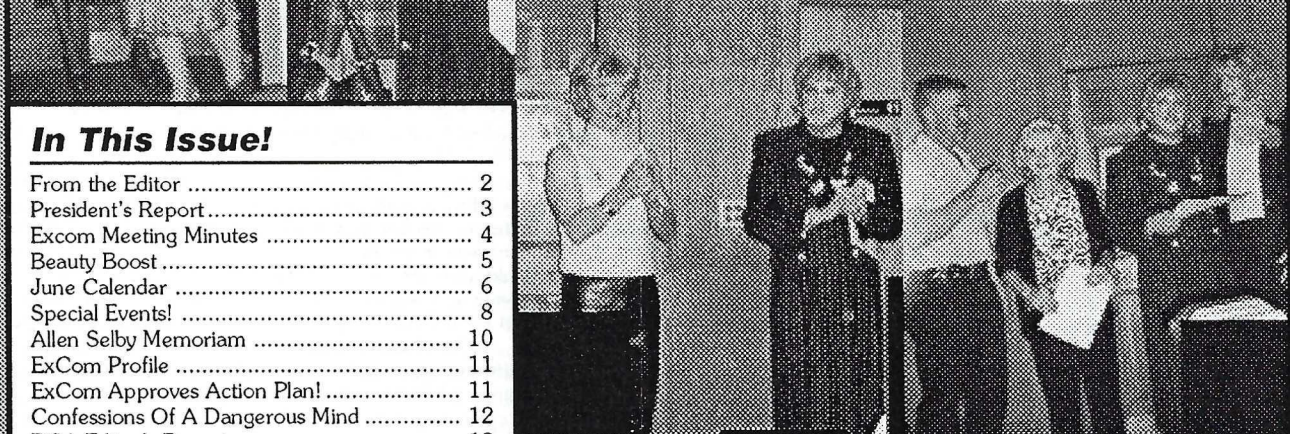


TGSF Elects New ExCom!

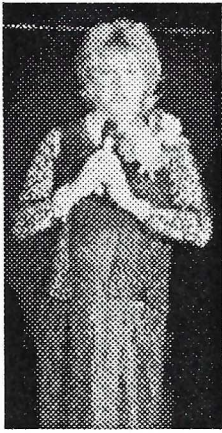
The Channel
 TGSF
 TRANS GENDER SAN FRANCISCO



In This Issue!

From the Editor	2
President's Report	3
Excom Meeting Minutes	4
Beauty Boost	5
June Calendar	6
Special Events!	8
Allen Selby Memoriam	10
ExCom Profile	11
ExCom Approves Action Plan!	11
Confessions Of A Dangerous Mind	12
RGA Editor's Report	12
Jamison Green's New Book!	14
Breaking Barriers, and Making A Buck	14
Takin' Care of Biz	15
T-News	16
Kid's Sex Change At Six	18
Trans Gender Bender	19
Measure of a Man	19
Stalling Progress	22
New SSA Policy!	22
'Gay Panic' Defense In Araujo Case	23
TG Veterans Lay Wreath at Tomb of Unknown Soldier	24
Unity: An Incredible Night	25

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.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Roxy Carmichael-Hart

Today I awoke to learn some sad news. Daddy Alan Selby, who was one of our Cotillion 2004 judges, passed away this morning. Daddy Alan was a tireless and dedicated volunteer for non-profits for over 20 years and his unselfish work raised thousands of dollars. I recall the look in his eyes as he did the Debutante Walk and how he smiled as I hugged him. I am happy that he had that opportunity. I am sad that I did not get to know him better but grateful that I got to know him at all. As Lenny Broberg wrote me "Alan was an incredible man". That he was. Thank you, my friend, for all of your work on behalf of all of us.

If you live in this world, you're feelin' the change of the guard...

We have a new ExCom. No hanging chads, no recounts (how 2000!!). We have elected some new leaders ready to serve you for the next year and beyond, now that you have approved the amendment setting two-year staggered terms for the ExCom members. Although some long-time members have departed and some have switched roles, we have some exciting and enthusiastic new blood on the ExCom. I want to welcome my new Vice-President, Laura Marlowe. Laura and I worked together on the very successful California Dreamin' (her leadership was a key). We have already discussed Pride and the Cotillion and I am going to enjoy working with her. She has already hit the ground running. Her efforts have netted us as a "Partner in Pride", and if we donate a certain number of volunteer hours, we will share in the community proceeds. Pamela Gray has joined us as treasurer. Pamela helped create California Dreamin' as a 501(c) (3) organization. Siobhan Ellis is now our Secretary. She has already gotten to work on the website and database and has networked with several people who will assist. Keeping this up to date is a critical task but we have the right woman for the job. Damon Helton, runner up for Mr. TGSF, is one of our Education Chairs and Dawne Woodie is the other. Both came to me asking to be part of the ExCom and have good ideas about topics of interest and of benefit for our community. Ally Laureano also came to me several months ago interested in doing outreach and she was elected as Outreach co-chair. She is working to increase our visibility and influence with the LGBT Center. Kara Flynn, previous Education chair, has moved over to Outreach. Kara has been doing outreach the last few months anyway by answering the hotline. Anne Louise Mortenson has moved over to Social Chair (where her heart was anyway) from Secretary. You know of her accomplishments so I won't repeat them. But she is busy working on the May 22 Unity event and on Pride. That girl has lots of energy and passion. And Tommi Watson was elected to a full term as Social Chair. Tommi is always the first with her hand up to help, picks up the mail and the Channels and is willing to do whatever she can whenever it is needed. And she hasn't once told me to fuck off when I complain about getting the mail. I didn't mention of course that I was re-elected for a two year term but then again the fact that you are reading this makes it kind of obvious.

Of course with the newcomers come some departures. Aiyana Eveningstar leaves after serving TGSF in many capacities over the last several years, as does Kalani Masaki, Miss TGSF 2002. Kalani is staying active and even came to the first 2004-2005 ExCom meeting. Also departing are Brooke Jansen and Marla Selby, who was one of the first people in TGSF to say hello to me at 2002 Pride. Susan Laird also leaves after serving as Secretary and as Vice-President. You saw her efforts at Pride and at the Cotillion. The ExCom recognized her efforts and awarded her the Ginny Knuth award as TGSF member of the year for the second year in a row. But she'll be back, I am sure, to lend her technical expertise when it is needed. Kelly Anne Marsh, while no longer formally on ExCom, doesn't get to leave quite yet. Kelly's dedicated and enthusiastic welcoming of new girls can't go unnoticed and unmentioned so I appointed her as Official TGSF Outreach Ambassador. Her smile alone (as well as her bass and harmonica playing) makes everyone who comes into contact with her feel warm and welcome. I recently saw two of her outreach efforts. We couldn't have a better person for the job!

Finally, on the business side of the elections, we had a voter turnout of just under 40%, better than the California primary but lower than I had hoped. As I noted above, we now have two-year terms for our ExCom members. Also, any ExCom member who has three unexcused absences is subject to removal. I don't think I will have that problem with this group.

Annual Meeting Highlights

Our annual meeting was a lot less emotional for me this year, because I have a year under my belt and because I was not following a legend. I did exorcise some demons (a line I stole from "Ace Ventura Pet Detective") and those of you who know me know what I am talking about. Still, I reached some closure in a few areas. I was so delighted to have some special guests. Lenny

Broberg attended and I am pleased to announce that he has agreed to be our MC for Cotillion 2005. He is our Bert Parks - what would the Cotillion be without him? Lenny was there with a heavy heart, having lost one of his colleagues in the Bayview shooting. Yet, he came to support us, as he always does. We are blessed to have him as our friend. Carla Blair also attended and of course almost everything that can be said about Carla has been said. She too, is always there when you need her, or just to show support. Rachel Hill, our Miss TGSF 2003 also attended and I was very grateful that she was able to make it (she won a CD player too). We should consider ourselves very fortunate to have had this beautiful role model who has shown us what is possible. And thank you to Rachael Janelle for the beautiful flowers, the beautiful gifts and the beautiful words.

A couple of other special guests popped up as well. Lacey, who one year ago had not even ventured out, came and looked beautiful. Kelly and I met Lacey at the Veronica Vera event last year and she has come a long way. From those tentative first steps she now walks with a great deal of confidence. I decided that for her first TGSF meeting I would put her to work and she sold raffle tickets. Selling must be a strong point with her because we raised almost \$150. Alicia from New York also attended her first meeting and it was great to see Laura and Becky Patterson, who helped me with my first Mid-Peninsula meeting. I was also pleased that Jo-An Torres from I Love It was able to attend and I was delighted to finally give her a Certificate of Appreciation that I had been wanting to give for a long time. Everyone in that room was worthy of a certificate for just being a part of a magnificent evening. We start this year more optimistic and stronger than we have been in recent memory.

Mid-Peninsula Group Starts!

After a hiatus of about a year, the Mid-Peninsula Support Group is back. And this time it is going to stay. That was fairly obvious after seeing the attendance and hearing what the attendees had to say. It was evident that there has been a major void in TGSF and that void is called "support group". I cannot believe that there has not been this mechanism for members to support one another but it is sorely needed. I want to thank Laura and Becky Patterson for their help and advice, Carla Blair for attending and providing cookies, Vice-President Laura Marlowe and Outreach Chair Kara Flynn and RGA Vice-President Jackie for their support. I also appreciated Daisy's donation of the cookies, and want to thank Lisa and Donna for their contributions. Although we agreed that this was not the most ideal location (the hotel, though very friendly, might be intimidating to newcomers), we agreed that we needed this group to meet, even if it meets in a park. We'll look around for other options and hopefully we'll find something a little more private. But we are moving forward. Please keep watching the Channel and the website for information on the meeting location but we will be there. We have to. I found my experiencing at this meeting more rewarding than most of the things I have done with TGSF. It's not glamorous, there are no floats or flowers, just people who need to talk. As long as they need to talk, I'll be there to listen.

Unity is coming May 22 - that will be a spectacular event. Anne Louise, Damon and Kelly (I told you I was putting her to work) have worked very hard on bringing all of the various groups together. We are reaching out our hand of friendship to all of those who wish to join us and provide each other with mutual support.

I want to cover our first ExCom meeting and our newly adopted Action Plan but this column is rambling on so I will write another article about it, I know to Ayme's delight.

In closing, a few thoughts...A member of our community attended the annual meeting. She hadn't been around much for a while and I thought we'd lost her. I had missed her very much. I won't mention her name, she knows who she is. I invited her to the annual meeting because I was kind of worried about her. She wrote me back and stated that it had seemed like ages ago that she had been involved but that TGSF had been there through her trying and confusing times. I want her to know that TGSF will always be there for her and anyone else who wants us to be. If you need a smile, a hug or just a chat, please come. We'll be there. I also want her to know that any place, any time she is welcome and she is always a part of our family. I also want her to know how much I love her.

We hired a new secretary at work, named Nancy. What Karma! She is so into butterflies and her office looks like a butterfly farm (she's a great secretary too, in case you were wondering). Anyway, she signs her e-mails with the phrase, "Together we are more than one". Kind of like I have been saying. There's nothing we can't accomplish if we work together. Let's all vow to become one in this new year and we can attain heights of which we have only previously dreamed.

Another Karma moment. Yesterday I went to the Hillsdale Mall for a makeover. MAC was holding an event in the Mall courtyard, right under the hanging butterflies. Some things are just meant to be.

My column this month is dedicated to the memories of Pat Tillman, Officer Isaac Espinosa and the thousands of brave men and women who are protecting us at home and abroad. Thank you from our hearts.

Please show your Pride this month!

May 2, 2004

TGSF ExCom Meeting Minutes

Present - President: Roxy Carmichael-Hart; Vice President: Laura Marlowe; Secretary: Siobhan Ellis; Treasurer: Pamela Gray; Education co-chair: Dawnne Woodie; Social co-chair: Tommi Watson; Social co-Chair & Miss TGSF 2004: Anne Louise Mortenson; Outreach co-chair: Allison Laureano; Mr. TGSF 2004: Bobby Cheung

Guests - Kalani Masaki & Akiko Ellis

Absent - Education co-chair: Damon Helton; Outreach co-chair: Kara Flynn

Roxy announced that Daddy Alan had passed away, and reminded the ExCom of the many things he had done in the GLBT Community and of his support for TGSF as well as his presence at the 2004 Cotillion. The ExCom had a few moments of silence to remember Daddy Alan in their own way.

It was noted that most of the people in the room were at the previous meeting, and the April Minutes were approved.

President's report

The election returns were discussed and certified. Siobhan and Roxy signed the returns, and Roxy to deposit at the bank. Roxy to provide an electronic version of the election results to be given to Siobhan so she can store on the web site.

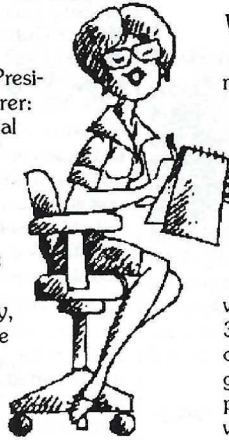
Roxy asked all members of the ExCom to provide their e-mail address, and telephone number. Siobhan asked all ExCom members to submit a photograph and a small bio about themselves to go on the web site. Also, if they had a link to their own web site.

Roxy noted that TGSF had received notable donations from Elizabeth Jeffords and Jessica Ames, to a total of \$1250. Roxy provided suggestions as to how the money should be spent. Some paying of debt, some reserved for Pride, and some to banked. Although it would be possible to remove all debt with these donations, it was felt that outreach, and SF pride being a major public portion of that, is an important role of TGSF. The suggestion was approved by the ExCom, and the donations were apportioned. This should now see the debt to Susan Laird completely paid. \$500 was reserved for the SF Pride effort, \$100 payment to the Design Center and the rest to be banked.

Roxy presented the 2004-2005 strategic plan. It was noted that the majority of income was membership fees, and that nearly all of this is spent on sending out the Channel. Expenses were also discussed, Siobhan noting that the web site needs to be funded by TGSF, as it currently paid for by Susan Laird. The Cotillion is also a major expense, but is actually self funding and has, on occasion, made us a profit. To reduce the cost of The Channel, Roxy asked how many people now got it online. Siobhan was unable to answer this at this point, only having just taken over the membership database and web site. However, at a quick glance, it was felt that not many were pulling down the channel off the web site. Siobhan suggested that The Channel should be provided on-line, for free, and that the few members who did not have web access could continue to receive a printed copy. That TGSF should find different ways to present value, such as discounts at TGSF events. It was noted that this would require membership cards. Allison raised an issue about privacy and about other people using our content without permission. Allison was particularly concerned about people having their pictures taken and being on-line when the people in the pics are not completely out. It was suggested that when someone submits photos for The Channel that the person who submits the picture(s) is responsible for making sure that everyone in the picture has approved their picture being made public. It was also noted that any member of the ExCom is "fair game". It was decided to come to a decision about The Channel and the future of TGSF membership by September as a preference, December at the latest, as the longer we continue with large expenses, the more money we bleed.

Issues around collecting mail were raised. The mail has been piling up. Dawnne offered to collect the mail. It was decided to send all membership mail to Siobhan, and then Siobhan will pass on the checks to Pamela.

The Strategic plan was approved, with the understanding that it can be modified over the year as the situation changes.



Vice President's Report

Laura reported that TGSF has a SF Pride Parade Partners Status. This means that TGSF receives money from Pride. To receive this status, TGSF has to provide some people to help run the parade. Laura will send e-mail when she knows numbers.

The TGSF SF Pride float was discussed. Laura and Pamela attended the float building workshop, and it was discussed. The size of the float was discussed as last year the truck was donated and a driver volunteered her time. This year, we have neither. Various members of the ExCom know people who will drive a float. The issue is that for anything over 20ft a commercial driver is needed, also the cost of a flat bed goes up hugely. It was decided that we would try to procure a driver within 1 week for a 27 or 30ft float, failing that we would make do with a 20ft float. Anne Louise went over costs of decorating the float. She has a sponsor who is willing to donate greenery and the lumber for an arbor. A budget was set of \$1000 for the pride float. Mention was made that the smaller float would require fewer wheel monitors, which is important as TGSF has often been finding it difficult to raise wheel monitors, and two of the usual volunteers, Kara and Siobhan, will be riding the float this year. The question of corporate sponsorship was raised; Siobhan had been tasked with trying to get Sponsorship from MAC. It had been found out that MAC corporate already had a booth, and this was out of control of the local people. The suggestion was to work with MAC to obtain sponsorship for pride 2005. Care has to be taken with Sponsorship, as no company names can be shown on the float, as we have entered as a Non-Profit Organization (NPO).

TGSF will have a booth at SF pride. Aiyanna has the old booth, and no one has been able to contact her. Material was discussed for the Booth. Brochures need to be updated and we'll have some old Channels for distribution. Volunteers are required for Pride to work within the booth over the two days. Discussion ensued about building a new booth. Allison has a 10x10 canopy that she can provide, and will set up the outreach booth. She volunteered to staff the booth all day Saturday.

Roxy reported the Marriott has provided a bid for the 2005 Cotillion and that the price is the same as last year. Roxy committed to providing the details of the bid to the ExCom so that bids from other hotels in SF can be considered. It was decided that a larger room was probably needed as people were standing last year. However, we did have dead space in 2004, so it could be that a better utilization of the room would help. Dawnne and Siobhan would contact hotels in SF for counter bids.

Treasurer's Report

The accounts have not yet been turned over to Pamela, so Pamela could not provide a current statement on the club's financial situation. It was discussed on how Pamela would make deposits and withdrawals. Roxy, Laura, and Pamela will go to the bank to change signatories.

Secretary's Report

Siobhan reported her difficulties with the web site and membership database. She reported that Unity is being advertised on the web site. That Chris Edmunds is willing to help with the web site, and Siobhan and Chris will be having a meeting to work on designing a new web site. Also Siobhan will be looking for a more professional membership application. Allison suggested alternative ways of getting membership management via customer lists from small business applications. Siobhan had not had a chance to produce membership renewal letters. Roxy had produced letters for those expiring in the next 6 months. These letters would be going out with the channel.

Education

Siobhan reported the next MAC event, that'll have a senior makeup artist attending, will be postponed to July. It was felt that it was best to run the same day as an event. It was decided to go for August 21st in preference, with options of August 28th, and then August 7th. Siobhan offered to introduce Dawnne to Lydia, the local manager for MAC. Also Siobhan mentioned that a hairdresser in Sunnyvale would like to run an event called "Curls for girls" where he would show people how to style their own hair.

Roxy asked for an internal education on the difference between the court and TGSF, as many people do not understand the difference. It was suggested doing at the Billy DeFrank center. It was also suggested that it may be worth asking China to talk about the court at Unity.

Outreach

Roy announced that Kara is continuing to run the hotline.

Allison talked about her paper on TG education, and that she expects it to mushroom, via her professor, to include other colleges and that she expects us to be doing more talks.

Allison also reported that HRC is considering taking TG's off the draft legislation so that it can be passed for the Gay & Lesbian community.

Allison was asked if she was talking to the outreach chair at 2-Spirit (<http://www.2-spirit.org>), and was provided with a contact.

Continued on Page 5

HEY!

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

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

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

Siobhan asked if TGSF wanted the San Jose Mercury News to cover the MAC event at Bloomingdale's. It was decided that if it was on a tasteful premise, this was OK. Allison suggested that in the absence of a media relations person, the ExCom needs to decide. This was agreed.

Social

Anne-Louise discussed the expenses for Unity. Tommi needed a statement of non-Profit to get the liquor license for Unity. Food will be provided. Anne Louise is covering the cleaning deposit. Kelly is organizing the entertainment and speaker lineup. As usual, we are looking for volunteers to look after the bar, selling tickets, etc. We also discussed sliding fees, based on ability to pay. The idea was taken from PISSR (<http://www.pissr.org>) who have a younger, less affluent, membership. Concern was expressed on how to do this fairly so that TGSF is not taken advantage of. Siobhan agree to go back to PISSR and find out how they do it. It was decided that anyone who comes in on a sliding scale does not get alcohol tickets, or if they are buying alcohol tickets, they must pay full price.

Laura is trying to keep the TGSF calendar up to date with other events, such as the IRLM.

Anne-Louise has asked the transcendence choir if they would perform.

Old Business

Laura confirmed that Cal Dreamin' was a success, and was better than they had hoped. They will be running again next year. It was mentioned that there had been some posts in newsgroups about the success.

New Business

No new business

Next Meeting

Various locations were discussed. Allison suggested somewhere mid peninsula. It was decided it is to be held at San Mateo Marriott on June 6th at noon, in the restaurant.

The meeting was adjourned.

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.

BAY AREA

AMERICAN INDIAN TWO-SPIRITS

Community Potlucks

Tentative Dates For 2004: **July 23**, August 27, September 24, October 29 and December 3. Held from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the San Francisco LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market Street at Octavia. Check board upon entering for room number.

Please bring something to share — food, non-alcoholic drinks, song, poem, raffle item. Traditional food is especially welcome. Contact us to confirm each event.

BAAITS potlucks are clean and sober. Those under the influence of alcohol or drugs will be asked to leave.

BAAITS has an office at 1800 Market Street #411 in San Francisco, CA 94102. 415-865-5616 / www.baaitis.org. BAAITS is a community based volunteer organization creating forums for spiritual, cultural and artistic expression of Two-Spirit people.

Beauty Boost

by Wendy R. Schultz

ACNE – PART II

Some Common Causes

Hormones - Some acne is caused by hormonal imbalances that often —begin in the teenage years. Starting sometime before adolescence (around the age of nine or ten) the adrenal glands begin to produce dihydroepiandrosterone sulfate (DHEAS), an androgen. Other androgens — the “male” hormones at work in a woman’s body — such as testosterone and dehydrotestosterone (DHT), are also present. All of these hormones stimulate the sebaceous glands to secrete more of the skin’s natural oil, or sebum. This is why oily skin and acne are so prevalent among teenagers. Naturally, since boys have more “male” hormones, teen acne tends to be more severe in males.

Hormones that are taken orally also do their part to either alleviate or cause acne. Discontinuing use of the hormones can upset the body’s natural balance too. I experienced this when, at the age of 21, I got severe acne when I discontinued birth control pills.

Cosmetics - An allergic reaction to an ingredient in a new cosmetic can cause an acne flare up in as little as three days. If this happens, discontinue use right away. If the breakout doesn’t clear up, a visit to the Dermatologist for a topical prescription may be in order.

Following is a list of chemicals that are known to cause or aggravate acne.

- Alcohol
- Sodium Chloride (salt)
- Bentonite Clay (in various skin care recipes)
- Lanolin
- Mineral Oil
- Sodium Laureth Sulfate and Ammonium Laureth Sulfate (foaming agents in shampoo, etc.)
- Sodium Lauryl Sulfate and Ammonium Lauryl Sulfate (foaming agents)
- Isopropyl Myristate (flavoring agent)
- D & C Pigments (colorants)

Stress - Stress produces a steroid hormone called cortisol, which can cause and aggravate acne.

Effective Treatments

Water - Our bodies are 75-85% water. If the toxins in our systems reach certain levels, people prone to acne generally experience some type of breakout. Drinking enough water daily flushes the body of toxins, and keeps skin clear. Most of us need between 1.5 and 2.5 liters daily.

Salicylic Acid - Used in many over-the-counter medications.

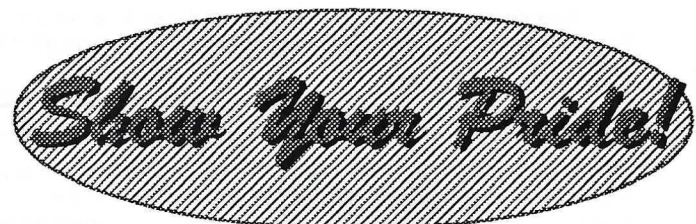
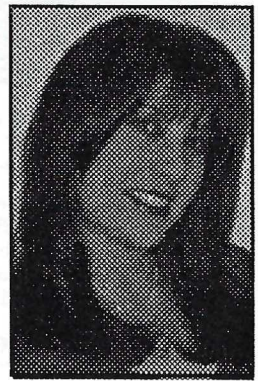
Benzoyl Peroxide - Benzoyl Peroxide is available without a prescription, and is available in a wide range of gels, creams, lotions, and cleansers in concentrations of 2.5%, 5%, and 10%.

Glycolic Acid - This is possibly the strongest treatment, and is available in several strengths. If using Glycolic Acid, it is always best to start with the lowest possible percentage and work your way up.

ALWAYS check with your dermatologist before starting a new regimen. While dryness and irritation are commonly associated with some acne treatments, take great care to minimize any adverse side effects so that the condition isn’t worsened. Acneic skin is sensitive skin and needs to be treated with care.

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



Wednesday / June 2 / 7:00pm

TGSF'S MID-PENINSULA SUPPORT GROUP

All are welcome. For more information please contact please contact Roxy Carmichael-Hart at (510) 366-9855 or email her at roxyhart72903@aol.com. Meets 7-9 p.m. in the Nob Hill Room at the San Mateo Marriott, 1770 South Amphlett Blvd. (at Hwys 101 and 92), San Mateo. (Financial support for this group provided in part by TGSF. A \$1 donation will be requested, but no one will be turned away.)

Sunday / June 6 / 12:00 Noon

TGSF ExCOM MEETING

Note different time and location this month: San Mateo Marriott, California Grille Restaurant, 1770 South Amphlett Blvd., San Mateo, CA. A busy agenda is planned for our Pride celebrations, so volunteers and extra hands are needed! The regular lunch menu will be served. Please join your Excom and help out!

Saturday / June 12 / 6:30pm

CARLA'S DINNER AT THE CATS

Join Carla and her girls for dinner at the Cats—it's great time to visit with old friends, meet new friends, or just go out en femme. Meet at 5:45 at Carla's to carpool, or be at the Cats by 6:30. If you'd like to join Carla's Girls at the Cats, please phone your RSVP to Carla at (408) 298-6900, or email her at carla@carlas.com

Sunday / June 13th

SAN JOSÉ PRIDE PARADE

San José Pride weekend is June 12th and 13th. On Saturday, celebrate at the Annual Free Community Day in the Park. On Sunday, the Pride parade is followed by the Gay Pride Festival. For more information follow the link below to the San José Pride website. TGSF will have a contingent. Please write to roxyhart72903@aol.com for details / info@sjgaypride.com www.sjgaypride.com/index2.htm

Saturday / June 19th

SUMMER SIZZLE! AT CARLA'S

Chill out at Carla's with hot music and cool drinks! Wear your favorite little summer dress for salsa dancing! All the cool kids will be there. Admission is \$20, which includes dinner and two drink tickets. Please RSVP to Carla at (408) 298-6900 or by email at carla@carlas.com / www.carlas.com

Sunday / June 27th

SAN FRANCISCO PRIDE PARADE

San Francisco Pride weekend is June 26th and 27th, 2004. There will be events and parties throughout the weekend. For more information follow the link below to the SF Pride website. TGSF will have a contingent, please see the information elsewhere in the Channel. / info@sfpride.org www.sfpride.org

Coming in July

Sunday / July 11

TGSF RED WHITE AND BLONDE BBQ

To be held at Carla's 124 Race Street in San Jose. Check back for details or write roxyhart72903@aol.com for more information.

Friday / July 16

RGA SUMMER POTLUCK

Start thinking about that scrumptious dish you'll be bringing to the potluck. Dinner begins at 8 p.m. / www.transgender.org/tg/rga/rgapage.html

Friday / July 30th

RGA GALS AND GUYS' NIGHT OUT

The next RGA Fifth Friday Dinner will be at MoMo's Grill, at 2nd and King in San Francisco, followed by a baseball game in the Home of the SF Giants (they host the St. Louis Cardinals). Advance payment for the game ticket is required. RSVP to Gelsey or Roxy at the next social, or call the Warmline at (408) 984-4044.

June's Birthdays

6/01 Diane Shepard	6/15 Lin Fraser
6/02 Nancy Cupps	6/16 Sherilyn Connelly
6/03 Constance Stardragon	6/18 Catherine Rose Lurton
6/05 Lisa Lynn Ferguson	6/19 June Martin
6/05 Rachel miller	6/20 Rose Cox
6/08 Vikki Freitas	6/21 Anne Mortenson
6/08 Jenny Marshall	6/22 Jaimee Adele Bodeen
6/09 Jubilee Gee	6/23 Hiromi Nakanishi
6/11 Kaycee Cole	6/23 Joanne Handa
6/11 Karen Andrews	6/27 Melissa Robinson
6/12 Ti Connelly	6/28 Stephanie Ann Blythe
6/13 Janessa Headers	6/28 Teri Lee
6/15 Roxy Carmichael-Hart	6/28 Rose Ann Cain

Happy Birthday To All!

Cosmetics
Lingerie
Fashions
Wigs
Nails
Shoes
Cosmetics

Nails Wigs Lingerie



**CARLA'S
Salon & Boutique**

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

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

Cosmetics Fem Fashions Shoes

Calendar - June 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.

The Mid-Peninsula TG Group (MPTG)

TGSF-sponsored support group for the TG community that meets at 7:00pm, First Wednesday of each month at the San Mateo Marriot Hotel, Nob Hill Room, in San Mateo. For more details please contact Roxy at (510) 366-9855. **Debuts May 5th!**

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

I Love It Girl Socials

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

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 7:00 PM SCT	2 7:00 PM I Love It Social 7:30 PM MPTG	3 7:00 PM DVG RCC	4 8:00 PM PacCtr 8:00 PM RGA	5
6 1:00 PM TGSF: ExCom Meeting	7 5:00 PM CCHH 7:00 PM PISSR General Meeting 8:00 PM DVG	8	9 7:00 PM I Love It Social	10	11 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr	12 6:30 PM Carla's Dinner @ Cats 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
13 San Jose Pride Parade	14 5:00 PM CCIH	15 7:00 PM SCT	16 7:00 PM I Love It Social	17 7:00 PM DVG RCC TG Legal Clinic	18 8:00 PM PacCtr 8:00 PM RGA	19 Summer Sizzle @ Carla's
20	21 5:00 PM CCHH 8:00 PM DVG	22 7:30 PM SCOUT	23 7:00 PM I Love It Social	24 7:30 PM TGSF: EOM @ Blue Muse	25 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr	26 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
27 TGSF Marches @ PRIDE!	28 5:00 PM CCHH	29	30 7:00 PM I Love It Social			

TGSF MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

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

Please Print / Check all that apply:

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

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

Mailing Name: _____

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

Address: _____

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

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

*Email: _____ Website URL: _____

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

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

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

Special Events!

SHOW YOUR PRIDE!

"A Mid-Summer Night's Dream" is the theme for this year's TGSF San Francisco Pride float, featuring our beautiful Miss TGSF Anne Louise Mortenson, and the dashing Mr. TGSF Bobby Cheung. They will be joined by their lovely court made up of our 2004 Mr. and Miss TGSF contestants. SF Pride weekend (June 26-27) is almost here so we need to get our plans in place pronto.

This year, TGSF is preparing for a major effort on Pride weekend. As always, we will need people to help build our float on Saturday before the parade. And, as always, **we will need contingent monitors!!** Last year, we barely squeaked through with enough monitors. Although we don't know yet how many monitors we will need, we would like to get as many people as possible trained. Training is rather simple - it just requires taking a one hour training course from San Francisco Pride. Training sessions are held all over the Bay Area so there should be one not too far from you. For the time and location of a training session, please check the San Francisco Pride website at www.sfpide.org.

Of course we will need some help building our float. Although we are planning a smaller float than last year, it will still take time and effort to build it. We will be announcing the location of the float build as soon as it is known.

TGSF once again plans an information and outreach booth on Saturday and Sunday. We will need volunteers to staff the booth, distribute information on transgender issues, and answer questions. For many, the information booth is where people first come into contact with TGSF. As outreach is the most important function of TGSF, the information and outreach booth serves a very important role for the community.

This year, TGSF has been designated as a "Partner in Pride". That means that we will be providing a certain number of volunteer hours for the event, with the main function helping on the parade route to avoid gaps in the parade. That will entitle us to a share of the community proceeds, which will be based on the number of hours we provide. I would like to ask as many people as possible to help out. You'll likely get to watch the parade and contribute to your organization. The best of both worlds! Keep watching our website for additional information.

And finally, we will need people to march in our contingent. Since space on the float will be limited this year (first priority are Mr. and Miss TGSF and contestants), all are welcome to join us as we march down Market Street with pride. Dress in costume or just be yourself. For those in the parade, please abide by the rules of SF Pride, which apply to all participants: no getting on and off the float, no throwing of anything, no nudity and be clean and sober. This last one applies especially to all monitors.

As you can see, our Pride effort will be a major undertaking. It will require a great deal of commitment of resources and personnel. We know that many would rather march in and/or watch the parade. But the other areas are just as critical and are just as important to our community. All of the functions discussed earlier are pieces of the whole package and it takes a team effort to make it work. Every contribution made to this effort is just as important as the next. By being a part of this effort, you will be making a difference in someone's life - and you may be reason why someone is able to walk through that door.

Please join us on SF Pride weekend and support your community! For more information, please contact Roxy (roxyhart72903@aol.com), Anne Louise (formorts@sonic.net) or Laura (laura_marlowe@earthlink.net)

QUEEN CITY

You know you're in Vegas when a beauty contest requires proof of natural gender. In the city's grand tradition of pushing the envelope, the Riviera is inviting all divas in drag to enter "The World's Most Beautiful Transsexual Contest" **July 22 to 24**.

"Unlike other beauty pageants, proof of natural gender will be required in the form of birth certificates or doctor's genetic verification," said Riviera publicist John Neeland. Pre-op and post-op transsexuals will be considered, he said.

Competition will include evening gown, swimwear, talent and stage interviews, with \$5,000 in prize money going to the winner, plus a round trip for two to the Virgin Islands. The event will be produced by Norbert Aleman and Jimmy Emerson of Starr Pro Productions.



Mid-Peninsula Support Group

is back! Next Meeting is on
WEDNESDAY, June 2, 2004

and continuing on the
first Wednesday of each month

San Mateo Marriott, 1770 South Amphlett Boulevard
(Highways 101 and 92), San Mateo, CA

7:00 - 9:00 P.M.

Nob Hill Room

All welcome regardless of race, age, gender, gender identification, etc..

\$1 donation will be requested but no one will be turned away.

For more details please contact Roxy at (510) 366-9855
or write roxyhart72903@aol.com

Please note: This is a support group. The views expressed in this group are reflective of the attendees and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the ExCom and members of TGSF.

You are encouraged to speak to your personal physician and/or therapist regarding your specific treatment and care.

Financial assistance provided, in part
by Transgender San Francisco

Coming in July!

RGAs GIRLS AND GUYS NIGHT OUT

Friday, July 30, 2004

San Francisco Giants vs. St. Louis Cardinals. It's time once again for RGA's Fifth Friday and, in what is rapidly becoming an RGA tradition, we are going to the ballgame. Join us at Momo's for dinner at 5:00pm, directly across the street from the ballpark formerly known as Pac Bell, then we will walk across the street to the game. Last year, we watched Barry Bonds hit his 600th home run. Who knows what will happen this year? (If he gets REALLY hot, maybe #700 will be calling).

Please RSVP by July 1 to Gelsey on the RGA Warmline (408) 984-4044, or to Roxy (roxyhart72903@aol.com) or RSVP at any RGA event. You don't HAVE to go to the game after dinner but why would you want to miss out? If we get 25 people, we'll get our names on the scoreboard!!!

Please note that Momo's and the former Pac Bell Park are accessible from Caltrain, BART, and SF Muni. For transit information and schedules, log on to www.511.org PLAY BALL!

Announcements!

TGSF AND SF PRIDE NEED YOUR HELP!

As always, participating in the Pride Parade requires important volunteer efforts. One of the most important tasks is a monitor for your contingent. What are contingent monitors?

They are volunteers/staff members that you provide, that will need to attend a training prior to the parade, and will walk with you along the parade route acting as safety monitors for your contingent. They are MANDATORY. If you do not have the correct amount of trained contingent monitors the day of the parade, your contingent will be prohibited from entering the parade route and no refund will be provided. Here is how you determine how many contingent monitors you require:



- 2-25 persons marching = 2 Contingent Monitors
- 25 to 50 persons marching = 4 Contingent Monitors
- 50 to 100 persons marching = 6 Contingent Monitors (Motorcycles = Are considered "people")
- 2 Contingent Monitors per axle (Trucks, Cars, Convertibles, Floats)

All Contingent Monitors are REQUIRED to attend a training, even if they attended a training last year. A tentative schedule of trainings is provided below. The trainings take place in the South and East Bays and San Francisco.

One-Hour SF Pride Parade Contingent Monitor Orientations

(Bracketed dates ([]) still await confirmation)

- Jun 5 Sat 2:00 PM Billy DeFrank Community Ctr, 938 The Alameda, San Jose
- Jun 8 Tue 8:30 PM Head Over Heels, 1250 45th St, Emeryville
- Jun 12 Sat Noon The Eagle, 398 12th and Harrison, SF
- Jun 13 Sun 1:00 PM SEIU Local 1000, CSEA, 1108 "O" Street, 5th Floor, Sacramento
- [Jun 14 Mon TBA Xenodrome, 1320 Potrero Street (at 25th), SF]
- [Jun 16 Wed 7:00 PM Mission Station Community Room, 630 Valencia St, SF]
- Jun 19 Sat Noon Women's Building, 3542 18th St, SF
- Jun 20 Sun 1:30 PM Metropolitan Community Church of SF, 150 Eureka, SF

We anticipate that this year, TGSF will need at least 6 monitors but would appreciate as many people as possible taking the training to cover contingencies. For updates, please visit www.sfpride.org. Thank you for your support.

TGSF 2004-2005 ExCom Election Results

Summary

Ballots Mailed	193
Undeliverable	8
Returned	73
Voter Turnout	39.5%

President (two year term)

Roxy Carmichael-Hart	69	94.5%
Abstain	4	5.5%

Vice-President (one year term)

Laura Marlowe	68	93.2%
Abstain	5	6.8%

Secretary (one year term)

Siobhan Ellis	67	91.8%
Kara Flynn (write-in)	1	1.4%
Abstain	5	6.8%

Treasurer (two year term)

Pamela Gray	68	93.2%
Abstain	5	6.8%

Education Chair 1 (two year term)

Dawnne Woodie	68	93.2%
Abstain	5	6.8%

Education Chair 2 (one year term)

Damon Helton	69	94.5%
Abstain	4	5.5%

Outreach Chair 1 (two year term)

Allison Laureano	44	60.3%
Kalani	20	27.4%
Abstain	9	12.3%

Outreach Chair 2 (one year term)

Kara Flynn	38	52.1%
Kelly Anne Marsh	25	34.2%
Abstain	10	13.7%

Social Chair 1 (two year term)

Anne Louise Mortenson	68	93.2%
Abstain	5	6.8%

Social Chair 2 (one year term)

Tommi Watson	67	91.8%
Abstain	6	8.2%

Bylaws Change 1 (two year staggered terms)

Yes	64	87.7%
No	6	8.2%
Abstain	3	4.1%

Bylaws Change 2 (Attendance of ExCom members)

Yes	58	79.5%
No	13	17.8%
Abstain	2	2.7%

HEY!

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

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

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

In Memoriam...

Alan Selby

GOODBYE TO ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS! 1929-2004

The S in Mr. S stands for Selby. Alan, who just passed away Sunday morning May 2nd, here in SF, was an example of what being a Leather man could be. He was generous, compassionate, open, friendly and funny. He got most of his pleasure from helping others and Alan never felt it was a sacrifice to take time to make sure somebody else got what they needed. A few months ago Alan came into the Mr. S store to pick up a donation from us for an event he was involved in.

As we were talking, Alan started to have a hard time breathing and started to gasp for air. We quickly got him settled down and got him some water and in a few minutes he seemed to have gotten his breath back and was doing OK again. I asked him if he wanted me to help him get home or to the hospital, even though he was seemingly doing alright now. He smiled and said, Oh No, I still have a few more stops to make to pick up more donations. I tried to insist and told him that maybe now was the time to start taking care of himself and let someone else do some of these errands. He looked quite seriously at me and said, Richard, this is what I do, this is what keeps me going. And so off he went to finish collecting donations for an auction for a fund raising event. That was Alan Selby.

But Alan wasn't only doing fund raising and community stuff. Alan was still having sex with boys even at age 74. God Bless him and his spirit. He could talk about the Old Times with you, but he was also still very much living in the Present moment and enjoying his life. Alan was 75 years old when he passed away from complications from Emphysema. Even though he had stopped smoking many years ago, the damage to his lungs had already taken place.

Alan started Mr. S Leather in San Francisco back in 1979 when he came to the U.S. from England. He ran it until 1987 when he sold it to one of his employees, Doug Deal. Doug kept it for the four years until I came out to SF and took over in 1991. Alan loved helping people and right up to the end of his life he was visiting the hospital wards and bringing food to people who needed it. He loved charitable work and collected thousands of dollars for many of the AIDS organizations of the Bay area.

He was always out there in the community doing something to make things happen. Mr. S gets asks for donations almost every day for every contest and every event that goes on around the country. We can't contribute to All of them, but Alan was the Only person I could never say No to. He had that effect on everybody as far as I know. His energy was always up and positive. A wall in his home had about a hundred framed Proclamations and Certificates of Appreciation from all kinds of charitable groups and Gov. officials. He had received lots of awards over the years for all the works he had done to help people have a better life.

Alan also had a title as San Francisco Leather Daddy. I asked him once what number Daddy was he? He said, I'm the Original Daddy here, the first one (something he was very proud of) but he Was what a real Daddy is, and didn't need a title vest to prove it. A Daddy is Strong, Confident, Supportive, Respected, and looked up to by his family. He's there when you need him and he works hard to make sure everybody else is alright, sometimes even to his own detriment. Alan pushed himself all the way to the end to help others.

It always made me feel good to know how happy he was at how his legacy in starting Mr. S had not only been carried on, but had grown to what Mr. S is today. He was very proud of Mr. S. The Leather community worldwide will miss him and his example of helping others and just being a really nice guy. I remember going to him when I came out to SF and asking

him what's the story with some of this Attitude I was getting from some of the Old Guard here in San Francisco. He laughed and said Oh, don't worry about it dearie, these same people never liked me either, they're just unhappy about everything. Don't let them get to you. You just do your thing. And so I did just that. I liked Alan right away after that.

Alan got out of his sick bed just before he died and insisted that he wanted to go to the Aids Emergency Fund annual awards dinner. He had never missed one and if he was still alive, he wasn't going to miss this one either. His friends got him a wheelchair and Tony took him to the event. It gave everybody a chance to say goodbye to him for the last time. Before he left the party, Alan wanted to have his Fortune told by one of the physics there now that's Alan always seeing the optimistic side of things.

Skeeter and I had gone over to see Alan, as we knew his time remaining was short. When we arrived at his home, Tony Koester, his roommate and long time friend, met us at the door and said Alan was pretty out of it, as he had just been give his dose of Morphine to help him feel more comfortable. We sat down besides his bed and held his hands and talked to him quietly, not knowing whether he could really hear us or not. He was out in la la land to wherever that place is that Morphine can take you to. We stayed for about 4 hours talking with Tony and hoping Alan would come back to us and say hi. I guess he was happy where he was in his mind and decided to stay out there while we were with him during that time. We left wondering if we would see him again. During these last couple of weeks many of Alan's long time friends came to see him to say goodbye.

Sitting by his bedside a few days later, he decided to stick around a little longer he asked me what I thought it was like on the other side and if he should be afraid. He wanted to know how long it might take, once the process had started. I told him that it was probably up to him as to when it might actually start. That when He decided to let go he would then start to make the transition and that the more he was able to relax and stay open to the process, he would just drift off. If he could try and not hold on but just let this all go it would be much easier. Everybody here was going to be alright and he could go now, when he wanted to. That seemed to help him relax and he smiled and said Thank you.

As to you worrying about being afraid about what's on the other side, I told him that someone like him didn't need to be afraid of anything. A man like you Alan, who has been there for so many others, doesn't have anything to be afraid of. I asked Alan if over all these years of being in the scene had he ever Bottomed? He said No, I actually hadn't ever gone bottom: never felt the desire to, he said. I guess I looked a little surprised and said with a smile, Well Alan, this is the Big Bottom scene for you and God is going to Top You. He's a pretty good Top, so you won't have anything to worry about, but there are No Safe words this time, so just surrender and let go and enjoy the trip. He didn't laugh or frown, he just looked at me straight in the eyes. It seemed a moment of truth.

Before we left, as he hugged Richard Lester, who was there with us, he said, Well my friend, I guess I'll see you on the other side of the bridge. During the last two weeks before Alan died, many of his closest friends came to see him and say goodbye. He passed away at home with some of his closest friends holding his hands to help ease the transition.

Goodbye Alan Thanks for your Love and Advice over these many years. I'm sure all the guys that You held their hands, as they died, will be there to welcome You into your next journey. Daddy Alan was one of the Good guys and all of us will miss him.

A celebration of his life tribute will be held at the San Francisco Eagle Bar on Saturday May 22nd from 2PM to 7PM. Come join with all of Alan's friends to toast and celebrate the life of a truly wonderful man.

Richard Hunter



*Daddy Allen Selby (L)
with State Assemblyman, Mark Leno*

Your ExCom at Work!

TGSF ExCom
2004-05 Profile

EDUCATION

CHAIR 1

**Dawnne Marie
Woodie**



Who I Am, Where I Stand

Good morning. I am Dawnne Woodie. I am just a simple ol' country gal from deep in the heart of Texas, who just happens to live in San Francisco now. I am the proud parent of twin daughters, age 20, who are in college in Texas. I hold a BA in Music from East Texas Baptist College, and a MA in English from Texas A&M University. I am a retired Funeral Director, having spent 25 years in that field, before selling my business and retiring. I also have 30+ years in the ministry as well, with expertise as a pastor and in counseling.

I moved to the Bay Area in January of 2003, and make my home here, living in San Francisco. I love this area – the beauty, the climate, and the people. I have made wonderful friends here. Nowhere else in the world could I live as comfortably as I do here. I began transition shortly after my move here, and it has been an adventure of thrills, excitement, and joy. I like who I am now, and would never give up what I have accomplished this last year. I joined TGSF a year ago, and have found wonderful friends and very committed people here in the organization.

My plans for the next two years include bringing informative seminars from local therapists and surgeons, as well as introducing such supporters of our special community as electrologists, makeup artists, and merchants that are willing to do business with, and will welcome the business of the TG community. I plan to have political officeholders and community leaders in for lectures and forums, to give us a chance to meet them, and for them to meet us, so that when we have a difficulty we know where to go for resolution.

Big plans? Yes, but I firmly believe that our time has come. We have the opportunity in the months and years ahead to make a great impact on the Bay Area, and on our world as a whole. I said once that we need to move the "T" to the front of the label "LGBT", and I meant that. We as transgendered individuals can be a strong force for change if we unite and work together for that change. We can do that if we know who we are, what our rights are, and how we can stand up for those rights. And I plan to make sure that time is given us. I started this profile with a "Good morning", and it is a good morning. It is a new day for us. It is our time. I challenge you to go with me on this journey of thrills and excitement. We can make a difference – TOGETHER.

EXCOM APPROVES ACTION PLAN!

By Roxy Carmichael-Hart

At its May meeting, the new ExCom adopted its plan of action for the upcoming year. This plan is the framework by which TGSF will operate during the year. Let me say up front that your new ExCom is filled with dedicated, motivated and committed individuals. All of them want to make a difference and help others. No one is here because they wanted a cool title. They want to work. And they all realize the challenges that lie ahead for us.

The plan focuses on several areas. First, it is noted that member dues comprise a major portion of the organization's revenues. Unfortunately, dues cannot cover all of the expenses, so fundraising is going to be a key during this year. The ExCom did not set a specific fundraising goal such as is done with other organizations, but it did look at a goal of at least \$3,000 beyond what we would get for the Cotillion. In less than a month, we are more than halfway to our goal, thanks to generous people like Elizabeth Jeffords, Jessica Ames, Rachel Hill and others. We need to keep this up if we intend to be an agency that best serves the needs of its members and its community. Going hand in hand with raising money comes elimination of debt. At the last ExCom meeting, payoff of TGSF's debt to Susan Laird was approved. We still have a debt of \$400 to the San Francisco Design Center and we intend to pay that off in the short term.

Our major ongoing expense for the year is the Channel. This is, of course, an extremely valuable resource for the Community and is our life-line for many people. But we recognized that the Channel has become quite costly and time consuming to prepare, produce, and distribute so we are looking at options which are most cost-effective. We will be looking to convert as many people as we can to electronic versions but paper versions will continue to be made available. Your Channel editor Miss Ayme will be heavily involved in whatever decisions are made and she will be an integral part of this effort.

The other major expense during the year is the Cotillion. I won't reiterate my past thoughts but I think many of us agree that for this event to have meaning, it must continue to be done in a cost-effective manner. Last year, we were fortunate to turn at least a \$2,200 profit. That was due to some careful planning and thoughtful decision-making on the part of the ExCom, as well as the many outstanding donations we received. Of course, there is no guarantee that we will make money on this year's event either, because the dynamics change from year to year. All we can do is to give it our best shot. We will continue to discuss this over the next couple of months. We are all going at this with open minds and if returning to San Francisco can be done, we will try to make it happen.

We are looking at education and outreach as major areas of emphasis. Several educational events are currently being planned. We are considering inviting several speakers including Mayor Newsom, to our End of Month event. I think it is important that we hear from our elected officials regarding their positions on issues of interest and importance to the transgender community. We are planning more MAC events and a "Beauty Magic" day in September, which will feature several of the speakers from California Dreamin'.

Outreach will continue to be a major thrust. It is one of the most important yet frustrating activities. How does one tailor an organization to best meet the needs of a community as diverse as this one? Over the next few months, I would like to hear some feedback from not just our members, but our community at large. What can TGSF do to make this a better organization? How can we best serve our community? Would you like more parties, more educational events, more outreach? Would you like us to continue to reach out to all groups and areas? I would like to know what is expected of TGSF so that we can be the organization that best meets the needs of community. All reasonable ideas will be considered. We cannot be all things to all people but we are going to do our very best to ensure that this organization stands tall in this community and that we are going to make a difference. We can and we must treat everyone who walks through our doors with courtesy and respect and make them feel welcome, wanted and accepted.

Our goal is to give you the organization that you want and deserve and that helps everyone find what is inside them. Please help make that happen. Please volunteer for Pride, our events, the Cotillion, even stopping for a minute to talk to a new person at the Blue Muse. This is your TGSF.

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 **Siobhan Ellis @ siobhanellis@hotmail.com**.

CONFESSIONS OF A DANGEROUS MIND

By Roxy Carmichael-Hart

Dare to Dream

Much of our lives in this community deals with taking a chance, thinking outside of the box and reaching for that dream, if you dare. It involves risk, stress, heartbreak, agony and despair. Yet, when that dream is reached, the feeling is nothing short of exhilaration.

During the weekend of April 23-25, I attended a little event called "California Dreamin 2004". A lot of you may remember past Cal Dreamins, which went dormant for a couple of years until eight people with vision, daring and courage decided to take a chance and to do something positive for our community. I am proud to say that I served as Secretary to the Board of Directors, where I was joined by the absolute giants of our community - Carla Blair, Donna Freeman, Becky Stake, Gelsey Wong, Marcia Chapledaine, Pamela Gray, and of course our president Laura Marlowe. Carla, Laura, and Pamela especially went out on a limb, risking their personal finances, because they believed that there was a need for this event. The best of the best, the most loving and giving people in this community, put their collective talents, experiences and expertise to work. And, in the space of only seven months, they put together an event that rivaled what other conferences take one year or more to plan.

The array of talent that volunteered their time to speak and present was impressive. Drs. Beck, Meltzer, Ousterhout and Shaffer filled their rooms. As always, Denaë Doyle donated her time. Donna and Julie Freeman and Becky Stake and Loy Leveroni provided important support to couples and wives. Newcomers like Tiffany Woods and Wendy Schultz gave enthusiastic and informative presentations. Noted therapists Stephen Braveman, Millie Brown and Cynthia Young discussed life after transition. Theresa Sparks, on the heels of her appointment as the first transgendered person on the San Francisco Police Commission, gave a keynote address. There were lots and lots more. And, yours truly even discussed her own transition at the workplace. And that is just what I know or have heard about. The other speakers and presenters are to be commended and thanked for so willfully offering their services on behalf of our community. People from all walks of our community GAVE. No one asked for special favors, no one asked to be put on a pedestal, no one asked to be treated differently. Egos were checked at the door. People gave because they wanted to and we are all the better for their generosity.

The Saturday Night banquet was a sight to behold. A fabulous dinner, meeting old friends, dancing and rocking to the fabulous Trans Central Station (featuring our dear friends Kelly, Keri and Ari) and thanking all of those who gave made it a night to remember. And our beautiful Miss TGSF Anne Louise was a great MC and did some rockin' of her own to some swanky blues numbers.

The one comment that we, the planners of the event, stressed was that we were doing this for the community. That message got across. Everywhere we went, we heard "thank you for doing this". I spoke to one young lady who reminded me of myself a short time ago. She sold some of her possessions to raise the money to attend because, as she said "I needed this". So did many others and they expressed themselves as such. All said "Count us in for next year". As did all of our speakers. And we will. Heck, we have so much interest in many of the subjects that we are thinking about a "mini-California Dreamin" later this year. Some of the speakers wanted some additional time to go more in depth on their subjects.

I won't go into the planning headaches we encountered like worrying about attendance and money and whether we were going to take a financial beating. I had a déjà vu flashback to the Cotillion. And of course, there were the naysayers "You can't do this event," they said. "You can't do it in San Jose, you have to do it in San Francisco because that is what people want." Like hell. Just like the Cotillion. Well, for the second time in 4 months, the naysayers were proved wrong and I would like to hand them a nice big plate of crow to eat. When brilliant and talented and dedicated and committed people put their minds to something, you can't stop them. Next year's California Dreamin will be even better. We've already started planning. Laura has asked me to be a part of it and I am honored to accept. Whatever she needs me for, she's got it.

The benefit of events such as this is the people you meet. One lady told me that she picked up several new e-mail addresses. People saw speakers they had only read about. Attendees were able to talk to those with experience who could provide some guidance and assistance. And no one left without getting a hug. You try getting a hug on the Internet. But what we offered most was hope. I am sure that more than one person left that conference believing that there was hope for them to be able to "walk into the light". They have a better chance at reaching that dream, thanks to the eight people who decided to chase their dream.

California Dreamin - meet a friend, reach out a hand, touch a life, make a difference. It did for many. Next year, I hope it will do the same for you.

RGA EDITOR'S REPORT

By Gelsey Wong

Reprinted from *The Rainbow*, RGA, May 2004

There is a distressing habit that we see more and more in daily life. Encouraged by the proliferation of e-mail and cell phones, too many people are ignoring desperate cries for the early reservations needed by event planners. Without early responses, meals cannot be arranged, transportation obtained, no rooms reserved. It is not just the gender community, as Miss Manners regularly fields these complaints in reference to weddings and parties of all kinds.

Nearly every gender event in the last year has been plagued with this extremely unladylike behavior. With months to respond and constant reminders in newsletters and calendars, confirmed attendance the week prior has been dismal for every event displaying a soft cutoff. If the eternal optimism of the brave [girls] staffing those events weren't so high, any reasonable person would have cancelled the summer TG picnic, formal TG Christmas/Holiday dinner, and even the TGSF Cotillion! All of these events, thankfully, were sustained to completion and resulted in entertaining and well-attended events.

Well, this sad trend continued with California Dreamin', with only six people actually sending in an early check or credit card commitment, while scores indicated they'd attend. People! It is distinctly unfair to stress out the hard working community volunteers who take on the job of arranging these fine events for your selection.

Strangely, when advance tickets must be purchased from a third party box office (ballet, baseball) then a commitment of sorts can be extracted. You procrastinators are causing needless age lines and jaw grinding by holding back your event confirmations.

Unlike the well capitalized sports teams or arts producers mentioned earlier, there is a real out-of-pocket financial risk for sponsoring support groups, or worse, individual gender friends, when deadlines pass and event preparations must press on with no certain knowledge of actual attendance. We have been fortunate to avoid a major financial disaster so far, but that's still no sign that the TG community will always show up in last minute numbers to save the event.

New GenderQueer, Trans, & Gender Questioning Youth Group

Billy DeFrank LGBT Community Center
www.defrank.org

GenderQueer, Trans, and Gender Questioning Youth Group The Billy DeFrank LGBT Community Center is PROUD to announce the start of a new GenderQueer, Trans, and Gender Questioning Youth Group (new name to be announced in the future).

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

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

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Announcing New Publication!

BECOMING A VISIBLE MAN

by **Jamison Green Vanderbilt**
University Press \$24.95 ISBN 0-8265-1457-X

In this artful and compelling inquiry into the politics of gender, leading transsexual activist Jamison Green combines candid autobiography with informed analysis to offer unique insight into the multiple challenges of the female-to-male transsexual experience, ranging from encounters with prejudice and strained relationships with family to the development of an FTM community and the realities of surgical sex reassignment. Brimming with frank and often poignant recollections of Green's own experiences -including his childhood struggles with identity and his years as a lesbian parent prior to his sex-reassignment surgery - the book examines transsexualism as a human condition, and sex reassignment as one of the choices that some people feel compelled to make to manage their gender variance.

Jamison Green was born and raised in Oakland, and still resides in the San Francisco Bay Area. Now an internationally-known and widely respected advocate for the health, safety, and civil rights of transgendered and transsexual people, Mr. Green has provided educational programs on gender-variance issues for corporations, law enforcement agencies, social-science conferences and classes, continuing legal education, religious education, and in medical venues for over a decade. His comprehensive knowledge of the processes and problems encountered by transgendered and transsexual people - as well as his legal advocacy work to help ensure that gender-variant people have access to the same rights and opportunities as others - enable him to explain the issues as no transsexual author has previously done. He has been featured in eight documentary films and numerous articles and books; he holds an M.F.A. in creative writing from the University of Oregon.

Advance praise for Becoming a Visible Man

"This is the book I've been looking for these last 10 years! For over a decade, Jamison Green has been a kind, wise and trusted leader in the transgender community. His words have always inspired us. Becoming a Visible Man is his smart, accessible, and always compassionate take on transgender identity, desire and political activism. A terrific blend of theory and personal narrative, Becoming a Visible Man should top any and all Gender Studies reading lists." - Kate Bornstein, author of My Gender Workbook and Gender Outlaw

"An intelligent and engaging book. Jamison Green, an extraordinary activist and advocate for FTM transsexuals, demonstrates that he is also an extraordinary writer." - Joanne Meyerowitz, author of How Sex Changed: A History of Transsexuality in the United States

"Jamison Green has given a great gift...This is an essential contribution to the growing body of literature on gender identity and expression." - Elizabeth Birch, Executive Director, Human Rights Campaign

"Becoming a Visible Man shows why [Green] is a leading voice to a generation of transmen and transwomen and why this issue should be on the top of the agenda for all of us in the 21st century." - Henry Rubin, author of Self-Made Men

"Jamison Green has always known who he is. Others may have been confused, but never he. Now he tells, with integrity and in a moving and thoughtful way, his story. We learn how he became a visible man - and in the reading, we learn much about being human." - Dallas Denny, Editor, Transgender Tapestry Journal

Upcoming Bay Area Appearances by Jamison Green

All are free events:

- June 10, 7:30 PM - SF, Modern Times Books, 888 Valencia St., 415-282-9246
- June 15, 7:00 PM - Ukiah, Mendocino Book Co., 102 S. School St., 707-468-5940
- June 16, 7:30 PM - Berkeley, Black Oak Books, 1491 Shattuck Ave., 510-665-5606

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 **Siobhan Ellis @ siobhanellis@hotmail.com**.

BREAKING BARRIERS, AND MAKING A BUCK

By **Susan Jones**
CNSNews.com Morning Editor

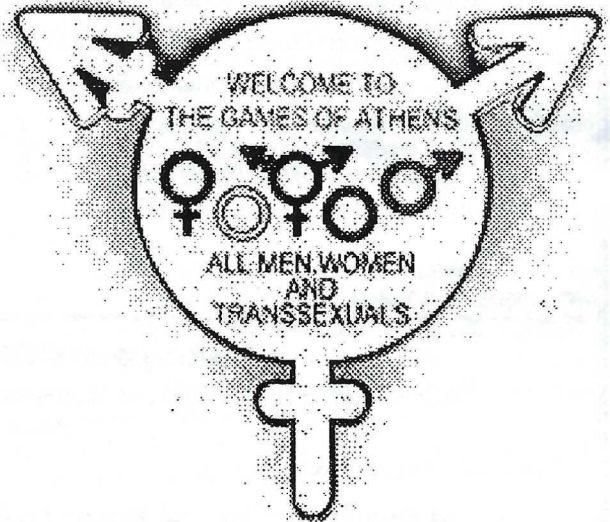
Just two days after the International Olympic Committee announced that transsexuals will be allowed to compete at the Summer Games, a web-based company is commemorating "this historic event" with a 2.5-inch lapel pin.

The Athens Transsexual Lapel Pin is selling online for \$4.99.

It is available through a California-based outfit called CheapPins.com, which bills itself as the largest independent retailer of lapel pins in the world.

According to its website, CheapPins.com owns and manages NBCpins.com (licensed by NBC) which sells assorted show and logo pins from the NBC network.

On Monday, the International Olympic Committee said transsexuals can compete as long as all operations involving a sex change are complete, the athletes have had legal recognition of their assigned sex by all appropriate officials, and two years have passed since completion of their hormone treatment.



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TGSF ASSETS, LIABILITIES, AND EQUITY

as of 20 May 2004

Assets

Cash	\$2,792.00
Event Equipment	
Decorations	\$1,000.00
Food Service	\$200.00
Office Supplies	\$50.00
Total Assets	\$4,042.00

Liabilities and Equity

Accounts Payable	\$400.00
Equity	\$3,642.00
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$4,042.00

Statement of TGSF Income

Revenue

Memberships	\$200.00
Donations	\$652.00
Advertising	\$0.00
Total	\$852.00

Expenses

Newsletter	\$500.00
Telephone	\$50.00
Debt Retirement	\$750.00
Miscellaneous	\$400.00
Total	\$1,700.00

Net Income (Loss)..... (\$848.00)

PISSR

People In Search of Safe Restrooms

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

TGSF DONATIONS

Our Friends Who Give

as of May 20, 2004

Nancy Cupps	\$15.00
Elizabeth Jeffords	An additional \$300.00
Rachel Hill	\$120.00
Andrea Drane	\$100.00
Roxy Carmichael-Hart	\$117.00

We would also like to recognize and thank the following people who donated items for our annual meeting raffle:

Cotillion 2005 Tickets -	Elizabeth Jeffords
Portable CD Player -	Trailer Trash Trixie
Cheese Board -	Sara Roberts
Hand-made Scarf -	Claire DeLand
Jewelry Albums -	Joanne Handa
Cotillion 2004 Video -	Sarah Lee Reavis

Bless You and Thank You for Caring!

CONTACT TGSF!

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Calendar www.tgsf.org

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

MAN RAISED AS GIRL COMMITS SUICIDE

Patrick Letellier, PlanetOut Network

David Reimer, a Canadian man who was raised as a girl in a controversial case that drew international attention to issues of gender and biology, took his own life last Tuesday.

According to press reports, Reimer, 38, had been depressed following a series of personal and professional setbacks, including the loss of his job, separation from his wife and the death of his identical twin brother two years ago.

Reimer's unusual gender history was the subject of a book, "As Nature Made Him: The Boy Who Was Raised a Girl," by journalist John Colapinto, and a 2001 PBS documentary film, "Sex: Unknown."

Born male in 1966 and named Bruce, Reimer and his identical twin brother, Brian, were circumcised at eight months old. Doctors botched Reimer's surgery, and later convinced his parents to fully castrate the boy and raise him as a girl. Bruce was renamed Brenda and subjected to numerous surgeries, hormone treatments and psychological conditioning to become a girl.

As detailed in Colapinto's book, Reimer's parents were swayed in their decision by an influential medical psychologist, John Money, of Johns Hopkins Medical Center, who insisted that gender and sexual identity could be determined by a child's environment.

Money spent years promoting Reimer's transition as a medical triumph, leading doctors worldwide to perform similar surgeries on infants with ambiguous genitals. The controversial practice continues today, despite the protests of intersex activists and many medical experts.

But Reimer's transition to female was hardly successful. As a young girl, Reimer was an isolated, social outcast, mocked for being a masculine tomboy. As an adolescent, Reimer appeared increasingly masculine, with broader shoulders and more musculature than most girls. He battled suicidal depression until age 14, when his parents finally told him the truth about his body.

"I was raised as a girl. I was not comfortable with the situation. That was not the true me," Reimer told Reuters in a 2000 interview.

Reimer quickly changed his name to David, and, through a series of surgeries and testosterone treatments, reclaimed his male identity. He eventually married and was the stepfather of three children.

His willingness to reveal the truth about his life in print and on film elevated him to hero status for many intersex people. "He taught people it's OK to be proud of who you are, to speak out and to be yourself regardless of what the doctors around you are trying to say," said Betsy Driver, director of Bodies Like Ours, an intersex education and activist group.

By going public, Reimer drew unprecedented attention to intersex issues, which has gradually helped change egregious medical practices, Driver told the PlanetOut Network.

But Reimer paid a heavy price. His mother, Janet Reimer, told the Canadian Press that she believes the devastating experiences of his childhood contributed to his suicide.

"I think he felt he had no options," she said.

California Prison Focus Transgender in Prison (TIP) Committee

In California there are hundreds of transgender and gender variant prisoners who are suffering daily abuse and medical neglect. We can change this! TIP provides advocacy and support to transgender and gender variant prisoners in California.

The trans/gender variant and intersex in prison committee meets the 4th Tuesday of every month from 6:00PM until 7:30PM in the California Prison Focus office at 2940 16th Street #B5 in SF, 94103.

To get involved contact: (415) 252-9211 (leave a message for the TIP committee); Fax: 415-252-9311; E-mail: tipcommittee@yahoo.com. TIP is committed to prioritizing the leadership of people on the MTF spectrum, current and former prisoners, and people of color.

COMMITTEE CLEARS TRANSSEXUALS FOR OLYMPICS

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — Transsexuals were cleared Monday to compete in the Olympics (search) for the first time. Under a proposal approved by the IOC executive board, athletes who have undergone sex-change surgery will be eligible for the Olympics if their new gender has been legally recognized and they have gone through a minimum two-year period of postoperative hormone therapy.

The decision, which covers both male-to-female and female-to-male cases, goes into effect starting with the Athens Olympics in August. The IOC had put off a decision in February, saying more time was needed to consider all the medical issues.

Some members had been concerned whether male-to-female transsexuals would have physical advantages competing against women. Men have higher levels of testosterone and greater muscle-to-fat ratio and heart and lung capacity. However, doctors say, testosterone levels and muscle mass drop after hormone therapy and sex-change surgery (search).

IOC spokeswoman Giselle Davies said the situation of transsexuals competing in high-level sports was "rare but becoming more common."

IOC medical director Patrick Schamasch said no specific sports had been singled out by the ruling. "Any sport may be touched by this problem," he said. "Until now, we didn't have any rules or regulations. We needed to establish some sort of policy."

Until 1999, the IOC conducted gender verification tests at the Olympics but the screenings were dropped before the 2000 Sydney Games.

One of the best known cases of transsexuals in sports involves Renee Richards, formerly Richard Raskind, who played on the women's tennis tour in the 1970s.

In March, Australia's Mianne Bagger became the first transsexual to play in a pro golf tournament.

Michelle Dumaresq, formerly Michael, has competed in mountain bike racing for Canada.

120 Years In Prison for Killing Trans Teen & Friend

by 365Gay.com Newscenter Staff

(Indianapolis, Indiana) An Indianapolis man was sentenced to 120 years in prison Wednesday for the killings of 17 year old trans teen Nireah Johnson and her friend, Brandie Coleman, 18.

Prior to sentencing Paul Moore, 21, told judge Robert Altice that he was innocent. But in delivering his ruling Altice said that the teenagers were gunned down execution style.

"They were shot in the front of the head, so both victims were able to observe their last fleeting moments as Mr. Paul Moore pulled the trigger," Altice said. "The fact that (Johnson) was killed because he was different was the only reason."

Moore's accomplice, Clarence McGee, was handed a 10 year sentence.

The bodies of the teens were found in the back seat of a burned-out Jeep on the city's northeast side last June.

No murder weapon was ever found but bullets extracted from the victims' bodies matched a gun that police had seized in 2002 from Moore and later returned to his mother.

Police testified during the trial that Moore shot the teens and that McGee, his half brother, had set the fire to hide the crime.

Deputy Prosecutor Ralph Staples told the court that Moore believed Johnson was female and had sex with her. When he discovered she was biologically male he shot her then turned the gun on Coleman because she had witnessed Johnson's murder.

Significant Other Support - East Bay

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

And Even More 7-News!

South Dakota Lawmaker Plans to Undergo Sex Change

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) - After getting involved in a fight in the Legislature over a bill to ban civil unions, Tom Murphy decided to reveal a secret he had kept for four decades, through school, an Air Force career and then as a member of the City Council: He feels more like a woman than a man.

In fact, he plans to undergo a sex-change operation. Tom will become Marla. "I hope to be happy," the never-married, 48-year-old retired master sergeant said in an interview. He said he feels as if he has deprived himself for a long time.

Murphy thought he might have to leave town after going public. But to his surprise, he said, the reaction around this Black Hills city of about 60,000 has been largely supportive. Outside of one neighbor and a casual acquaintance, no one has criticized him to his face, he said.

The transition from man to woman will not happen until after he completes his term on the council. He has decided not to run for another term next year.

He will continue to attend City Council meetings dressed as usual in a shirt and pants, but plans to start dressing as a woman increasingly in his private life. He is taking hormones that are making his body softer, more female, and he is growing his hair longer.

Jean French, a conservative fellow member of the City Council, said Rapid City residents and council members seem to support Murphy's decision. "I guess I just really hope and pray that this is what it will take for him to be happy with himself. I think he as a person has so many wonderful qualities," French said. "I think we all want Tom comfortable. I don't know anybody who is out to headhunt Tom."

Sid Goss, a professor of sociology at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in Rapid City, said he is pleased and a little surprised at the community's response. "South Dakota may be as open to personal preferences as the rest of the country," he said.

"It may have to do with the openness and honesty that Tom has shown, that he's been up front about the situation and said, 'Here's the way it is,' and the community is dealing with it," Goss added. "It shows a great strength in him, and that's probably being respected."

Murphy said he has known since he was 18 that he wanted what is called gender reassignment surgery. But he feared that if people found out, they might try to blackmail him or discriminate against him. He said when people talked about male and female issues, he would run away because he was afraid he might say the wrong thing.

He revealed his secret after getting involved in a fight in the 2004 Legislature against a proposed state law that would have banned civil unions and domestic partnerships.

Murphy testified in February at a hearing on the bill and wrote a series of letters that appeared in the Rapid City Journal. He eventually disclosed his secret in a letter to the editor and an interview with a local paper.

He said he made his decision after someone expressed hatred of gays in a letter to the editor. "I said it's time for me to make him quiet, just put him to rest and let him know I'm around and where I stand," he said.

Murphy was born in Arkansas and served 22 years in the Air Force - much of that at Ellsworth Air Force Base near Rapid City - before retiring in 2000. He was appointed to fill a vacancy on the City Council in 2000 and then won elections in 2001 and 2003.

"It goes back 40-plus years that I've had this in me, that I've had the wants to be a female," he said. "It just got stronger and stronger as time progressed."

He said he will probably not be ready for surgery for at least three years. To qualify, he must live as a woman for a year and get the approval of a psychiatrist.

Murphy, who holds a bachelor's degree in industrial technology and a master's in counseling and human development from the University of South Dakota, is now working on an accounting degree and said he will stay in the Black Hills if he can find a job as a woman.

As Murphy sat in a downtown restaurant recently, a woman walked over to his booth and told him: "I think what you're doing is great, and I hope it works out." She left without giving her name.

Drag Queen Gang Terrorizes South

by Fidel Ortega

365Gay.com Newscenter - Miami Bureau

(Birmingham, Alabama) When a queen goes to a gala she wants to arrive in style, and that say Birmingham police is what led a gang of marauding drag queens on a crime wave that targeted exclusive car dealerships in five southern states and Michigan. Police tell 365Gay.com that as many as a dozen drag queens were members of the gang. They would descend on car dealerships, scope out the best of the best on the lots, and then steal them to drive to drag beauty pageants throughout the South.

About a dozen cars have been recovered but nearly 20 more are still unaccounted for. In one of the cars found by police near a gay club the trophies were still in the backseat. "It was all about arriving in grand style at these pageants," Sgt. B. A. Treadway of the Birmingham Police Department told 365Gay.com. Among the cars stolen were Cadillac's, Lincolns, Mercedes Benz, BMWs, and a Lexus. The cars have all disappeared on Thursdays or Fridays.

Treadway said that a group of the drag queens would go into a dealership. One would keep the salesman busy with questions while the others would find the key rack and steal a new car off the lot. Often the dealerships did not even know a car had been stolen until it had been recovered, without plates, by police. "We're asking all dealerships in the area to check their inventory," Treadway said.

One dealership has lost three cars to the gang, including a 2004 Nissan 350ZX Roadster Convertible and a 2003 Acura 3.2TL S Type. One hapless salesman couldn't believe the beautiful woman who kept him busy was actually a man. "God, I feel so foolish," the man, who asked that his name not be used told 365Gay.com. "I mean she, he, was gorgeous. I was trying to get enough nerve to ask her for a date." Others in the group are not so beautiful though. "One is 6' 4", weighs 175 pounds and was last seen wearing a dress with a V cut back and pumps," Treadway said. "Most are very convincing, though."

Police throughout the south have been busy over the past month reading area gay newspapers to follow the drag beauty pageant circuit. As well they have keeping an eye on gay clubs. The added surveillance has resulted in the arrest of three members of the gang. Two 18-year-olds and a 22-year-old are charged with receiving stolen property. But, the "main players" in the scam remain at large.

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Age Limit On Transgender Treatment Could Endanger Young Patients, Says Lecturer

By JAMES GARDINER, The New Zealand Herald

Young people refused hormone treatment on the grounds they are too young could be placed at severe risk of harming themselves or suicide, according to a Massey University health sciences lecturer. Dr Suzanne Phibbs was commenting on a report this week that a Hutt Valley boy was given hormone treatment for four years from the age of 14 to become a girl and now plans to undergo surgery. Early identification and treatment of transgender people often meant more successful outcomes, the Massey lecturer said.

Being transgender was about having a social identity that did not match the anatomical body. Such people were often at risk of emotional or physical harm if they were not taken seriously and treated sympathetically. She said the subject in the Hutt Valley case was "very brave to come forward at that young age". "These people at that age are incredibly vulnerable to self-harming behavior.

"A lot go the other way and completely bury it and do things like join the Army or the police and engage in really macho activities to try to suppress and run away from their feelings," she said. "The mental health aspects of it and the support that those people need would be more important than a total ban on providing access to a means of helping them cope with the way they're feeling or what they're going through."

She said hormone treatment, which could prevent the body masculinizing or feminizing during puberty, was not available simply on prescription. Psychologists and endocrinologists were consulted and intensive counseling was provided. "I would suggest it's probably not appropriate for very young people, no, but there are ways of having them in a holding pattern during puberty so that, when they are actually old enough to make up their own mind their body hasn't done that for them."

Once the body started changing "feelings of self-loathing start to kick in". A lot of people simply continued to take the hormones but did not go through with sex-change surgery.

Changing gender was not the same as changing sexuality. "You can have transgender people, maybe a male to female transgendered person who identifies as a lesbian, for example. "These people need support, not vilification ...

"A huge factor is the intolerance of people who are in between gender or are not clearly one gender or another. "Public space is not safe space for people who are like that. That issue has to be addressed in terms of the discrimination that many trans-gender people face."

Dr Phibbs gained her doctorate in the socio-cultural aspects of transgender people.

JOHN GOES UNDER KNIFE TO BECOME JULIE

www.stuff.co.nz (New Zealand)

A Hutt Valley boy was given hormone treatment from the age of 14 to become a girl and is now, four years later, planning to go under the knife to complete the process. Wainuiomata boy John was the youngest New Zealander to undergo the treatment, usually reserved for adults who are absolutely sure about their need to change their sex, it was reported on TV3's 60 Minutes program.

The boy, now called Julie, had needed his mother's permission to go ahead with the treatment after seeing a psychiatrist at age 13. "A lot of boys would mistake me for a girl and I was pretty much outcast, I didn't fit in anywhere and I found that boys gave me a really hard time because I was supposed to be a boy but I didn't act like one and I didn't look like one. It brought on a lot of ridicule and bullying," she told 60 Minutes.

Julie's mother June said her son had always behaved like a girl and her younger sister said John had always behaved like a big sister. June agreed to the hormone treatment to stop the onset of male puberty and for the child to be given estrogen to attain female features including breasts. She said she felt there was no choice but to help Julie be herself.

On mufti day at Wainuiomata College, John came out as Julie to school-mates. It did not go down well. "The flak I got was unbelievable ... it was really, really bad." However, school administration accepted and supported her and she went on to play in girls' sports teams.

Now studying fashion in Wellington, the 18-year-old is saving the \$20,000 she needs for a sex change operation. Julie's story comes as controversy rages over the Tasman about a landmark decision by an Australian family court to allow a 13-year-old girl to become a boy. The Australian court ruling is the first time legal approval has been given for a child in that country who is biologically one sex to begin to change to the other.

Transsexual MP Georgina Beyer said she thought the Government should fund sex change operations. "The money really should not be the major issue. The quality ... should be what you go for," she told TV3 news.

KID'S SEX CHANGE AT SIX

From ANTONELLA LAZZERI
in Los Angeles

Little Hallie Baker told her parents she would kill herself if she didn't get her way - but this was no childish tantrum. For the six-year-old was begging her mum and dad to let her transform herself into a BOY. And for the three years since then, Hallie has had her way, answering to the name Hal, while being treated as a lad at home and school. Now "he" plans to start taking hormones at the onset of puberty to stop him growing breasts.

This week, Hal's disturbing story was told on the Oprah Winfrey show in America, when his mother Karen sobbed as she looked at pictures of Hallie looking cute in a dress. Karen, who has another daughter, said: "It's painful to look at photos of Hallie. I had dreams of my girls growing up together, doing the whole wedding thing. "Those are pictures of a little girl that is gone and she'll never come back. I had to grieve that.

"For a while I felt a little guilty about that, because other parents truly have lost their children. I did - but I gained a son. Although I miss my daughter, I am so lucky to see my son Hal happy." Karen added: "She was my beautiful baby girl but from a very young age she kept saying she wanted to be a boy. "We thought she was just a tomboy, then we thought she might be a lesbian. But she insisted she was a boy. We went to a therapist who said they believed Hallie was transgendered. "We thought, 'Well, let's give it a try.' We let him live as a boy and he just blossomed." And talking about his decision to take hormones when he reaches puberty, Karen added: "He knows his options about hormones. It will be his decision. "But we have told him, 'If you ever change your mind, you tell us."

Hal, who wore trousers, a shirt and tie for his TV appearance, looked at photos of himself as a girl and told Oprah: "While living as Hallie I really started to hate myself. "I felt trapped and uncomfortable. I told my parents slowly, I didn't tell them everything at once. It was difficult but that's over. That's in my past, and this is my future."

An obviously shocked Oprah said: "I've been doing this show for a lot of years and I have to admit this is an eye-opener for me." Also on the program was 11-year-old Kayla, who is already on hormone treatment to stop breast growth and periods after living as a boy called Kaden for a year.

As with Hal, Kaden's school has accepted his change of sex and has even given him his own toilet. Kaden's mother Angelina said he had refused to dress as a girl from a young age. She said: "He didn't even like girls' knickers. He never played with girls' things, he was into dirt and bikes."

Kaden said: "When people used to say I was a girl, I said, 'No I'm not, I'm a boy.' Counselors said it was a phase I was going through. "I got really angry. Then I saw an Oprah show where a boy was expressing his feelings about being the opposite sex. I knew this is who I was. It was like a miracle." Angelina said: "He spends ages binding his breasts in the morning. He wants testosterone and a full sex change as soon as he is old enough." Talking about his future, Kaden said: "I imagine myself in a big house with a wife and kids. I wish I'd been born a boy - it would have been a lot easier."

Oprah's program also featured five-year-old Dylan, who was shown screaming at his parents: "I want to be a girl!" and bursting into tears when his dad Derek took his dolls away. His mum Sharon said: "Last year he stated that he wanted to become a girl. "I explained to him, 'It's not possible, Dylan, because you have a penis.' "He replied, 'Well, then I want my penis to fall off so that I can be a girl.' "He's been saying he's a girl since he was two-and-a-half. I thought it was a phase but now he tucks his willy between his legs so you can't see it."

Derek said: "I dreamed of having a son who played football for his college. "The other day Dylan told me he wanted to be a cheerleader. When I said boys could be cheerleaders too, he said, 'No, a girl cheerleader!'"

Hal and Kaden's parents said they let their children change sex after therapists told them they could be transgendered - boys trapped in girls' bodies. But Jana Ekdahl, a clinical psychotherapist and gender specialist, thinks they might have acted too soon. She said: "The one concern is that people move a little bit too fast in this process. Hal is a kid, so he should enjoy being nine years old. Try not to think too far into the future."

Of Dylan, she said: "Three things could happen - he could grow up to be gay, he could be transgendered, or he could grow out of this behavior." However, she added: "If the child is transgendered, they're transgendered. There's really nothing you can do to change that. "It occurs in the womb - the brain develops in one direction and the body in another."

There was funding for hormone therapy and a feasibility study was before government regarding operations but was yet to be considered. "Without the operation, transgender people like myself would never feel complete. You'd never feel like you were truly a woman or you truly are the person you are meant to be," Ms Beyer said.

TRANS GENDER BENDER

by Cam Lindquist, 365gay.com

Transvestite, Transsexual, Transgender... They are words that are part of the rich vocabulary of our queer education. I remember my first real "gay" friend telling me over mimosas at my first "gay" brunch that though I needed to know the terminology and know the differences between them, I didn't really need to give it much thought. He didn't really say why, but I kind of caught the message. "Gay men" didn't like the image that they projected and didn't want the heterosexuals associating "them" with "us."

And in all fairness to this guy, I was young and felt the same way. I knew I was gay, and really saw "them" as gay men in dresses. I look back and think how ignorant I was, but I really didn't even accept myself at that stage of coming out.

It wasn't until I started attending the Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) that I had any real contact with anyone who was transgendered. Sure this gal at the bar regularly kicked my butt at pool, but we didn't really know each other.

It was at MCC that I met Helen. Helen came to me for communion, and I didn't know what to say to her. At our MCC we served the elements of communion, and then spoke a short but personal blessing over each individual. I was really, really uncomfortable. I had made a false assumption. You see Bubbalicious, Atlanta's infamous Bingo Drag Queen, was in town for a charity event. I knew that a drag queen wasn't a transsexual and I didn't know whether to call her him or her. It was all incredibly baffling to me.

I stumbled over the prayer saying "this one" and "God's child" instead of gender specific pronouns. At the end Helen leaned over to hug me, which was customary, and said "That was beautiful. My name is Helen." She smiled and walked away. For the next few weeks Helen seemed to wait for me in the line for communion. She was persistent, yet silent, in her efforts to help me find my own comfort level. Though we are great friends to this day, we never really talked about the gender issues, we just related as people.

I think that was the greatest lesson I could have ever been taught. It changed my outlook completely. I had the normal biases that so many gay people have but thanks to our weekly contact I realized I was completely unfounded, completely ill-informed, and completely ignorant!

Helen was my bridge. I decided it was time to become informed, to understand. Our MCC at that time hired a transgendered woman as our senior pastor. This woman was completely dynamic, well spoken, and had all my questions answered without even having to ask them. I learned to see the journey a transsexual makes from biological sex to their actual sex not as a genetic mistake or divine error, but merely as a trial or obstacle in that person's quest to become who they are. I even realized it was no different than my coming out of the closet, just a thousand times more difficult and thousands of dollars more expensive.

I don't deserve any award for coming to this conclusion. In fact I am almost embarrassed to share this with the world because I am ashamed of the attitudes I originally harbored toward a group of people. But the older we get the more we realize how little we actually know. How does that saying go: If only I could be 18 again... When I was 18 I knew everything!

But what amazes me today is how many people still have those same attitudes toward transgendered people. I am not talking about young newbies, but seasoned veterans of the gay community. Men and women who I have always had great respect for making comments that are just inappropriate when our pastor or other transgendered people are out of ear shot. It just goes to show that we all have a lot to learn and that the learning never ends.

Of course it isn't all gay men or all lesbians - but there are a significant number of them. And on my many adventures out of town as I meet other Queer people I have found this to be true no matter where I go.

I chose this today to address because the gay and lesbian community are on the verge of a possible breakthrough with the legalization of same-sex marriage. We are so close you can taste it. But to me it is a hollow victory if we are leaving the T in GLBT behind. Here we are, a community under a rainbow flag that is supposed to celebrate diversity, but so many of us are excluding a group for being different. If we do that, or passively allow that, are we any better than the right wing conservatives who try to block our civil rights or the segregationists who strived to keep blacks separate from whites in the 1960's?

Continued on Page 21

MEASURE OF A MAN

By Christopher Lisotta

The Advocate, May 11, 2004

The Opposite Sex: Rene's Story opens with documentary subject Rene Peña jogging through the countryside. Handsome, muscled, and driven, he's a prime example of masculinity. That only grows more obvious when the traditional, God-fearing Peña, a truck driver, interacts with his pretty wife of 11 years, Wona, and their two young sons.

But appearances can be deceptive—although everything about Peña's mind and heart shows he is a man, his body still forces him to face the fact that, at least biologically, he is a woman.

Films and documentaries exploring the transgender experience have become all the rage thanks to the success of *Boys Don't Cry*, *Southern Comfort*, and *Soldier's Girl*. But Bruce Hensel, MD, a heterosexual practicing physician and emergency room director who has been a medical reporter on Los Angeles's KNBC-TV for more than 15 years, wanted to make a powerful film that presents the process of transition from start to finish.

The result is *The Opposite Sex*, a documentary in two parts, with each part telling the story of a different individual. The first part, *Rene's Story*, airs May 3 at 9 p.m. Eastern and Pacific on Showtime. *Jamie's Story*, which follows a male-to-female transition, will debut in June. After each segment, Hensel moderates a panel in which trans men and women talk about their own experiences. "I was so fascinated that so many people are so prejudiced about what they don't understand," Hensel explains. "I also knew that I could show the medical side. No movie has ever shown the full journey."

Peña wasn't Hensel's ideal choice for the female-to-male segment. Since the now-33-year-old was so masculine, Hensel feared that the audience wouldn't believe Peña was a biological woman, and he felt the medical journey he was hoping to capture on film would be too short. But after a meeting with the couple—and with prodding from his business partner, out reality TV producer Stuart Krasnow—Hensel changed his mind. "When we interviewed Rene and Wona, [the decision] was a no-brainer," he explains.

What was initially a liability became an asset once Hensel heard Peña's personal story. Peña tells *The Advocate*, "I told my mom when I was 3 years old that God was going to make me a boy, and I never turned back from that statement, not one day of my life." He refused to wear dresses and fought attempts by his family to make him act or appear feminine. At 11, Peña decided to live his life as a boy. "I just happened to have the strength to be what I wanted to be," he says, noting that other transgendered people often wait decades before taking that step. "I may be different, but I'm not special."

Peña's reason for doing the project was clear: He wanted to get his "lower surgery" paid for and performed by a world-class doctor. In his early 20s Peña had a double mastectomy, but he'd never had a medical procedure to alter his vagina. Although the film's producers refused to pay for any surgery, Pete Raphael, MD, a Texas surgeon who performs an innovative procedure that transforms a clitoris into a penis, did the work for free. One of the distinctive elements of the film is its graphic medical footage, which shows exactly what Peña went through to become a man.

Aside from Peña's unswerving determination, Hensel was fascinated by his relationship with Wona (the couple is in the process of adopting the two boys who live with them). Intensely loyal to one another, the former high school sweethearts were reeling from being shunned by their church after Peña's transgender status was revealed. "They have so many layers," Hensel says. "They really love each other in the deepest way possible."

The Peñas gave Hensel complete access to their lives, which play out with intense emotion on the screen as one revelation after another comes out into the open. Both Peña and Hensel insist that the film does not exaggerate. "The pain you see is the pain that's really there," Hensel explains. "And triumph, the triumph is really there."



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.

So Now I'm Waist-Training With Corsets, But Where Does It All Go?

(Part II in a 3-part series)

(c) By Ann Grogan 2004.

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[Editor's Note: This was supposed to run last month - my apologies.]

Many people who wear corsets have confronted and answered in the negative, "The Corset Question," do corsets hurt? Most everyone knows that corsets have lacing cords in the back that can be opened or closed according to the wearer's desire for comfort, or restriction. Nearly everyone understands that a well-fitting custom corset applies even pressure on the torso and avoids "hot spots" of irritation than arise mainly from uneven pressure of standard, off-the-rack corsets. Some know that most people can rather easily tolerate a temporary waist restriction of two, or even three, inches below the natural waist size, and that even a small waist reduction, by comparison with the hips and shoulders, creates an illusion of a far more dramatic hourglass shape, than is reality.

More elusive is the answer to the question of "what goes where when I corset?" This concluding part of a two-part discussion, deals with how the organs and bones could be impacted immediately and over long years of wearing a restrictive garment such as the corset.

Our Organs and Some Skeletal Structures Readily Move

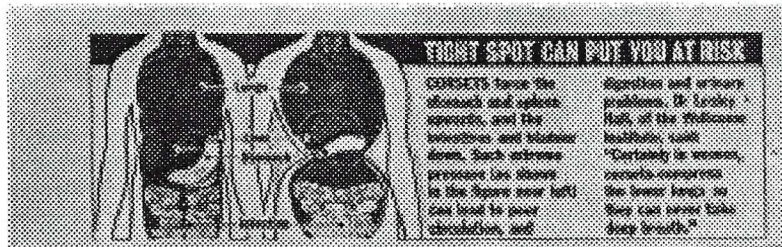
Yes, there is more than simple illusion going on. From personal experience of waist training for over 14 years, and discussing this phenomenon with many of my corset clients and enthusiasts around the world, I know that things move around inside when I corset and waist train, and that they move rather easily. They move readily in heavier people. Stuff that's in our abdomen is sort of squishy and fluid. There is real anatomical change which contributes to the illusion.

Remember, however, that even if things move around inside our bodies, as Leslie Kutsche, M.D., states in Professor Steele's *The Corset: A Cultural History*, "There can be marked anatomic deformity without any alteration in physiologic function." Which all goes to say that just because things move, that does not indicate danger or risk to your health. It's pretty certain that corsets change the shape of your waist from oval to round so that from a front and back view it appears smaller than it actually is. This knowledge was common in the 1800s, the heyday of the corset. However, no one seemed to know precisely whether the fat, organs, flesh, or bones actually went during corseting. Indeed, there is little information about old-time corset enthusiasts or tight-lacers.

According to Dr. Kunzle, Victorian women avoided medical exams and "... resorted to subterfuge because doctors at this time could not be relied on to show any understanding for the psychology of disease, self-inflicted or not," and "Most information comes from autopsies performed on bodies of the poor." Dr. B., the retired coroner I mentioned earlier, and O.Y. Dalziel pointed me to one published X-ray from 1904 of a corset wearer reproduced in *The Great Book of Lingerie* by Cecil Saint-Laurent. It shows that the lowest ribs are pushed upward by corseting.

Other than this, I could locate no other X-ray before those published in *The Corset Newsletter* provided by modern-day tight lacer Cathie J., which I'll discuss later. Apparently this potentially dangerous unwillingness to share important facts with the medical profession continues until today. One of my older correspondents told me that she had experienced massive internal bleeding after ignoring a sharp, persistent pain in her lower left side when tightly laced on a daily basis. No rupture or other cause for bleeding was found upon hospitalization, however, the doctors were unaware of this person's corseting practices, which since have obviously and wisely ceased. I have no knowledge that her corseting practices caused or contributed to this condition and she has no proof either.

Attempts to answer this question about "where does it all go?" continue until the present day, including the following interesting table of unknown origin or date, first published in a 2000 edition of *The Express*, a London newspaper, was republished around June, 2000 in a London newsletter, "The Hourglass Wire, Journal of the Hourglass Society." It isn't much more helpful on this issue, and I couldn't go much farther in my research because neither the Hourglass Society nor the physician quoted in the article could help me find the source. So I offer it to you for what it's worth.



Basic Anatomy

For a basic understanding of basic anatomy, I started with the *Boss Man* himself, Henry Gray, M.D. Dr. Gray wrote the book on anatomy, *Anatomy, Descriptive and Surgical*. He did it in the mid-1800s. My editor friend, Walt Kleine, loaned me his 1952 copy. I pored over it for hours as would some first-year medical student. Here's what I learned (view a diagram from this book below): The following organs are located directly behind the waistline (and are potentially primarily impacted by corseting):

1. The ascending colon
2. The transverse colon

The following organs are located slightly above or at the waistline (and are potentially secondarily impacted by corseting):

1. Two kidneys (on either side of the spine in the back of the abdomen, near the bottom of the right part of the liver. Kidneys are about four inches in length, more than an inch thick and perhaps more than two inches in breadth);
2. The lower part of the liver (on the right front side mainly under the right ribs);
3. The spleen which is adjacent to the liver in the left upper quarter of the abdomen
4. The stomach (bending from left to right in a quasi-L shape, below to the left of the liver but with most above the true waistline)
5. The pancreas (on the left front side behind the stomach)
6. The duodenum, or lower half of the first part of the small intestine (below the stomach and towards the bottom of the liver). The abdomen is the largest body cavity and contains the stomach, liver, pancreas, spleen, and kidneys. Its shape and size vary with age and sex, and from individual to individual. The lower ribs and muscles circle the abdomen, with the spine and more muscles behind and the diaphragm are above it.

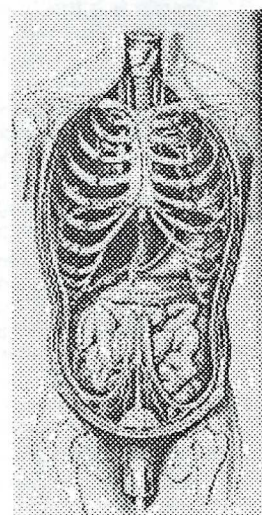
I was surprised to learn that the stomach moves more than any other organ in the body, and that it can stretch to ten or twelve inches in length and four to five inches in width! The stomach is one of the midriff organs that is not "tacked down," Dr. R.D., board certified specialist in Emergency Medicine, told me. No wonder we can so easily stuff ourselves to the point of misery, and no wonder that corseting does not painfully squish the incredibly flexible stomach.

As for bones, the spine goes vertically through the approximate middle of the torso. Ribs are elastic curved bones that form most of the "thoracic walls." There may be eleven or twelve on each side. The first seven are "true ribs." Cartilage connects them behind with the spine, and in front with the sternum. The remaining five are called "false" ribs. The first three attach to the rib above. The last two, or "floating ribs," are free in front.

The distance between the ribs is more in front than in the back, and more between the upper than between the lower ribs. Ribs get longer from the first to the seventh and then get shorter. The twelfth rib is much shorter than the eleventh and points slightly downward. Cartilage, especially between the false ribs, is elastic, more so in our youth. We hardly ever fracture our sternum because our ribs are like a spring, can bear a lot of force, and move. Dr. Gray mentions examples of diseased organs such as enlarged liver or spleen pushing the ribs outwards, and the "pigeon-breast" condition, which causes a depression on either side of the sternum.

Organs and Bones Primarily Impacted by Corseting

The most enlightening information I've encountered on the actual movement of organs and bones, was graciously provided by Dr. B. in a series of detailed e-mail conversations and meetings throughout 2002 and 2003. Dr. B. based his observations on some 30 years of experience in medicolegal laboratory medicine as a Medical examiner/Coroner in a large urban American city. He personally examined, interviewed, and treated several elderly women, and performed about 20 autopsies on and photographed the skeletal structure of deceased elderly ladies, whose ribs had been displaced by wearing corsets.



Continued on Page 21

Dr. B. says that "if you're dealing with ordinary, moderate corseting or weight loss and waist reduction today [of adults rather than teenagers or children], the organs are mainly displaced a bit and slightly reshaped. In other words, if two people of similar size, shape and build suddenly died, and we compared the organs of the one who didn't wear corsets with the others who did, the changes would be relatively mild and subtle." The only exception is to the liver, an organ secondarily impacted and discussed below.

Furthermore, "the pancreas is so far back [from the outside edge of the body] that it wouldn't be as affected [by moderate lacing] as [would be] the liver. In normal circumstances the intestine will move when it's pushed and will, for the most part, return to its original position in ordinary people today." Fakir, the life-long corset enthusiast and publisher of *Body Play* and *Modern Primitives Quarterly*, believes that as a result of wearing an hourglass corset "... [the insides] are reduced in volume and rearranged." He also says that an hourglass corset "severely constricts the intestines."

Organs and Bones

Secondarily Impacted by Corseting

Not surprisingly, Dr. Gray knew about Victorian ladies' undergarment fashions and corseting practices of his day, the mid-1800s. Regarding mid-Nineteenth Century and early Victorian style corsets that were less forgiving to the natural figure and undoubtedly ill-fitting on the modern figure, it would make sense for Dr. Gray to state that "Pressure from without [on the stomach] as from tight-lacing, pushed the stomach down towards the pelvis." However, with modern styles which more readily follow the natural body's curves, especially the Victorian hourglass corset style discussed below, I doubt that that is the present day case.

Regarding movement of the ribs, Dr. B says that his autopsies revealed the following.

1. The subcostal angle was typically narrowed in corset wearers. This angle is the inverted V-shaped angle occurring between the lower front false ribs, including the floating ribs.
2. Occasionally, some of the middle, or "false" ribs that attach to the true ribs, and the floating ribs, were slightly bent and displaced inward. This produces a chest shape more like a cone, as noted in CNL, No. 34, page 7, September 1989.
3. There was often a characteristic curvature in the chest wall. Specifically, the ribs appeared to be pushed slightly inward and normally curved toward the center, but in the approximate side-front, there is a notable indentation. The floating ribs tend to move downward.

In no case that Dr. B. examined had this caused or contributed to the death of the subject. I personally examined the X-rays taken by Dr. B. and was amazed to find clearly visible "in-out" indentations to the sides of the lower ribs of the ladies on which Dr. B. performed his autopsies. Whether or not this was experienced as "painful" cannot be directly determined now, although Dr. B told me he had engaged in lengthy conversations on fashion and lifestyle with several of these happily-corseted ladies prior to their deaths, and had heard no complaints.

Fakir believes that "The most affected body parts are the rib cage (lower ribs compressed, upper rib cage greatly expanded (sic) and stomach/liver/intestines which are mostly pushed upward into the thoracic cavity." (CNL, No. 34, page 8, September, 1989.) He also says the hourglass corset forces the lower ribs together and up and the spine is bent inward in a gently curve. In addition, he says that the pelvis is bent in a gentle curve while the buttocks are slightly constricted.

Dr. R. D. told me that the transverse colon is free-floating, as is the stomach. Therefore, these two organs would likely move about more readily with corseting, than the pancreas, kidneys, duodenum, and ascending and descending colons, which are fixed. As for fat, Dr. Jung told me of a study from Victorian times that demonstrated that fat at the waistline gets pushed upward and downward, and muscles do eventually get thinner from long-term corseting.

I felt much better after I learned just how flexible our insides really were. I hope you do, too. Incidentally, I also understood just how unnecessary lower rib removal actually is, to accomplish waist reduction. All it takes is patience and a little time wearing a corset to accomplish the same by much less invasive means to be sure!

Corset enthusiasts and others have debated for a long time whether or not Victorian, or even modern, ladies have had their lower floating ribs removed in order to tight-lace. Surprisingly, Professor Steele was unable to locate anyone who had such an operation, and inaccurately called this alleged practice a "myth." Even her source, John E. Sherman, M.D. of Cornell Medical School, thought the probability remote. I, however, know it to be true, albeit rare.

Continued on Page 24

I personally do not think so. I see history unfolding in a way I don't like. I see one group gaining acceptance and the prejudice rolling down hill to the next group. Not so long ago that group getting the scraps dumped on their plate was us. So why can't we be bigger and better than those before us and say no.

If only a few of us could say no more, the buck stops here! I can't change anyone but myself, but I no longer will allow any person to be demeaned, degraded, or demoralized in my presence: be it to their face or behind their back. I personally will respect each person's divine right to be themselves without repercussion or verbal backlash even if it does not line up with my preconceived notion of what is.

And doing so might just inspire a few more people to stand up for what they believe in and the world, or at least our community, might be a better place to exist. Because that idealistic attitude we all had when we first came out of the closet that the "Big Gay Life" was wonderful and fabulous, filled with love and acceptance doesn't have to be just an ideal. Sure we will never reach perfection, but we should also never stop striving for it.

A woman named Leslie, who the world lost to AIDS, told me this that I want to leave with you. She said that "a person's soul is like a crystal on your momma's chandelier. We are all beautiful to look at and special in our own right, but the most beautiful thing we can do is let the light shine through us and make a rainbow. Because it isn't who we are on the outside but who we are on the inside that really matters, and nobody knows who we are until we show them!"

Let the world see your rainbow.

Google Me: Personal Agonies Behind Those Transgender Headlines

By JULIE MIDDLETON
New Zealand Herald

Transgender issues have been in the news this week, with a Christchurch policeman, Steve Lurajud, revealing he wants to become female, and courageous young Hutt Valley woman Julie talking about how she took hormones from the age of 14 to assist her transition from boy to woman.

Like New Zealand's most famous transwoman, Wairarapa MP Georgina Beyer, both feel that their psychological identity doesn't match their physical body - a condition known as gender dysphoria. New Zealand has between 2000 and 3000 transsexuals, both male-to-female and female-to-male.

Check out Google and there are 1,030,000 entries for "transsexuals". Once you get past the inevitable sex sites - ("see chicks with dicks, live sexy shemales, and high-quality extreme videos!") - there are some really sincere, informative sites.

The site [Americanboyz](http://www.americanboyz.com) caters for those who identify as "FTM, MTF, butch, transman, gender outlaw, transsexual, drag king, new man, boychick, she-bear, shapeshifter, transvag, tomboy, passing woman, two-spirit, amazon, tranny boy, intersexual, female guy, tranz, boss grrl, bearded female, transgenderist, sir, kurami, hermaphrodite, questioning, just curious ..."

The personal testimony is fascinating, and you begin to realize what a tough journey transsexuals face socially, emotionally and physically. This comes from the Americanboyz site: "Being transsexual is not fun. It's not cool. It's not all that erotic, either. You do it because you could not do anything else and still be as happy ... there are many joys associated with that relief from pain, but it is a hard and difficult road."

This is from www.troadmap.com: "Self-acceptance is the most difficult part of transition ... Voice is one of the most neglected parts of successfully blending in as female. "Luckily, getting a voice down can be quite cheap. I spent under \$100 on voice [training], and I never get clocked on the phone." And later: "I feel face surgery [scalp advance, forehead recontouring, brow lift, trachea shave] was easily the most important investment of my entire transition."

There are sites covering hormone treatment, links to surgeons, tips on voice training, and how to tell the kids and at what age (7 to 11, apparently, before peer pressure outweighs parental influence, says www.ren.org/rbp06.html). Oddly, there seems to be less on FTM transsexuality, although www.tqworld.org/transemploy.php suggests about 45 per cent of all transsexuals are female to male. One site snorts that's because it's still a man's world - even if that man becomes a woman.

STALLING PROGRESS

BGLTSA's focus on the inane and polarizing disservices the club's ultimate goals

By **TRAVIS R. KAVULLA** and **ALEX B. TURNBULL**

[Harvard] The recent proposal by the Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, Transgendered and Supporters Alliance (BGLTSA) to remove the gender designation from 24 single-occupancy bathrooms would not, at first glance, seem to constitute a pressing item on any political agenda. If only the BGLTSA moniker wasn't attached to the proposal, it could be seen as a demand for most students' mere convenience, not for transgendered persons' civil rights. After all, when you've gotta go, you should be able to go, without the oppressive or "transphobic," to use a choice word from BGLTSA leadership, host of gender-specific signs, heteronormative supers and generally disapproving passers-by holding you down.

What's disappointing about BGLTSA's recent toilet-based activism and its character in general is that the club's disingenuous and alienating language does little good for its cause.

In this particular case, BGLTSA co-chair Stephanie M. Skier '05 has decided to liken the battle for gender non-specific washrooms to the much more significant fight for handicap-accessible bathrooms. Her comparison of the plight of a transsexual person to the plight of a paraplegic is not only absurd but also highly offensive to both the disabled and transsexuals alike. Suggesting that the discomfort felt by a transsexual choosing whether to enter a door marked with a stick figure in a skirt or pants is comparable to that suffered by someone who does not have the physical capacity to enter an inaccessible bathroom is a parallel drawn in extraordinarily bad taste.

But in BGLTSA's world, it seems, comparisons like this one are de rigueur. And in this instance, what is perhaps most disturbing is that no one seems surprised that BGLTSA has once again pursued a minor issue by these comparisons and by labeling those who stand in their way "transphobes." These inflammatory turns of phrase might seem to be merely new additions to the English language's already-rich vocabulary, but their effect in the long run can be much more pernicious. For instance, labeling someone a "homophobe" for favoring, say, an ROTC presence on campus is an effective way of ending a debate, not engaging in one. To be sure, Skier's pronouncement that "most objections to [the bathroom proposal] are blatant transphobia [sic]," may give her the rhetorical upper-hand by labeling potential critics as hateful, but it wins her no friends.

Beyond its rhetoric, BGLTSA has made a name for itself by holding workshops on sex toys and sadomasochism as well as inviting groups to campus with names like "The Lesbian Avengers" during its recent month of events, "Gaypril." And in this way, too, BGLTSA excels at turning what might be an opportunity for serious and valid causes into theater of the absurd. Making the face of gays at Harvard that of a masked and over-sexed person with whip-in-hand does little to endear them to the general public, nor to make the average homosexual feel more at home on the campus or in their company. Indeed, many may be only too quick to jump back into the closet rather than be associated with their extreme rhetoric. More than that, it threatens to diminish BGLTSA's credibility when it does discuss the prevailing gay rights issues of the day like gay marriage.

BGLTSA's bathroom proposal is not innately silly. (As we have mentioned, single-stall bathrooms sans gender specification is helpful to all who need to relieve themselves). But the general demeanor of BGLTSA and its politics certainly is, and it does nothing to help gay people on this campus. If BGLTSA wants to achieve things that ensure that people are treated justly, it should engage in debates and show critics the alleged error of their way.

—Travis R. Kavulla '06, an executive editor, is a history concentrator in Mather House. Alex B.H. Turnbull '05, an editorial editor, is an economics concentrator in Quincy House.

NEW SSA POLICY!

Synchronizes Records with DMV's, and How it Will Affect Transfolx

Passed on with permission of **Andersonne Toone**, by **Gwen Smith**

Dear trans people and allies,

I recently discovered something about which only those who have already been personally affected seem to be aware. Please pass this on to anyone who might need or want to know this information.

Prior to 2004, and even in the early stages of the implementation of new policies, the RMV/DMV was relatively lax in some cases. Trans people who passed as their affirmed sex could sneak in under the radar and get the sex designation of their choice listed on their Mass. state IDs and driver's licenses. However, starting in January, this happened: <http://www.mass.gov/rmv/rmvnews/2004/ssnotices.htm>

(Discrepancies in the sex designation field, while not specifically addressed on the web site, HAVE caused several trans people to receive letters demanding that they surrender their IDs for ones with their birth sex designation or face criminal charges of identification fraud.)

When the RMV went online with the Social Security Administration, their databases were synched. This means that the RMV officials are supposed to check all of your information prior to giving you the initial ID. Even if they fail to do that, the RMV is running systematic checks on all new and expiring IDs/licenses to check for discrepancies with your SS file.

Unfortunately, in order to change the sex designation in your SS file, you need a surgeon's letter stating completion of sexual reassignment surgery- this means genital surgery for MTFs and hysterectomy/oophorectomy or genital surgery for FTMs, NOT chest surgery.

Sometimes, people get lucky and get their designation changed with an ambiguous physician's letter stating that they have had "irreversible medical treatment for the purposes of sexual reassignment". HOWEVER, the aforementioned situation does not reflect official SS policy. The SSA can and usually will require a detailed description of the specific surgical procedure that have been performed. They are, according to people with whom I have spoken, even more rigid about this since 9/11. Moreover, people who are fortunate enough to have been able to obtain a state ID or driver's license stating their affirmed sex are now being asked to surrender those identifications or face criminal charges. This is apparently a nationwide policy change that has affected trans people in CA, MA, and other places.

People who have been stealth and on hormones for years are now facing a situation in which they will suddenly be unable to get credit, open a bank account, get/seek a new job, purchase alcohol products, take a plane or interstate bus, purchase a vehicle, get insurance, apply for health care or medical insurance, etc. Basically, their status will be will worse than that of some illegal aliens. If you think this is a major problem and a major infringement of trans people's basic human rights, it is.

Do something about it. Pass this on. Share it with journalists and lawyers who care. Explain to friends and allies exactly why this creates an unlivable, unworkable situation for trans people living in the United States."

Anyone w/ more info or who wants to strategize contact either one of us. I've alerted Zak from the BAR. I got the dread letter Colt refers to a few weeks ago from the head DMV office in Sacramento after successfully receiving a CA License w/ an 'M' designation. They said my petition for name/gender change would be revoked due to incomplete info even though my DR at Tom Waddell designated me as Male and my reassignment 'complete' on the CA DMV Name and Gender Change Form DL328. The word 'hormonal' as opposed to 'surgical' and my SS records contradicting the 'M' w/ their 'F' seems enough to screw me.

My license expires at the end of this month and I'm afraid to renew and potentially be outed and turned down. Especially because I am now in Durham, NC and will have to surrender my CA License while awaiting my NC one.

**In solidarity,
Anderson Toone**

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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 TGSP's PO Box, ATTN: Editor. Reach out and come out!



Remember Gwen Araujo!



'GAY PANIC' DEFENSE IN ARAUJO CASE

Vicki Haddock, Insight Staff Writer, SF Chronicle

How would a straight man be expected to react to the startling discovery that the woman he had been having sex with was actually a biological male?

He might be nonplussed. He might feel shock and anger at the deception. Or might he experience an enraging surge of what's sometimes called "gay panic" — perhaps in a wave potent enough to drive him to batter the individual senseless with fists and a skillet, strangle her, and then bury her body in a shallow grave in the El Dorado National Forest?

So goes a line of defense being advanced on behalf of two East Bay men charged with just such a crime against 17-year old Gwen Araujo, who was born Eddie but had identified as a female since puberty. Later this week, a jury may be asked to render its verdict in the closely watched trial, which is the latest in which defendants hope jurors will subconsciously recoil from the idea of gay sex and sympathize with the defendants' violent reaction.

Although the tactic was once reliable to persuade juries to be more lenient toward defendants who killed gay or transgender victims, a review of recent cases suggests it's now a tougher sell. One reason may be that experts say such killings of gays tend to be particularly gruesome compared with hate crimes against other groups, undercutting jurors' sympathies.

The term "gay panic" had its origins in decades-old research suggesting that certain men are terrified by their own latent homosexual tendencies — prompting the theory that a gay advance might yank all those emotions into the open and trigger an aggressive, even murderous, response. Several men convicted of gay bashing said they had previously been molested by a man or suffered guilt over participating in consensual gay sex.

But "gay panic" has developed a rather elastic definition, with some defense attorneys using it as catch-all characterization of a straight man's revulsion at being on the receiving end of a gay man's pass. Activists retort that if women were permitted the same leeway to violence when faced with unwelcome sexual advances, the world would have far fewer heterosexual men.

The Araujo case, of course, ups the ante: Instead of a sexual proposition, what transpired was actual sex. And the victim wasn't gay but transgender — something more exotic to a typical suburban jury.

Defense attorneys tried unsuccessfully at a preliminary hearing to get charges scaled back from murder to manslaughter in the killing of Araujo. Alameda County prosecutors have asked the jury to convict Fremont resident Michael Magidson and Newark resident Jose Merel, who according to testimony had sexual relations with Araujo, of first-degree murder with a hate-crime enhancement, which could earn them 25 years to life. Their friend Jason Cazares is also charged with her murder, although his lawyers said that, at most, he helped bury her out of loyalty to his friends.

Co-defendant Jaron Nabors pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter and will be sentenced to 11 years in prison in exchange for his testimony. He told the jury his friends became suspicious about Araujo's gender in September, noting that her voice was scratchy and that during sex she had never allowed them to touch her genitals. On the night of Oct. 4, 2002, they forced the issue and learned the biological reality that sent Merel into a sobbing mantra: "I can't be . . . gay."

An acquaintance, Nicole Brown, testified that she tried to comfort Merel. "I put my hands on his shoulder and said 'This is not your fault. You were a football player.'"

The brutal attack that followed inside the Newark home amounted to "manslaughter in the heat of passion," Magidson's attorney Michael Thorman told the jury. He contended that Magidson's discovery that he had unknowingly engaged in homosexual sex ignited revulsion and rage.

Prosecutors contend there was premeditation in the men's actions. "They decided," said Deputy District Attorney Chris Lamiero, "that the wages of Eddie Araujo's sin of deception were death."

Araujo's family hopes for a verdict far different than the one delivered seven years ago by a Boston jury against computer programmer William Palmer. He claimed he picked up Chanelle Pickett in a bar without realizing she was biologically male. The medical examiner testified that Pickett was beaten and "throttled" for eight minutes, but the jury acquitted Palmer of murder and manslaughter, convicting him merely of assault and battery. Decrying Pickett's two-year sentence, transgender observer Toni Black said "I've seen people get more jail time for abusing animals. ... We've been

Please Help Gwen's Family!

As Gwen's murder trial is ongoing, Syliva Guerrero (Gwen's Mother) and family can use all the support they can get!

Please consider a donation to the 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.

You can also contribute to the **Horizons Foundation - Gwen Araujo Memorial Fund for Transgender Education.**

Contact Horizons Foundation; 870 Market, Suite 728; San Francisco, CA 94102;

Telephone 415.398.2333;

Fax 415.398.4783;

info@horizonsfoundation.org;

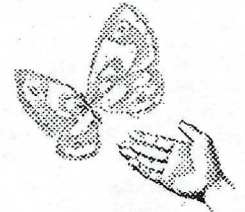
www.horizonsfoundation.org.

Thank you!



Gwen Amber Rose Araujo

February 24, 1985 -
October 3, 2002



judged expendable."

In 1995, Jonathan Schmitz reported being "humiliated" when friend Scott Amedure revealed during a taping of "The Jenny Jones Show" that he had a secret crush on him and fantasized about covering him with whipped cream and strawberries. Three days later he bought a shotgun, drove to Amedure's trailer and shot him twice through the heart. Juries in two trials reached the same verdict: guilty of murder, but only in the second degree.

In 1999, former skinhead Steven Mullins invoked a "gay panic" defense in the slaying of textile worker Billy Jack Gaither, who he said had propositioned him. Mullins said he and a co-defendant enticed Gaither with the promise of a sexual threesome before beating him with an ax handle and setting him on fire atop kerosene-soaked tires. The Alabama jury didn't buy "gay panic" as a mitigating factor: It convicted both men of capital murder. They were sentenced to life in prison without possibility of parole.

As for Araujo's killers, "This crime didn't occur because Mike had a bias. It happened because of the discovery of what Eddie had done," said Magidson's attorney, Thorman. "This is a case that tells a story about ... the tragic results when that deception and betrayal were discovered."

Of course, deception is hardly foreign to heterosexual sex — a 15-year-old girl might lie about her age to an older man, or a man may seduce a woman by posing as a photographer for Playboy. "Such deceits happen on occasion, but a jury probably would be unlikely to accept them as excuses for cold-blooded murder," said Cynthia Lee, a professor at George Washington University Law School and author of "Murder & the Reasonable Man." On the other hand, she noted, jurors are less likely to personally know someone who is transgender — and "it's precisely that lack of familiarity could work in favor of a so-called gay panic defense."

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TG VETERANS LAY WREATH AT TOMB OF UNKNOWN SOLDIER

by Phyllis Frye

I would like to briefly share my experiences this past weekend as a part of over forty veterans who are transgendered. We met in D.C. as part of an event sponsored by the Transgender American Veterans Association (TAVA) which can be found at <http://www.tavausa.org> or you may contact its President, Ms. Monica Helms, directly at mfhelms@earthlink.net.

In our group that weekend was a W.W.II TG Vet, a TG Korean Vet and two who had been in the Gulf War. The rest of us were of ages and had served our nation in uniform between those conflicts. Significantly, not all of us were white and not all of us were male to female. Those attending reflected the diversity of our country and of our current military.

On Saturday morning, May 1st, we loaded up at the event hotel onto a chartered bus and were escorted with sirens and flashing lights by a DC. police car driven by a member of the gay liaison in the police department. It was strictly V.I.T. treatment. We offloaded at the Viet Nam Veterans Wall and spent several hours with other tourists at the Wall, at the Korean Memorial and at the newly opened World War II Memorial.

As we initially began to walk along the Wall, one of the transgender veterans that I was walking behind began to falter. I quickly came up to her and said, "you have someone on this wall." She said yes, a cousin, and that this was her first time here, and she did not know it would affect her so strongly. Another vet and I took her to get the cousin's name location. When we found the cousin's name, it was high up on one of the tallest panels. The Park Ranger set up a ladder and took a rubbing off of the wall. This transgendered veteran began to sob, and I held her close for several minutes. I have been to the Wall six times now, and it is always a powerful experience.

We went to the Korean Memorial and to the World War II Memorial. While at W.W.II, we sat to rest and a woman approached us, saying that she and her husband had met some in our group and was curious as to the name of our group. We gave them the full story, and they sat down to visit and to learn. They were very proud of our coming that day and said they wanted to attend the placing of our wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier scheduled for 3:05 that afternoon. Throughout the weekend, our entire TAVA group shared similar stories of ordinary citizens, touring the memorials, and showing respect for our being veterans.

Next we bused to the Iwo Jima Memorial for a short visit and picture taking. Then we bused to Arlington National Cemetery and walked to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. If there was ever an appropriate place for transgender veterans to be, it was here. For it is truly unknown as to just how many we are. We were asked that question by people throughout the day. My answer was "many. When you think of it, what more masculine occupation would an emerging FTM want to try than the military? Indeed there are documented stories of FTM folks serving and fighting in the American Revolution and the Civil War. And for an MTF who is doing everything possible to deny or trying to kill-off the feminine impulse, what better way to try. That is why so many of us MTFs are Eagle Scouts and veterans as well as police officers, fire fighters and paramedics. Yes, lots of us."

We watched a Changing of the Guard (twice each hour on the half hours) and a Laying of the Wreath (four times each hour at 5, 20, 35 and 50 minutes past the hour) for our group. We learned later that our wreath had been somehow lost, but members of our Transgender Honor Guard (selected by drawing of names from a hat at the previous night's reception, sponsored by Mara Keisling's organization, National Center for Transgender Education, located in D.C.) would have none of that. They went up the chain of command and within five minutes, our wreath was found.

And as it was placed, the Sergeant of the Guard announced in his clear and bold voice, just as he had done for the previous group, "This wreath is being placed by the Transgender American Veterans Association."

I began to cry. Others did too. For those of you who do not know, I began to be an out activist on August 20th of 1974 — almost three decades ago. It is always a struggle to get people to give us the simply human dignity of using our name. I was expecting him to short us by saying TAVA, or tg vets, or something less. But as he stood in his dress blues, at that sacred site and proclaimed the words, "This wreath is being placed by the Transgender American Veterans Association," I began to cry. Then there was a salute. And then there was TAPS.

After the ceremony, I went with two transgender veterans to find the markers of people that were significant to them who were buried there. It was a beautiful thing to do. That night we had a dinner. Speeches were made. More healing took place. The next morning many of us shared breakfast and then we went our ways to our homes.

As much as I have been through for transgender rights in the past, almost thirty years, this was different. I was changed by it. I hope that the leaders of TAVA do it again. I hope that you come with us next time.

Corseting: Where Does It All Go?...

Continued from Page 21

One of my transsexual clients, a professor at a Southern California college, told me that Robert Gilmer, M.D., a cosmetic surgeon in Nashville, Tennessee, successfully removed one each of his floating ribs. Douglas Ousterhout, M.D., a well-known San Francisco cosmetic surgeon primarily serving the transgendered community, told me he does not perform such surgeries because of his concern about this risk. Another client, Elaine, told me she, too, had this procedure done, with positive results. I contacted her surgeon, Sheila Kirk, M.D., who graciously provided the following information.

Dr. Kirk is a physician and gynecological surgeon, now a research physician at the Parsed Center of Pittsburgh (a counseling center for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered clients). She told me that in May, 2003, she and a former colleague, Ernest K. Manders, M.D., a plastic and reconstructive micro-surgeon and professor at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center in Pennsylvania, conducted eight such procedures when they practiced at their Transsexual Surgical and Medical Care Center in Pittsburgh. These surgeons developed an innovative, minimally-invasive technique for removal of the eleventh and twelfth lowermost ribs (the floating ribs attached only to the spinal column in back) on both sides of the body through a small, one- to two-inch incision on either side of the spinal column. Long unsightly incisions were eliminated.

Direct visualization was used most often, with occasional endoscopy viewing. There were no ill effects noted during or after the surgeries. Full recovery occurred in about one week in each case, and there were expected, observable, and immediate body-reshaping beneficial results of a one- to two-inch waistline reduction. Unfortunately, Dr. Kirk did not provide before and after photos to view this difference.

Drs. Kirk and Manders prepared a paper discussing this procedure for the magazine "TransMed", and concluded, "We believe that the narrowed and tapered effect to the MTF's (male-to-female) waist adds greatly to create a shapely, more feminine torso." ("Minimally Invasive Rib Removal: Obtaining A More Feminine Torso Through a New Surgical Technique," TransMed Article, September 1998).

They also reported that, "The action of the lowermost floating ribs is not involved in the important first phase of breathing or inspiration. They act with the abdominal musculature to antagonize the very activity of all the other ribs of the thoracic cage. The prime function in respiration of all the ribs and the chest bone is to allow chest expansion and increase chest cage space to allow for increased lung volume in inspiration. The diaphragm descends to aid this process. Abdominal wall muscles and the floating ribs work against the physiologic function, hence removal of them will facilitate respiration, not impede it, and even increased lung activity as in exercise is not interfered with or compromised."

I had heard that this rib removal procedure was controversial because of the substantial risk of infection in the casings of the ribs. Dr. Kirk told me that this is rare, and that rib removal is not an uncommon procedure for harvesting bone for transplant and reconstructive purposes in other parts of the body. However, it is usually conducted by chest surgeons who are not surgeons-of-choice for the transgendered community.

In addition, Dr. Kirk said that the procedure used was specially developed to minimize risk of perforation and introduction of infection into rib casings or the lung lining. Coupled with adequate follow-up care, surgeries were completely successful. I had also heard that these ribs eventually grew back. Dr. Kirk stated that "while growth or regeneration can take place it is minimal and proceeds from where the rib was divided at the original incision site . . . at the back one inch from the spinal column. If regrowth occurs at all, only small nipples of bone over many years will be evident." In addition, any growth rate is very slow.

Gratefully, corseting is a much less physically painful procedure than rib removal (however, rib surgery pain, while intense or even extreme during the first few days after surgery, rapidly diminishes in about a week, according to Dr. Kirk). In addition, waist training with corsets is a much less expensive and invasive method of moving skin and bone around and shrinking the waistline. All it takes is patience and a little time wearing a corset to accomplish the same.

Part 3 of this series will continue in next month's Channel.

Show Your Pride!

Unity - May 22, 2004

Unity

AN INCREDIBLE NIGHT!

By Roxy Carmichael-Hart

T-girls dancing with leather boys. FTM's rocking with court royalty. Everyone having a great time. It was amazing, it was fantastic, it was UNITY.

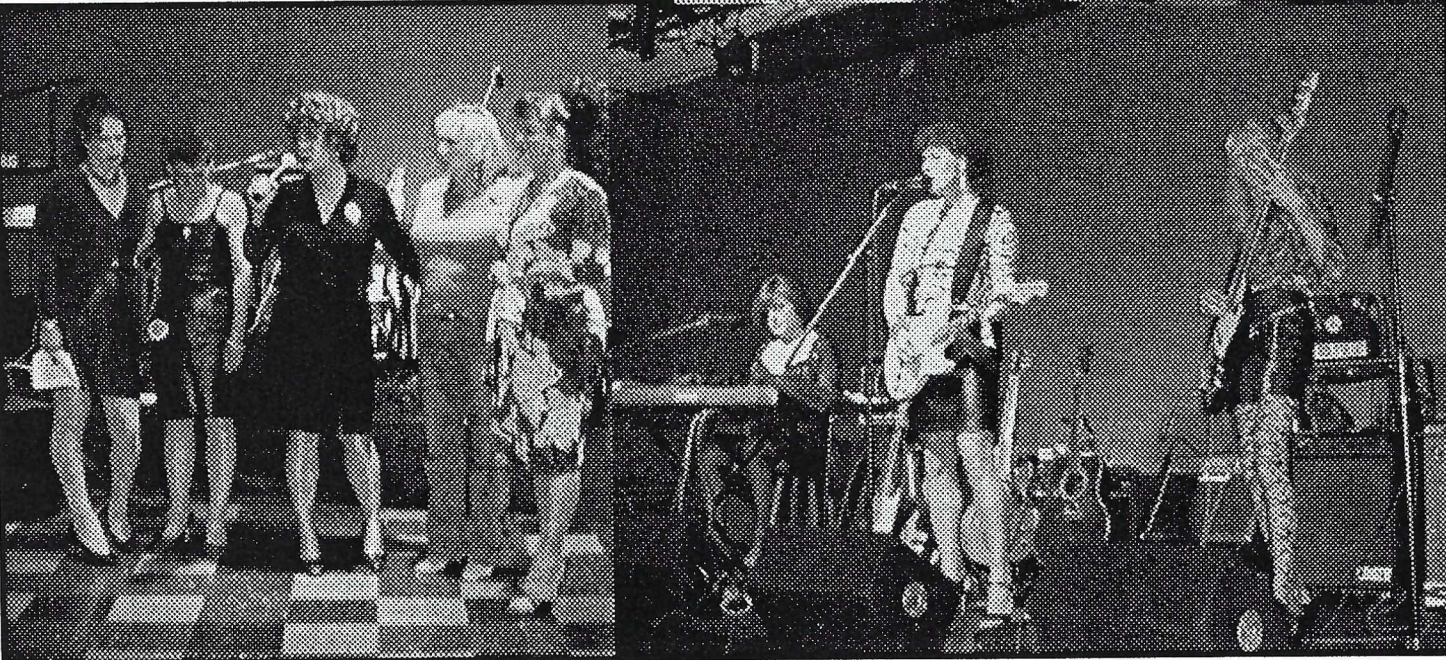
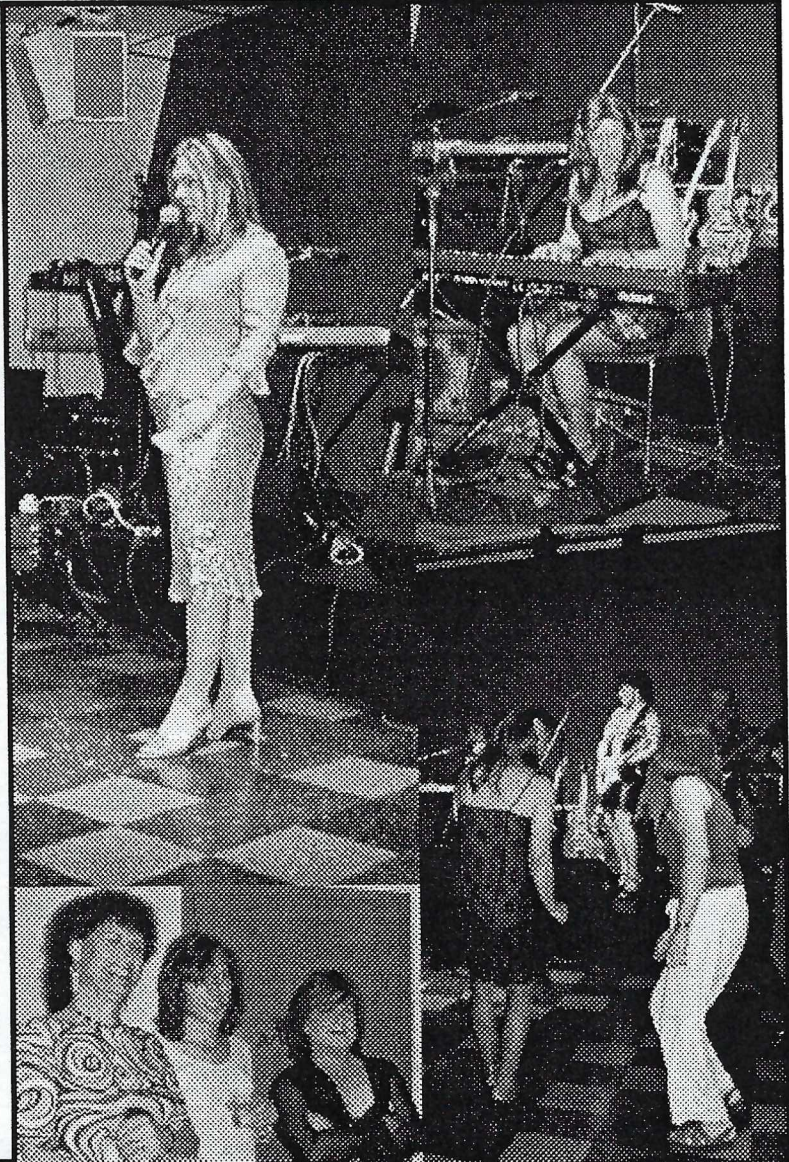
Unity – the act of coming together. We can, we will and we did. This fabulous event, held on May 22, was the brainchild of our own Miss TGFSF, but she had plenty of help. It is always impossible to name everyone and to appropriately thank them. But I am so proud of all of those who helped realize this dream – Dawnne, Tommi, Kelly...the list goes on and on. Tiffany Woods was a gorgeous MC. The talent was, well, diverse and fun and unique. And spectacular. Lipstick Conspiracy was their usual hard rocking selves and I finally got to hear their whole set (including the *Mary Tyler Moore Show* theme. Our ladies from TransCentral Station – Keri, Kelly and Ari, brought people to their feet dancing up a storm. Anne Louise sang the blues. CJ did some wonderful acoustic numbers. Jonah (I think that was her name) did soul that would have made Aretha proud. We had the Faux Girls from Marlena's and some tranny hip-hop. Something for everyone. Sorry if I left someone out. I thank you for your generous donation of your time that made the night the special one that it was.

But mostly, it was about the people. Joanne Keatley discussing her work Bobby and Tyler discussing their journeys. The royal courts of San Francisco and San Jose, including Reigning Empresses China Silk and Rachael Janelle, respectively. Seeing people you hadn't seen in a while. Seeing new people for the first time and people you have gotten to know better. Our community is about the people in it. It is not about organizations or presidents or empresses. It's about people – learning, understanding, knowing, growing. That is a process that I hope will last forever. The more we know, the better we will be.

It's been a long day. It began early this morning to reserve a truck for Pride. It continued with a visit to a hotel as a possible Cotillion venue. And it ended with something that I hope will be the beginning.

Tonight was about "we", not about "me". Tonight was about one thing – we are, we can, we must, we will and we did. And it was fitting that Unity was this night. For on the same night, there was a celebration of the remarkable achievements and the love of one incredible man for his community. Let us all vow that whatever we do, we will always look to as inspiration, the legacy of Daddy Alan Selby.

I love you all.



Unity - May 22, 2004



Another semi-annual Make-over

Date: 21st August 2004

Place: MAC Cosmetics,
Bloomingdales, Stanford Mall

Time: Throughout the day

This event continues to be a success for TGSF, MAC,
and Bloomingdales.

The event will be held in a private room in
Bloomingdales. Senior MAC makeup artists will be
there to help you build your look and teach you how
to do it again. No charge for TGSF members,
although is considered polite to purchase \$40 of
product. Refreshments will be provided.

Contact Siobhan Ellis for more details:
siobhanellis@hotmail.com or call 408-431-6997.

