because most of the transgendered women profiled in his book say they never knew they were going to be written about.

In November, Northwestern launched a full-scale investigation of Bailey, who chairs the prestigious university's psychology department, to probe his handling of transgendered women he was supposed to be counseling — but was allegedly using as unwitting research subjects.

Anjelica Kiełtyka, a Chicago artist whose personal history is a prominent part of *The Man Who Would Be Queen*, filed the first complaint with the university last spring. Like other subjects in the book, she says she was never informed that Bailey was going to write about her. In fact, she sent several others of the book's subjects to Bailey — friends who needed his help in obtaining mandatory approval for sex-reassignment surgery.

Kiełtyka likens Bailey's "science" to the infamous syphilis experiments performed on unwitting black men at the Tuskegee Institute. "At the beginning of the last century, blacks were expendable human beings to be experimented on without their knowledge," she says. "For Bailey and his allies, we transsexuals are just their guinea pigs."

Equally disturbing, to Kiełtyka and others, are the conclusions Bailey reached. Based on his allegedly unauthorized interviews and on discussions with a few other people he met in bars, Bailey determined that transsexuals (the term for transgendered people who surgically change their gender) are "especially motivated" to shoplift, "especially well-suited to prostitution," and "not very successful at finding men willing to commit to them."

The transgender community is especially galled by Bailey's diagnosis of their "condition." The American Psychiatric Association and the vast majority of scholars agree on "gender identity disorder," a medical term for people convinced they were born the wrong gender.

Bailey signs on with his reported fellow HBI member, sex researcher Ray Blanchard, who contends that transgendered people are actually either homosexual or autogynephilic, a term for men aroused by the idea of themselves as women. Bailey says autogynephilics suffer from paraphilia, a set of "unusual sexual preferences" that includes necrophilia, pedophilia and bestiality.

The upshot, says University of Michigan professor emeritus Lynn Conway, is clear: "Bailey has stereotyped us and portrayed us as alien creatures, just as racist scientists did to blacks in earlier eras."

Among some of Bailey's reported HBI cohorts, that racist science of old is still just as alive and well as their current sex research. The Institute's main activity appears to be an "invitation-only" online discussion list for "a small, elite and eclectic mix of experts."

According to a list posted on HBI's Web site until last summer, this "elite" includes:

- * Jean-Phillippe Rushton, a prominent researcher on black genetic inferiority who is president of a pro-eugenics hate group, the Pioneer Fund;
- * Charles Murray, co-author of *The Bell Curve*, which purported to show black and Latino intellectual inferiority;
- * Kevin MacDonald, a professor at California State University at Long Beach who has written several books about supposed Jewish strategies to subvert "Euro-American" culture; and
- * Gregory Cochran, a physicist who has suggested the existence of a genetic "gay germ."

These ideas about race and sex have not been limited to the world of academia. The HBI also includes several right-wing journalists who help popularize their theories — and promote their books. The most prominent cheerleader for Bailey and the other HBI researchers is the man who started the HBI: Steve Sailer, a United Press International reporter and frequent contributor to the anti-immigration Web site, VDARE.com.

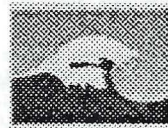
Like Bailey, Sailer refused to respond to questions, telling the *Intelligence Report* "tough noogies." Also like Bailey, he has pushed the idea that there's a genetic basis for homosexuality — making it a "disease" that could eventually be eradicated.

"It's radically unfashionable to call homosexuality a disease," Sailer noted this August on VDARE.com. But that doesn't stop Sailer, who fashions himself a bold thinker willing to confront taboo subjects. The personal Web site maintained by the man behind the Human Biodiversity Institute, www.isteve.com, provides a different window into Sailer's way of thinking.

The site is dominated by crude racial and gender stereotypes as Sailer mocks professional golfer Annika Sorenstam for her muscles, claims that Asian men have a hard time finding dates because they look "less masculine" than other men. Sailer also invokes the spirit of his friend Bailey when he claims to have found the real reason Al Gore lost the 2000 presidential election. He chalks it all up to a lisp that makes the former vice president "sound prim, even homosexual."

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Bits 'n Pieces...

Restricting TG Marriage Illegal European Court Rules

by Malcolm Thornberry
365Gay.com Newscenter
European Bureau Chief

(London) Europe's top court has ruled that restricting marriage and pension rights for transsexuals violates European Union law. The European Court of Justice in Luxembourg was ruling in a case involving a British woman, identified only as K.B, but will have implications throughout the EU.

Under British law, her partner, a female-to-male transsexual, would not be able to receive a widower's pension because they were unable to marry legally under existing British law. K.B. claimed that the law amounted to discrimination, since she has contributed for 20 years to a pension as a worker for the National Health Service.

The European court sent the case back to Britain to examine the facts in the light of its decision. K.B.'s case may be moot. The British government last November began changing the law to allow transsexuals to change their birth certificates - and thus marry in their new gender.

However, the ruling will force other EU members which still place restrictions on the transgendered. The court's decision applies to all EU countries, including the 10 joining in May. Many of the new member states currently do not allow the transgendered to alter their sex on identity papers, marry, or enter in recognized domestic partnerships.

Those countries now must amend their laws to bring them into accordance with the rest of EU for their admission to move forward.

Athletes Excluded from Gender Laws

By David Barrett, Legal Affairs Correspondent,
PA News / Scotsman.com

Athletes are to be excluded from new laws which will allow transsexuals to legally recognize their new genders, it was [recently] announced. Under the Gender Recognition Bill, published two months ago, transsexuals will be able to get new birth certificates even if they still have their original genitals, provided they are diagnosed as suffering from "gender dysphoria".

Now the Bill is to be amended so UK sporting bodies can continue to decide case-by-case whether individual transsexuals should be allowed to compete. It follows discussions between the Government, UK Sport and the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Constitutional affairs minister Lord Filkin said: "This amendment is designed to ensure sporting bodies can uphold safe and fair competition. "In the same way as a sporting body is perfectly entitled to exclude a person taking performance-enhancing drugs, for reasons of competitive parity, they would be entitled to exclude a male-to-female transsexual person if competitive parity or the safety of other competitors was at stake. "Sporting bodies already deal with the issues raised by the participation of transsexual sportspeople, and this Bill will not affect the flexibility that sporting bodies have."

Sports minister Richard Caborn said: "This is the best move for UK sports governing bodies - it will enable them to act in line with the approach taken by international sports governing bodies."

Transsexual campaigners have been fighting for a change in the law for 33 years. They will have to meet medical criteria and live in their new genders for at least two years before applying to a new authorizing body for a new birth certificate.

They are not expected to have undergone surgery to win the new certificates, which will allow them to marry in their new genders. It will be possible for someone born as a man, for example, to hold a female birth certificate under the new arrangements, even if they retain their penis. But the authorizing body would have to be satisfied by medical assessments that they were suffering from gender confusion.

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Jethro Tull Star Has Sex Change

Former Jethro Tull rocker David Palmer has had a sex change and is now a woman called Dee. The 66-year-old keyboard player — who is recording her debut solo album in Spain — appreciates some fans may be shocked by the transformation, but insists her first love is still music.

She says, "Yes, you are speaking to the person you thought I was — the keyboard player in Jethro Tull for many years, one of the biggest bands in the world."

Jethro Tull frontman Ian Anderson says, "I found it difficult to understand at first. But I fully support his decision."

Court Denies Transgender Marriage Appeal

Ann Rostow, Gay.com / PlanetOut.com Network

A divided three-judge panel of the 11th District Ohio Court of Appeals ruled recently that a heterosexual couple may not marry under state law if one member is transsexual.

Although Jacob Nash was born female, he changed his sex in the late 1990s and obtained a revised birth certificate from his home state in Massachusetts. Nonetheless, the Ohio courts have continued to ignore this legal document in denying him the right to marry his partner, Erin Barr.

In a Dec. 31 decision, which is expected to be appealed, Judge Diane V. Grendell insisted that the U.S. Constitution's Full Faith and Credit Clause might require Ohio to respect Nash's Massachusetts birth certificate, but it does not require Ohio to take the extra step of declaring Nash a male under Ohio law.

Instead, the judge turned to the legal authority of Webster's New College Dictionary, where she found "female" defined as "the sex that produces ova or bears young," and "male" as "the sex that has organs to produce spermatozoa for fertilizing ova." Once she determined that Nash failed to meet the latter specification, she grounded the rest of her opinion in the state law that prohibits same-sex marriage.

Grendell cited a host of conservative precedents in the course of her 17-page opinion, including a dissenting opinion in a state Supreme Court case that was overwhelmingly resolved in favor of two women who sought a name change.

In another example, the judge found a quote from a Texas transgender marriage case with which to dismiss the underlying complexity of the matter before her: "We realize," wrote the Texas 4th District Court of Appeals in *Littleton v. Prange*, "that there are many fine metaphysical arguments lurking about here involving desire and being, the essence of life and the power of mind over physics. But courts are wise not to wander too far into the misty fields of sociological philosophy."

In contrast, Grendell's dissenting colleague, Judith Christley, wrote that advances in civil rights have "required that we rethink the long established history and origins of our prejudices. Without exception," she went on, "the continuation of those prejudices was defended in the name of natural law, the God-given order of things, and because it had always been that way. Then, as today, the defenders of the status quo always seemed to have God's lips to their ears."

Takin' Care of Biz...

TGSF ASSETS, LIABILITIES, AND EQUITY as of 19 December 2003

Assets

Cash	\$4,250.00
Event Equipment	
Decorations	\$1,000.00
Food Service	\$200.00
Office Supplies	\$50.00
Total Assets	\$5,500.00

Liabilities and Equity

Accounts Payable	\$3,395.12
Equity	\$2,104.88

Total Liabilities and Equity \$5,500.00

Statement of Income

Revenue

Memberships	\$0.00
Donations	\$100.00
Advertising	\$166.67
Cotillion Tickets	\$444.75
Total	\$711.42

Expenses

Cotillion	\$100.00
Newsletter	\$450.00
Telephone	\$50.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00
Total	\$600.00

Net Income \$111.42

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



Valerie Igl, Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist
<http://members.aol.com/valigl/page/feministtherapy.htm>
valigl@aol.com **310-527-5662**

TGSF DONATIONS

Our Friends Who Give as of January 15, 2004

Andrea Drane	\$100.00
Roshelle Cunning	\$150.00
Dawn Woodie	\$50.00
<i>(gift certificate Cotillion door prize)</i>	

Thank You, and Bless You for Caring!

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please contact the Webmistress.

THROW OUT YOUR PRONOUNS... 'He' and 'She' are Meaningless Terms in the Bay Area's Flourishing Transgender Performance Scene

Rona Marech, Chronicle Staff Writer

On a recent evening, 62 people traveled to the edge of the Mission District and paid \$5 at the door of El Rio bar to see "Wicked Messenger 3.0," a show aptly billed as "21st century variant cabaret."

That night's performers included transgender punk-rocker Shawna Virago and her band the Deadly Nightshades, and Julia Serano, a self-described transsexual lesbian who powered her way through a poem that read, in part, "I am the loose thread/ that unravels the gender of everyone around me."

Transgender writer Max Wolf Valerio's spirited reading about a date with a clueless co-worker inspired so much laughter that he momentarily broke up himself, giggling into the microphone: "It's true, it's true!"

While the evening of extreme-sport gender-bending was laden with surprises — including the drag king strip act and Valerio relating how he ultimately got the girl — the uninitiated might be most surprised to find out just how commonplace the event was.

As the Bay Area's transgender community has grown and made significant civil rights gains, a transgender art scene has flowered. Taking the stage at these performances are people who have a gender identity different from the one assigned at birth or who call themselves "genderqueer" to mean that they don't subscribe to a male-female gender system.

At bars and small clubs, mostly in San Francisco and the East Bay, the devoted can attend events such as GenderEnders and Gender Pirates in almost any given week, typically to see an array of performers from hip-hop artists to poets, dancers, singers, rockers, spoken-word artists, writers, drag kings and drag queens.

Transgender performance wasn't invented yesterday, it's true, but enthusiasts are especially excited now because of the range of transgender-identified artists sharing the stage and because of the scene's size and rapid growth in the past year or two.

"There's no question that it's really exploded in the last year," said Charlie Anders, a transgender writer who publishes *Other* magazine. "I spent nine months on the East Coast this past year, and when I got back I was amazed at how it's changed."

In the past, shows with all-transgender or "genderqueer" lineups have taken place irregularly. These days, the shows are so much a part of the arts scene in San Francisco that in the recent mayoral race, candidates Matt Gonzalez and Tom Ammann both held transgender performance fund-raisers.

"There's more of a sense of a transgender genre," said Ms. Bob Davis, a professor at San Francisco State and City College who has written extensively about drag history and uses the title "Ms." to connote that he's a "queer cross-dresser."

"I see it as a companion to the greater visibility of transgenderism as a whole, which can be seen in legislation and in the courts." Davis compared the blossoming of cultural work to the explosion of punk in the 1970s.

"If you had asked me 10 years ago if there would be a vibrant transgender art and music scene, I would have said, 'Never,'" said Virago, who's also a community activist. "This is a beautiful and surprising development. I feel so lucky that I lived to see it."

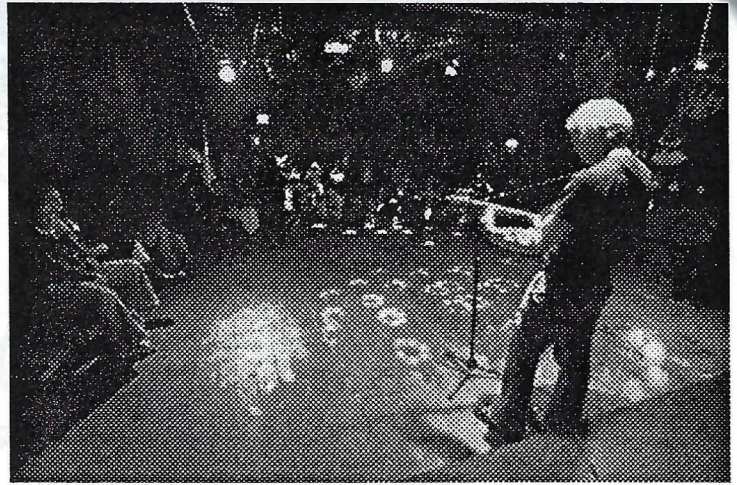
While the artists are connected by their shared experience of living outside traditional gender norms, the role gender identity plays in their work varies significantly.

"What is great is that people no longer have to give a 'Transgender 101' lecture as part of whatever they're doing. You no longer have to assert your identity and that's all you're going to do," Anders said. "It can be using the cognitive dissonance that people feel around someone whose gender isn't what it was at birth to add to their art and to add to the complexity of what they're doing."

On the other hand, she added, "I've noticed no two people have the same definition of what it means to be transgender. It's still very valuable for people to stand up and say, 'This is what it means to me.'"

The scene is also distinguished by the lengths to which some of the artists will go to outdo one another in the gender-bending department.

"It's a free-for-all. Anything goes. No one knows what's up or down," said Rocco Kayiatos, also known as the transgender hip-hop artist Katastrophe. He confesses to occasionally being confused himself by such gender concoctions as "a butch dyke transwoman who does boy drag."



Kathleen Ottman performs at Cherry Bar
Chronicle photo by Carlos Avila Gonzalez

"But that's the whole point of the scene," he said, "is people trying to break the binary of gender through art."

Participants say the sheer size of the transgender population in the Bay Area — tens of thousands, according to Marcus Arana, a discrimination investigator at the San Francisco Human Rights Commission — has combined with Bay Area's art-happy do-it-yourself attitude to usher in this boom.

"I think it is born from the fact that we transgender people have been shut out for so long in all kinds of venues. We have been denied a place to present art and tell our stories. What you're seeing is the result of many years of people saying enough is enough. We're going to make our own space," Virago said.

"Of course you're going to do art and talk about your experiences, especially in San Francisco," said Lynn Breedlove, a transgender musician and the host of the "queer" variety show "Kvetch."

"It's encouraged to do that here no matter what. The Beats, hippies, the gay revolution in the '70s — on and on. Punks. It just follows that trannies are the sub-sub-culture of oppressed people that think differently and are revolutionary."

While the artists' ultimate goal may be to blow up gender as we know it — as Kayiatos and others suggested — day to day, the scene has some more practical functions.

Arielle Webb, 24, found out about a recent "all gender" open mike night at Cherry Bar and Lounge in SoMa from friends and e-mail lists. "This is my community," she said, as the modest Wednesday night crowd started to break up after a handful of readings and songs and one drag-king act. "We're all outcasts and we can come together and relate to each other. ... People accept you here."

Continued on Page 21



M.K. performs at Cherry Bar during Gender Pirates
Chronicle photo by Carlos Avila Gonzalez

MAN OF THE HOSE - PART ONE

From stockings to sequins, Studio Lites has cross-dressing covered.

By Laura Bond
laura.bond@westword.com (Denver)

It can be difficult to find pantyhose that fit properly when you're a 6'2", 220-pound hunk with lumberjack legs and large, flat feet. This is a problem that Bill has learned to live with — just one of the many sacrifices a girl-in-training must make for beauty. "Sometimes I'll use something to take in my stomach, give it a little more shape. I have a little bit of a gut," Bill confides. "But I think I have fairly nice legs. I like wearing the pantyhose, even though they're awkward at first. You get used to it." Right now, along with the pantyhose, Bill is wearing a mini-dress, modest heels and a sequined jacket that picks up the blue of his eyes. This is not his standard Thursday-night attire.

Bill spends most evenings with his wife of more than thirty years — cooking, entertaining guests, talking with his three grown children and nine grandchildren. On weekends, he rides motorcycles and participates in civic activities in Evergreen. A former military man who jumped out of airplanes while in the service, he's a sports enthusiast in his sixties who's fond of wearing Army boots and jeans, as well as the proud owner of a big-ass truck — a massive four-by-four pickup that takes up more than one parking spot. Tonight the truck is parked in front of Studio Lites, an emerald-green boutique on Broadway where Bill comes to turn into Betty.

"You would never think a big, masculine guy like me would like to do this, would you?" he says. "But it's just the most wonderful feeling. Imagine the best feeling you ever had — that's what it's like. I just come here, and they make me feel so glamorous and great."

Sitting in a makeup chair, his thick ankles crossed demurely in a debutante pose, Bill admires the big, reddish wig that Studio Lites owner Christopher Gradford has just wiggled onto his head, covering his gray hair. Upswept foundation and rouge create shadows on Bill's broad face, suggesting contours and womanly cheeks. The transformation is more than skin deep. Bill becomes giggly and girlish in his chair. Smiling, he makes mock kissing faces into a mirror.

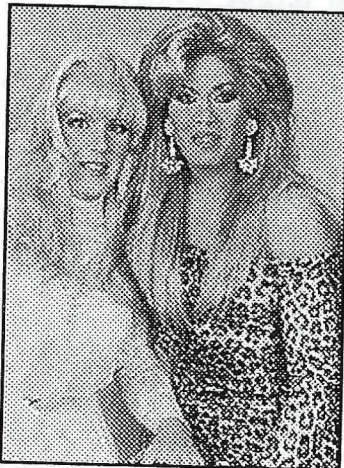
"Look at him; he's such a ham," says Chris. "A lot of men are so pent up, they don't smile. It takes them a while to wind down from man mode. But you put them in dress, it's like a weight comes off of them. It's like a whole different person comes out — a happy person."

Bill isn't ashamed to admit it: He feels beautiful. This is a wonderful night, a special night, and he doesn't want it to end. "Even if there were a pill or something that could make me feel like this, I wouldn't take it," he says. "It's a natural thing, in a way. There's just nothing like feeling the wind on your legs when you're wearing a dress."

Studio Lites is listed in five sections of the Yellow Pages, and they don't begin to cover it all. For starters, "cross-dressing" isn't an official Yellow Pages category. But then, Chris says, "You can't sustain a business with a cross-dresser as your only client. You've to cross over into general fashion and other areas."

The layout of Studio Lites reflects its many missions; there are nooks and crannies for every off-the-wall cultural activity. There's the conservative front room, with wigs and handbags, costume jewelry and makeup — a space as innocuous as any ladies' boutique. To the right, a large room houses club clothing and stripper wear, bustiers and cinchers for men and women, plus a display case full of magazines targeting the transgendered community. An area to the left features fetish and goth wear in vinyl and velvet — dresses that look like what one might wear to a good old-fashioned bloodletting. Farther back, there's a room stocked with specialty hosiery, including crotchless bodysuits in every color, as well as plastic underwear and outrageously high heels. Most of Studio Lites' shoes are designed for the dance floor — or the stage. Stripper supply is one of Studio Lites' major moneymakers.

"For a stripper, your clothes are everything," says Chris. "It sounds odd, considering they're just taking them off, but if you have a customer who likes you and comes to see you a second time, he doesn't want to see you in the same outfit. He'll get tired of you."



Boys will be girls: Rick Smith as Bianca (left) and Chris Gradford as Morganna.

Throw Out Your Pronouns...

Continued from Page 20

The sentiment is similar on the other side of the stage.

Storm Florez recounted the first time she performed at a transgender event in 2001. "It was incredible sharing the stage with amazing people and feeling some reflection of my world," he said. "It gave me the courage to be myself in the world more."

Serano, the spoken-word artist who also produces the monthly event GenderEnders, said, "A lot of what's driving this is the voice part of it. A lot of the movement is about giving a voice to people who haven't had a voice before.

"People in the transgender community have been made to feel bad and wrong about who we are for a lot of our lives. For me, having been a very closeted person for most of my life, to get onstage and talk about something that happened 20 years ago that I didn't dare tell anyone then is very healing."

For now, many of the artists are finding their voices in front of each other, but already that insularity is softening. Though some of the scenesters are amateurs simply looking for an outlet and friendly faces, others are serious talents who hope to win mainstream fans and dispel ignorance and prejudice along the way. Some, such as Katastrophe or modern dance choreographer Sean Dorsey, are already getting mainstream attention.

"Basically, I feel like music and art speaks to people," Florez said. "It speaks to people on an emotional level. ... We all understand what pain feels like. What it feels like when something is unjust. Or what fear feels like. So when we're sharing experiences about way things are, it isn't just for the transgender community. When you're sharing it in an artistic way, there's a chance it can reach out to a lot of people."

Virago, who sang songs with lyrics such as "Is baby a boy or a girl?" at her recent El Rio performance, said: "Art is one of the ways that revolutionary thought can become sexy and can become tangible.

"There's a funny way of people who push the envelope — eventually their vision of the world isn't so dangerous," she said. "Even as hard as it is for me to believe, at some point we will have transgender cultural acceptance."

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Continued on Page 22

Man of the Hose - Part One...

Continued from Page 21

But catering to cross-dressers is the shop's true specialty. This is one of just a half-dozen boutiques around the country designed to provide one-stop shopping and consulting for clients like Bill: successful, straight men who like to dress in women's clothing. Six days a week, soft-spoken Rick Smith, Chris's partner, mans the counter, advising customers on what shade of eyeliner or hosiery would be most flattering, fielding calls from men who want women's undergarments discreetly shipped to their homes, or women looking for tips on what types of lingerie men like most — for themselves.

Chatty Chris buzzes the floor all day long. He knows many of the people who step into the store and greets regulars with a mandatory "squeeze." And he's got plenty of regulars. Customers come from all over the country to sit in his chair and have him design their hair, makeup and wardrobe.

"Chris is a professional — probably the best artist for cross-dressers in the United States," says Bill, who's had makeovers in Chicago, Los Angeles and Seattle. "He makes you look so beautiful, you actually feel like you're a woman. And he gives me pointers and tips so that I can try to re-create the look on my own, at home, so I don't need to come in here all the time.

"There are a lot of people out there who say they want to help the cross-dresser," he adds. "They work secretly, sell you things out of their home, do your makeup, whatever you want. But most of them are just out to take advantage. They overcharge; they don't really care how you look when you leave. They could just slap a wig and some terrible makeup on you. You don't look beautiful; you just look like a man in a dress."

A Studio Lites man-to-woman makeover costs between \$200 and \$400 — and that includes dressing, makeup, wig styling, nails and a photo session. For a little extra, Chris will even take his client on a chaperoned excursion into the real world. Many of the men who come to Studio Lites for makeovers want to take their new look out on the town, perhaps to a stageside table at cross-dresser-friendly clubs like BJ's Carousel. But others have more mundane aspirations: One particularly macho customer wanted to don a dress and head for the tool aisle at Wal-Mart.

"The fantasy is whatever the individual wants, whatever their definition of womanhood is, or whatever they encounter in day-to-day life," Chris explains. "So if you have a CEO, you're going to have a fantasy that's shaped by a CEO mindset. He may want to wear a nice little coat and some pumps and go out for a classy dinner. Or the working-class guy is going to want something a little trampier: a mini-skirt, maybe, and big breast forms. What I do is help them realize whatever that fantasy is and not to judge."

Most of Studio Lites' cross-dressing customers are family-oriented men who lead otherwise conventional, often conservative lives. The closely guarded client list includes politicians, prominent business owners, cops, firemen and servicemen. According to Chris, business has gotten a boost recently from GIs stopping by for Studio Lites makeovers during their R&R breaks from Iraq.

"We had one guy who's in the Army, and he came in here after he'd been discharged from Baghdad," he says. "He'd just executed his first kill in the field, and he was very confused and stressed about it. He came in here, we dressed him up beautifully and took his picture, and you could just see some of that anxiety and unhappiness melt away. He was like a different person."

Rick can relate to Studio Lites' military customers. He spent 23 years in the Navy Reserve — secretly dressing in drag much of that time.

"The majority of our customers are well-educated, high-class professionals who, in a lot of cases, have very masculine personas in their day-to-day life," says Chris. "We have people coming through town to go skiing, or they're in town for a convention and they find us. Often it's the men who have the most macho roles in real life who seem to have the biggest need to express the feminine side of themselves. We once had a party for a bunch of our clients, and when they turned up, they discovered that they were all Denver cops. It's something no one ever talks about, but it's really quite common in a lot of these little pockets of our city culture."

"I think the Denver cross-dressing community is very, very large," agrees Phyllis Spiegelmeier, who operates Phyllis' Fantasies, a cross-dresser makeover business, out of her home in the Baker neighborhood. "We have a very large

population of people who do this, and in most cases, they are successful, upper-middle-class men who are oftentimes high-profile. I think people would be very, very surprised to learn that their neighbor is into this, but he is."

Chris himself has been into this a long time. A native of Mississippi, he studied fashion and worked as a runway and print model in Japan before moving to Denver in the early '70s. In appearances at drag cabarets and clubs like BJ's, he honed his performance as a platinum-headed bombshell named Morganna.

"I'm black as well as Indian and a mix of other things, and I was a blonde way before anyone ever heard of RuPaul," Chris says. "But then when everyone started learning about RuPaul, they thought that's where I'd gotten the idea for my entertainments, so I had to kind of get away from that.

"Back then, drag was very beautiful; it was very glamorous," he recalls. "But it's gotten to the point where it's sort of ho-hum; people don't take as much care with it. There's not as much interest in the element of female illusion — really trying to create a believable character. It used to be you'd study the mannerisms, the voice, everything about the persona of the person you were trying to emulate. Now, you slap a blond wig on, and suddenly you're Marilyn Monroe. People hear about a drag show now and they're like, 'So what?'"

Chris opened Studio Lites in 1978, in a storefront at Broadway and Ellsworth that's now occupied by Freaky's smoke shop. With his mother, Elizabeth, working alongside him, he spent the next ten years cultivating a far-flung and loyal clientele. He cut hair and did makeup for both men and women, sold cards and gifts and stocked clothing for strippers and drag queens.

In 1987, Chris met Rick, who became his partner and Studio Lites' financial manager. Soon after Rick came on board, the pair noticed a niche that no other business was filling.

"We used to do makeovers for Halloween, and that was a very big time for us," Rick explains. "There was one couple that came in one year, and they both wanted to be cats, so we made them cats. But the next year, she wanted to be a cat, and he wanted to be a woman. It was like, 'Hmmm. Well, maybe this is something we should be doing all the time.'

"There's one old guy — I'd say he's in his seventies now — and he was our first official cross-dressing customer," Rick adds. "He'd come around and peek in our windows. I said, 'Um, Chris? There's a man outside the store in a dress. What do we do?'"

By the time they moved Studio Lites to its current location, at 333 Broadway, in 1993, male-to-female transformations had become a focal point of the business. Today Chris does several makeovers a week for both local men and visitors who find the store through the Internet or advertisements in cross-dresser publications such as *Transformations*, a she-male skin mag. Although Chris does the bulk of the imaging, Rick adds his own expertise as Bianca, a blonde with a taste for glamorous evening wear.

Chris and Rick sometimes appear in drag together, although usually not in the store. But they'll occasionally invite clients to the house they share in Highlands Ranch, a sprawling show home once owned by childhood TV star Gary Coleman.

"That was definitely a selling point," Chris says. "One day we were puttering around the house, doing some painting and some other work, and there was a knock at the door. It was Gary Coleman. He was in town doing a dedication, and he wanted to see the old house. He's really just so very small; he's really cute. And unlike how the media makes it out, he's a very sweet and gentle, loving person."

Chris and Rick are willing to give just about anyone the benefit of the doubt. And they regard their clients as true friends.

"I've spent my life doing people's hair, so I know how to talk to anyone," Chris explains. "That's been the most important element of what I do: My clients open up to me, they trust me; they can tell me anything, and they know I'm not going to judge them. That's a big issue when you're talking about cross-dressers in particular; they're doing something that society would absolutely shun them for and make them feel guilty for, and I become the person who helps them celebrate it rather than shaming them."

Part Two of this story will continue in the March 2004 edition of *The Channel*

ONLINE SO LIST!

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

Transcending Transgender

Sponsored by
City of Refuge UCC Outreach Ministries

A support group facilitated by Janetta Johnson and Portia Denard;
Where: City of Refuge, United Church of Christ, 1025 Howard Street,
San Francisco CA 94103, (415) 861-6130. When: Every Friday, 6 pm
to 7:30 pm. Food and snacks will be provided.



Remember Gwen Amber Rose Araujo!



BRANDON TEENA 10 YEARS LATER

by 365Gay.com
Newscenter Staff

(Falls City, Nebraska) While most of the world prepares to celebrate New Year's Eve this week, transgendered Americans are pausing to remember Brandon Teena on the tenth anniversary of his murder.

The December 31, 1993 killing of the good-looking 21-year-old galvanized Falls City, Brandon's hometown, and for the first time put a national spotlight on the plight of the transgendered. It was the inspiration for the award-winning 1999 film, "Boys Don't Cry" and led to the first civil rights laws for trans citizens.

Teena was a female to male pre-op transsexual and had been living as a male for several years. In December, 1993 he went to County Sheriff Charles Laux and reported he had been raped by two men, John Lotter and Marvin Nissen, after they discovered he had been born female and still had female organs. Teen had been dating a female friend of Lotter's at the time. Laux refused to investigate. A week later Teen was murdered by the pair who also killed two people who witnessed the killing.

Lotter and Nissen were eventually charged, tried, and sentenced, but not before the nation became gripped by the brutality of the case and the indifference of authorities.

An appeal by Lotter was rejected by the Nebraska Court of Appeal earlier this year. But, in his death, Teena gave birth to transgender militancy. Trans men and women across the country began to organize, forming lobby groups to not only educate the public but to press for civil rights.

Today, 65 municipalities and states have hate crime laws that specifically include transgendered people, according to the Transgender Law Policy Institute. California became the fourth state to adopt such a law earlier this year.

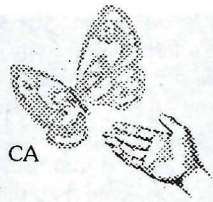
"How many times do you get to see a giant sea change like this in people's perceptions? But you look at Congress, corporate America, and cities and states ... and you see this enormous change in how people are looking at gender as a civil rights issue," said Riki Wilchins, executive director of the Washington-based Gender Public Advocacy Coalition.

Yet, despite the advances, violence against the transgendered continues. Last year, 17 year old Gwen Araujo was murdered in California by three men who discovered she had been born male. A year ago, Nizah Morris a TG performer was murdered in Philadelphia. In the past 12 months, Remembering Our Dead, an online memorial that tracks bias killing of transgendered people around the world, recorded 17 deaths in the United States.

PLEASE HELP SYLVIA!

Eddie Araujo, Jr. Memorial Fund [Checks made payable to the "Gwen Araujo Fund" or "Araujo Family Fund" are equally and as gratefully accepted.]

San Benito Bank, 300 Tres Pinos Road, Hollister, CA 95023-5578. Account number 631001301508.



Teena Brandon

HAIL MOREA

With The Season Of Goodwill Approaching, A Social Outcast Gave Italy A 'Lesson In Humanity.'



Gwen Araujo
February 24, 1985 -
October 3, 2002

Rome Dispatch
John Hooper Reporting

This is a Christmas story. Indeed, the very name of its principal character means "Christmas". But this is a Christmas story with a difference. Its hero is a man whose first name is Natale, which in Italian is the equivalent of Noel.

In the words of his nephew, Angelo, Natale Morea is "an oddball: a homosexual and a transvestite". He was born almost exactly 57 years ago in a village near Taranto, in the "heel" of Italy, and to be born a homosexual, let alone a transvestite, into a poor, socially conservative, southern Italian village, is to begin life already bearing a heavy cross.

As soon as he was able to get together the money, in 1977, he fled to the more tolerant north, to Milan, where he got a job working in a costume jewelry factory.

Then, one day, the factory closed down, Natale Morea was made redundant and, seven years ago, he returned reluctantly to his native village. Things were little better. Angelo Morea told the newspaper Corriere della Sera, he remembered his uncle breaking down in tears one day. "It would have been better for me to have been born crippled than gay," he quoted him as saying.

Natale Morea opened a business of his own, an amusement arcade, but it did not thrive and, by some accounts, he ran up debts before fleeing his native village for a second time. He headed for Rome where, little by little, his life fell apart. He ended up homeless on the streets of the capital.

Earlier this month, he was sleeping rough near the Pyramid of Caius Cestius, the mausoleum set into the city walls, built for a wealthy Roman magistrate, when there arose one of those events on which the entirety of a human existence can turn.

It was the early hours of a cold Sunday morning. A group of young women had left a nearby district of bars and clubs when they were set upon by a band of young men. It is still not clear to the police whether they wanted to rob them or rape them. In any event, it was the sort of ugly, violent incident from which many a "respectable" member of the public would turn away in fear and horror.

Natale Morea did not. He put himself between the women and their attackers, allowing them to escape, and paid for his courage with a beating so dreadful it put him into a coma.

In a split second of decision, Natale Morea - the "queer", the "cross-dresser" - proved himself to be more of a "real man" than any of his many persecutors, and, in so doing, went from a social outcast to a national hero.

Lying unconscious in his hospital bed, the man called Christmas is unaware that his name has figured on the front page of almost every Italian newspaper under headlines proclaiming him "the heroic tramp"; or that the president of his home region has said that Natale Morea "has given us all a lesson in humanity".

He does not know that a village in the center of Italy has voted to provide him with a modest monthly allowance for the rest of his life.

Or that the mayor of Rome, Walter Veltroni, is to visit him in hospital on Christmas Eve, on his birthday, to leave at his bedside a gift donated by the property arm of the city's electricity company: the keys to a flat in the eastern suburbs.

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CROSS-DRESS FOR SUCCESS

To Bill, With Love

By Laura Bond
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Queer Eye for the Straight Guy, the show that transforms sloth-like macho men into burgeoning metrosexuals, received the seal of approval from American television audiences this year. But the male makeover is hardly a new phenomenon: Christopher Gradford, a cosmetologist, drag queen and owner of Studio Lites, has been beautifying even the most mannish boys for decades. By turning his clients into the women of their dreams, Chris takes the *Queer Eye* concept one giant, stiletto-heeled step further.

But think how his expertise could benefit the state of Colorado at large! Imagine how much more exciting life would be if, say, Governor Bill Owens did his budget slashing while garbed in cute little capris. Or if Mayor John Hickenlooper occasionally addressed the Denver City Council from behind a silky set of one-inch lashes. We asked Chris how he would help a few local notables get in touch with their softer sides.

John Hickenlooper, mayor, City and County of Denver: "The mayor is not going to be too much a problem. It's hard if you're starting with someone who is short and fat or who has a real problem facial feature. But he's a pretty good-looking person. He's got a very oval face, so I'd put him in some soft feather bangs — light brown with golden highlights. If he wanted to be more conservative, I'd go for a nice pageboy, but if we wanted to be a little sexier, I'd put it longer, with a little bit of layering and maybe a little flip. We'd do some soft bangs, which would take care of the forehead: Most men's foreheads need to be covered. I'd make his lips fuller, plumper, because he has thin lips. For his clothes, I think I'd keep him conservative, but with a flair. A nice suit, with pinstripes, and a soft, silk blouse in maroon or burgundy. Something rich and subtle. He's got to be able to move around with ease, so we'll just stick with a nice three-inch heel."

Peter Forsberg, center, Colorado Avalanche: "I see him as a Pamela Lee Anderson type, because he has a very masculine figure and role, and I'd want to do the opposite. He's blond, but I'd make him blonder — with long hair, wild and tousled. We'd have to break his face down, get some of those rough edges off. The nose is a problem with a lot of athletes, because it tends to get rearranged. He's big across the shoulders, so I'd have to give him big, big boobs, which will make the waist look smaller. I see him in white and silver, with nice, long, red fingernails and stiletto heels."

Bill Owens, governor, State of Colorado: "I'd want to zap him — give him a little bit of a Shania Twain feel. The hair would be long, and layered, in a rich chocolate brown with butterscotch highlights. He has nice features, but I'd really want to open up those eyes and strengthen the eyebrows with an arch. And pretty lips — the most important things are eyes and lips. I'd tighten up the waist with a four-inch cincher, add some fullness to the hips and



Zapped! Governor Bill "Shania" Owens.

make a very voluptuous derriere. I'd put him in a Western-type boot, with a good stacked heel. For clothes, I could see a nice peasant blouse with a belt to tighten that waist up, and a skirt cut on a diagonal. It would be sexy and playful, but still a little conservative."

Gerry Whitman, chief, Denver Police Department: "He's a nice, average-looking man. I think I'd want to make him a stripper — a redhead with some soft, fire-red burgundy highlights and a little bit of a curl, a flare that would move his hair off his face, like it's being swept by the wind. I'd give him intense cheeks and big, glamorous eyes and big lips. Nothing gaudy. He'd need large breasts, a cincher on the hips and a short, short dress — a mini-skirt with a side slit, short and tight. I wouldn't want to put him in hose. We'd have to do some real shaving to get those long legs nice and silky. Long, long fingernails, big hoop earrings and huge heels — six to seven inches. He would be very glamorous. He'd be in total disguise."

PISSR

People In Search of Safe Restrooms

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

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