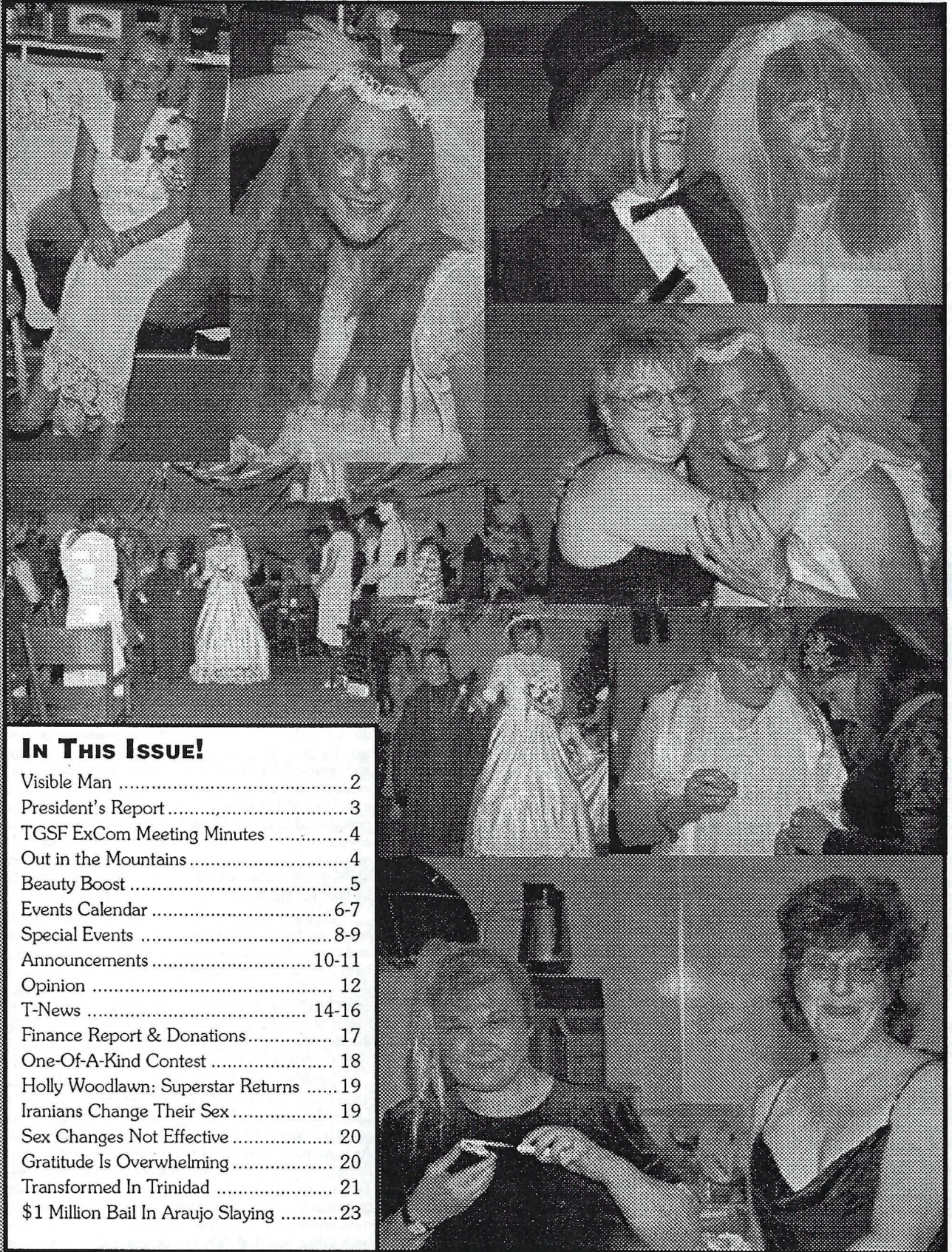


Wedding Bells Ring for TGSF!



The Channel

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

The Channel

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

ExCom 2004 - 2005 Officers

(Fiscal Year: May 1 - April 30)

President	Roxy Carmichael-Hart
Vice President	Laura Marlowe
Secretary	Siobhán Ellis
Treasurer	Pamela Gray
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Outreach	Kara Flynn Allison D Laureano
Social	Anne Louise Mortenson Tommie Watson
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TGSF Outreach Ambassador	Kelly Anne Marsh

Fine Print

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

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

Newsletter Staff

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

Ad Rates

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

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

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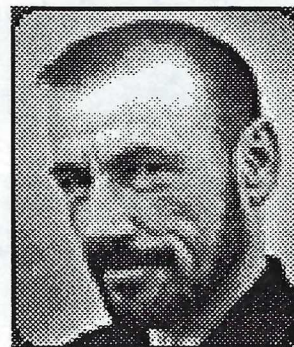
Your Editor is on vacation.

Visible Man

JUST LIKE CHANGING CLOTHES

by Jamison Green

Jamison Green offers a man's POV on life in the trans lane: opinion, advice and information from an internationally respected leader of the FTM community. His new book, "Becoming a Visible Man", has just been published by Vanderbilt University Press.



A Florida Court of Appeal ruled on July 23, 2004, that transsexual people are not allowed to marry persons of their birth sex. This is the ongoing story of the Kantaras divorce and child-custody case, in which a Florida circuit court judge (in February 2003) validated the male status of Michael Kantaras at the time of his marriage to Linda Kantaras. The reversal of the trial court opinion hinges on one question: whether Michael was legally male under Florida law when he married Linda.

It is telling, I think, that in their written decision, the appellate judges note that this is the question, and they respond to it immediately by providing the legislative history of anti-same-sex marriage in Florida, which is a longer history than contemporary activists who think this fight began with the Defense of Marriage Act might imagine. In fact it began in 1977, with a specification in the statute governing the issuance of marriage licenses stipulating that "No county court judge or clerk of the circuit court in this state shall issue a license for the marriage of any person unless one party is a male and the other party is a female." It was 20 years later, in 1997, that the Florida legislature enacted the Florida Defense of Marriage Act, which reinforces the first principle and further specifies that Florida will not recognize a same-sex union legalized anywhere else.

Next, the appellate court proceeded to outline a number of previous cases in which transsexual people were determined to be members of the class of their birth sex, for purposes of marriage, regardless of any medical determination otherwise. The judges do note two conflicting cases, one in New Jersey in 1976 and one in Australia in 2001, in which transsexual individuals were acknowledged as members of their new sex for purposes of marriage. Then they abruptly and flatly disagreed with the argument of Michael Kantaras that "the approach taken by the majority of courts in the United States that have addressed the issue of transsexual marriage ignore modern medical science."

The point, the judges say, is that Florida statutes governing marriage do not authorize a postoperative transsexual to marry in the reassigned sex. Because they believe that the common meaning of the terms male and female refer to immutable traits determined at birth, regardless of advances in medical science, there is no basis in law to declare Michael Kantaras a male for the purposes of marriage. They say the matter is one of public policy, and until the legislature provides for the legal existence of transsexual people, and clearly validates their reassigned sex for purposes of marriage, Michael Kantaras is only permitted to marry another man, since his birth sex is (theoretically) immutable, no matter what he looks like, how he lives his life or to whom he is sexually attracted.

So the Florida court has dumped the matter into the lap of the legislature, saying the legislature must recognize sex-reassignment procedures and enact a law permitting postoperative transsexual people to obtain new birth certificates, as many other states have done. While such a statute would certainly be helpful, it should not be necessary. There's no reason a court can't rule on these matters. Other courts have similarly washed their hands of transsexual matters by saying it's not up to them, it's a matter for the legislature. And legislatures say it's a matter for the courts to decide. With no one willing to take a stand, transsexual people fall into an abyss.

Ironically, no one would even have noticed this case if one party hadn't used the homophobia of the law as a weapon against the other. Linda Kantaras used the biggest, bluntest weapon at her disposal to express her anger at Michael, and this court of appeal has helped her wield it. As in so many cases involving transsexual people, the issue shifts from one thing (in this case, divorce and child custody; in, for example, the Littleton, Texas, case, a wrongful-death claim against a physician) to another as the transsexual person is suddenly put on trial for being transsexual — not male and not female, but something not entitled to legal standing, or shoved back into a box that didn't fit before and certainly doesn't fit now.

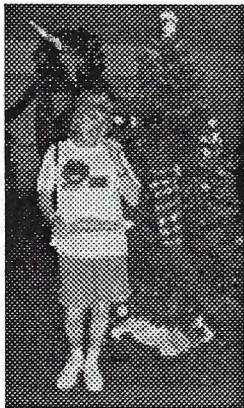
Continued on Page 4

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It's late September and you really should be back at school.....

Oh how I wish it were September. That means I will have been moved. But no, it is still late July and I am still buried with boxes. But by the time you get this, things should be calmed down.

I decided to celebrate my Christmas early and attend the IRLM's Christmas in July Party at Carla's. What a great time! Our own Siobhán, as you know, is a Crown Princess in the court and she did a couple of hot and sexy lip synch numbers. I am proud to say that I made her retrieve the tip I gave her with her teeth. From my mouth. Anyway, I was able to provide the Christmas ornaments, which I hadn't opened in 8 years. It was nice to be able to appreciate them for a while before they had to go back into the box. I also picked up a new tile - "Cookie Princess 003". (Angela Acosta and Siobhán are 001 and 002 respectively.) Anyway check out the picture of the mistress of the cookies.



Seriously now, our Cotillion is coming together quite rapidly. We have our allotment of judges confirmed. I am pleased to report that Jo-An Torres will be in charge of costume design. Although I have not seen her production of "Chicago" and other shows, I understand that she does great work so she is going to be helping with the costuming as well as taking care of the contestants. I am very happy to have her as a part of our team. Some of the other key staff are already on board. By the time you receive this I hope to have the ticketing arrangements in place and you can begin to order your tickets. As we noted last month, our two host hotels, the Cow Hollow Motor Inn and Suites and the Holiday Inn Fisherman's Wharf, are already accepting reservations. Avoid the last minute rush and make your reservations as soon as possible.

We are also now accepting applications from contestants for Mr. and Miss TGSF. Applications and payment of all fees is due to me absolutely no later than **November 7**. All show details are due to me and Alli (our Stage Manager/Technical Czarina) no later than **December 5**. As you know, the theme for the show is "Back to the 80's". Within that theme, we have subthemes for the active wear and eveningwear portions of the show. For active wear, the theme is "Raiders of the Lost Ark" and for the Evening Wear it is "Cheers". So if you are planning on being a contestant, you may want to rent the DVD of both the movie and the TV show. And to put you in the mood, you should also rent "Fast Times at Ridgemont High" and "Back to the Future". We will keep the presentation portion of the program but all contestants will need to adhere strictly to the 5 minute time frame and judges will penalize one point for going over. Since the top three finishers last year were within three points of one another, not adhering to the time frame may very well cost you the title. Both Alli and I will be monitoring this very closely. We don't want to be draconian about this but we do need to keep the show moving and on time. We are going to provide a talent coach and rehearsal time to assist you.

Anyway, if you are interested in being a constant, please write me at roxymhart72903@aol.com. We already have four potential contestants interested. Please let me know as soon as possible since we are going to try to cap the number of contestants at 8. This is not being done to exclude anyone, but rather to prevent "Back to the 80's" from becoming "Back to the 90's", if you catch my drift.

We are also starting to sell advertising for the program. As he was last year, Tyler Fong is our advertising chairman. He did a great job last year with this as well as with the silent auction, which he will also be coordinating. If you have any items of note that want to donate to us, please let me know and I will provide the information to Tyler. Tyler will also be getting some ushers and we are looking for several handsome FTMs to take on this role.

Of course the show itself is going to be memorable. Laura, Alli and I will see to that. Laura will handle the production details (which means she does all of the jobs that I did last year), Alli will work with the IATSE technicians and handle the technical details of the show, as well as be the Stage Manager and I will write and direct. After the script is written, my job is just to make sure that everyone follows it. And presiding over the whole affair will be, once again, the incomparable Lenny Broberg. Can you imagine a Cotillion without him? I can't. It would be like jelly without peanut butter, bacon without eggs, Montana without Rice. There will be lots of the familiar and the comfortable but we want to keep the show at a high energy with some song and dance numbers. You will be amazed! Although I have a couple of skits already cast, I could use some more bodies. No acting or singing talent will be needed (all the songs will be lip-synched to 80's tunes); just the ability to memorize a few lines from a script and look cute and/or handsome. We can all accomplish that. Again, if you would like to be a part of the show, write me.

Lots of events will take place between now and the Cotillion, of course. First up will be "Beauty Magic Day" on September 18 at Carla's, from 2-6 pm. This day grew out of California Dreamin when several speakers requested some

additional time to cover their topics. Carla will discuss makeup, Anne Grogan will talk about her wizardry with corsets (I volunteered to be one of her models), Larry Zellers will teach you about wigs and wig care, and Marilyn Dahl will inform you about skin care. It should be a very informative and enlightening day.

Right after Beauty Magic, head on over to Hayward for the second annual Hayward Pride festival 'til 11 pm. Last year, I attended only a few days after my workplace transition in Hayward and I will be there again, perhaps a year wiser. Alli will be staffing the outreach booth and if it is anything like last year, lots of people will be asking for help and information. The next two weekends, look for us at the Folsom Street Fair and the Castro Street Fair. As I have noted, we are everywhere.

On September 2 I will complete my one year RLT (real life test). Technically the date is August 22 but who's counting? So I could conceivably take a look at SRS. I am afraid that is not in the cards for me. I am pretty happy the way I am and I would prefer not to make any changes at this time. I may head to Oregon on vacation and down to LA and Palm Springs since my only vacation this year has been (will be) surgery and moving. Not exactly restful, are they.

Personal note. Our Human Resources Director for the City of Hayward retired. She had said to me that one thing she wanted to do before she retired was to help me transition. She more than helped, she made it possible. Like Rachael and Carla and Jo-An and Jackie and Donna and Gelsey and Linda and Sara and all of the others, she played a role in my journey and I will be forever grateful for all she has done. And Peggy, our Admin Analyst also retired. When my decision within the City of Hayward became public, she was among the first to offer her assistance and support. So, Beth and Peggy, my column this month is dedicated to you and your beautiful and loving hearts. I will miss you.

**Love,
Roxy (Cookie Princess 003)**

MID-MONTH SOCIAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

TGSF is looking for some enthusiastic and motivated people to help plan our mid-month socials. TGSF used to hold these events but, due to a lack of staff, has not been able to continue these events. So, since all of our current ExCom members are overwhelmed with other projects, we are asking our members and our community for assistance.

The Mid-Month is a social that is held during the first two weeks of the month at a venue in San Francisco or Berkeley. Previous mid-months were held at the Thirsty Bear, San Francisco Brewing Company, and the Whitehorse Tavern. Unlike the monthly End of Month events, the Mid Months are much more social oriented.

All it takes to plan these events again is for someone to call a venue that is hopefully very TG friendly and see if they would be willing to host our event. Mid-months can expect anywhere from 10-20 people. If you would like to help with these events, please contact roxymhart72903@aol.com and she will present it to the Executive Committee for discussion and action. Thank you in advance for your help.



Bagdad Café
The Best Café in the Castro

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

August 1, 2004

TGSF ExCom MEETING MINUTES

Present: Roxy Carmichael-Hart, Laura Marlowe, Pamela Gray, Allison Laureano, Dawnne Woodie, Kara Flynn. Guest: Tyler Fong. Absent: Siobhan Ellis, Tommi Watson, Anne-Louise Mortensen, Damon Helton. Meeting Minutes of July 10 were approved as submitted.

President's Report

Roxy stated that upcoming Mr./Miss TGSF participation events included Hayward Pride (9/18), Folsom Street Fair (9/25), and Castro Street Fair (10/1). For Hayward Pride, we'll need the booth and Mr./Miss TGSF to be present. Roxy also suggested having a BBQ on September 11th. Kara said she would look into reserving a spot at San Mateo's Central Park. The Santa Cruz Beach Party was tabled since reservations need to be booked well in advance.

Vice President's Report

Laura reported that TGSF earned \$608.81 from the Partner's in Pride, and with the donations from the booth, we made more than \$1000. The actual profit was around \$500-600. More volunteers are needed next year in order to earn more money, and being a partner was actually easier than staffing the beer booths since they all earned the same rate. Allison also mentioned that more water would have produced even more.

Treasurer's Report

Pamela stated that there was about \$6500 in the account. We still owe the Design Center about \$800, Susan \$500, and Tyler \$400. Pamela is also working on the Federal and State tax forms.

Education

A TGSF Beauty Magic event was planned for 9/18, and Siobhan was arranging the MAC event on 8/21 before the Wedding Party. Dawnne stated that they were working with the TG Law Center to arrange a TG law event.

Outreach

Kara has arranged all of the current flyers and will send soft copies to Siobhan, Roxy, and Allison. Allison is working to arrange a booth at Folsom Street Fair, Castro Street Fair, and Hayward Pride. She has located the smaller banners, and is working on a Santa Cruz info night. Kara said she has been taking calls from the hotline.

Social

The group reviewed the Wedding Party for 8/21, and that there would be wedding vows. The speaker that missed this past End of Month Social said that they would be at the next one. He missed the past one due to a direction mishap. It was also mentioned that someone would look into Oui Three Queens for social events.

Old Business

Roxy said that the Cotillion advertising for GAPA would be corrected for their end of year banquet.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held Sunday, August 29 immediately following the Cotillion Planning Meeting, which will start at 1pm in the San Mateo Marriott restaurant.



Visible Man...

Continued from Page 2

This state of affairs — like homophobia, like “separate but equal” provisions, like “don't ask, don't tell” — is a failure of society to address its arbitrary, self-imposed limitations. We have to keep fighting for our dignity and for equality for all people. We cannot become complacent because we've passed some protective ordinances, won some legislative victories or put transsexual delegates on the floor at the Democratic Convention.

Linda Kantaras' legal counsel gloated that “The law cannot permit a person to change their sex like one changes clothes.” I change my clothes every day; I've never changed my gender; and I changed my sex only once, to bring my body and gender into alignment. I can attest to the fact that changing sex is not remotely like changing clothes. These people have it all wrong, and we've got to find a way to fill in the blanks in their minds so that they can see us as human beings. As it is now, they look at us and see nothing, perhaps less than nothing, because blind spots in their vision let them erase our integrity.

We've accomplished quite a lot in the last 30 years to establish transsexual and transgender civil rights, but we have not yet won the war. In fact, I don't even think we've faced the big guns as a community. We face those big guns privately when we lose our jobs, when strangers abuse us, when we sit in courtrooms and have judgment brought down upon us as if we were criminals because we are different. And we usually are so damaged by these assaults that we crawl away to heal ourselves. But we have to

Why Do We Transition?

OUT IN THE MOUNTAINS

Contributed by Rachel Smith
via www.mountainpridemedial.org
by Sierra Burke

Why do we do this? There are people that say we do this because it is fun or we like to play dress-up. I pooh-pooh their ignorance. I know girls who are fighting to keep relationships years in the making, debating whether to go back to a life sure to lead to death simply to stay with their partners. I know of girls that have given up everything they have to make their transition a success.

I know of girls that have said goodbye to all they know, all friends and family, for a chance at freedom, safety, life. I have heard of girls selling their very bodies because they have nothing left to get by with. I know of many who cry themselves to sleep every night because they struggle every day with the prejudice, injustice, and cruelty that forces them to live two lives, one real, one false, to live a craziness that wears at the soul, beating down the essence of life that keeps them going each day. So why do we do what we do? It is who we are. We are simply living. It is not something we are doing; it is like breathing. As much as breathing is something we do, so is transitioning something a transsexual does. It is what must be done to live. For many it is something that happens late in life, for the lucky, it happens earlier. For all who survive, it is something that happens because they reach a point in their life where they must change what they are doing or stop being. This is about life, about being true to ourselves and embracing the person inside of us that we have repressed for years.

So much of the world focuses on the physical transition and the change that is monitored and dictated by the Harry Benjamin Standards of Care. Perhaps less emphasis would be placed on all of this if transsexuality were taken out of DSM-IV [manual of psychiatric diagnoses] and treated as the medical condition that it is. Perhaps people would recognize the men and women that are crying out to be seen; the same men and women that are undertaking huge, life altering, medical procedures to be recognized for the people that they already are.

That is the key that society is missing. We are the men and women we acknowledge ourselves to be before Sexual Reassignment Surgery, not after. This focus on conforming to a standard that controls a set of physical changes removes the focus from living. Transitioning is about living. It is a stage of life for a transsexual. Unfortunately all of society, non-trans, heterosexual, homosexual, and trans, have placed such stigma on the transsexual community, and gender as a whole, that embracing the correct gender becomes a process as opposed to a natural evolution.

Continued on Page 5

Continued from Page 4

Unlike boys and girls that have no gender conflict, transsexuals are not allowed to grow up to embrace the gender that is natural for them. Their life path is altered into a gender development that society dictates to them. Only later does the transsexual get to learn what it means to accept, embrace and become the gender that they associate with. This process is not a constructed physical process. It is also not a process that the Standards of Care addresses. This is a life process that happens naturally inside of the TS person, often in a very lonely space and time.

So if we are simply living and this is a life process that has been altered by the constructs of society, why don't we change the path? According to an article on www.gendertalk.com, transgender people are more likely to be stabbed or beaten to death than other murder victims. This indicates increased anger and violence in the crime. In the years leading up to 2003 the murder rate for transgender people went from 19 in 2000 and 2001 to 30 in 2002 with a total of 294 deaths between 1970 and 2003. These numbers are coming from those names collected by the Remember Our Dead web project as reported on www.gender.com and are most likely not a complete count.

Very few states have gender identity listed as a protected class under employment rights. Health benefits are at risk for gender identity disclosures, along with educational benefits and other rights most people take for granted. With all of this, these reasons are only indicators of why we do not simply live but rather endure years of a life that does not match who we really are. The answer to that question is in a mirror. We love that person in the mirror, be it ourselves, our mother, our father, sister, brother, or best friend. We love the people we grow up with and are petrified that they will be the one that might support the bill to withhold health benefits from transgenders, or that they might be the one to label us freaks and walk out of our lives. For that reason, we conform until we can conform no longer.

It is with that same love that a TS person moves forward into the next chapter in their life. So many of the difficult, caring "coming-out" letters that I have read carry with them words of love and kindness. They try so eloquently to express to the person they are writing how much they love them. When we start to transition, it is usually an internal acceptance that this is something that must change. When we reach this acceptance we seek out ways to bring those we love into the true side of our life that we have kept from them. This is a process of trying to complete our lives, trying to start to finally live. As we live, more fully, we are freer to express our love, more free to contribute to the loving relationships to which we belong.

Why do we do what we do? Love and life. Transition is a life process for the transsexual, not a choice. It is filled with love, strife, and hope. We are living.

BAY AREA

AMERICAN INDIAN TWO-SPIRITS

Community Potlucks

Tentative Dates For 2004: **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

EYE SHADOW TIPS AND TRICKS

I often get questions about how to apply eye shadow and liner. Since so many different eye shapes and colors exist, the right look won't be the same for everyone. In addition, there are looks for day or evening, ranging from natural to dramatic, and everything in between. What look to go with usually depends on the time you have to spend on makeup application, as well as the event.

Natural or Day

For daytime or at work, eye shadow is applied minimally and somewhat conservatively. A neutral or light color can be applied to the entire eyelid. Eyeliner is an option not a requirement. You can apply the liner to the upper lid only, or if you prefer, it can also be applied to the lower lid and smudged with a sponge-tipped brush or a Q-tip. Another option is to apply a darker neutral color like brown from the lash line to the crease. A lighter color can be used from crease to brow as a highlighter.

You can also apply a lighter color ranging from frosty white to matte over the eye area from lash to brow. Then take a darker, contrasting color and, using a sweeping motion, apply it to the crease, concentrating on either just the outer area, or filling in the whole crease and bringing this color down to the lower eye area. What's most important about this look is blending. You don't want the lighter and the darker colors to contrast so dramatically that they look like layers. You shouldn't be able to tell where one color begins and the other ends. The two colors should morph into each other.

Evening, Dramatic, or Smoky

This look is terrific for a special event, and works nicely with a darker color. Apply the color to either the whole eye area as well as under the eye, and smudge, using either a sponge-tipped brush or a Q-tip. Those with deep-set eyes should be careful when doing this look, because it may make the eyes look even deeper set. Darker colors recede, while lighter colors project forward.

Break the Rules

Some myths I've heard are not to wear eye shadow the same color as your eyes or what you're wearing. Do your own thing as long as it makes you look and feel your best. If you find that a color palette is pleasing to you and completes your look, then stick with it. Try warm or cool versions of the same color, and you'll see what looks best on you. Never let anyone, especially a salesperson at the makeup counter, tell you what is in or out. Most of all have fun experimenting with color.

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.



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.



TGSF Events in September

Wednesday / September 1 / 7:00pm

MID PENINSULA TRANSGENDER SUPPORT GROUP

Nob Hill Room, San Mateo Marriott, 1770 South Amphlett Blvd. 7-9 PM. All are welcome. \$1 donation requested; no one is turned away. For more information, please write Roxy at roxyhart729003@aol.com.

Saturday / September 11 / 11:00am

TGSF PRESENTS THE END OF SUMMER BBQ.

To honor the end of summer, we'll be grilling in San Mateo's Central Park. Central Park is about 6 blocks from the Caltrain station in San Mateo, so there is public transportation available. There will be both beef and veggie burgers available, as well as an assortment of side dishes. Non-alcoholic drinks will be provided. Come out, have a good time with friends, and enjoy the great weather. San Mateo Central Park (El Camino and 5th Street), Picnic Area #3. San Mateo, 11 AM - 4 PM. \$5 if you bring a side dish or dessert, \$10 otherwise. Veggie burgers will be available.

Saturday / September 18 / 2:00pm

TGSF PRESENTS BEAUTY MAGIC DAY.

Carla's Salon and Boutique, 124 Race Street, San Jose, 2-6 PM. See Larry Zellers and his wig mastery, Ann Grogan and her corset artistry, Marilyn Dahl and her skin care techniques, and of course, Carla Blair and the magic of makeup. Admission is free; donations will be requested. For more information and to RSVP, please contact Carla at (408) 298-6900.

Saturday / September 18 / 6:30pm

HAYWARD PRIDE!

Downtown Hayward on Main Street between A and B Streets. TGSF will have a booth. 6:30-11 PM.

Sunday / September 26

FOLSOM STREET FAIR!

Yes, on Folsom Street in San Francisco. The High Holy Day celebrating perversions, kinks and fetishes - Get "spanked" by a tranny at the TGSF booth.

Thursday / September 30 / 7:30pm

TGSF END OF MONTH EVENT.

Dinner begins around 7:30. Our guest speakers will be **Dr. Luana Rogers** and **Dr. Annette Cholon**. For more information, please contact Roxy at roxyhart72903@aol.com. Come hear about plans for Cotillion 2005!

Coming in October!

Saturday / October 30

CARLA PRESENTS THE TGSF/IRLM HALLOWEEN PARTY!

This will be a join event with the Imperial Royal Lion Monarchy in San Jose. Details in next month's issue!

September's Birthdays

9/00	Nikki Lynxx	9/17	Lisa Gray
9/01	Tina Louise Vincent	9/17	Michelle Gordon
9/02	Lauren Olsen	9/19	Barbie Cebrian-Paske
9/02	Angela Marie Acosta	9/22	Liana Kastina
9/03	Carla Cabana	9/22	Sabrina
9/03	Terri Turner	9/23	Sandy
9/05	Betty Byrne	9/23	Francis Frinak
9/07	Luccia	9/23	Linda Moran
9/08	Melanie Hildebrand	9/24	Milton Miskel
9/09	Jerry Smessaert	9/24	Juana Smith
9/12	Jennifer Antoinette	9/25	Bobbi Smothers
9/13	Julia Debeque	9/26	Jacqueline Nugent
9/14	Jenny Lou Cotton	9/30	Jennifer Anderson
9/17	Richard Bonds	9/30	Sylvia Hakansson
		9/30	Misty Ford

Happy Birthday To All!

Cosmetics
Lingerie
Fem 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 - September 2004

OTHER BAY AREA GROUPS

Central City Hospitality House (CCHH)

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

Diablo Valley Girls (DVG)

Meets 1st 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.

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.

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!**

Pacific Ctr for Human Growth (PacCtr)

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

Rainbow Gender Association (RGA)

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

Sacramento Gender Association (SGA)

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

Santa Cruz Trans (SCT)

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

SCOUT (SCOUT)

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

Silicon Valley Gender Association (SVGA)

A new 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.

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.

T.R.A.N.S

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 2:00 PM T.R.A.N.S 7:00 PM I Love It Social 7:30 PM MPTG	2 7:00 PM DVG RCC	3 8:00 PM PacCtr 8:00 PM RGA	4
5	6 5:00 PM CCHH 7:00 PM PISSR General Meeting 8:00 PM DVG	7 7:00 PM SCT	8 2:00 PM T.R.A.N.S 7:00 PM I Love It Social	9	10 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr	11 11:00 AM TGSF: Summer's End BBQ 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
12	13 5:00 PM CCIH	14	15 2:00 PM T.R.A.N.S 7:00 PM I Love It Social	16 7:00 PM DVG RCC TG Legal Clinic	17 8:00 PM PacCtr 8:00 PM RGA	18 2:00 PM TGSF: Beauty Magic! 6:30 PM Hayward PRIDE!
19	20 5:00 PM CCHH 8:00 PM DVG	21 7:00 PM SCT	22 2:00 PM T.R.A.N.S 7:00 PM I Love It Social	23	24 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr	25 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
26 11:00 AM Folsom St. Faire!	27 5:00 PM CCHH	28 7:30 PM SCOUT	29 2:00 PM T.R.A.N.S 7:00 PM I Love It Social	30 7:30 PM TGSF: EOM @ Blue Muse		

TGSF MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Please Print / Check all that apply:

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

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

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

Mailing Name: _____

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

Address: _____

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

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

*Email: _____ Website URL: _____

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

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

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

Special Events!

TGSF presents

Beauty Magic Day

An afternoon of beauty tips, tricks and techniques featuring presentations by:

Larry Zellers, Steppin' Out Salon
"Beautiful Hair and Wigs"

Marilyn Dahl, DahIFaces Skin Care
"Caring for Your Beautiful Skin"

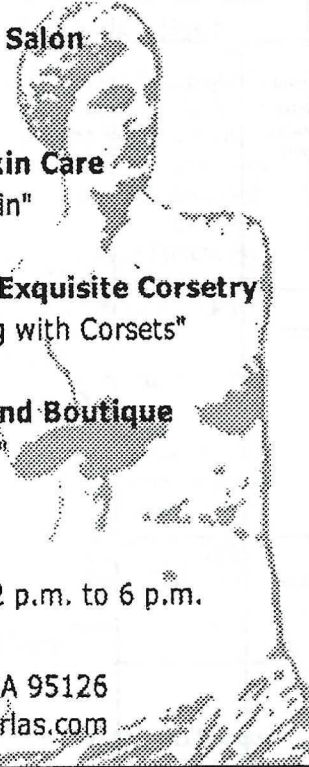
Ann Grogan, ROMANTASY Exquisite Corsetry
"The Beauty of Body-Shaping with Corsets"

Carla Blair, Carla's Salon and Boutique
"Secrets of Beautiful Makeup"

Free admission

Saturday, September 18th, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Carla's Salon and Boutique
124 Race Street, San Jose, CA 95126
(408) 298-6900 carla@carlas.com



September 2nd!

Transgendered sculptor and bi-fem painter collaborate on art show

VOLATILE BODIES: NEW WORK BY JODIE CAVINDER AND LAUREN SCIME

Hello, I just wanted to let you know that on September 2nd at the Jon Sims Gallery I have a collaborative show opening entitled Volatile Bodies.

VB is an exhibition of my sculpture and my very good friend and art partners' paintings. We are prospectively a Trans Woman and a Bio Woman. The exhibition showcases work of a self portrait nature that examines the psycho/physical identity interaction, paying specific attention to the differences between the interior self and the physical self and also specifically noting the similarities between our own personal views.

The opening is September 2nd, from 6pm - 9pm, with an after party in an adjacent Dance Studio from 9:30PM-? DJ and some alcohol provided. Jon Sims Center for the Arts is located at 1519 Mission Street (Between S. Van Ness & 11th) San Francisco, CA 94103. Tel.: 415-554-0402 | Fax: 415-621-4637

In addition to that, I am also currently beginning the plans for curating a show that has so far been named Transversal Deviations, which suggests the state of travel across or being on the "line". I am considering shooting for January as the possible exhibition month.

It will be a juried show with an open call for artists that I hope many people in this group will consider trying out for. Depending on the number and types of entries, the show will only be able to support between 4 to 8 artists with no more than 4 pieces each.

Also, since there will be access to the theatre, there may be a performance aspect which will open the exhibition to many more artists. The performance aspect has not yet been decided on. I may need to give a call for assistance in setup and organization when the time comes, so anyone who may be interested please keep it in mind.

If you are interested in being involved in Transversal Deviations you can contact me at transverse_deviation@yahoo.com.

Jodie

TG VOICES IN 55 WORDS OR LESS

The spoken works competition open to all types, styles and genders of TGs in the worldwide transgendered community.



Cash Prizes!

for the best and the most innovative works.

A book and a CD will be published and sold for the benefit of The Renaissance Transgender Association, <http://www.ren.org>

Entries must be recorded on tape or reproducible CD and accompanied by a written text. Please download rules from TGVoices.org

Deadline **June 1, 2005**

'TG Voices in 55 Words or less - 2005' is a charitable project of Transgendered Voices, Incorporated, a Wyoming not-for-profit corporation

TransNewOrleans & O.W.L. - the Order of Wild Ladies

"TRANS-MISSION 2004"

NEW ORLEANS PRIDE FEST, ARMSTRONG PARK

October 9 & 10, 2004

This year the first fundraiser for the TransNewOrleans "Trans-Mission" shall be the start of establishing a Trans-friendly shelter/transitional/healing housing for New Orleans and the Central Gulf Coast. We are asking for donations to help our fledgling/pending non-profit to purchase a booth at Pride Fest, 2004 in New Orleans.

This booth will sell food to raise money for "Trans-Mission's" filing and start-up fees, provide a space for outreach/donations for the Transgender American Veterans Association, HRCWatch.org, Gulf Coast Trans organizations, and others. We will provide literature on TG/TS/IS/DES issues for the public, and e shall also have folks from the Trans community to answer any questions by those people who take an interest in what "Trans" is, and what it is not. Volunteers and literature donations are also appreciated.

This form of shelter/transitional/healing housing is very much needed for the members of the Trans community, not just here on the Gulf Coast, but throughout North America. Many of our people die due to violence and desperation. Providing a safe, warm, helpful living space to help our people out during crisis times will make a difference in their lives and safety.

Please help support this effort to make a real difference! Be Blessed!

Morwen Madrigal,

Trans-Mission@bellsouth.net
919 Rue Spain, New Orleans. LA 70117
(504) 943-7037

More Special Events!

Coming in October!

PISSR RETREAT!

During the weekend of **October 15th - 16th**, People In Search of Safe Restrooms (PISSR) will be having it's first ever annual retreat at the Dead Cow Retreat Center in Half Moon Bay. This is an exciting chance to get out of the city for a weekend, spend time with some amazing folks, and help determine what type of work PISSR will do over the next year.

Everyone is invited! Please no later than September 15th if you are interested in attending. I'll start to figure out the logistics (rides, food, additional lodgings) when I have a better idea of how many folks are going. Thanks!

Bryan

September 17 - 19

TRANSACTION '04

This is the kind of thing that should be happening all over the world. It is the planners' desire to have this sort of thing adapted within our community for help in healing the wounds that many of us have by virtue of us being Trans:

This retreat is for Transitioning, 24/7 folks, especially those from the Central Gulf Region. Presented By T-Talk Of Mobile. T-Talk of Mobile's mission is to promote communication, understanding, spirituality and empowerment of all transitioning persons. Come join us for this one-of-a-kind transitional experience!

Camp Sister Spirit near Hattiesburg Mississippi, provides a lovely natural setting and rustic cabins perfect for networking with other Transgender people from throughout the South, unhampered by outside distractions. Several informative workshops will stimulate sober discussions and awareness of our communities, concerns and needs. Plenty of time to relax, mingle, and socialize is also planned, since knowing one another promotes understanding, fun and community.

This is our time to build a strong, loving, inclusive community; and to develop ways of being powerful and effective on our own behalf. In order to be as inclusive as possible, fees for the weekend retreat will be on a sliding scale \$10 to \$20 based on each person's ability to pay. This covers your lodging, food, use of all the camp's facilities, and all workshops.

For this event we are asking that we each also donate \$5 worth of supplies to Camp Sister Spirit. Which could include can foods, paper items, or dry goods. For more information, contact lesliets@comcast.net, or morwen_madrigal@bellsouth.net.

Romantasy To Present...

THE "CORSET DIET" SEMINAR IN ATLANTA!

ROMANTASY is pleased to be invited to present our "Corset Diet" seminar at the Southern Comfort Conference in Atlanta, GA, on Thurs., **Sept. 30** at 2:00pm, Sheraton Hotel, Peachtree St. We hope you can join us there and at our Marketplace corset exhibit from Sept. 29 through Oct. 2.

For information, check out the conference website <http://www.sccatl.org/>. If you can refer us to other Atlanta membership groups, and bridal or lingerie shops that might be interested in our presentation, or viewing our wholesale line of corsets, please let us know.

We're also available for in-home Corset Parties. We're planning a visit to the **Colorado Gold Rush** conference in Denver in mid-February 2005, and hope to see our Colorado clients then!

Ann Grogan, President (415) 585-0760.

Coming in October!

IRLM ANNOUNCES THE CROWN BALL

The Imperial Royal Lion Monarchy, Inc, a 501c3 non-profit company announces the Crown Ball weekend. The 1st & 2nd October 2004. Friday night, **1st October**, from 8pm is **Rhinestones under the Stars Cocktail Party**.

Join the IRLM at a Hollywood style home in the Cupertino Hills overlooking Silicon Valley with fabulous views. Give those rhinestones a dusting off, and give them a dry run. Entry will be free, and drinks will be low cost. RSVP is requested, and details will be given out.

Saturday night, **2nd October**, is the **Crown Ball** at the Bankers Club in San Jose (<http://www.bceventcenter.com/>). This fabulous location set in an old bank in downtown San Jose is just right for a Crown Ball. Bring your crowns and tiaras, and if you don't have one, one will be provided.

Entertainment, Dancing and Food included in the price of only \$15. Drinks, alcoholic, soda and water can be purchased. Entry can be gained at the door, but you can also purchase tickets in advance to make sure you can get in.

Siobhán Ellis

On The Horizon...

IFGE ANNUAL CONVENTION.

The International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE, the publisher of "Tapestry" magazine) will hold its 19th Annual Convention in Austin on **April 26-30, 2005**, at the Red Lion Inn (near 290 and I-35). This is a short cab ride from the Austin Airport.

IFGE is currently soliciting presenters. I am submitting several proposals, and I hope that Christie Lee Littleton and Vanessa Foster and others of my Texas friends will do the same. Deadline for presentation proposals is September 30th. Contact alng@mindspring.com for information on being a presenter.

You are encouraged to mark this date and make plans to attend. For more information, send a request to S. Kristine James, PO Box 61, Easton, PA 18044, phone 610-759-1761, kristine@aol.com.

New Vendor in Sacramento!

ANNOUNCING ARIEL'S CLOSET

Ariel's Closet will be a discrete comfortable place in Sacramento where members of the transgender community can go to be themselves. Cross Dressers, Transsexuals, Transvestites and those who care for them can go to Ariel's, especially those who cannot dress at home or who cannot go out in public. You will be able to receive mail, keep your clothing, enjoy social activities like formal teas, get makeovers and use computers at Ariel's. Similar establishments are Carla's in San Jose and I Love It in Fremont. Now there will be one in Sacramento.

No more having to rent a hotel room just to dress for an evening to go out. No more fearing the family or kids will find your clothes, or your boss will see you when you need to be who you are.

We take confidentiality very seriously. All members will be screened. This is a SAFE PLACE. You can join an e-list at no cost and give Ariel's staff input right now on what you need and what you would like to have. Your input is invaluable as this new service is being created. Visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ArielsCloset/>

You can also use a website that is in the process of being created. It will be interactive for the community. There will be a calendar of events, chat rooms, galleries where you can post your pictures, and forums where you can discuss things you chose and decide are important. Free membership to the website keeps out Spam bots and porn spammers. It will be up and running as soon as the domain points to the servers in about 72 hours. Visit <http://www.ArielsCloset.com>.

Announcements!

Community United Against Violence Volunteers Needed!

YOU CAN HELP STOP THE VIOLENCE AGAINST AND WITHIN QUEER COMMUNITIES!

Hey Folks, Community United Against Violence (CUAV) is currently looking for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, & questioning folks and their allies who are:

- * Compassionate people willing to listen to others
- * Folks who are committed to the struggle to end racism, sexism, classism, heterosexism, and all other oppressions

You can do something about hate violence and domestic violence in our communities. Volunteer as a CUAV support line counselor! (no prior experience necessary. Bilingual stipends offered.)

Fall 2004 Training Dates:

Saturday October 9 & Sunday October 10; Sunday October 17; Saturday October 23 & Sunday October 24.

All sessions run from 9:30 AM-6:00 PM. Full attendance at the training is mandatory. For more information, contact Vanissar at CUAV, 415-777-5500, ext. 323 / vanissar@cuav.org. Folks of color, transgender folks, women, and survivors of violence strongly encouraged to volunteer.

Community United Against Violence is a multicultural, multi-lingual anti-oppression organization that prevents and responds to violence against and within our diverse LGBTQQ communities.

Community United Against Violence, 160 14th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103. Phone 415-777-5500 Fax 415-777-5565 CrisisLine 415-333-HELP. Vanissar Tarakali, Support Line Director, (415) 777-5500, ext. 323 / vanissar@cuav.org

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.

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.

TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE ANNOUNCED

6th Annual Event will be held November 20, 2004

SAN FRANCISCO, June 16, 2004 - The 6th Annual Transgender Day of Remembrance has been set for November 20th, 2004, with over 100 separate observances expected world-wide. "Since last year's event, nine more people have died due to anti-transgender violence," said Ethan St. Pierre of the Remembering Our Dead project. "So yet again, we will be making it known that such killings are unacceptable.

The most recent reported case of anti-transgender violence leading to death is that of Cedric Thomas of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, who was shot multiple times on May 18th. Thomas died from those wounds on June 5th.

The Day of Remembrance began in 1999 as a way to draw attention to the issue of anti-transgender violence in the wake of unsolved murders such as that of Rita Hester. Hester was killed November 28th, 1995. Her death remains unsolved.

Unlike the murder of Rita Hester, many recent cases — including the rash of Washington, D.C. attacks that left two dead last August — show an increased vigilance on the part of law enforcement and the media to treat these crimes equally. "That we're seeing more stories about these cases, more arrests, and more convictions says that our actions are being taken seriously," said Transgender Day of Remembrance founder Gwen Smith. "yet there is still so much more to do."

Last year's event was honored in over one-hundred locations in eight countries.

The Remembering Our Dead project <www.rememberingourdead.org> exists to honor individuals murdered as a result of anti-transgender hatred and prejudice, and draw attention to the issue of anti-transgendered violence. Remembering Our Dead is a project of Gender Education and Advocacy, Inc.

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Instructional Video presented by Denaë Doyle

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or VHS today!

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Announcements!

City College of SF Health Science

Exciting New Course!

TRANSGENDER HEALTH: PUBLIC HEALTH STRATEGIES

4-Day Course - Saturday October 2, 9, 16 & 23 / 10 AM - 6 PM /
Cloud Hall 232, Ocean Avenue Campus, 50 Phelan Avenue, San Francisco

Course Description

This new 4-day interactive course provides a critical analysis of the health status of transgender people, and designed to enhance knowledge, resources, and skills necessary to working effectively in the health, public health and allied helping professions with transgender clients and communities.

The course will address various transgender identities, current health needs of transgender clients (including access to health care, hormones, silicone injections, surgeries, substance use, mental health, and HIV/STDs), the experience of transgender youth, discrimination and legal concerns, and skills-building in working with transgender clients.

Instructor: Lydia A. Sausa, Ph.D., M.S.Ed., C.S.E. received a Master of Science in Education degree in Human Sexuality Education, and a Ph.D. degree in Education, Culture, and Society with an emphasis in Transgender Adolescent Health and HIV Prevention Education from the University of Pennsylvania.

As a National Educator, Trainer, and Consultant, Lydia has 9 years experience providing comprehensive trainings for health professionals, and is a Behavioral Intervention Trainer at the California STD/HIV Prevention Training Center. Lydia is also an Adjunct Professor at San Francisco State University in the Human Sexuality Studies Program, an AASECT Certified Sexuality Educator, and a Certified HIV Counselor.

For more information, please contact the Health Science Department at (415) 239-3220 or visit us in Cloud Hall 363 (Ocean Avenue Campus). Please go to www.ccsf.edu to register for the course/enroll as a student at CCSF.



Mid-Peninsula Support Group

WEDNESDAY, September 1, 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

COTILLION HOTELS NOW AVAILABLE!

TGSF is pleased to announce that this year, we are offering a choice of venues for our host hotels, designed to fit those with varying budgets. Rooms are available for both January 14 and 15, 2005. Our host hotels are:

Holiday Inn Fisherman's Wharf, 1300 Columbus Avenue, San Francisco, CA

Room rate is \$105/night, parking discounted at \$28/day. Must mention "Transgender San Francisco" to get the group rate (lower rate not available on line). For Reservations call 800-942-7348. Rooms must be reserved by Friday December 24, 2004 to guarantee the group rate

Cow Hollow Motor Suites and Inn, 2190 Lombard Street, San Francisco, CA

Room rate is \$86/night; parking is free (one car per room). Must mention "Group 1696, TGSF 2005 Cotillion" to get the group rate (lower rate not available on-line). For Reservations: www.cowhollowmotorinn.com, or call 415-921-5800. Rooms must be reserved by December 14, 2004 to guarantee the group rate

It's not too early to start making reservations! This is Martin Luther King weekend so rooms will fill up fast!

TRANS

(Transgender Resource and Neighborhood Space)

TRANS is a program of the University of California, San Francisco which is entirely dedicated to the well-being of transgender people and we are staffed almost entirely by members of the transgender community. One of our staff members, **Damon Helton**, is also a TGSF Executive Committee officer, so I'm sure you have some familiarity with our organization.

Transgender Resource and Neighborhood Space (TRANS) provides a community gathering place for MTF, FTM, genderqueer and emerging transgender communities. In our space we provide gender-appropriate and culturally-appropriate workshops, linkage to service providers, case management, support groups, events, guest speakers, substance use/abuse intervention and mental health services to the broad spectrum of transgender and gender variant people in San Francisco. Our workshops and support groups address issues of interest and concern to transgender people such as transgender health and health care policy, HIV awareness and substance use/abuse issues, transitioning and surgical procedures for both FTM and MTF transpeople, identity and self esteem, transgender law, commercial sex work, and general life skills.

Through our workshops, support groups and special events, TRANS hopes to offer the transgender community of the San Francisco Bay Area the means to address concerns both within and outside of our community. Staffed by caring and committed transgender and gender variant people, TRANS provides an informal drop-in center where MTF and FTM transgender people, gender queer and gender variant people can go to relax, socialize, take a shower, and join in the ongoing effort to foster the well-being of our community.

You may view our website at the following URL: <http://www.caps.ucsf.edu/TRANS/>. Please feel free to provide a link to our website if you wish.

CONFESSIONS OF A DANGEROUS MIND

By Roxy Carmichael-Hart

Love and Marriage...

I got "married" on Saturday August 21 at the TGSF Wedding Party. Please see the enclosed photo of me with my lovely "bride" Selphie. This "marriage" has already lasted longer than my last marriage, or at least it seems like it.

I also was given the distinct privilege and honor of being the celebrant for the renewal of vows between two very dear friends of mine - Faye-Marie Gilmore Mason and Sydney Mason. When these two were married a couple of years ago, I had just come into the community and thus, did not get a chance to see the original ceremony. I did witness their renewal of vows at the CATS last year and I thought that this year, since our wedding party was so close to their anniversary, it would be a good experience for all of us to become familiar with this beautiful couple. Why? Because, as I have observed them over the past two years, I have been impressed and inspired by the love, honor, respect, and devotion that they show one another. And I got to thinking, isn't that what a marriage is supposed to be?

When we planned our party, we had no idea that the California Supreme Court would be issuing its landmark and completely unjust ruling against same sex marriage and voiding all of the marriages that took place last February and March. It seems as if a court ruling is supposed to protect people, yet, when I saw the faces of those whose marriages had been voided, I knew at least 8,000 people had been hurt by this ruling. I received a particularly distraught e-mail from a colleague and friend whose marriage to her spouse had been voided. She called the ruling "mean-spirited". She was being too kind. I call it "hateful", born of the hate that exists far too frequently in our society. If California, a somewhat tolerant domain of alternative lifestyles, can take such a reactionary approach to same sex marriage, that does not bode well for our brothers and sisters in other parts of the country.

Who is hurt by same sex marriage? The defenders of the "pro-family" (beware of any group with the name "family" in it) would like to have you believe the institution of marriage is hurt. Wrong. That went out the window years ago. A 50% divorce rate, thousands of single parent families, abandoned children, neglected children, unwanted children, adultery. That is the legacy of man-woman unions. No, the institution of marriage as a traditional family value is more than dead. It's extinct. The objection of those to same sex marriage is based upon plain old hatred and bigotry against "homosexuals". Listen to their voices when they pronounce the word. The hate just spills off their tongues.

The opponents of same sex marriage have not a leg to stand on. Recall that many of these are the same people who ask for less government interference in their lives. If I wanted to really marry Selphie (and who knows maybe I will some day) or anyone, whose business is it? Who is hurt if I as a transgendered female chose to marry a genetic man, an, FTM, a genetic woman or a transsexual? No one. Who is happy? Me, my spouse, and those who care about us.

What right does the government have to tell us who we are allowed to be happy with? Those who oppose same sex marriage hide behind the excuse "It's against my religion". Well the last time I looked, so was child molestation but many churches chose to sweep that little bit of immorality under the carpet. Child molesters are just reassigned to other churches. About 20 years ago, I attended a Christian Church in Modesto where the pastor preached very Sunday about family and love and fidelity and of course giving. His wife was no sooner in her grave than he had remarried, to a woman he had been sleeping with while his wife lay dying. Family values indeed. And the condemnation of this? Non-existent. See, it's ok to be a Christian and cheat, but a sin to be gay and faithful. Go figure.

I'd like to remind the religious "right" that God loves us all, as they are so fond of saying. Believe it or not, God created transgendered people. He is not going to discard something he created. I believe that God created me to be a transgendered person because He saw a calling for me which I did not understand until recently. I believe it is OK to be transgendered and to believe in a higher power whether you want to call it God, a tree or a cloud. It's your choice.

So what does all of this have to do with the price of rice? Why should the TG community care about gay marriage? Because. Marriage is defined as a union between a man and a woman, but no where is a "man" and a "woman"



legally defined. Oh, some of those in power have decided that they are going to make it as difficult as possible to change gender identification by requiring us to be biologically altered before we are legally allowed to assume to identity of the gender we want. Doesn't this sound very Orwellian or at least, like something out of Nazi Germany? Do you really want to become someone's science experiment? The forced surgeries that many of our members must endure, including the financial and emotional consequences is perverted, cruel, wrong and sick and barbaric.

To be told that we are not whole unless we undergo surgery is counter to everything we learn when we come into the community. Whose business is it what we have between our legs? But unless we undergo this surgery, we can be denied the right to live legally in the gender we chose. Don't laugh but I can envision a scenario where all

cross dressers and pre ops will be required to wear a little badge with a penis on it. My apologies to FTMs as I am writing from a female perspective. I see a scenario where those not legally living in their birth gender can be denied basic human rights, jobs, housing, the right to visit a dying relative, owning property and yes, even loving the person we chose to love.

The only way that we can overturn these barbaric laws is by exerting our influence. It will take time. We see the appointments in San Francisco of Theresa Sparks and Cecelia Chung as giving the transgendered community a voice in decision making. Unfortunately, change will take time. After all, it has taken years for women, African-Americans and gays to even enter the playing field, much less make it level. Others need to help us. Barney Frank - stop your opposition to a national transgender civil rights bill. Elect transgenders to office at all levels.

Elect visionaries like Mark Leno who are willing to go to bat for the transgendered community. Let's work together against the specter of hate and intolerance and let's get the government out of our bedrooms and start creating jobs for our citizens. It's a crime that 74% of the TG population is out of work. If as much effort was spent on getting our people good jobs as it has been on this ridiculous marriage debate, we'd all be far better off.

I hope my vision is wrong. I want to see a day when I can walk hand in hand with my honey down the aisle and to proclaim my lifelong love for him or her. I want my friends Cindy and Joanne to be able to be legally joined in holy matrimony. I want us all to rise up and to tell the California Supreme Court to, in the words of Kari, Kelly and Ari from Trans Central Station "just shut up".

DEAR TGSF,

My name is Eli Green and I am the creator and administrator of **Trans-Academics.org**.

I am in the process of trying to collect articles from various trans-scholars to host on Trans-Academics.org. The idea behind this project is to make academic and activist work about trans identities more public and accessible to a wider audience - hopefully ultimately increasing the amount of work being done in the field.

There is no limit on the topics that can be submitted, so long as they are related to trans identities and/or experiences in some way. We are accepting high quality student or previously unpublished authors, as well as previously published authors or works. The pieces that are submitted will be changed into PDF files so that they cannot be altered by anyone viewing them, and all authors will maintain complete rights over their work.

The hosted pieces will cite the original source (if it has been published), and the work can be immediately removed at any time at the request of the author. If you have any work that you would like to submit or have any questions, please contact me at eli@trans-academics.org. Thanks so much.

Peace, Eli

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Commentary and 7-News!

DEAR TGSF:

Good morning. I am Dawne 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 and a half. I joined TGSF a year ago, and have found wonderful friends and very committed people in the organization. I was elected as Education Co- Chair in April of this year, and am active on the Board there, as well as very active in affairs affecting my community.

Several months ago, I was contacted by a man by the name of Darin McDannald, who was doing some things for the TG community. He had been given some negative publicity, and I was, quite frankly, rather wary of him, just as were others. But I was willing to give him a hearing. We met at my favorite cafe, Bagdad Cafe, in the Castro, where I was well known, and where I felt completely safe, and after several hours of conversation, and my almost interrogation, I came to know a man that had a real heart for protecting and helping our community. He had no agenda that I could find that was harmful to us, and he was certainly not a "tranny-chaser", a rumor that was tossed about by the ones who read his initial postings.

I offered my help to him. I wanted to be a part of this idea. I saw a way to reach out and draw our community together, and to begin a program that could have far reaching ramifications for our community, not just here in the Bay Area, but even nationwide and worldwide. As I have seen the commitment from Darin go forward, I have become more and more impressed with this man. I have thoroughly researched this man. I ran him through criminal history checks. Nothing there. I ran credit checks. No problems there. I researched his personal family history. Nothing there that he had not already told me. And as I have seen his commitment, even in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds, I have come to deeply respect and admire this man. I only wish there were more men like him in our world. It would be a much better place for all of us.

When we began to discuss the logistics of the organization, it was discussed that the organization should be run by a transperson. I was chosen as the President when we filed the incorporation and 501c3 papers, and am going to do my best to fulfill that role. I have 25 years of business experience, as well as 30+ years in pastoring and ministry, which is also an administrative role, besides being a counseling role. I know how to delegate responsibility, and have already begun that task. I will run a tight ship, and will be sure to be frugal with the funds that are entrusted to me.

Much of what I see as my role in this is as a public spokesperson for our cause. I have numerous files already of reference material that I can use, and have already set up referral situations for medical and psychological care. I am working on organizing volunteers for sharing housing. As we move into facilities, we will provide 24/7 phone contact, with individuals answering the phones that are knowledgeable about our community and what is available. We will also provide transportation to assist with protection of those in emergency situations, ranging from the needs of daily living, to domestic and violence issues.

Big plans? Yes, but I firmly believe that the time has come for the trans community to make a stand, and to take care of its own. We are the last oppressed minority. We have to stand up for ourselves, since no one else is willing to stand with us. 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 transgender individuals can be a strong force for change if we unite and work together for that change. We can do that if we stand together. And I plan to make sure that we are given the opportunity to stand.

I started this message 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. I challenge you to get involved. I challenge you to support this cause. We can make a difference – TOGETHER.

Dawne Woodie
President, Transgender Crisis Center
Education Co-Chair, Transgender San Francisco

WOMAN CHARGED IN SILICONE INJECTION CASE

ATLANTA (AP) - A woman accused of injecting silicone into transgender women to create curves on the cheap has been arrested on charges of practicing medicine without a license, authorities said. Verna Barnett, 45, known only by her first name to the drag queens and transgender women who were her customers, performed the injections at her home in suburban Norcross, authorities said.

In the basement, authorities found a fake medical exam room with a paper-covered folding massage table. She had lidocaine, bandages, syringes and three large containers filled with silicone, Gwinnett District Attorney Danny Porter said. Two of the buckets weighed 44 pounds each; the other was half empty, he said.

Investigators said Barnett would take \$1,200 in cash for breast augmentation or \$500 for round hips. Customers were instructed to wear a special bra after a procedure so the silicone would harden into the shape of breasts.

There is no way to know how many transgender women - people born as men but living as women - may have secretly sought out Barnett's services, but Porter described her as "the preferred service provider in the Southeast." Porter said Barnett was married with two children and had no criminal history. A message left Wednesday at her home was not immediately returned, and it was not clear whether she had hired a lawyer.

Porter said 23-year-old Andre Jeter was one of those who paid for the injections in her basement. Jeter died in December when he allegedly found an even cheaper deal on lower-grade injections thought to be cut with baby oil at a so-called pumping party in rural Albany, Ga., 150 miles south of Atlanta.

Barnett is not charged with Jeter's death, although four of her alleged clients are. One of the suspects, Stephen Thomas, 31, told authorities he and the three other men learned to give the injections by getting them from Barnett, Porter said.

Shortly after the group was charged with Jeter's death, two of the defendants told The Associated Press about getting their work from a woman named Verna. Similar statements to Dougherty County District Attorney Ken Hodges led to Barnett's arrest.

Mark Edwards, who goes by the name Jazz, said he spent about \$3,300 getting face, bust and lower body injections from a woman named Verna since 2000. He described the medical-like room where he had the injections, which authorities say matches what they found in Barnett's basement.

While searching Barnett's home, authorities also found 20 to 30 bags of bandages and syringes. Based on the trash found at the home, Barnett may have recently pocketed \$10,000 for the injections, Porter said. "I've been doing this for 24 years, and you come a point where think you've seen everything," Porter said. "Yesterday I realized I hadn't seen everything."

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More 7-News!

TG WOMAN POISED TO WIN PRIMARY

by: GLBTSSS, OIA Newswire

A Tucson woman is running for the Arizona House of Representatives and making history. Amanda Simpson is head of advanced and special programs at Raytheon. KOLD News 13 introduced you to her three years ago, when she went public with her sex change. Now, Simpson is set to be the first transsexual in the nation to win a primary.

Simpson doesn't want her gender to take away from her plans for the future of Arizona. Her political platform includes improving education, dealing with Arizona's explosive population growth, and affordable healthcare.

But politics can get dirty. And Simpson says she plans to stay away from the mud slinging by sticking to the issues. "The issues that affect this state that are important to this district, that are crucial to this county have nothing to do with my gender," she says.

Simpson is unopposed in the September 7th Democratic primary election for District 26. She'll become the first openly transgender candidate nominated for state office by a major political party in the United States. "But that's not why I'm running," she says.

Simpson wants to bring change through affective leadership. In addition to her Raytheon position, she's an airline transport pilot and a certified flight instructor. Now she's expanding her wings into the sometimes vicious ring of politics. "I certainly don't deny what I am. If they want to alert the world that I'm a transgender person that's fine. I'm not going to deny that."

Simpson says legislators have not been making good decisions, trading away Arizona's future with short-sighted decisions. But are Arizonans ready for a transsexual candidate? Simpson believes they are, and she's counting on their vote.

Simpson has a tough race ahead of her. She's one of four candidates vying for two seats in district 26. She's up against incumbent Republicans Steve Huffman and Pete Hershberger and Democrat Martin Drozdoff. All four will advance to the general election when voters will vote for only two of them.

TS WINS LANDMARK RULING IN JAPAN

by The Associated Press

(Tokyo) For the first time in Japan, a court has permitted a transsexual to change her officially registered gender from male to female after having had a sex-change operation, officials said Thursday.

The move came after a new law went into effect July 16 allowing people to change their registered sex if they've had a sex-change operation and have been diagnosed by at least two doctors as having gender-identity disorder. Applicants must be aged 20 or older, unmarried with no children and not be able to reproduce.

The Naha Family Court approved an application Wednesday to allow the woman to change her sex in her official family registry from male to female, a court official said on condition of anonymity.

The Asahi Shimbun newspaper quoted the court ruling as saying that the plaintiff "does appear to be suffering from great psychological pain ... and recognizes the necessity of obtaining a stable, female identity." Kyodo News reported that growing up, the plaintiff had been uncomfortable with her gender and last year underwent a sex-change operation.

Due to privacy concerns, the woman has only been identified as a resident of Japan's southernmost prefecture (state) of Okinawa in her 20s. Ran Yamamoto, who heads a Tokyo-based support group for transsexuals, described Wednesday's developments as a "big step forward," but said further changes were needed. "It doesn't mean that this is the end of the battle," Yamamoto said, because the stipulations bar many transsexuals from officially changing their registered sex, forcing them to continue enduring discrimination and social stigma.

At least 15 applications had been lodged by transsexuals wanting to change their recorded gender and more are expected following Wednesday's decision, Yamamoto said. He said there are an estimated 7,000 to 10,000 people in Japan with gender identity disorder — that they believe they were born the wrong sex.

Police arrest fleeing naked man, review whether slaying was a possible hate crime.

FRESNO CD STABBED, KILLED

By Pablo Lopez
The Fresno Bee

Friends say Joel Robles worked hard as a dental assistant and for charity. He also liked to wear long, curly wigs and dress as a woman. Robles, 29, became Fresno's 34th homicide victim this year after police found him stabbed multiple times early Sunday inside his apartment near downtown Fresno.

Police arrested Estanislao Martinez, 23, as he ran naked on Freeway 41 from Robles' apartment, Deputy Chief Rene Martin said Monday. Robles' slaying is being closely monitored by his friends and gay advocates who contend the killing was motivated by hate. Martinez is in the downtown jail on suspicion of murder. His bail is \$1.025 million.

Martin said investigators are trying to determine whether there is evidence of a hate crime, which would be a penalty enhancement if Martinez were convicted. Martin declined to elaborate on the evidence against Martinez or whether he made any statements to detectives.

The jail's records show Martinez was arrested at 5:20 a.m. and booked into jail at 9:07 p.m. Sunday, leaving him ample time to tell his side to detectives. Robles lived with several other people in a spacious apartment in the 2900 block of East Huntington Boulevard, west of First Street, near Holmes Playground.

On Monday, red, white and pink roses and a religious candle formed a memorial shrine on the doorstep of his home, which had a broken front window. Residents say a naked man broke the window by jumping through it after Robles was stabbed. At a vigil, Robles' friends, some of them drag queens themselves, remembered him as a man who worked as a dental assistant during the week and as a woman who liked to wear wigs and dress conservatively in pink.

He was planning to be in a drag-queen fashion show Thursday. The winner typically donates the prize to his favorite charity, a friend said. "Joel dressed as a woman not to pick up men, but because he felt comfortable that way," said Crispin Sanchez, 25, who lives in the same apartment complex as Robles.

Police, responding to a 911 call from Robles' home, found him stabbed multiple times about 4:30 a.m. Sunday. He died at University Medical Center about 7 a.m. Martin said a preliminary investigation revealed that Robles "possibly met the suspect at an unknown location, near Chinatown," in southwest Fresno.

Martinez agreed to accompany Robles to Robles' apartment, Martin said, but at some point, "a disturbance" occurred between the two parties, and the victim was stabbed multiple times." Martinez then ran from the apartment, Martin said, but was arrested within minutes.

Sanchez spoke for the group of friends because many of them feared being ostracized if their identities were revealed. He contends Robles did not know Martinez and that Robles was a victim of a hate crime because he was dressed as a woman on the night he was slain. "I don't think [Martinez] knew Joel was a guy, because when he dressed up, he really did look like a woman," Sanchez said.

If Robles was killed because Martinez suddenly discovered he was a man, then police should charge him with a hate crime, said Chris Daley, a lawyer and co-founder of the Transgender Law Center in San Francisco. The reason: Robles was likely killed because of his sexual orientation, which is protected by state law, Daley said.

It would be similar to someone's killing his partner because he suddenly found out he was a Christian and not a Jew, or if he discovered he was white and not black, Daley said. But police say it is too early in the investigation to determine whether a hate crime occurred. In general, Martin said, police have to prove a suspect targeted his victim strictly because of his race, nationality, religion or sexual orientation. "We have to prove intent," Martin said.

There's no doubt in Sanchez's mind that Robles was singled out. He recalled other cross-dressers who have been beaten or killed in Fresno, and no one has been held accountable. In one case, murder charges were dismissed against two men accused of fatally stabbing Charles Roe, 22, in the early morning hours of Sept. 20, 1998, and then setting his Clovis apartment afire to cover up the crime. Prosecutors never filed hate crime charges.

Roe lived as a woman, kept his true sexual identity secret from most people and went by the name Chanel Chandler. In Robles' case, Sanchez vowed: "This time, we're going to make sure police charge it as a hate crime and justice is done."

HRC WANTS ENDA To INCLUDE TRANSGENER PROTECTIONS

In a strong reversal for the country's largest gay rights group, the Human Rights Campaign will support only a version of the federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act that includes protections for gender identity and expression, a source close to the group told Advocate.com on Friday. The group's board of directors is expected to approve the change on Saturday at its annual meeting.

The HRC's announcement is a win for transgender activists who were angry at the organization because it has been lobbying lawmakers on Capitol Hill to support the current version of ENDA, which does not include protections based on gender identity and expression. As currently written, ENDA would extend federal employment discrimination protections—already provided on the basis of race, religion, gender, national origin, age, and disability—to employees on the basis of their sexual orientation. It was defeated in the Senate by one vote in 1996 and is set to be reintroduced by lawmakers this January.

"Certainly [HRC executive director] Cheryl Jacques led the effort," the source told Advocate.com. "She has been listening to everyone in the community during the past few months, and the senior staff has been moving in this direction."

A handful of groups, led by the Transsexual Menace, had announced plans to demonstrate outside HRC's headquarters Saturday morning. Ethan St. Pierre, an organizer of the event said the rally will go ahead as planned. He had not heard about HRC's announcement as of Friday afternoon but said he remained cautiously optimistic. "We want to hear it straight from them," he said. "If that's the case, then I would be very, very happy. None of us wants people to be excluded from this bill. We can't afford to be a divided community."

Added Vanessa Edwards Foster, chair and cofounder of the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition: "What has occurred sounds optimistic at face value. This is the first I've heard of it. We've heard promises before from HRC, and we want to see actual action before we weigh in with comment."

The change in HRC's stance comes at a time when a good number of the court cases involving workplace discrimination revolve around questions of gender identity and expression—an individual's manifestation of a fundamental sense of being masculine or feminine through clothing, behavior, and grooming.

Fourteen states have passed laws prohibiting sexual orientation discrimination without explicit protections for gender expression and identity. Most of these laws are broader in scope than ENDA, covering discrimination not only in employment but also in housing and public accommodations. In 21 states, through a combination of state laws and state and federal court rulings, workplace discrimination based on gender expression or identity is illegal, according to the Gender Public Advocacy Coalition in Washington.

"We believe that every American should be judged on the quality of their work, and it's good to see that the HRC is coming down so firmly on the side of a fair-minded and inclusive bill," said Riki Wilchins, executive director of GenderPAC. The group was not a part of Saturday's planned protest. "Adding language that would ban gender stereotyping in the workplace protects transgender people as well as other Americans targeted because of their gender identity and expression."

D.C. MAN PLEADS GUILTY IN TRANSGENER KILLING

WASHINGTON (AP) - Federal prosecutors say a 23-year-old District man faces up to 30 years in prison after pleading guilty in last August's slaying of a transgender man in Southeast. Derrick Antwan Lewis of 18th Street, NE, pleaded guilty in D.C. Superior Court Wednesday to manslaughter while armed. He's expected to be sentenced in November and faces a mandatory five years behind bars.

Authorities have said Lewis shot 26-year-old Aaryn Marshall of Newcomb Street, SE, two times in the chest before dumping the body in a grassy area on Aug. 20, 2003. Investigators believe Lewis picked Marshall up in his car, and that the shooting followed an argument.

Marshall, a man who dressed as a woman and believed he was a woman, also went by the name Emonie Kiera Spaulding.

Vigil Planned For Slain Woman

ACTIVIST CALLS KILLING A CASE OF PREJUDICE AGAINST TRANSGENERS

Rona Marech, Chronicle Staff Writer

Tony Green, a transgender woman who was killed last week in San Francisco, will be remembered at a community vigil Sunday at her sister's home in Bayview-Hunters Point.

Green, 46, who also went by the name Delicious, was found dead on Aug. 13 at the Franciscan Motel on Third Street by a housekeeper, said Officer Maria Oropeza, spokeswoman for the San Francisco Police Department. Police are investigating the homicide.

Tina D'Elia of the nonprofit Community United Against Violence said she views Green's death as an anti-transgender bias case, though police would not release details about the killing or identify it as a hate crime.

Green went on a date Wednesday evening, then stopped at home on Thursday morning to pick up a rental rebate check, said Linda Porter, the victim's sister. That was the last time she saw her. Porter said the mortician told her that Green "was did up pretty bad."

Green, who was born male but identified as a female, knew she was transgender from the age of 7, Porter said. She made it very clear that she preferred female pronouns and was quick to correct people who got it wrong, said Porter, who despite years of training still slips and uses male pronouns when talking about Green. "He was a warm, giving, warm-hearted person," she said.

Green comes from a large San Francisco family. She is survived by three of her five siblings, along with around 20 nieces and nephews. The family was accepting of Green's transgender identity, said Porter, who shared her home with Green. Green helped raise Porter's grandchildren, who are 4, 8, 11, 13 and 18.

The case of Gwen Araujo, the transgender teenager from Newark who was killed in 2002, has helped raise awareness about anti-transgender violence, said D'Elia, who is helping to organize the vigil. "Before Gwen, we didn't have a face, a human being, a focal point," she said. "We're reporting more murders, enforcement has more of an understanding. From where I sit, I see this whole entire learning curve."

In June, the trial of three men accused of killing Araujo ended in a mistrial after the jury was deadlocked over first-degree murder charges. The three men will be tried again.

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Takin' Care of Biz...

TGSF FINANCIAL REPORT

As of August 20, 2004

Assets

Cash	6101.55
Decorations	1000.00
Beverages	200.00
Total	7301.55

Liabilities and Equity

Accounts Payable	
Tyler Fong	300.00
Design Center	821.50
Total	1121.50

Statement of TGSF Income

Revenues

Memberships	195.00
Donations	403.80
Partners in Pride Distribution	608.81
Wedding Party	485.00
Total	1692.61

Expenses

Channel	250.04
Phone	47.46
Room Rental for Mid-Peninsula Group	93.65
Cotillion Ad in Southern Comfort Program	150.00
Deposit for Cowell Theatre	1500.00
Contribution to Aids Walk	100.00
GAPA	50.00
Wedding Party	250.00
Pride	441.19
Tyler Fong	100.00
Total	2982.34

Net Income (Loss) (1289.73)

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2004-05 Executive Committee

President

Roxy Carmichael-Hart dfbluemoon53@aol.com
Or roxyhart72903@aol.com

Vice President

Laura Marlowe laura_marlowe@earthlink.net

Secretary

Siobhán Ellis siobhanellis@hotmail.com

Treasurer

Pamela Gray pkg@differentforgirls.com
Or pamkgray@pacbel.net

Education

Dawnne Woodie Strange5253@yahoo.com
Damon Helton shamanzhan@msn.com

Outreach

Allison D Laureano allisushi@hotmail.com
Kara Flynn karaflynntg@aol.com

Social

Anne Louise Mortenson formorts@sonic.net
Tommie Watson karenwatson1492@lycos.com

Other Email Addresses

Editor, The Channel

Ayme Kantz MissAyme@aol.com

Miss TGSF 2004

Anne Louise Mortenson formorts@sonic.net

Mr. TGSF 2004

Bobby Cheung mingster008@hotmail.com

TGSF Outreach Ambassador

Kelly Anne Marsh theonestrider@hotmail.com

TGSF.Org Webmistress

Siobhán Ellis siobhanellis@hotmail.com

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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.

Most Beautiful Transsexual contestants draw welcome — and unwelcome — attention on the Strip

ONE-OF-A-KIND CONTEST: HEAD-TURNERS

By **SONYA PADGETT**
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World's Most Beautiful Transsexual Pageant contestants Tiara Russell of Chicago, left, and Dorae Saunders of Columbia, S.C., wait in a Hummer limousine for a tour of the Strip to begin. The contest was held last weekend at the Riviera to crown the first most beautiful transsexual. Photo by K.M. Cannon.

Tourists gathered in front of The Mirage volcano Thursday night expecting to see a one-of-a-kind show, but the eruption turned out to be only the opening act for a much more unique spectacle.

A group of 31 women sporting "Vegas chic" and trailed by a camera crew descended on the crowd, managing to steal the volcano's thunder mid-eruption by flashing flawless smiles and tossing perfect hair.

Granted, a group of glamorous, surgically enhanced women walking the Strip isn't that unique. But when those women are former men passing out invitations to the World's Most Beautiful Transsexual contest, they're bound to turn a few heads and stop some people in their tracks.

"No way," Frank, who refused to give his last name, said to his wife as he read about the Riviera event. It was billed by promoters as the first of its kind. He and his wife, Annette, both visiting from Ohio, stood at the edge of the sidewalk on Las Vegas Boulevard South and Mirage Drive, staring unabashedly at the women who were surrounded by other disbelieving gawkers. They were having trouble reconciling what they saw with what they thought a transsexual woman looked like. "We're just amazed, because they look so beautiful," Annette said, clutching the flyer in her hand. She admitted, reluctantly, that her interest was piqued enough to go check out the contest.

Their reaction was just the sort organizers hoped to capture for the cameras when they decided to take the contestants out to the Strip sidewalks and film the public's response to them. They were betting that those open-mouth looks of astonishment, the spontaneous outbursts from passers-by and the women's sometimes wild antics would make compelling television.

And they had yards of fertile footage to choose from, starting when the contestants piled into two stretch Hummer limousines around 9 p.m. and drove from the Riviera to The Mirage. Twelve women squeezed into the lead car, a bright yellow Hummer limo, accompanied by a three-man camera crew, two still photographers and a reporter. They sat in the vehicles for nearly half an hour waiting on the production crew to set the night's events in motion.

But cameras still rolled, with the lights radiating such heat in the close quarters that the rising temperatures made a spot near an air conditioning vent the place to be. "It's so frigging hot," one of the women said to no one in particular. "Is the heater on?"

The women, some of them living as women but still biologically men, squirmed in their tight dresses and jostled to keep long legs from tangling with their neighbors. As Maria Roman, a contestant from Los Angeles, settled into her seat, the movement caused her plunging neckline to plunge even further, revealing her right breast. But it didn't seem to bother her, and she sat that way for several minutes until another contestant leaned over and used Roman's long hair to cover it.

But, brushing her bottle-blond hair back, Roman declared "I want to get it on camera." Contestant Delilah Paris, a local via Minnesota, pulled her bodice down, revealing her breasts and showing the others where she wanted a tattoo. And all this happened before the two cars left the curb.

"I'm bored," contestant Marie Larochelle declared in French-accented English. So far, she was unimpressed with the festivities, starting with an earlier cocktail reception with the press and now, by the endless waiting in the stifling limo.

"Tonight has been a little bit boring. It's not me, always having to stand around and look good," the Quebec native and occasional Celine Dion impersonator said. "At home, I am in sweat pants. I never wear makeup, I never do my hair. Don't tell me a girl likes to wear high heels. I am a natural woman. I am not a transsexual, I am a woman."

Technically though, she was a transsexual and along for the ride hoping to be named one of eight of the world's most beautiful. That would give her a shot at making the cast of an upcoming Strip revue featuring transsexual women.

Finally, with the limos headed toward Sahara Avenue, one of the contestants tried to stir some excitement. "Here we are girls, riding on the Strip," she announced. When no-one responded, she tried again as the limo turned west on Sahara. "Here we are girls, riding on the Strip!" "Actually, we're on Sahara," a photographer corrected. But the women didn't care. Some vamped for the camera, freshened their lipsticks, checked their makeup in compact mirrors and tried their best to look and act alluring.

Once they arrived at The Mirage valet, their presence drew attention, some good and some not so good. After pouring out of the limos, the contestants gathered on a sidewalk until someone led the charge inside, to the restroom.

Tourists parted like a sea as the women strode into the air-conditioned resort with almost every head swiveling about to get another look. Some contestants stood in the lobby, passing out flyers and gathering a small crowd intent on staring and marveling. "Wow. Who are those women?" asked Minnesotan Merrily Stone. When told, she added, "I would have ventured that they're not the normal tourist. I think a lot of them are beautiful."

A husband and wife exiting the restrooms had another impression. Giving their first names only and refusing to say where they were from, Wendy and Ed took umbrage to the women using the facilities. "I ran into them in the restroom. The ladies room," Wendy said. Her husband, Ed, added: "Wait a minute. I'm offended. They shouldn't be in the women's restroom. What gives them the right?"

But that was mild compared to how some people reacted once the contestants made their way to the sidewalk. A handful of the women decided they didn't want to be around the camera crew near the volcano because they felt the situation was becoming exploitative. So they headed south on the Strip to pass out flyers, thinking sans camera would be more peaceful.

But a group of men passed by and began laughing, pointing and calling out vulgar comments. The women had enough and walked back to the limo to wait on the others. "When you're just with your girlfriends or by yourself, this doesn't happen," contestant Mimi Marks said.

Most of the contestants seemed immune to the criticism, even Cezanne, a Florida resident, who was the recipient of some of the more brutal remarks from men. "It's nothing that hasn't been said before," she said, brushing aside the crude comments.

Others, like Larochelle, appeared shaken, offended and violated. "I am very pissed off," Larochelle said. "I am a woman, not a hooker. It makes me want to leave the contest, but only for a moment. But you're not going to change the world. I've been fighting all my life to live a normal life as a real woman. You take me like I am as I am or not at all."



World's Most Beautiful Transsexual Pageant contestant Kristina Marie, right, gives a flier advertising the pageant to Zizhu Wu, left, and Xiren Xie at The Mirage recently. Photo by K.M. Cannon.



Mimi Marks of Chicago mingles with entertainer Monti Rock III during a press party at the Riviera recently. Photo by K.M. Cannon.

A survivor of Andy Warhol's factory books her first full NYC cabaret gig in 15 years

HOLLY WOODLAWN: A SUPERSTAR RETURNS

By Rob Bailey
Staten Island Advance Staff Writer

Rumors of Holly Woodlawn's demise were vastly over-exaggerated. Earlier this year, the New York Post reported that the irrepressible Andy Warhol "superstar" had fallen into a coma. Actually, the survivor of Warhol's factory—the downtown Manhattan scene that reveled in underground art, films, music and drugs in the '60s and '70s— is on her way to New York for her first full-length cabaret show in 15 years.

"Oh please, I fell and broke my right shoulder and went to the hospital," said the woman born Harold Danhaki, during a phone interview from her Los Angeles home. "I was never in a coma. I do have a spinal problem, but I'm not in a wheelchair. They put a titanium piece in my shoulder. Which, by the way, doesn't make the buzzer go off at the airport."

Woodlawn's upcoming cabaret show — "Take a Walk on the Wild Side with Holly Woodlawn" — is billed as an evening of songs and stories by an incomparable transsexual artist. The show starts at 8 p.m. at the trendy Lower East Side club Fez, inside the Time Market at 380 Lafayette St. The setlist includes Woodlawn's signature renditions of the show's titular song, "Capricious and Fickle," "Ugly Duckling" and "Le Soiree Fini," among others.

Although Woodlawn occasionally longs for NYC in the days "before Giuliani turned it into Disneyland," she is excited to come home. "It's really got my juices going, picking out music and clothes. I feel like going back to New York City is like opening on Broadway," she said, excitement flooding her sultry alto voice. "In nightclubs, you get an immediate reaction. If you're hot, and the audience is hot, there is no drug in the world like it. By the way, I am drug free."

Woodlawn's acclaimed performance in the classic 1969 cult film "Andy Warhol's Trash," directed by Paul Morrissey and co-starring the iconic Joe Dallesandro, made her an international star. She was paid \$125 for "Trash," which she blew on heroin. Still, legendary director George Cukor ("My Fair Lady," "Gone With the Wind") famously petitioned to get her an Oscar nomination.

Woodlawn was further immortalized by pal Lou Reed in his classic song, "Take a Walk on the Wild Side." Reed detailed 15-year-old Danhaki's hitchhiker trek from Miami, Fla. to NYC, where he was reincarnated into a trailblazing drag queen. "Oh honey, I've had my quota of the legend stuff," Woodlawn said. "Someone called me an icon and I had to look it up. It said, 'someone you worship.' What? I'm not Jesus Christ. Just throw money. I was lucky I wasn't born in Texas, where you can be tarred, feathered and murdered for this."

So, is she nervous about living up to audience expectations in the city where her legend was born? "Everybody gets nervous, but I'm not neurotic nervous," she said. "Nightclubs are my forte. People expect you to be yourself, with laughter and patter. If you mess up a lyric, the audience is with you."

Woodlawn made her cabaret debut in 1973 at New York's famed Reno Sweeney's. Along with fellow Warhol "superstars" and associates like the Velvet Underground, Nico, Edie Sedgwick, Sylvia Miles, Viva, Penny Arcade and Candy Darling, Woodlawn appeared in projects regularly and the gossip columns constantly.

She was the life of Manhattan's glitziest star-studded parties while living on welfare. "Five people living in a loft on the Lower East Side used to cost \$175 each," she said. "Now it's \$175,000 to buy. It's so suburban. Part of it reminds me of 'The Stepford Wives.'"

Hard living took its toll on the community — and Woodlawn. She tried jail, overdosing and suicide. They didn't stick. Obscene rumors, however, did. "Wait a minute honey, I have done every drug known to man, woman and child," Woodlawn said, laughing. "But there are some things I will not do no matter how high I am. Oh please, there are so many stories. Oh well, it's when they stop talking that you're dead."

It was after the deaths of Warhol and close friend Jackie Curtis in 1987 and '89, that Woodlawn escaped New York for a "fabulous apartment and trees" in Hollywood. She also pursued acting and wrote the best-selling 1991 biography, "A Low Life in High Heels."

Among Woodlawn's credits are the films "Twin Falls, Idaho," "Milwaukee, Minnesota" and "Billy's Hollywood Screen Kiss." She also appeared in Madonna's "Deeper and Deeper" video and served as a feminine style coach to Dustin Hoffman on "Tootsie."

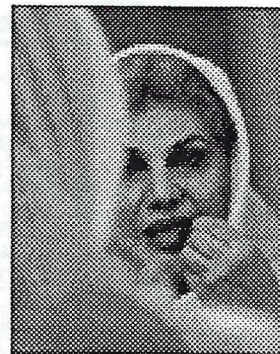
Much has changed from the days when she and fellow Warhol "ladies" Jackie Curtis and Candy Darling were harassed by cops for wearing mascara in the East Village. "Now people are getting married — who'd have thought," Woodlawn said, sighing. "I'm glad I survived to see these changes, the freedom. But I miss a chunk of creative people, artists that died who could have showed these young kids the way."

And she would like to see young gay people pay some respect to those "who truly tread a hard road" for change. "I never thought I would live to see the day that the most homophobic people are gay people who act straight, dress straight and look down on other types. So you don't wear dresses or make-up. So what? It's not like we would hang out together anyway, but it's the way they talk about us like we're not equals that annoys me to no end. Now, that's as political as I get. Except to say that I'm not voting for Bush."

As Repression Lifts, More Iranians Change Their Sex

By NAZILA FATHI
Photo by: S. Reza for
The New York Times

Caption: Maryam Hatoon Molkara, who was formerly a man known as Fereydoon, was an early campaigner for the rights of transsexuals in Iran.



TEHRAN, Aug. 1 - Everything about Amir appears masculine: his broad chest, muscled arms, the dark full beard and deep voice. But, in fact, Amir was a woman until four years ago, when, at the age of 25, he underwent the first of a series of operations that would change his life.

Since then he has had 20 surgical procedures and expects another 4. And Amir, who as a woman was married twice to men - his second husband helped with the transition and remains a good friend - is now engaged to marry a woman.

"I love my life and I'm happy, as long as no one knows about my past identity," said Amir, who asked that his full name not be published. "No one has been more helpful than the judge, who was a cleric and issued the permit for my operation."

After decades of repression, the Islamic government is recognizing that some people want to change their sex, and allowing them to have operations and obtain new birth certificates.

Before the Islamic Revolution in 1979, there was no particular policy regarding transsexuals. Iranians with the inclination, means and connections could obtain the necessary medical treatment and new identity documents. The new religious government, however, classed transsexuals and transvestites with gays and lesbians, who were condemned by Islam and faced the punishment of lashing under Iran's penal code.

But these days, Iran's Muslim clerics, who dominate the judiciary, are considerably better informed about transsexuality. Some clerics now even recommend sex-change operations to those who are troubled about their gender. The issue was discussed at a conference in Tehran in June that drew officials from other Persian Gulf countries.

One cleric, Muhammad Mehdi Kariminia, is writing his thesis on transsexuality at the religious seminary of Qum. "All the clerics and researchers at the seminary encouraged me to work on the subject," he said in an interview. "They said that my research can help change the social stigma attached to these people and clarify religious decrees on the matter."

One early campaigner for transsexual rights is Maryam Hatoon Molkara, who was formerly a man known as Fereydoon. Before the revolution, under the shah, he had longed to become a woman but could not afford surgery. Furthermore, he wanted religious guidance. In 1978, he wrote to Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, who was to become the leader of the revolution but was still in exile, explaining his situation. The ayatollah replied that his case was different from that of a homosexual and therefore he had his blessing.

However, the revolution intervened and men like himself or those who had already changed their sex were harassed, even jailed and tortured. "They made me stop wearing women's clothes, which I had worn for many years and was used to," Ms. Molkara recalled. "It was like torture for me. They even made me take hormones to look like a man."

It took him eight years after the revolution, in 1986, to get government permission to proceed with surgery. But he could not afford the surgery and did not have it until 1997, when he underwent a sex-change operation in Bangkok. The Iranian government covered the expenses. Four years ago, Ms. Molkara established an organization to help those with gender-identity problems. Co-founders include Ali Razini, head of the Special Court of Clergy, a branch of the judiciary that only deals with clerics, and Zahra Shojai, Iran's vice president for women's affairs. An Islamic philanthropic group known as the Imam Khomeini Charity Foundation has agreed to provide loans equivalent to about \$1,200 to help pay for sex-change surgery.

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Sex Changes Are Not Effective, Say Researchers

David Batty
Guardian Unlimited (U.K.)

There is no conclusive evidence that sex change operations improve the lives of transsexuals, with many people remaining severely distressed and even suicidal after the operation, according to a medical review conducted exclusively for Guardian Weekend tomorrow.

The review of more than 100 international medical studies of post-operative transsexuals by the University of Birmingham's aggressive research intelligence facility (Arif) found no robust scientific evidence that gender reassignment surgery is clinically effective.

The Guardian asked Arif to conduct the review after speaking to several people who regret changing gender or believe that the medical care they received failed to prepare them for their new lives. They explain why they are unhappy with their sex change and how they cope with the consequences in the Weekend magazine tomorrow (July 31).

Chris Hyde, the director of Arif, said: "There is a huge uncertainty over whether changing someone's sex is a good or a bad thing. While no doubt great care is taken to ensure that appropriate patients undergo gender reassignment, there's still a large number of people who have the surgery but remain traumatized - often to the point of committing suicide."

Arif, which advises the NHS in the West Midlands about the evidence base of healthcare treatments, found that most of the medical research on gender reassignment was poorly designed, which skewed the results to suggest that sex change operations are beneficial.

Its review warns that the results of many gender reassignment studies are unsound because researchers lost track of more than half of the participants. For example, in a five-year study of 727 post-operative transsexuals published last year, 495 people dropped out for unknown reasons. Dr Hyde said the high drop out rate could reflect high levels of dissatisfaction or even suicide among post-operative transsexuals. He called for the causes of their deaths to be tracked to provide more evidence.

Dr Hyde said: "The bottom line is that although it's clear that some people do well with gender reassignment surgery, the available research does little to reassure about how many patients do badly and, if so, how badly."

There are around 5,000 post-operative transsexuals in the UK, according to the transgender pressure group Press for Change (PFC). It is estimated that up to 400 sex changes will be performed this year on the NHS and privately. Each operation costs the NHS around £3,000, while private patients pay upwards of £8,000 for surgery.

Christine Burns, of PFC, said the campaign group's research suggested that the vast majority of transsexual people enjoyed much happier lives following surgery.

Ms Burns added that the greatest flaws in medical literature about gender reassignment were in those studies unsympathetic to transsexual people. For example, one study was based on a survey of seven transsexual prostitutes interviewed in one gay bar in Chicago.

She said: "The fact that research is badly constructed isn't a poor reflection on transpeople, but on the people we should be able to trust for our care. If they 'lose' half the patients they ought to be able to track the question is why? As we've repeatedly pointed out ourselves there is really no difficulty in getting transpeople to come forward and cooperate in research that is properly constructed and conceived with people's true well-being in mind."

Research from the US and Holland suggests that up to a fifth of patients regret changing sex. A 1998 review by the Research and Development Directorate of the NHS Executive found attempted suicide rates of up to 18% noted in some medical studies of gender reassignment.

Andrew McCulloch, chief executive of the Mental Health Foundation, has written to the mental health minister, Rosie Winterton, requesting a "thorough assessment" of the long-term effects of sex change operations. He wants the National Institute for Clinical Excellence, which decides what treatments should be available on the NHS, to draw up guidelines on gender reassignment.

Transgender psychiatrists, who assess whether patients should change sex, agree that more scientific research is needed. But Kevan Wylie, chairman of the Royal College of Psychiatrists' working party on gender identity disorders, said that all of his patients' lives have drastically improved following gender reassignment surgery.

Dr Wylie added that it was difficult to conduct research on the outcome of gender reassignment, or to compare its effects with alternative treatments, because transsexualism was such a "rare experience". Urological surgeon James Bellringer, who has performed more than 200 sex changes over the past four years, claimed that trying to carry out research that involves studying a control group of transsexual patients who were denied hormones and surgery would be unethical.

Mr. Bellringer, who works at the main NHS gender identity clinic at Charing Cross hospital in west London, said: "I don't think that any research that denied transsexual patients treatment would get past an ethics committee. There's no other treatment that works. You either have an operation or suffer a miserable life. A fifth of those who don't get treatment commit suicide."

The Number Who Express Immense Gratitude Is Overwhelming

By David Batty
The Guardian (U.K.)

As research questions the effectiveness of sex change operations, a surgeon who has performed 200 of them tells David Batty the majority of his patients have gone on to lead much happier lives

James Bellringer never planned to cut up penises for a living. Since 2000, the surgeon has performed 200 male-to-female sex change operations. "I'm surprised there are any men left!" he jokes. Around 5,000 people in Britain have had a sex change, formally known as gender reassignment surgery, of whom about 4,500 are male to female (MTF) transsexuals. Between 300 and 400 operations are performed annually, around half on the NHS. Demand for the operation is rising. The number of referrals for surgery at the UK's main gender identity clinic (GIC), where Mr. Bellringer works with a team of psychiatrists, has doubled to 1,000 over the past four years. He says: "I did about 70 operations last year and will do nearer 100 this year."

MTF sex changes have been performed in Britain since the 1960s. The operation was by then considered relatively straightforward by surgeons in the USA. The surgery involves removal of the testicles (orchidectomy) and the penis (penectomy) before creating a neo-vagina with skin taken from the penis, the scrotum or, more rarely, the bowel - a process known as vaginoplasty. The tip of the penis is used to make an artificial clitoris (clitroplasty).

After training in urology, which covers problems including impotence and incontinence, Mr. Bellringer was approached by Charing Cross GIC four years ago to become their new gender reassignment surgeon. His predecessor Mike Royle provided him with on the job training before retiring.

Mr. Bellringer says that only his older patients, who do not wish to be sexually active, chose not to have the full surgery and just have their male genitalia removed. He said that around a third of his patients regard themselves as heterosexual women and require a vagina adequate for penetrative sex. Many others are never sexually active but want a vagina to feel properly female. A third group, who identifies as lesbian, often request a smaller vagina, he adds.

In recent months concern has grown about the benefits of gender reassignment surgery. A systematic review of medical research on sex change operations by the University of Birmingham's aggressive research intelligence facility, published last week, found no robust scientific evidence the procedure was beneficial.

Does Mr. Bellringer have concerns about the quality of the research that underpins his practice? He admits there is a need for more scientific evidence, but says that hormones and surgery are the only treatments found to have helped transsexuals. The surgeon also points to ongoing research in Holland, which suggests that part of the brain in MTF transsexuals resembles that of born women. "There's evidence of a brain abnormality among transsexuals," he says. "They've done about eight or nine post-mortems on MTF transsexuals and found a nucleus in the brain which looks like those in born women."

But other medical studies from Holland and the USA suggest that up to a fifth of patients regret changing sex. Has Mr. Bellringer ever come across such cases? "They're extremely rare," he says. "Only one of my patients has expressed regret about becoming a woman, but they didn't want their penis back either. He is living as the male partner in a relationship but is very happy having no genitalia."

"There's genuinely a group of patients who wish to be asexual. They're an intermediate gender. Psychiatrists are beginning to recognize this. I had another person who just wanted their testicles removed. I wasn't sure about this but he was assessed by four or five psychiatrists who decided that it was ok."

The surgeon has seen another two patients who have resumed living in the male role. He says that one of the patients was "quite old" and his neo-vagina has narrowed, partly because he is not sexually active. The other patient is a Jehovah's witness and was told by fellow believers that he could not turn up to their meetings other than as God intended, in other words as a man. Mr. Bellringer says that neither patient is "desperately unhappy" and quite comfortable with their lives.

Guidelines set by the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association, based in Minneapolis, set minimum criteria for gender reassignment to prevent inappropriate sex changes. The standards of care state that patients should undergo three months of psy-

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TRANSFORMED IN TRINIDAD

Stanley Biber, who single-handedly transformed Trinidad into the "Sex-Change Capital of the World," who has turned more men into women and women into men than any other surgeon on the planet, has just spent another boring morning at the office. He treated one man with a sore throat, two women complaining of nausea, an elderly woman with a fractured wrist and a man with bronchitis. But at the end of the day, everyone is still, well, genitally intact.

At 81, Biber is going through a major change of his own. He performed his last sex-change surgery last year - topping off at 5,800, by his count - and dejectedly says he'll never do another. Because of his age, his medical malpractice insurance skyrocketed to more than \$250,000 a year. He couldn't pay those premiums and had to give up his transsexual practice. "It's a shame," he said from his office in the five-story First National Bank Building, Trinidad's tallest building. "Intellectually, I'm sound. My hand is steady. This has been my life."

The short, balding man was once Trinidad's only general surgeon. Even at the peak of his transsexual business, when he was performing four sex changes a week, he still did everything else - delivered babies, removed tonsils and replaced hips and knees. "I'm the old doctor. I take care of everybody," said Biber, wearing his trademark silver-buckle belt, blue jeans and casual shirt. "Nobody here I haven't operated on two or three times, you know?"

There have been so many sex changes - he says he's transformed 5,000 men and 800 women - that he remembers only a few. "All the bottoms look the same," he says. He's transformed the genders of judges, actors, priests, models, mayors, cops, teachers and even a professional football player. "He was a linebacker, and he weighed 245 pounds. He was a biiiig woman when I got through."

He has spent the past 35 years fine-tuning his skills on people he calls "my transsexuals." "We turn out a real good product," he said. "I have one former patient, a man who became a woman and is now married to a gynecologist. Her husband doesn't know." A few minutes later, Biber's elderly secretary, Marie, walks in with a message for Biber. She has worked for him for more than 30 years. When she leaves, Biber grins. "I introduce her as my transsexual secretary and everybody gets upset. She gets upset. She's used to it already." For the record, Marie was born female and still is.

Guided By Hand-Drawn Map

Biber earned his medical degree from the University of Iowa in 1948. A few years later, he went to Korea as chief surgeon of a MASH unit. He ended his service at what is now Fort Carson in Colorado Springs.

Uncertain of his next move, Biber recalled a friend's tip about a mining town near the New Mexico border that needed a general surgeon. He drove to Trinidad and immediately fell in love with the friendly people and sprawling ranches. "I thought I'd come down and stay a year or two," said Biber, an avid outdoorsman. "And 51 years later, I'm still here."

Biber's career proceeded uneventfully until one day in late 1969 when a social worker in town walked into his office. She had sent him some of her young clients with harelips and cleft palates and was impressed with his surgical skills. "She sat right where you're sitting and she says, 'Can you do my surgery? I'm a transsexual.' "And I said, 'What's that?'"

The social worker was actually a man who had spent the previous few years having hormone treatments, so that by the time he walked into Biber's office, Biber thought he was a woman. He dressed like a woman and had breasts, a high-pitched voice and soft facial features. Only one step remained.

Biber talked with a New York doctor who had performed sex-change surgeries and reviewed hand-drawn diagrams of the procedure from Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. Then he agreed to do the operation. "I wasn't very humble in those days. I was young. I told this girl, I says, 'You know I haven't done any, but

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To obtain legal permission for sex-change operations and new birth certificates, applicants must provide medical proof of gender-identity disorder. The process can take years. It also involves considerable expense. In Tehran, the initial male-to-female surgery runs about \$4,000. So far, Amir has spent \$12,000 on medical procedures. The people who pursue this route come from many different backgrounds.

Dr. Bahram Mir-djalali, one of Tehran's few sex-reassignment surgeons, said one of his patients had been a member of the Revolutionary Guards who served five years in the war with Iraq. His operation was paid for by a Muslim cleric he had worked for as a secretary. After the surgery, the man-turned-woman divorced, and then married the cleric.

"When she came to see me years later, she was wearing a chador," the doctor recalled, referring to the black head-to-toe garb worn by religious women. "She took off the chador, and there was no sign of the bearded man I had operated on."

But many who cannot deal with the legal and financial obstacles to a surgical solution have to deal with humiliation in their daily lives. One 27-year-old man said he ran away from home at the age of 14 because he did not dare tell his family of his urge to become a woman. He wants to be known as Susan and wears women's clothes at home but only emerges dressed that way at night. He says the constant need for secrecy has left him severely depressed, and he has attempted suicide several times.

"I have suffered all my life," he said, constantly adjusting his long curly hair to cover his sideburns. "People treat me as though I have come from Mars. Women pull my hair and laugh at me on the street. Most men I am attracted to reject me."

In a society where men enjoy a higher status than women, the stigma against any man who wants to be a woman is especially strong. "They compliment a girl who behaves and dresses like a man as a strong person, but they look down at us and despise us," said Assal, who was disowned by her father for having surgery to become a woman.

Dr. Mirdjalali said he had to fight on many fronts to help more than 200 patients who had consulted him in the 12 years he had performed sex-change operations. Even if Iran's Muslim clerics are more understanding now of transsexuals' needs, others lag behind.

"We have a problem even deciding at which hospital to do the surgery because society considers these people deviant," he said. "Hospital officials have reacted negatively because they say other patients do not like the looks of my patients."

He said one patient's father pulled a knife on him in his office, and threatened to kill him if he touched his son. "What we really need to help these people," Dr. Mir-djalali said, "is a serious cultural campaign."

Gratitude Overwhelming...

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chotherapy before taking sex-changing hormones. They should then live full-time in their desired gender role for at least a year before surgery, a period known as the real life experience (RLE), to see how they cope with work, family, friends and relationships.

Patients at Charing Cross, and other NHS gender clinics, face more stringent criteria, including a two-year RLE. Mr. Bellringer believes this helps to prevent patients having surgery inappropriately. He says: "Many patients make it through the first year but there's a high drop out rate during the second year."

However, the surgeon says that the vast majority of his patients go on to lead much happier lives following surgery. "The number who come back and express immense amounts of gratitude is overwhelming. I regularly get thank you cards and three or four Christmas cards. It makes my work really rewarding."

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there's no reason why I can't do this."

The results were less than spectacular. Biber removed the penis and used the surrounding tissue to create female genitals. He inverted the scrotum to form a vagina. "It looked like hell. It was terrible. But it functioned, and she was very happy with it because it functioned."

Community Gets On Board

Biber stayed in touch with his first sex-change patient for many years and even got a Christmas card from her a few years ago. Last Biber heard, she was working for the federal government in Washington, D.C. As with all of his operations, Biber performed that first sex change at Mount San Rafael Hospital, the only hospital in Trinidad. It was run by Catholic nuns. "I hid the files from the first two or three cases in the administrator's office in the safe so nobody would know about it," he said.

But Biber knew that eventually word would get out. "So I did the smartest thing in the world I ever did. I called the ministerial alliance together - you know, fathers, preachers, rabbis, everybody together. I gave them a series of three lectures. I told them the psychology of it and how desperate these people are to have this done. "They understood it so well, and they took it so well . . . they became the ombudsman of the patient of their faith that came to the hospital."

Then the ball really started rolling. "We started getting cases from all over the world. I've had 'em from Poland. I don't know where they got the money. All over Asia, India, you name it. All over South America, Europe. Every color, every creed." They came to the most unlikely of places.

Trinidad, population 9,500, began as a rowdy frontier town, a stop on the Santa Fe Trail. Conestoga wagons passed through town along with hootin' and hollerin' cowboys driving hundreds of cattle. For a time, Trinidad was also home to friends and family of Kit Carson, who is remembered with a statue and park bearing his name. Bat Masterson was one of the town's first marshals and, according to local lore, Doc Holliday gambled there.

Today, the landscape still hosts cattle and cowboys, including Biber, who has a ranch on the outskirts of town. It is with this backdrop that the people of Trinidad, steeped in Old West history and values, have accepted Biber's transsexuals. "Everybody is tremendous about it," Biber said. "They know everything about it. In fact, from the word go, since I did that first lecture to the ministerial alliance, we haven't had any trouble here at all."

Biber attributes the residents' acceptance, in part, to their familiarity with the patients who come and go, staying for weeks in the motels, eating in the restaurants. The transsexuals' families sometimes come with them, too, and patronize the local businesses. Biber's sex-change surgeries helped keep the hospital solvent. A male-to-female surgery cost about \$12,000, which is rarely covered by insurance. The hospital got about 60 percent of the fee, and Biber pocketed the rest. Still, not everybody approved.

A former mayor once took out a newspaper ad saying Biber could hurt the town's reputation. A doctor left Mount San Rafael Hospital in the 1970s because of Biber's work, and others accused him of making it difficult to recruit desperately needed doctors. A few years ago, the Rev. Fred Phelps, a nationally known Baptist preacher from Topeka, Kan., came to Trinidad to protest Biber's work. But such criticism hasn't diminished Biber's popularity.

Optional Cosmetic Touches

Biber was so prolific with his sex-change surgeries that he was featured on the Guinness World Records prime-time TV show. Newspaper articles from the early 1990s credited him with performing 60 percent of the world's sex changes. As Biber and other doctors trained additional surgeons in the specialty, that percentage dropped. Even so, Biber "is still king of the mountain" and holds the record for most sex-change operations, said Dainna Cicotello, author of several books on transgender issues and a former Biber patient.

He's been on Oprah, Sally Jesse Raphael, the Discovery Channel, the Learning Channel and the Playboy Channel. Geraldo Rivera came to Trinidad to see Biber - twice. He brought a camera crew with him to videotape a sex-change surgery. "I almost lost him," Biber said. "His producer passed out cold in the operating room, and Geraldo says, 'I better take him out.' But (Rivera) was already white."

Such exposure helps the public understand transsexuals, Biber said. About one in 30,000 people are true transsexuals, who have a recognized brain disorder that leaves them with the unmistakable feeling that they were born the wrong gender, Biber said.

Postmortem studies of a key region of the brain called the hypothalamus, which is thought to influence sexual behavior, may prove them right.

A particular part of this region is more dense in transsexuals than in the general population, Biber said.

Before Biber took scalpel to genitals, a prospective patient was evaluated by two psychiatrists who corroborated that he or she was truly a transsexual and not a schizophrenic or homosexual coming off a failed love affair. The patient also had to undergo hormone treatments and live for a year as the opposite gender.

In a single morning, Biber could turn a man into a woman. Optional cosmetic touches took another few hours. "I do the bottom. I make a new perineum," Biber said. "I take off the Adam's apple because, you've got to remember, girls don't have Adam's apples. I may do a nose job. I may insert breasts or do an augmentation. Some of the older ones, I might even throw in a face-lift. I may even shave down a chin to make them look more feminine. So, you know, it's not just the bottom itself."

Biber said most of his patients went on to lead normal lives. He knows this, he said, because of hundreds of follow-up questionnaires returned to him. Many marry, adopt children and have successful careers.

The men who become women report satisfying sex lives, he said. "They end up with all the accoutrements. They end up with the vagina. They end up with a cervix inside the vagina, with sensation. They end up with a clitoris that responds to sex play. They have a urethra in the normal female urethra position. They pee normally, sitting down on a stool just like any natural female. You can't tell the difference. And they have orgasms. What do you want?"

Three Brothers Now Sisters

Changing a woman to a man involves more hospitalizations and costs \$30,000. "It's easier taking things off," Biber said. "It's harder putting them on." Biber whips out a stack of Polaroids that show close-ups of his female-to-male handiwork. "You can't tell the difference between this and the natural penis of a man," Biber says. "In fact, some of these look better."

Of all his thousands of sex changes, Biber has reversed only two of them. Both were men, turned to women, then back to men. Reversals are easy, he said. "It's just like going from a female to a male."

One of the reversals was a sociopath, Biber said. "He came with excellent psychiatric evaluations, but I should have known better. He was on all the talk shows and was so happy to be coming here to get it done. Meanwhile, he was doing it for the notoriety. Then, about two or three years later, he was back on all the programs getting notoriety again that he had made a mistake and wanted to go back the other way. That was a bad case."

A few other cases stand out as well. There were the three brothers from Georgia whom Biber turned into the three sisters from Georgia. There was the 84-year-old railroad worker from California who'd spent much of his life wanting to be a woman. "His wife was dying of cancer, and he felt responsible for her. He waited 25 years until she died, and then he came in for the surgery."

A medicine man from a Pueblo Indian tribe in New Mexico wanted to be a medicine woman. "The whole tribe got together and did the incantation before her surgery," Biber said. "They came with drums and feathers and played in the hallway as we were taking her to surgery. It was great."

He'd Still Like To Operate

These days, Biber usually sees his last patient before noon. Then he heads to his ranch to unwind and work the cattle. In the late afternoons, he drives back downtown to Stay Fit, where he works out regularly. Biber, once a world-class weight lifter, could bench-press 300 pounds in his youth. Now in his ninth decade, he can still manage 175. "Honey," he says, "I'm in great shape."

He was recently divorced from the fourth Mrs. Stanley H. Biber, which is not to say he is alone. In June, he returned from a vacation in Alaska with a group of buddies. He has 10 children - his youngest was born when Biber was 62 - and numerous grandchildren.

He doesn't know how much longer he'll continue to treat the minor ills of the people of Trinidad. He still thinks of himself as a surgeon and feels out of sorts being anything else, much like the hundreds who sought his help over the past 31/2 decades. Maybe someday, he says, he'll write his memoirs. Several journalists have offered their help. He's shopped around but can't get any company to underwrite his medical malpractice insurance for less than a quarter million dollars.

Recently, Biber's insurance carrier, the St. Paul Companies, quit providing medical malpractice coverage nationwide. St. Paul cited huge losses and jury verdicts against doctors and hospitals averaging \$3.49 million. The company had been underwriting policies for 42,000 physicians, 750 hospitals and 73,000 other health care workers nationwide.

Biber said he was with St. Paul for more than a decade, paying premiums of upwards of \$40,000 in recent years. In all his thousands of surgeries, Biber said St. Paul paid just one out-of-court settlement on his policy for a total of \$6,000. When St. Paul dropped its malpractice business, the decision left Biber at age 80 trying to get insurance with another company. And so, over the past months, Biber has phoned one insurance company after another.

"I tried every company in the world almost, even off shore. They send me a statement back saying I do not meet their criteria. And when I talk to the agents, they say I'm high risk. They say I'm too old. Can you imagine that? "I feel like I'm being put up on a shelf. If that's the way it is, that's the way it is. But it's sad."



Remember Gwen Araujo!



Gwen Amber Rose Araujo (1985 - 2002)

...A transgender teenager from Newark, CA was murdered at a party by a group of men upon discovery of her transgender status. Twenty months after Gwen Araujo's death the jury deadlocked on whether her attackers were guilty of first or second-degree murder. According to Alameda County District Attorney's Office, none of the jurors were willing to settle for the lesser offense of manslaughter — despite efforts by defense attorneys in the case to argue that Gwen's killers were somehow justified because she did not disclose her transgender identity to them. The prosecutor already has stated that he will re-try the three defendants, Michael Magidson, Jose Merel, and Jason Cazares, for murder.

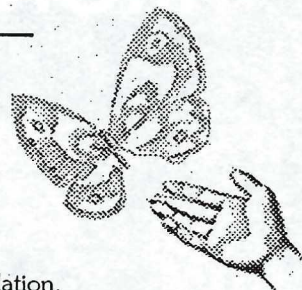


Make Your Money Count!

To contribute to Gwen's family directly: **Gwen Araujo Memorial Fund**, Bank Of America, Any BofA branch location, Acct# 10598-05854

To support transgender education work: **Gwen Araujo Transgender Education Fund** c/o Horizons Foundation, 870 Market St. Suite, 728 San Francisco, CA 94102 (415) 398 - 2333 / www.horizonsfoundation.org

Thank you!



\$1 MILLION BAIL IN ARAUJO SLAYING

Henry K. Lee, Chronicle Staff Writer

One of three men charged with murder in the slaying of Newark transgender teenager Gwen Araujo was granted bail Friday as a judge set a new trial date for May 9.

Alameda County Superior Court Judge Harry Sheppard set bail for Jason Cazares, 24, of Newark at \$1 million after ruling that, although the charges against Cazares were serious, the defendant had no prior criminal history and did not appear to be a flight risk. Sheppard ordered Cazares to remain in California and have no contact with prosecution witnesses or members of Araujo's family.

The first murder trial of Cazares, Michael Magidson and Jose Merel — who also are 24 — ended June 22 with a hung jury. Prosecutor Chris Lamiero has said he will retry the men, who face murder and hate-crime charges stemming from the October 2002 slaying of Araujo, who was born male but lived as a young woman.

Lamiero said he decided to retry the case after learning that jurors agreed the crime was murder — but deadlocked over whether it was premeditated. "It is my intent to retry all three men on a charge of murder, with the firm belief and conviction that all three will be convicted of murder," Lamiero said.

Cazares' attorney, J. Tony Serra of San Francisco, urged Sheppard to grant bail, saying that his client intended to attend all court hearings and had no intention of fleeing, and that interviews with jurors in the first trial revealed that as many as 10 would have acquitted Cazares of first-degree murder. "He is not a renegade-minded person," Serra said, adding that Cazares planned to testify and could not do so if he was behind bars and suffering from "jail mind-rot."

Lamiero disagreed with Serra's assessment of how jurors had viewed Cazares and said the defendant remained a threat. "He has shown by his actions in this case, as established by the evidence, that he is willing to participate in the brutal murder of another human being, simply because that human being had a lifestyle that he disapproved of," Lamiero said.

Sheppard agreed to release Cazares on bail but rejected the \$5 million figure Lamiero sought. Also, Merel's attorney, Jack Noonan, said he was withdrawing from the case because of other commitments.

After the bail hearing, Serra said it probably would take about a month for Cazares' family members and friends to ascertain whether they would be able to make bail. Serra said the family is not well off and would attempt to



post property with the court to satisfy the bail figure. Cazares' mother and other supporters left the courthouse without speaking to reporters Friday.

Authorities confirmed Tuesday that Cazares was freed on a \$1 million bail bond, indicating that his family did not post property with the court to secure his release but most likely paid the typical 10 percent fee to a bail bonds agency. Cazares' friends and family members may have been required to post property with the bail agency to secure the bond.

Sylvia Guerrero, Araujo's mother, said Tuesday that her daughter had learned Monday night through from a county victim notification system that Cazares no longer was in custody. Guerrero said she was stunned when bail was set last week and shocked again Monday when she learned that Cazares had been released.

She said she was frightened by the prospect of possibly seeing Cazares in Newark. "This case has gone through a preliminary hearing and a trial, and there should be enough there, somewhere, in the testimony, and witnesses, and evidence, to have prevented him from getting bail granted," Guerrero said.



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