

TGSF *The Channel*  
TransGender San Francisco  
(formerly ETVC)

# TGSF Socials - The Place To Be!



# The Channel

TGSF (Educational TV Channel, 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 1999 - 2000 Officers

(Fiscal Year: May 1 - April 30)

President ..... Leslie Bailey  
 Vice President ..... Lulu Blau  
 Secretary ..... Roxanne  
 Treasurer ..... Janis Ryan  
 Education ..... Nancy Cupps / Tianna Marie  
 Outreach ..... Telzey Adams  
 Social ..... Nicole and Debbie Cook

## Membership Report

As of April 15, 2000

Fiscal Year		Number	% of 98-99
1998-1999	Total members	291	100.0
1999-2000	Renewals	208	71.5
1999-2000	New members	48	16.5
1999-2000	<u>Non-renewing</u>	<u>83</u>	<u>28.5</u>
1999-2000	Total members	256	88.0

Fiscal Year		Number	% of 99-00
2000-2001	Renewals	43	16.8
Apr 2000	Expirations	106	41.4
May 2000	Expirations	26	10.2
Jun 2000 -			
<u>Mar 2001</u>	<u>Expirations</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>31.6</u>
1999-2000	Total members	256	100.0

TGSF (Educational TV Channel) 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 ..... Jennifer Antoinette; Janis Ryan  
 Contributing Photographers .... Telzey Adams, Jamie Faye & Erfort  
 Fenton, Cindy Martin, Nicole & Debra Cook

## 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



## FROM THE EDITOR...

### All Things Must Pass...

All things must fade away...I have a lot of mixed feelings as I write this month's column. A year ago I embarked on a journey to the Heartland of America in order to be with the man I loved. When I left San Francisco, I left behind not only most of my furniture and appliances (no room in the trailer) but a steady career with Wells Fargo, the Mecca that is San Francisco, and many wonderful, close friends who did their utmost best to put up with me and offer love and support when I needed it most. I wasn't particularly fond of the idea of living in Oklahoma, but if that's where my guy hung his hat, that's where I wanted to be. Love is a powerful motivator, and throughout my life I've always struggled with tough decisions, having to choose between what my head was telling me and what my heart was saying. Most times I've followed my heart which usually is a sure-fire way to set yourself up for disappointment and loss. I've had my share of both. Yet if the head rules the decision, it's also a sure-fire way to miss out on opportunities to grow as a person, to experience real happiness and live with intense passion.

Is it true what they say? That it's better to have loved and lost, than never to have loved at all? Yes. But the pain of that type of loss is enough to drive strong people to their knees, vowing never again. I guess what I'm trying to tell you here is that one Sunday evening about four weeks ago, Micheal sat me down and told me that when our lease is up at the end of May, he was going to move out and get his own place. That decision effectively removed my motive for being in Oklahoma and naturally has put my emotional state into what I like to call as one of controlled hysteria.

### Should I Stay or Should I Go?...

So I've got this fun job in downtown OKC and I've made many friends in the BDSM and Choral circles (odd combination isn't it?). I'm certainly capable of striking out on my own here, get my own apartment, keep at working on fun projects and making a life for myself. But it's in Oklahoma! While I love my new friends...I just don't like it here. I've traveled widely across this country and around the world, and there are a few places I'd really enjoy living in, but sorry Oklahoma isn't one of them. 3-point beer and the lack of sidewalks notwithstanding, it would cost me a small fortune to refurbish an apartment - I have no bed, no couch, no kitchen table; I left behind a microwave and a vacuum cleaner and countless other items necessary and useful to have when living single. At the time there was no need to keep them - Micheal had everything we needed and I'm not big on redundancy.

So I spent about a week agonizing again between staying or leaving. And came to the conclusion that by staying I'd be harboring false hope that he and I would reconcile and get back together. Eventually that would've eaten away at my disposition; I mean I'm already playing second fiddle to his daughter (and I knew that going in), but if we're apart and left to our own devices, I move even further down the food chain - and that's unacceptable to me considering how strongly I feel about him. Love so strong that it drove me from my home state into the buckle of the Bible belt just so I could lay in his arms every night. With the prospect of sleeping alone again looming, the call of "home" has never been stronger. And I figure that if I've got to pack all my stuff and move it again, I may as well go somewhere where I really want to be.

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Hotline & Voice Mail  
415-564-3246

WWW.TGSF.ORG  
NEW SITE! GET ONLINE!



## PRESIDENT'S POTPOURRI

By Leslie Bailey

Contrary to popular myth, the last four years has not always gone quickly. There has been a lot to do and to worry about. What is true, however, is that participating on the ExCom has been a very satisfying experience. I have met and gotten to know well many wonderful and interesting people and that includes not only our TG sisters and brothers but also our friends in the gay and straight communities that do so much to make our lives better. What I won't miss are all the monthly obligations. What I will miss is the more intense personal involvement with all of you and all the joy and interest that that has brought to my life. I do not, however, intend to disappear, but only to concentrate on a more limited agenda, get some personal stuff done and to continue to enjoy your friendships.

I have to express a tremendous amount of appreciation to some very significant people. Without a doubt, if I have been successful over the last four years as vice president and then president, I owe a great deal of that to the other members of the ExComs, the newsletter editors, the Pride Committee and the Cotillion Committee who have all been dedicated, imaginative, hard working and self-motivated. I didn't have the time to micro-manage these processes and thanks to all these wonderful people who simply did their jobs, I didn't have to. I simply cannot convey to you all that they have done to make TGSF work and to keep it there for all of us. I also need to thank so many of you who have responded when we have needed your help to make our events successful. Please accept my love and appreciation.

It is unfair to single out any one person, but I must. I must express my love and appreciation for my principle cohort in crime, the one-and-only Lulu Blau. Her advice, energy, talent and dedication have been not only indispensable but also an inspiration. She has not only kept me on track but also has provided key leadership and almost got us arrested with her flaming orange dress.

In closing, why should anyone consider and then actually get involved as an officer or frontline volunteer for an organization such as TGSF? There are two basic reasons. We need you. And you will get back more than you put in. The rewards of giving.

### ***New Members since April Issue:***

***Jerry Smessaert***

***Charleen***

***Angela Marie***

***Welcome!***

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## ***From the Editor...***

*Continued from Page 2*

### ***The Alternatives...***

As it happens, my brother in Los Angeles has acquired some rental properties in the Bel Air Canyon above Beverly Hills and is currently renovating them - he expects to finish in about 3 to 4 months, and has offered me first dibs on one of them once they're ready. And I want to come home...back to my hometown, City of Angels (I harbor no real expectations of ever being able to afford to return to San Francisco), where I have family and can get a foot in the door. But what to do in the interim?

I'm heading north. To a sleepy little burb called Janesville, Minnesota - near Mankato, about 1-1/2 hours southwest of the twin cities. My father lives there by himself in a large 5 bedroom house and this is my chance to spend a few months with him (and my Sister and her two little boys), get some peace, maybe earn a little money and basically just hang out for a little while before loading it all up again and heading back home. It's a good plan. My entire family is tickled about it and has offered to help in any way they can.

Most 24/7 TG's striking out on their own have to reconcile feelings with friends and family, often facing painful rejection and abandonment. I'm on my knees right now praying to whatever omnipotent being or corporeal deity you're comfortable with, that I am so grateful to have been blessed with a family that loves me regardless of the choices I've made. And I'm here to tell you that I'd much rather have regrets for the things I have done, than for those I didn't do.

Micheal and I are working very hard right now to make this separation as easy on each other as we can. It's akin to walking on eggshells (and he's been so considerate and attentive...almost like we were courting again...weird), but we have both grown so much this past year that we both feel pretty confident and strong enough to make this happen and remain friends. And while it's sad that the Great American Novel I was hoping we'd be writing together has instead turned out to be a short story (albeit a pretty good one), I am a much better person now for having known and loved him. I feel prepared for what lays ahead (as does he); instead of having a nervous breakdown and turning into a quivering blob of emotional jello, I am amazed at the resilience of my heart right now. It's taken a pretty big hit and I'm terribly frightened, but I feel deep inside that all is not lost - I feel hope. I feel faith. I still have love to give. And I shall always love this man no matter what. Our bond is that strong and even though we are going to be apart, we find much comfort in knowing that we can continue to rely on each other wherever our travels take us.

I'd like to close with a verse fragment from an old Anglican hymn I remember singing, and has been running in my head for weeks:

*"Time, like an ever rolling stream,  
bears all its sons away.  
They fly, forgotten  
as a dream dies at the opening day."*

I doubt I'll ever forget this incredible experience this past year. It makes for an interesting chapter in the book of my life. To me, it represents one of incredible emotional, spiritual growth and maturity. It has laid the foundation for even better things to come and that is something I'm really looking forward to instead of meaninglessly pondering what might have been. It has also allowed me to be philosophical and retain a sense of humor about the whole thing. Naturally, the age-old question that has plagued mankind through the centuries has surfaced in conversations with myself: "What is the meaning of life, the universe and everything?" With a nod to Douglas Adams, and as a fellow Galaxial Hitchhiker, the answer indeed, is 42.

## EXCOM MEETING MINUTES

The monthly meeting of TGSF's Executive Committee was held in Sebastopol, Calif., on April 9 2000, at 3:00pm. In attendance were President Bailey, Vice President Blau, Secretary Camino, Treasurer Ryan, Social Co-Chairs Cook and Cook, Outreach Co-Chair Stephanie Ann and Education Co-Chair Cupps. Outreach Co-Chair Adams and Education Co-Chair Marie were absent. Also present was guest Deborah. The meeting was called to order at 3:50 p.m.



### Communications and Announcements:

Leslie mentioned that the opening night of the Cal Dreamin Conference is on the same night as the TGSF EOM Social and we should cover this in new business. Janis mentioned someone will be visiting from the United Kingdom from April 11 to 19 and she will show her around. Nicole reminded the ExCom that awards are scheduled to be given at the next EOM Social. Stephanie mentioned the "Gender Knots" production, featuring Annie Springfield and other local transsexuals. Stephanie also had a flyer for the next classes at Stormy Leather. Janis mentioned that a joint Rainbow Gender Association and Diablo Valley Girls dinner was held in Belmont on March 31. Janis, Stephanie and Deborah attended from TGSF.

**Old Business:** Treasurer Ryan presented a motion to have the resource guide be given out on request instead of charging the \$2.00 fee for it. Janis mentioned the sales tax liability of selling the guide and its availability free on the web site. Janis mentioned that requests for the guide had fallen off considerably since it was posted to the web site. Leslie wondered if the issue could not be deferred to the next ExCom. Nicole argued that this was an issue she wanted to advance in the next ExCom and had some clear ideas of what to do. She also mentioned the motion was just another item in her way. Leslie requested the motion be made and seconded if there was to be further discussion. A motion was made by Janis and seconded by Roxanne that the TGSF Resource Guide is made available to any member free of charge at any End-Of-Month Social or by mail with the member providing proper postage and return envelope. Nancy said the guide is already free on the web site but is still advertised as for sale. Nicole mentioned she wanted to make the resource guide a production that could generate revenue to the organization and she is aware of the tax collecting responsibilities. Roxanne said if the motion passed, it could later be revisited, noting it would take some time to make the type of product proposed. It could then be presented to the ExCom for approval as an item for sale. In the mean time, the current guide could be free of charge. Leslie closed discussion and called for a vote. The ExCom voted not to approve the free issuance of the resource guide, with Janis and Roxanne voting yes.

**Minutes:** Corrections to March minutes had been made via e-mail. Janis moved for the March minutes to be approved, Nancy seconded the motion and they were unanimously approved. Stephanie mentioned that Ann Giles was concerned about the wording in the January minutes relating to their outreach presentations done. The ExCom is in agreement that the intent was not to say they were trying to do all the presentations. Janis said Ann, Dianne, Sandra and many others have done a marvelous job of representing and educating the community. Leslie said we should commend them all for their efforts.

**President:** President Bailey commented that the Cal Dreamin opening night was on the same night as the April End-Of-Month Social, which is also election and awards night. Leslie wondered

how we could accommodate both events without a conflict of schedule. Leslie said we should go on with the program as scheduled. Roxanne noted that Thursday's Cal Dreamin events are a Welcome Reception and tickets to "Beach Blanket Babylon." The Banquet is Saturday night. Therefore, the EOM Social would not be a major conflict. Cal Dreamin participants will be asked to join TGSF members at the EOM Social as they wish.

Leslie then mentioned the April End-Of-Month Social is also Members Awards Night. Leslie mentioned the following awards to be presented: Member of the Year, President's, Vice President's, Secretary, Social, Education, and Outreach. Janis said she would like to present a Treasurer's Award. This was agreed to by the ExCom. Deborah asked about the deadline for submitting names and Debbie said she would need about five days to produce awards before the EOM Social. It was agreed that ExCom members would forward the names of award winners to Debbie by April 20, 2000.

Leslie mentioned that Joanne has boxes, in excess of 20, of Library and Archival material that was at Nancy Ann's house. They need to be moved. Leslie said she would pick through them and sort. Janis reminded Leslie she would also work on this. Lulu said she is still offering to hold the sorted materials. Leslie and Janis will sort through the materials and decide their fate before storage at Lulu's residents. Nicole mentioned there would be a possible location for the TGSF Library at a future LGBT Community Center in San Francisco.

In her final comment, Leslie mentioned with regret, that Miss TGSF 2000, Michelle Garcia, is moving to Arizona. Leslie said there are six major events left for Miss TGSF to attend plus the remaining socials. It was agreed that with this news early in the term, Michelle should talk with the two Miss TGSF Runners Up to decide on the title or work on a schedule.

**Vice President:** Vice President Blau mentioned it has not been as busy a month. Lulu said she wants a Cotillion report before the next ExCom meeting to familiarize her with some of the information. Janis will compile a report with the latest receipts turned in.

On the subject of the Pride Parade, Leslie said the application form can be submitted without a fee if an income statement is provided showing the organization is not collecting a lot of income.

On the subject of the "Big Shew," Lulu said this event is actually not the responsibility of the VP but of the Social Chair or Co-Chairs. Nicole mentioned Kimo's is booked for Thursday night of that week, Friday and Saturday were not available because of Pride Week activities, and other locations were filling up. Other options would be looked at.

**Secretary:** Secretary Camino had nothing to report, but mentioned for FYI she had visited Palm Springs and found it very friendly. Nicole asked about wording in the renewal notice with the newsletter, saying the next newsletter would not be sent unless dues were renewed. The ExCom agreed to discuss this in New Business.

**Treasurer:** Secretary Ryan apologized about some distractions and delays in reports. Renewals are coming in. Janis reminded the ExCom members to also renew membership. Two statements have come in that will modify the Cotillion financial report. This report, when done and other financial reports Janis wants to share with Deborah who may be the next Treasurer. Nicole mentioned that no financial statements have been in the newsletter for a while. Nancy agreed that this should be looked into. As it stands at this meeting, the account balance was \$10,576.18. Deposits for the month were \$1050.00 and checks out were \$2091.86

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## Pacific Center FREE seminar

### FINANCIAL STRATEGIES FOR GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER PEOPLE

May 1, 2000 / 6:30pm to 8:00pm, at the Pacific Center, a lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community service center. 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. Please call Denise Liu of Securities America Inc. to sign up for seminar, 925- [REDACTED]

When planning for retirement or protecting your financial future, gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people have many more challenges. Many LGBT people may not have the traditional family support of grown children which means you are likely to need more money in retirement. LGBT couples have many more challenges in protecting their assets as one spouse passes. LGBT couples can achieve long term financial security, but you must plan. You must take the time to plan for your financial security in order to protect your life partner.

This workshop will look at investment strategies; estate planning issues; asset allocation as the key to sound investing; and what to do with/how to build your retirement nest egg.

### TRANSCENDING TRANSGENDER SUPPORT GROUP

Sponsored by  
City of Refuge UCC Outreach Ministries

Facilitators: 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.

### ARE YOU A VETERAN?

Are you aware that there is a gender discussion group every Monday afternoon at the Ft. Miley Veteran's Center in San Francisco? The group is open to all TS, TV, and TG's who are qualified veterans. If you are interested and wish further information, contact Lorraine Hall at: [REDACTED]@aol.com or call 510- [REDACTED]

### Significant Other Support - East Bay

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

## Meeting Minutes...

Continued from Page 4

**Outreach:** Stephanie Ann said there was nothing new to report and that she is moving ahead with requests. Stephanie Ann mentioned Nicole and Debbie did a presentation at Humboldt State University.

**Education:** Education Co-Chair Cupps mentioned Dr. Sheila Kirk from the Transgender Medical Surgical Group in Pittsburgh, PA had retired and would not be a speaker. Nancy will work on having Dr. Preecha, an SRS surgeon from Thailand as a speaker. Nancy said there will be some cost involved with this and other educational seminars because of the type of facility needed.

**Social:** Social Co-Chair Nicole Cook mentioned April and May End-of-Month Socials are at the Blue Muse and the Mid-Month Social is shopping venture, April 15, in the City. The May Mid-Month Social is planned to be a visit to an amusement park, most likely Marine World in Vallejo, Calif.

**Comment Period of Visitors:** There were no comments from visitors.

**New Business:** Renewal notices sent with the April newsletter mentioned this would be the last newsletter sent without a renewal, meaning unless dues are paid the May newsletter would not be sent. Nicole said in the past an additional month of newsletter mailing would bring in some renewals. Nancy and Janis said this provided an extra newsletter to some members. Leslie said to go by the notice as it appears in the renewal notice. Nicole asked about the next newsletter mailing as both she and Janis requested to do the mailing. Since Janis had done the two previous mailings, Nicole and Debbie will do the May mailing. Nicole and Debbie mentioned they needed to finish up on the membership cards and need a current membership roster. Janis agreed to provide this to the Cooks.

Janis noted that twelve members have been with TGSF since the 1983 and 1984 as long-time, if not charter or founding members. Janis would like their membership numbers to reflect numbers 1 - 12 and made a motion to propose this. The motion to give the twelve long-time members the number 1 - 12 was made by Janis, seconded by Debbie and unanimously approved.

**Next ExCom Meeting:** The next ExCom meeting to be the transition of officers meeting, will be held at the Leslie's residence, in Albany, on Sunday, May 7, 2000, at 3:00 p.m. At approximately 5:45 p.m., Leslie moved to adjourn the meeting; Lulu seconded and the motion was unanimously passed.

### May's Birthdays...

0501	Alicia Kenwood	0513	Sallie Hunt
0501	Cindy McKay	0514	Phyllis Fink
0501	Susan Agles	0515	Cindy Martin
0502	Consuela Valdes	0516	Susan Flowers
0503	Ellie	0518	Rhonda Shaw
0504	Melanie Okubo	0521	Robyn Smith
0507	Karen Erickson	0521	Sybil Holiday
0509	April Brennan	0523	Angela Pidge
0509	Gracia Thoreson	0525	Francine Williams
0510	Alicia Chan	0528	Nicole Cook
0510	J.F. Schimmel	0529	Rhonda
0511	Tracy Watkins	0530	Chris Silver
0512	Joyce White	0530	Jane Bolig

Many Happy Returns of the Day!

**Sunday / May 7<sup>th</sup> / 3:00pm**

## **EXCOM MEETING**

We are back in the East bay this month for the one ExCom meeting of the year where two ExComs come together. Yes, both the outgoing and incoming ExCom members will be present at this months meeting. Come say thank you to those ExCom members who have served us well, and while you are there volunteer to do something for the new ExCom. Feel free to attend dressed or in drab. If you are considering coming, please call Nicole and Debbie at (707) [REDACTED] we will be happy to give you directions.

**Wednesday / May 10<sup>th</sup> / 7:00pm**

## **TRANSBAY SOCIAL**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month is the day that the TransBay group meets at Quetzals. Quetzals is located at 1234 Polk, between Sutter and Bush (right down the street from Kimo's). They are a fun group, after all we did see some of them during our mid-month at the Power Exchange. Park in the large parking structure and walk around the corner to where the coffee shop is located. This event starts at 7:00pm.

**Thursday / May 25<sup>th</sup> / 8:00pm**

## **END OF MONTH SOCIAL**

The End of Month Social will be held at our usual meeting place, The Blue Muse 409 Gough Street in San Francisco. Park in any of the local parking lots on either side of the restaurant. We will most likely have some kind of discussion on the theme for the parade and be looking for volunteers to build some of the parts for the float. We will also be looking for performers for the year 2000 Really Big Shew.

**Sunday / May 28<sup>th</sup> / 1:00pm - 8:00pm**

## **THE MAY MID MONTH - SIX FLAGS MARINE WORLD IN VALLEJO**

Yes I know the mid month is suppose to be in the middle of the month, I had to put it here to take advantage of the discount ticket prices. If you want to go let me know as soon as possible. If we can get 15 or more people to go we will pay \$16.00 per person instead of the normal \$34.00 per person. I have to have a commitment (and your check on the way to me) by May 11<sup>th</sup>. I have to turn in the pre-pay discount form on the 12<sup>th</sup>. I have heard from several of you that have wanted a weekend event (this will be our 5<sup>th</sup> weekend midmonth), and a event not at a bar. Well here is your chance come have fun at the amusement park. The park will be open from 9am to 10pm and you can go all day if you want, (Debbie and I will not be there until 1pm). If we get the prepay tickets I should have them at the End of Month to hand out. Warning, wigs may not be compatible with some of the roller coasters, you may want to keep this in mind when you select what you want to wear to the event. Also, they do know we are coming. I asked about the restrooms and the person I spoke with said that all the new restrooms have a 1 person unisex handicap restroom which we can use. If you decide to use the ladies room, here are a few clues for not blowing your cover. The sound of a liquid hitting the water in the toilet bowl from several feet away is unique and not normally heard in the ladies room. When someone leaves the stall in the ladies room the seat is always down. If someone looks under the stall door in the ladies room to see if it is occupied, they see the occupant's toes not their heels.

**May 15 - 21**

## **ESPRIT 2000**

For all you girls who are thinking about a trip to the great Pacific Northwest in 2000, May is time to come. Esprit is going to be a full week adventure this year, starting on Monday, May 15 and running through Sunday, May 21.

We are serious about having a fun time every day, with special events every night. One of the most fun events is going to be on Wednesday, May 17. On that night, the Red Lion ballroom will become the Esprit Fantasy Casino, with a professional staff and a real casino set up for our use.

This is going to be a great evening, and will set the tone for the rest of the week to follow (and yes, you will need yet one more evening dress for this [darn]). The event will have some great prizes, including a three-day jaunt to Vegas to try out your newly honed skills. It will also leave time for the nightly trek to the Red Lion Bar down below to mingle with the celebrity watchers (we are the celebrities).

## **ESPRIT Souvenir Wedding Pictures!**

Taking a cue from an old ETVC practice, ESPRIT is going to have a wedding setting for souvenir pictures. The event will be part of the Wednesday Casino night. This came about as a result of the fashion night theme. We discovered our bridal gown safely stored in the closet, and spent some time remembering how much fun the ETVC June bride event was for those who participated.

ESPRIT will provide the photo setting, including a decorated arch, flowers and candles, and a bridal bouquet. We will also have a pair of bridesmaids in matching dresses. For a fee of \$20.00 those who desire will receive an 8x10 color picture of themselves as a bride plus a series of 4x6 photos and all the negatives.

We encourage all who wish to take advantage of this fun event to bring their own wedding dress. You may also use your own bridesmaids, either with their dresses or ours. We will also have a selection of bridal gowns on hand for you to use if you desire.

We don't promise grooms, but we will have a room full of tuxedo clad dealers for the casino, and bribery is probably acceptable. No reservations are required for this event, but do plan ahead and bring what ever you need to make your photo special. (A bustier will be mandatory as bridal gowns tend to be low cut, front and back.)

You can reach me at [REDACTED]@AOL.COM, or at PO Box 1152, Duvall, WA 98019.

## **HEY!**

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

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

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

# Calendar of Events - May 2000

## OTHER GROUPS

### Pacific Center for Human Growth

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. Write to RGA, 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 215456, Sacramento, CA 95821-1456 or call 916-482-7SGA (7742) for meeting locations.

### 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

A support group for Female-to-Male cross dressers and transsexuals; Holds open Informational Meetings and closed Support Meetings. Write FTM International, Inc., 1360 Mission Street, Suite 200, San Francisco, CA 94103 or call 415-553-5987.

### TGIF (TransGenderism Is Fun)

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 707-538-2222

### 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.

### Far West Women (FWW)

A support group for TGs affiliated with the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Alliance in Humboldt County. Meets every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month at 8:00pm in the GLBTA Center at Fourth and "D" Streets in Eureka. For information call the Center at 707-445-9760.

### Santa Cruz Trans (SCT)

Bi-weekly social/support group for gender-gifted persons serving Santa Cruz and Central Coast. 1st and 3rd Thursdays every month at The Diversity Center, 1328 Commerce Lane, Santa Cruz, CA 95060; (831) 425-5422; 7:00pm

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	1 8:00 PM DVG	2	3	4 7:00 PM DVG (RCC) 7:00 PM SCT	5 8:00 PM PacCir. Rap 8:00 PM RGA	6
7 3:00 PM TGSF: ExCom Meeting	8	9	10 7:00 PM TransBay	11	12 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCir. Rap 8:00 PM TGSF: Library / Poker Night	13 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
14	15 8:00 PM DVG	16	17	18 7:00 PM DVG (RCC) 7:00 PM SCT	19 8:00 PM PacCir. Rap 8:00 PM RGA	20
21	22	23	24	25 8:00 PM TGSF: End Of Month Social	26 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCir. Rap	27 1:00 PM TGSF: 6 Flags Vallejo! 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
28	29	30	31			

## TGSF MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership is for twelve months following payment of annual dues.

Please Print / Check all that apply:

New Member  Renewal  Member # \_\_\_\_\_ with  Family Member

Member Birthdate (Month/Date): \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Family Member Birthdate (Month/Date): \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Family Member's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about TGSF? \_\_\_\_\_

Your Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

I am enclosing a Check or Money order for:

- \$30.00 Full Year Membership  
 \$40.00 Full Year Family Membership  
 (Note only one copy of the Channel will be sent to this address).

Send Check or Money Order to  
**TGSF**  
**PO Box 426486**  
**San Francisco, CA**  
**94142-6486**

# Our Readers Respond...

(Ed. Note: Nothing from our membership to print this month, but I did make an error in April's issue and failed to print the first line of Daniella's poem. I reprint it here with the correction...enjoy it again!)

Genie Faire!  
How Sweet is Your Air?  
Flying and Floating from Stars Finely Flowing;  
Lingering and Lustrous with Starkles quite Bustrous;  
Beauty of Angels that Fly from the Sea;  
Waving and Winging with Infinite Certainty....

So Sweet Are Your Words;  
Such Spirit and Brea(d)th;  
Spanning Across Mountains;  
Echoing Off Fountains —

Your Beauty and Presence  
Makes Me Wonder:  
How Are You Now?  
Your Life Force?  
Your Essence?

Breathing and Singing  
Feeling the Tingling

Sensing the ONE. . .

I have been Thinking,  
of You and Your Linking  
of Sounds and Words as Great Earthscapes:  
the Life of the Land;  
the Blood of the Sky. . .  
. . . Listening for Angels and Hearing Them Singing —  
Chanting and Changing; the Center Unending  
Never Pretending  
Houses of Magic Where Songs Are Kept Sending:  
Embrace of the Heart; Never Defending  
Bending and Twisting, The Tortuous Flow  
Tingles and Glitters All Gleaming Aglow!  
Gliding in Glory at Our Sacred Story  
Glistening and Priding Our Moment of Births  
Listening Our Life Song  
Hearing Our Heart Sing  
Joyfully  
    Raining  
        as We Flood  
            In the Sea-ing  
                And Oceans of Earths. . .

© December 7, 1999 1:00 am  
revised 3/1/00  
Daniella Twilling SeaWarrior

## Phyllabuster

### EFFIGY IN ERROR?:

### CHRISTIE LITTLETON SPEAKS

By Vanessa Edwards Foster

Something that has been eating at me for some time is the ease to which our community, at times, jumps to conclusions. We are often rather quick to condemn. Perhaps this is something that derives from our previous experiences with others reacting to our transgender identities. Nonetheless, this mercurial process of judgment is something that is bound to seriously undermine the community, if not recognized.

One stark case of this has been the national transgender community's vilification of Christie Littleton. Upon first hearing of this - a 'woodworked,' long post-operative transsexual, who married and was suing over her late husband's estate - I too was immediately angry. Angry at her short-sightedness in not asking for help, or even notifying the TG community. Angry at the perceived elitism-by-disassociation with transgenders. Angry at what she did to transgenders nationwide by pursuing a case that would draw this kind of focus. Angry at how it impacted every transgender in Texas, including me!

There are many who continue to feel this way, and burn Ms Littleton in effigy for what's transpired. Then more of the facts came out; and I began considering some things: She basically did what all transsexuals of that era were told to do: become a woman - not a transgender, and get on with life. Though that's been updated some to allow for some transgender identity, it's still what is basically the guidelines HBI/GDA Standards of Care instruct.

She transitioned in the 70's - not much in the way of transgender groups, much less activism in those days. After so long away from the community, how could she know how to get in touch with transgender groups? Our groups not exactly widely advertised or broadcast.

As a ten-year post-operative transsexual, she was legally married. After seven years of marriage her husband dies of what was felt to be malpractice. Now if genetically born females lose their husband of seven years in similar circumstances, are they not allowed any form of legal redress? As Christie was approaching nearly 20 years of being a female, why would she not feel the same?

And if we are all indeed affected directly by the court ruling on Ms. Littleton's case, is Ms. Littleton really the primary culprit? Or is it the judges' interpretation of the law?

KPFT Radio Host, Sarah DePalma managed to corral Ms. Littleton for an interview on the January 8 show on After Hours. "I've taken a lot of crap the past couple weeks over the Christie Littleton (interview)" Sarah mentioned. "And I've gotten several Emails from people who just want to have her barbecued. And I'm just absolutely not gonna do that!"

"What happened to her was not her fault. The woman had her surgery done in the 70's, for god sakes, at a county hospital - I think it was called San Antonio General. The county basically paid for her surgery. She was ten years post-operative when she met her husband. She had her own successful business - she had a life!

Continued on Page 14



# Our Readers Respond...

## Election Results

Due to the timing of the elections and the printing deadline of this issue, election results will be published in the June issue of *The Channel*.



*The lovely Cheryl Shephard, A Timeless Classic!*

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May 4-7, 2000

## 4<sup>TH</sup> INT'L CONGRESS ON CDING

Wayne, PA- November 12, 1999 - The 4th Congress is being presented May 4-7 of this coming year in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania by The Renaissance Transgender Association, Inc. in cooperation with The Center For Sexuality & Religion, and The International Foundation For Gender Education. The First Congress occurred at California State University at Northridge in 1995. The Second Congress, in 1997, was hosted by Renaissance in suburban Philadelphia. In 1998 the Third Congress was presented at Exeter College of Oxford University by Press For Change, a U.K. organization that campaigns for respect and equality for all trans people. Now this prestigious event returns to Philadelphia.

Before the Third Congress had even occurred the Board of Renaissance made the decision to host the 4th International Congress in Philadelphia. The event will be at The Warwick Hotel in Center City Philadelphia, just off Rittenhouse Square.

The theme of the 4th Congress is Gender Variance-Beyond 2000. The Congress will devote special attention to Relationships Between Gender Identity and Spirituality, Sexuality, and Legal issues, as well as the Evolution of Gender. The opening plenary speaker will be Doctor Walter O. Bockting of the University of Minnesota. Dr. Bockting is the Coordinator of Transgender Services for the University's Medical School. Dr. Bockting will speak on HIV/STD prevention in the context of comprehensive sexuality education for transgendered persons and their partners. Dr. Bockting is a member of the Board of Directors of The Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association.

Phyllis Randolph Frye, Esq. is a respected attorney who was founder and Executive Director of the International Conference on Transgender law and Employment Policy. Ms. Frye will address the changing relationship between transgendered individuals and the legal system, both now and into the next century. The third plenary will be on transgender issues in relation to spirituality and religion. The Rev. Dr. William R. Stayton, past President of the American Association of Sex Educators, Counselors & Therapists, and currently Program Coordinator of the graduate program in Human Sexuality Education at Widener University, will address these issues. In addition to the three plenary sessions the Congress will present three days of workshops, panels, and papers on transgender issues. For more information contact Renaissance at 610-975-9119, or email congress@ren.org. You may also visit the 4th Congress website for more information, or to sign up online at <http://www.ren.org/4thCongress.html>.

Editorial Contact: Angela Gardner, (610) [redacted]  
[redacted] angela@ren.org



## MARCH - APRIL SOCIALS IN REVIEW

By Nicole and Debbie

This month was a busy one. It seemed like we were on the go all the time, which is fun but if the gas prices keep going up we will have to start getting around by bicycle. The first place that we went to was the

Program Committee Meeting for the new San Francisco LGBT Community Center on March 16th.

For those of you that do not already know this, San Francisco is getting a new community center on Market Street, whose primary focus is on the LGBT community. In addition to meeting rooms, Internet access, archives, a library, housing referral and job referral services, the center will offer offices to non-profit organizations that support the LGBT community. The location of the new center (1800 Market Street) is a good central meeting location for trips to San Francisco. It is between the Van Ness and Castro MUNI Stations, not far from the South of Market clubs, and walking distance from Marlens and the Blue Muse. The center is currently due to be finished in the summer of 2001.

One other thing I might mention about the 16th, was my trip to Kaiser in San Francisco. I have been wanting to use my insurance to get my hormones, and now I am. There are 6 doctors at Kaiser in San Francisco that have experience with TG patients. The doctor I talked to was quite friendly and arranged for me to get my prescriptions through Kaiser, even though I intend to keep Dr. Schaffer as my regular doctor.

The next event on our schedule was the Stockton Coronation on March 25th. This was kind of neat for me because it was the first time that I walked where I was escorted by the Chairperson of the Board of SGA. We are also getting better at going to these events (I hope) and so our presentation was more practiced. Debbie went half way down the path to the Emperor and Empress and waited for me as we were announced.

The Stockton Coronation was allot like several of the other court events that we have attended. It is getting to the point where I can recognize several of the people who attend. The venue was quite nice, it had more than enough room and this gorgeous backdrop of the mountains behind the stage. Debbie and I had to go there from work so we drove in casual attire and dressed when we arrived. We had no problems doing this, the venue was set up great for accommodating people who had to get ready after they arrived.

About a week later it was time for the TGSF March End of Month. As usual this was held at the Blue Muse restaurant on Gough street in San Francisco. With the elections in progress there was not any special event planned for the night. About 25 girls showed up to participate in the social including two new girls I had not seen before. They deserve a bit of mention here, both of them were a bit shy about being out and about in San Francisco, however, both of them were gorgeous.

One girl had emailed me prior to the event and indicated it was her first time out, all I can say is WOW. If that's a first try, I

can't wait to see what a practiced presentation looks like. The other girl was here from Columbia with her wife, she has an absolutely adorable personality and if you get a chance to meet her you are sure to enjoy her company.

It seemed like only a few days later, oh that's right it was only a few days later, April 1st, we found ourselves at the San Francisco Court Investitures, which was held at the California Club in the Polk Gulch area. The day was hot and we were on a tight schedule. We ended up changing in the car (the 2 seater) in an alley near Kimos. When we got ready we walked the 7 or so blocks to the venue (that's as close as we could find a parking space).

We arrived and most of the people were in the parlor waiting for the hall to open. This is an interesting venue, the front parlor is like something out of a hunting or smoking club, big chairs, footstools and couches boarder the room. It was warm and someone had thought to create fans (the ones you work with your hands). I was suppose to perform with Michelle and Tianna, unfortunately Tianna was not able to make it so Debbie volunteered to step in and sing part of a song (live) which she had not had a chance to practice. Despite some problems with one of the microphones, we were able to sing our number and the crowd seemed to enjoy it. We stayed until the end of the event so we could see all the titles that were given out and greet the new Emperor and Empress.

On April 5th we had the opportunity to drive four and a half hours North to Humboldt State University for an outreach event at the college. Humboldt State is just North of Eureka in the city of Arcata. The campus itself sits on a hill overlooking the bay.

Despite the drive the experience turned out to be quite rewarding. Debbie and I spoke with two other couples, a MtoF with her wife and a FtoM with his wife. There was also Anne who set up the speaking engagement and one gal from the Far West Women organization (a primarily CD/TV organization in Eureka). The first unique element of this event was that it was not a regular class, it was an after hours class held for students, faculty and members of the community, so no one had to be there, and about 20-25 people were there. Anne, Debbie and I got things rolling, as I discussed my background and fielded some questions.

Kieran (I think that's how you spell the name) the FtM and his wife entered and took seats in the back. Later in the evening Elise and her wife entered and took seats in the middle of the audience. Their being seated in the audience added to the unique setting of the event. When it came time to discuss personal experiences they were answering from the audience. The first time each of them answered, the rest of the audience was sort of surprised. We had a "The TG's sit among you" type of situation.

Each of the other speakers appeared to be very good at speaking, each had done TG speaking engagements before. We had a chance to talk to them after the event, and they were very friendly. In fact the entire class was quite friendly. A campus police officer was there and told us that the local law enforcement agencies had already started a TG awareness program within their departments. I was surprised to hear this because we were no where close to a large city.



Our Delightful Shutterbug,  
Telzey Adams

# TGSF FINANCIAL REPORTS

By Janis Ryan, Treasurer

I apologize to the membership for having missed preparing detailed financial reports for *The Channel* in recent months. I have received comments ranging from having posted too much and not enough information, both on our web site and in *The Channel*. There has been so much going on with the Cotillion and Election that it has been difficult to keep up.

In keeping with the theme of this past term of "Making It Up As We Go" many categories for Income and Expense were created, and we need to refine these for the Annual Financial Report for our Fiscal Year ending on April 30, 2000. This will result in changes to the categories in reports previously published. We also need to file many tax and information returns in the next few months. I will be helping the newly-elected Treasurer with this.

Also, as with the past year expenses for the Cotillion have kept coming in, so that it hasn't been possible to give a final accounting for it yet. That will appear along with the Annual Financial Report once it has been prepared and reviewed.

Our group operates on a cash basis, and other than some leftover equipment and supplies from previous events our assets consist of the balance in our Checking Account. I've listed the account balances below for the period from January 1 through March 31, 2000. The formal Balance Sheet will be part of the Annual Financial Report.

Date	Balance
01/01/00	\$11,328.41
02/01/00	\$18,179.56
03/01/00	\$10,576.18
03/31/00	\$ 9,140.38

## INCOME AND EXPENSE SUMMARY REPORT

1/1/00 Through 1/31/00

### INCOME

Advertising Income .....	370.00
Donations .....	200.00
Event Income:	
Ticket Sales .....	8,690.00
Event Income-Other .....	150.00
TOTAL Event Income .....	8,840.00
Honorariums .....	25.00
Meeting Donations .....	73.00
Memberships .....	50.00
Other Inc, Bus:	
Resource Guides .....	3.00
TOTAL Other Inc, Bus .....	3.00
Uncategorized Income .....	450.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME .....</b>	<b>10,011.00</b>

### EXPENSES

Corporate Filing .....	20.00
Costumes .....	162.00
Entertainment Expense .....	1,750.00
Equipment Operation .....	200.00
Event Food .....	2,700.00
Event Supplies .....	598.57
Postage and Delivery .....	77.00
Printing and Reproduction .....	501.30
Rent Paid .....	2,000.00
Tax, Business:	
State .....	-25.45
TOTAL Tax, Business .....	-25.45
Uncategorized Expenses .....	0.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES .....</b>	<b>7,983.42</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME - EXPENSES .....</b>	<b>2,027.58</b>

## INCOME AND EXPENSE SUMMARY REPORT

2/1/00 Through 2/29/00

### INCOME

Event Income:	
Ticket Sales .....	720.00
TOTAL Event Income .....	720.00
Memberships .....	127.50
Uncategorized Income .....	250.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME .....</b>	<b>1,097.50</b>

### EXPENSES

Awards & Gifts .....	61.00
Entertainment Expense .....	350.00
Equipment Rental .....	581.81
Event Food .....	1,325.28
Event Supplies .....	455.60
Postage and Delivery .....	257.10
Printing and Reproduction:	
Layout .....	822.88
Printing and Reproduction-Other .....	464.48
TOTAL Printing and Reproduction .....	1,287.36
Rent Paid .....	40.00
Tickets Purchased .....	760.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES .....</b>	<b>5,118.15</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME - EXPENSES .....</b>	<b>-4,020.65</b>

## INCOME AND EXPENSE SUMMARY REPORT

3/1/00 Through 3/31/00

### INCOME

Advertising Income .....	125.00
Donations .....	5.00
Event Income:	
Ticket Sales .....	60.00
TOTAL Event Income .....	60.00
Meeting Donations .....	101.00
Memberships .....	100.00
Sponsorship .....	500.00
Uncategorized Income .....	165.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME .....</b>	<b>1,056.00</b>

### EXPENSES

Photographs .....	98.85
Postage and Delivery .....	476.66
Printing and Reproduction .....	564.24
Rent Paid .....	20.00
Supplies, Bus .....	121.71
Utilities, Bus:	
Telephone, Bus .....	172.27
TOTAL Utilities, Bus .....	172.27
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES .....</b>	<b>1,453.73</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME - EXPENSES .....</b>	<b>-397.73</b>

## KIM HRACA, M.A. MFCC PSYCHOTHERAPY • CONSULTATION

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## LAWYER PONDERES EFFECTS OF TRANSSEXUAL'S CASE

By Adolfo Pesquera  
Express-News Staff Writer (San Antonio, TX)  
apesquera@express-news.net

A recent appellate court opinion intended to legally define what is a man and what is a woman will create havoc throughout society unless it is replaced with a better definition, a Houston trial attorney said. The majority of the medical community and an international court agree with her.

A San Antonio transsexual's loss of standing in a wrongful death suit against her late husband's doctor appeared to be a fascinating but isolated situation with little significance outside a small community of people who choose to have their sex surgically altered. But as the case has drawn attention, said her attorney, Phyllis Frye, it is becoming more apparent that the implications can touch everyone.

Christie Lee Cavazos Littleton, now 48, underwent sexual reassignment in 1979. Ten years later, she was injured in a car accident and had to go to Lexington, Ky., for bladder reconstruction. There she met Jonathon Mark Littleton, an auto assembly line worker. While she was recovering, the two became friends, fell in love and obtained a marriage license in Kentucky. But in 1996, Mark Littleton became ill and died.

"It's a funny thing," Littleton said. "When I met my husband, he was taking care of me. Holding my hand in bed, changing my bandages. We met and ended it the same way."

Littleton's wrongful death suit against the doctor for medical malpractice was thrown out of 288th District Court on the grounds that Littleton was really a man and same-sex marriages are illegal. The 4th Court of Appeals upheld the trial court's decision in October. In its opinion, Chief Justice Phil Hardberger sided with the doctor's insurance company and said, "Male chromosomes do not change with either hormonal treatment or sex reassignment surgery. Biologically, a post-operative female transsexual is still a male."

In March, the Texas Supreme Court informed Littleton's attorney it would not hear her case. He told Littleton, then removed himself as her attorney. She missed a deadline for filing a motion to reconsider before she could hire Frye. Frye was granted an extension Tuesday and has until April 18 to file a new motion.

"Every heterosexual involved in a wrongful death suit, a divorce, anything involving community property, insurance benefits, stands to lose something," Frye said. "If this ruling stands, and right now it is the law of the land, attorneys will have to seek chromosome tests. If they don't, their client can turn around and sue them for malpractice."

Genetic testing would add to the legal cost, but under the present legal system it can't even be done. State law prohibits the use of genetic information by a state agency, including judges. Littleton never was given a test to discover whether she was genetically a man. The court simply assumed she was because she once had male organs.

But it's not that simple. Just ask the international athletic community. Allegations that certain countries were seeking unfair advantage in athletic competition by disguising men as women led to genetic testing for sex verification in 1967. Known as the baccal smear, an athlete's mouth is swabbed, and a sex chromatin test is supposed to reveal whether the athlete is XX (female) or XY (male). Inconsistencies immediately surfaced.

In 1967, Polish sprinter Eva Klobukowska was eliminated from the European Cup, banned from competition and publicly humiliated worldwide, all because she had an XXY result, one chromosome too many to be declared a woman. A few years later, she became pregnant and gave birth to a healthy baby. "One in every 400 competitors was eliminated in the Atlanta Olympic Games, even though there was nothing unusual about them anatomically," said Cheryl Chase, director of the Intersex Society of North America.

Three dozen medical conditions create sexual ambiguity in the human species, Chase said. These conditions affect between 1 percent and 2 percent of the general population, or in Lone Star terms between 190,000 and 380,000 Texans. "If the Texas court's finding about who is eligible to marry is allowed to stand, many intersex people will not be allowed to marry anyone," Chase said.

The hard facts of science, said Brian Derrick, a biologist at the University of Texas at San Antonio who has been studying brain anatomy as a better indicator of sex, is that there are anatomical men with female chromosomes and vice versa. That makes everyone suspect and the potential target of genetic testing. "From a psychological and medical perspective, Littleton is a woman and always has been a woman," Derrick said.

Courts throughout the United States have rarely granted transsexuals the status they prefer. The one notable exception was Renee Richards, the transsexual tennis star who in 1976 defeated the United States Tennis Association's attempt to ban her when the New York Supreme Court ruled there was "overwhelming medical evidence that (Richards) is now a female." But outside the United States, and within the athletic community, sex definitions are changing.

Kristina Sheffield, a transsexual, sued the United Kingdom in the European Commission of Human Rights after she was repeatedly forced to identify herself as a male in judicial and commercial matters. The commission ruled in 1997 that her privacy had been violated and noted that "there was a clear trend toward the legal acknowledgment of gender reassignment in ... Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden and Turkey."

Whichever way the Texas Supreme Court rules on Littleton, the case won't end there. The issue is too important, Frye said. "I have an appellate attorney in Virginia waiting for my phone call," she said. "If need be, we'll take it to the U.S. Supreme Court."

The courts may be confused as to what Littleton is, but the widow and self-employed beautician goes on with her life confident that she must prevail. "I'm a woman," Littleton said. "Anybody can see that's all there is to it."

### NEW 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 Jenni at  
[www.aluckywife@aol.com](mailto:www.aluckywife@aol.com)  
and explain a little about your situation.

## Life After Knight:

# A CALL FOR DIRECT ACTION AND CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

By Eric Rofes

The passage of the anti-same sex marriage Knight Initiative by 62% of the California voters may come to be seen as a turning point igniting more intense activism promoting full participation in the institution of marriage. Even if progressive forces had defeated Proposition 22, marriage in California would still have been restricted to a man and a woman. Some of us have grown impatient and are no longer satisfied with strategies which fail to directly confront mainstream resistance to same-sex marriage.

We've had enough of people thinking this is too radical an issue to win mainstream support, except in rare parts of the nation which still value participatory democracy. We are tired of liberal politicians and patronizing journalists denouncing the Knight Initiative while simultaneously arguing that marriage should be reserved for mixed-sex couples. We are not content with heterosexuals enjoying the advantages of state-sanctioned marriage while same-sex couples grovel for a watered-down imitation domestic partnership. And we are dissatisfied with this struggle remaining in the hands of gay organizations that conceptualize activist strategy only through the lens of the traditional legal and political machinery.

Some activists have had enough of the patient and polite organizing methods of the past decade. Some of us may quit the courts, retreat from legislatures, and exit professional press briefings. Instead, we may take up the tactics most necessary for social change but largely absent from a contemporary queer movement comprised almost entirely of suit-and-skirt lobbyists, splashy television advertisements, and upscale black-tie dinner banquets: direct action and mass civil disobedience.

In this next, more militant phase of efforts to win same-sex marriage, justice-minded individuals, liberal politicians, and civil rights leaders may no longer be granted the luxury of talking out of both sides of their mouths. One will either be for full and democratic participation in the institutions of our culture, or be an advocate for discrimination. There will no longer be a viable position of neutrality.

## Queers Should Refuse to Attend Mixed-Sex Weddings

These days, when I receive an invitation to the marriage of heterosexual friends, family members, or students, I am filled with outrage. What nerve! Sending an invitation to me (and, often, my lover) with no reference to the fact that I am being asked to participate as an observer in an event in which I legally am not permitted to be a central participant! No note acknowledging the disparity and injustice, no sheepish apology for participating in an institution of segregation, no phone call checking-in about the politics of it all.

It may be time for queers to stop letting heterosexuals off the hook! They embrace marriage uncritically only because we let them! And they will continue to be blind to the politics of engagements, marriage, and weddings until they are forced to see them as segregated rituals and institutions that must be challenged, undermined, and transformed. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people and our allies may be ready to take direct action by refusing wedding invitations and articulating our reasons loudly, holding demonstrations at daily newspapers which continue to run marriage columns that are not accessible to all, and disrupting televi-

sion shows such as *Who Wants to Marry a Millionaire?* or *The Newlywed Game* which are conceptualized around an institution currently founded on exclusivity and bigotry.

Social change on cutting-edge issues rarely occurs in the absence of a direct action strategy. Building on rich traditions of militant organizing inspired most recently by ACT-UP, but rooted in the tactics of the Civil Rights Movement, women's liberation, and anti-nuclear activism, these efforts may be what is needed to transform current campaigns for equal access to marriage into an authentic movement for social justice and participatory democracy. Activists may take their struggle directly to the people using powerful organizing methods strategically designed to create a critical consciousness about the politics of marriage, inspire a movement of street activists passionate about bringing about change, and force the issue into an arena of intense public scrutiny.

## Same-Sex Couples Must Undermine the Marriage Bureaucracy

Holding a mass queer wedding every time there is a march on Washington or the mayor of San Francisco organizes such an event in city hall, may no longer be enough. A marriage simulation does not in and of itself function as civil disobedience. And many people have come to believe that candlelight vigils are an inadequate response to anti-gay votes. Such vigils are not the same as political protest. We may need more than candles, more than photo ops, more than sloganeering. The time may be right for the kind of carefully crafted actions that demonstrate a new level of serious intent about this issue and place same-sex marriage in the public eye in a compelling and confrontational manner. We soon may see national networks of activists plotting massive civil disobedience actions focused on undercutting key points-of-access to the institution of marriage.

Continued on Page 16

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"She was following the advice she was given. It was 1977 - times were different, Phyllis was still trying to work her way into the court system. In 1977, [transitioning] was all hush-hush. The psychologists told people, once you get your surgery, go wood-work and have a good life. And that's what she did!

"There was no reason for her to come looking for activists. She had no way to know that her husband was going to die. She had no way to know that the judge was going to rule the way that he did. "Christie was just a person who had a life, and was in love with a husband. The husband dies, and she thinks she has the right to sue like anybody else in this country. And the judge comes up with this entirely bizarre ruling.

"Her whole focus was her husband and her business - which makes her pretty much an average American. She was following the American Dream, and it became the American Nightmare. "And she's not a closet case: I asked her if we went to Austin, and went to the legislature to fight for this, would you testify? Her response was "Hell, yes."

"She didn't have much of an educational background, and really didn't fully understand what the ruling meant. She didn't even know why there was a need for a chromosome test - she didn't what they were! And for that we're gonna barbecue this woman? Not as long as I'm alive. I'm sorry, she's a victim."

### The After Hours Radio Interview:

"I am originally from San Antonio, (but) I happened to meet my husband in Kentucky," Christie stated. "I happened to have a car accident, (and) for medical reasons I was transferred to Kentucky for medical treatment. During the process, I met my husband Jonathan Mark Littleton. He was from rural Kentucky, came to Lexington looking for work and resided in a motel that I happened to reside in right before my medical treatment. And we were introduced in the lobby of the motel."

"We dated for a long - well, we actually became friends for about a month. And that friendship led us into being roommates. And then two weeks after we became roommates, I had to go for surgery. And during the recovery of the surgery, my husband nursed me back to health - which took several months. During that process, we fell in love.

"We were married for about 6 years. We lived together for six months prior to our marriage. During that time when he was nursing me back to health, and during the courtship; when he admitted his true feelings to me, I admitted my little secret. And exposed to him my past life, and he understood and accepted and he asked me to marry him.

"So he knew you were post-operative and basically said, 'I don't care?'" Sarah asked. "Exactly," Christie replied. "I believe that until the day he died he was in disbelief that the surgery ever took place. He could say there was no tracks of my past. He could never understand how I was ever born that way, because I was so feminine in his eyes."

"When he proposed to me, I said yes - as long as we could reside in San Antonio where I have my friends, my family, my clients and my business - I'm a hairstylist, and I needed to reopen my business. And he agreed that my life was that important to me, so he moved all his belongings with me to San Antonio, and helped me reopen my salon. We were married on Dec. 31, 1989 and he passed away on July 30, 1986.

I had been taking him to the doctors - several doctors - prior to his death. I believe they call it embolism. It's a blood clot, it got stuck in the lungs in his main arteries and caused his death. I would explain to them he had blood clots and they disagreed and would treat him for something else. The day before he died, I took him to this Dr. Prange, in my opinion, he misdiagnosed him. He just didn't give him the proper medical care, and just gave him a bottle of Ibuprofen for pain - which contains aspirin, which is a blood thinner - which is an enemy to a blood clot. Within 14 hours, he passed away.

"As a wife, if I say I feel my husband is being treated wrong, and I ask for proper treatment and it's refused, as a wife I defend my husband. My husband has two children from a prior marriage. I figure since I lost my husband, and my step-children have lost their means to ever see their father again, I wanted to get justice so that we could arrange some kind of financial stuff for my step-children and for myself.

"But then it went out of my control. Instead of looking at it as a woman looking for justice on her husband's wrongful death, they turned it around and made it a gender issue. They forgot about the hurt that my husband went (through), the medication that he got, they forgot about the pain and suffering that I went (through). All they remember is the gender issue.

"I really don't know how they found out (about her being transsexual). I think that during questioning, two female attorneys questioned me some things under oath. And they asked me my full name, and I gave them my full name. And they asked me if I had gone by any other name, and I told them my female name before marriage. They pursued it to go until the day I was born, and they brought that issue up.

"Those are two things- they're two separate issues - the court took the privilege of merging together. Instead of taking my malpractice case to heart, which was the main issue, they found a loophole to keep the doctor from being sued with malpractice. So they decided to bring in the gender issue. I don't know how they combined them together. I also don't know how they came to the conclusion of it being a same sex marriage. Because, no way it's a same sex marriage.

"The judge ruled it didn't matter that you were post-surgical seven, eight years," Sarah reminded. "It didn't matter that your husband had accepted you as a woman, and that your step-children accepted you as a woman; that as long as you had male chromosomes, you were male."

Continued on Page 15

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## 1999 RESOURCE GUIDE

The 1998-99 TGSF Resource Guide is now available at cost to all TGSF members. You can bring \$3.00 to the next social or we can mail it to you for \$3.00 + \$1.50 postage. If you are a service listed in the guide you can get copies for \$5.00 each plus postage. The Resource Guide will be available to everyone else for \$10.00 each.

The 1999 TGSF Resource Guide is your one source for virtually all the Transgender Resources in the Greater Bay Area (From San Jose to Sacramento to Santa Rosa to San Francisco). The Guide covers where to go to have a good time on the town, where to shop, where to get services like Make-up, Electrolysis and Beauty Salons, as well as where to stay in the San Francisco area (and Russian River Resort Area). You can also locate professional services such as Doctors, Psychologists, Lawyers, Voice Therapists and others. The Guide also contains information on other Gender Information and Education Groups. If you are going to visit the San Francisco area - This is the guide to have!

If you would like a guide by mail you can send a check for \$4.50 (per copy) to: TGSF, Resource Guide, P.O. Box 426486, San Francisco, CA. 94142-6486. Please be sure to indicate on the check that it is for the Resource Guide.

## Christie Littleton Speaks...

Continued from Page 14

"I've got right in front of me the petition to the Supreme Court." Christie replied. "Hopefully, I will come up successful. We're born human beings and Americans, and we all have rights. We have rights to fall in love and marry. And if the court is just to all human beings in America, they will vote my way. If for any reason they vote against me, or throw my case, or refuse to hear my case, I would continue to fight as far as I can to have my rights acknowledged.

To tell you the truth, neither of the judges - neither from the first court, nor from the fourth court appeal - none of the judges above ever questioned me personally. Not one of them has ever gave me one minute to listen to what I have to say or what I felt. How they came up to the conclusions of what my chromosomes are - I don't understand it, because I've never been asked to be tested for them. So how he comes to that conclusion is still a mystery. I believe they already had their minds set up to do what they wanted to.

When asked if she would go before the Texas Legislature and explain the case to some of the committees there, Christie's reply was, "Yes I would. I wish somebody would give me a few minutes so that I could explain my feelings and my thoughts. Someone that could hear my side."

"I don't understand since my surgery was funded by the government, it was a government program, it was done by government doctors. Government judges and lawyers that took part in changing my name, and my gender. It has all been done legally. I would've thought somebody bringing up my gender would have happened twenty years ago, when the surgery was not done - not twenty years later, and after a marriage. Annuling my marriage should've been done before I applied for the marriage license. Not after a successful marriage, and 20 years of womanhood."

When queried why she'd never thought of contacting transgender organizations, Christie answered: "I never knew about transgender organizations or anything. As a matter of fact, for years I thought I was the only one around, until I met some other girls. All these girls that I have met, have worked themselves into very normal lives and gone into secret lives and didn't want anybody to know about their personal lives. And nobody talked about it: it was a hush-hush subject. The only time I ever talked about it was when I was in a relationship with a man and I needed him to know. (W)hen I met my husband, when our relationship was growing; I thought there was something he need to know before the relationship went on. And that's about the only time we talked about it. I explained it to him, and he understood. He heard it, accepted it, and then said let's never talk about it again.

"And now they're telling me I don't have a right to fight for his wrongful death. Not only are they telling me that I don't have the rights to fight for what other wives should have. I must never meet any person that I may fall in love with and share my life with. By law, they're telling me that I'll never be able to marry again; and that, to me, is very unconstitutional. And very inhumane to ask a human to stay away from marriage.

"At the same time, they're also telling me that if I do fall in love, I will have to live in sin under common law because I don't have a right to marry and lead a decent life with men. "None of the judges or the lawyers have ever asked me what I felt to lose my husband. All they know is what they want to go what is legally the law now. And they didn't even follow the legal law in the right procedure.

"And (the courts) don't understand how two people can have a relationship and fall in love they don't understand the hurt of when you meet somebody and when it's taken away - the absences of their experiences, their holding, the conversations we had. If I ever needed consoling from my husband, I can never ask him for that any more. He's gone. The courts just can't understand that it's not just my husband that is gone, it is my lifetime partner that they took away from me."

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There has been a small but very important stream of civil disobedience actions in the marriage fight. It has involved members of the clergy who violate orders from denominational authorities and perform same-sex marriages at tremendous risk to their careers. These clergy members have been put on trial, censored, and even defrocked for their actions. In the post-Knight Initiative era, let's hope we see more clergy with integrity to take similar actions.

At the same time, LGBT activists themselves might be ready to follow the lead of these clergy members. We might see coordinated days of action when same-sex couples attempt to register at the local county clerk's office. Imagine the impact if same-sex couples in rural areas, small town America, urban centers, and suburban neighborhoods throughout the nation on the same day and at the same time showed up couple-by-couple and stood on line to fill out the forms to register for marriage. Imagine if they requested the proper forms and replied to refusals with a predetermined response grounded in passive resistance. Imagine if they were all trained to alert local media outlets, organize teams of vocal supporters, and articulate a calm, impact-ful message in response to this closed institution. Imagine if they returned in a coordinated manner every day for a week or a month voicing the same powerful statement.

Or imagine same-sex couples chaining themselves peaceably to the front doors of the offices of their neighborhood justice of the peace and singing songs of liberation as they were carted off to jail. Or choosing to appear in large numbers outside the churches where prominent politicians or celebrities were getting married, silently holding up signs stating "Participation in Marriage is Participation in Injustice," or "Saying I Do when We Can't = Bigotry" Or crashing local wedding ceremonies at the moment where the officiator asks for any objections, standing up and reciting a speech about the shameful inequity of access to marriage.

### **Justice-Minded Heterosexual Couples Must Boycott Marriage Until It Is Democratized**

It has been wonderful to note large numbers of supportive heterosexuals—especially heterosexuals under the age of 30—decriing barriers to same-sex marriage. As the debates intensify and the stakes increase, LGBT activists will begin to urge these folks to back up their rhetoric with principled action. Justice-minded heterosexuals could make a major contribution to undermining the status quo by refusing to participate in the institution of marriage until it is open to all.

Some heterosexual allies already understand that marriage is a form of heterosexual privilege that comes at the expense of queer rights, gender equality, and social justice. They understand that marriage grants them a whole set of advantages, benefits, and legal privileges that are subsidized by queer folks and others who do not marry. We actively pay for what many others see as normal, universal, and sacred. This leads many activists to argue that we should be fighting for the strong domestic partnership laws currently in place in many northern European nations for both same-sex and mixed-sex couples. In these nations, marriage simply becomes a religious "add-on" outside the realm of state sanction.

During a period when same-sex couples cannot marry, the taking of such vows by mixed-sex couples will increasingly be named for what it is: an act of willful participation in an institution that is neither democratic nor open to all. In the year 2000, heterosexu-

als getting married parallels Christians joining a club that excludes Jews, men working as partners in a law firm that has no female partners, or whites supporting the flying of the Confederate flag over public buildings intended to serve people of all races. No matter how one wishes to frame them, such choices are inherently ethical choices: participation in rituals and institutions that exclude sectors of society puts you on the side of discrimination and oppression.

It may be time not only for true heterosexual allies to say NO to marriage until all people have equal access, but also for all principled people to engage in public education around their refusal to accept privilege. Will we begin to see groups marching outside religious institutions and county clerk offices under banners such as "Hetero-Couples Refusing to Marry Until All Can Marry," or "Until All Are Welcome, None Must Participate: Free Marriage Now!?" Will we begin to hear from the children raised by mixed-sex couples who take a justice-minded stand and refuse to get married until same-sex couples can get married? Is now the time to put an economic dent in the wedding industry, a result of large numbers of heterosexuals refusing to open their wallets for marriage licenses, wedding receptions, bridal dresses, photographers, and honeymoon excursions. Imagine if heterosexual allies publicly burned their marriage certificates?

There is an important historical precedent for this kind of privilege-refusing action. During the Civil Rights Movement, a number of white people repulsed by the injustices of racism, declined to participate in key institutions of segregation. They refused to utilize white-only public facilities, ride on busses which forced Blacks to the back seats, and sit at segregated lunch counters. Likewise, there have been men who resigned from clubs that excluded Jews, women, and people of color, and people with inherited wealth who have given away their legacies to organizations in poor communities working for economic redistribution. It is time for such visionary pioneers to emerge in this battle against heterosexism.

Some argue that the queers predisposed to militant activism do not see marriage as a priority and view the institution as problematic; those who value marriage may be less inclined towards tactics of direct action. As in all social justice movements, radical activism won't be everyone's cup of tea. Yet we have learned from voter initiatives ending affirmative action and jettisoning bilingual programs in public schools, that California is the Right's testing-ground for regressive initiatives. The passage of the Knight Initiative by voters of the largest and most trend-setting state in the nation should compel us immediately to break through earlier barriers to militancy and rethink our cautious strategy and limited tactics.

Social change movements that lack a direct action component and don't take seriously the power of civil disobedience, risk becoming nothing more than symbolic demands and rhetorical hype. Same-sex marriage will become a reality throughout the United States sometime in the next century. It will come about more expeditiously, and with a greater public understanding of the links between gay marriage and participatory democracy, if we replace strategies of pleading and bargaining with the tactics of a true social change movement.

Eric Rofes is a professor of education at Humboldt State University in Arcata, CA and a long-time community organizer and author of nine books, including *DRY BONES BREATHE: GAY MEN CREATING POST-AIDS IDENTITIES AND CULTURES* (Hayworth, 1998). He is grateful for the feedback of Wayne Hoffman, Joan E. Biren, Diane Sabin, Dave Orphal, Liz Highleyman, Kate Clinton, Margo Okazawa-Rey, Jim Mitulski, Eileen Hansen, Will Seng, and Michael Scarce as he worked on this essay.



**WHATEVER**

by Beth Plottner (bethchl@aol.com)  
 Reprinted from It's Time Illinois newsletter.

GBLT, LBG&T, T, G, L, & B which is correct and does it matter? Maybe not on paper except for the order of the letters, but what I'm referring to is the use of commas and/or other punctuation marks in between the letters. No this isn't going to become a grammar lesson (never one of my strong points but those who have read my columns have long figured this out).

So what is it about the use of the commas and/or other punctuation? They separate the letters just as we often separate ourselves. I am not going to rehash that Transgendered people deserve to be included. I think most agree we do and are part of the community. But what I am going to rehash is the separation between the L the B the T and the G in the world in which we live.

The other day I met a Transgendered individual at an LGBT meeting. This individual though very sensitive to the fact that Transgendered folk were given an equal voice in what we were trying to accomplish at the same time wanted to distance herself from the rest of the group when it came to going out to eat and later a reception. The reason she gave? She said she didn't want to go to the restaurant we were headed to for dinner because it was considered a "gay restaurant" and as a straight woman she didn't want to go to that type of establishment especially if we were going out afterwards for drinks at a (gasp) lesbian or gay bar.

People are free to socialize with who ever they want. If you just want to hang with the boys or with the girls we all have that right. But often business meetings and conventions have a social function. Very often more information and ideas are traded back and forth in a more relaxed setting. I have met a fair number of people in the community who don't drink or don't like to go to bars because they tend to be a bit on the smoky side. I can also understand why some people who identify as straight wouldn't want to go to a gay establishment (though I know a good number of straight people who have frequented such places). What my point is this person who wants to be included when it suits her but at the same time wants to exclude at the same time too. I'm sorry but I don't see how it works that way. Whether we like it or not the rest of society views us all together. Even so we shouldn't exclude. But when we start putting separations between us we weaken our own community just as society is weakened because they have tried to separate and marginalize us.

No one group has a monopoly on trying to distance themselves from another. I have often heard complaints that the women are not welcome in some men's spaces and men and transgendered persons are not welcome in some women's spaces etc. As Americans, we have the right to associate with whom we wish. But what is wrong and not right is to create barriers between ourselves. This has been an issue society has been dealing with for the second half of the 20th century. White and black, male and female, straight and well you get the idea. Until such time that we as a society learn not to but up barriers whether in society at large or within a smaller segment of society such as the LBTG community we always be marginalizing and weakening ourselves.

So let's put a stop to it right now in the LBTG community. No commas, no other punctuation no barriers. The infighting in the community has to stop! How can we move forward and bring down the barriers that society tries to put up around us if we keep erecting barriers within. After all we are all equal, we are all important, we are all welcome.

**NINE SAUDI TRANSVESTITES JAILED**

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) - Nine young Saudi men have each been sentenced to more than 2,000 lashes and at least five years in prison for deviant sexual behavior, a police officer said Sunday.

A court in the western city of Qunfuda on Saturday sentenced five of the men to six years in prison and 2,600 lashes. The men are to be flogged 52 times in 50 sessions, the officer said on condition of anonymity. The four other defendants were sentenced to five years and 2,400 lashes. They are to be flogged 48 times in 50 sessions.

There will be a pause of 15 days between each of the flogging sessions. Police started tailing the nine men after reports that they were acting strangely, the officer said. He said police found that they were dressing in women's clothes and engaging in deviant sexual behavior with each other. He said the nine confessed to the charges.

The conservative kingdom, where women are not allowed to drive and must be covered head-to-toe in public, follows a strict interpretation of Islamic law. Courts routinely order hands amputated for theft, and public execution for murder, rape, sodomy and drug trafficking.

Human rights organizations have criticized those penalties. They say defendants do not receive fair trials and often do not have access to lawyers.

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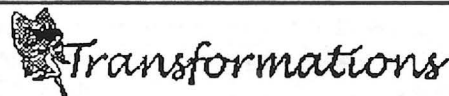
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## TRANSGENDER NEWS IN BRIEF

PlanetOut Online News

### Victoria Trans Rights Bill Introduced (with thanks to Graham Underhill)

The Government of the Australian state of Victoria on April 13 introduced a bill to prohibit discrimination based on gender identity, a category currently absent from the state's Equal Opportunity Act. Attorney-General Rob Hulls told the Legislative Assembly that, "The bill ... for the first time in Victoria makes it illegal to discriminate against a person because they are transgender or of indeterminate sex. Whilst transgender people are not a large proportion of the Victorian community, they are subject to the most extreme forms of discrimination and harassment." Hulls called the bill "long overdue."

Along with a fairly standard religious exemption, the law also exempts sports, requiring transgenders to compete with those of their birth sex, although how this would apply to intersexed people is unclear. The bill will be debated next month and Hulls is optimistic that it will pass before the end of the current legislative session, but it won't be easy. The Opposition Liberal/National Coalition has not yet discussed its position, although gay MP Andrew Olexander is preparing a position paper for the Coalition.

TransGender Victoria believes the bill will make a big difference in the lives of transgendered people, and is willing to be patient about any further progress on the sports exemption. The Victorian Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby also welcomed the bill as "an important first step."

### UK Trans War Hero Dies

A British inquest this week considered the case of Joanna Roche, an 85-year-old woman who apparently committed suicide rather than face a further decline in her failing health, and included in the proceeding her lengthy military career as a male. The coroner told the hearing that, "John Roche had a very proud army career. He was a very remarkable person."

Born in Dublin in 1914, John Roche joined the military at 25 and finished a career spanning Africa, Burma, India, and Malaysia at 52 as a full major with the Military Cross. Thereafter Roche was employed as a teacher.

Married and the father of one daughter, Roche separated from his wife and went on to live as a woman, although the London Daily Telegraph reported that as far as a representative of Roche's family could say there was no medical treatment involved.

### Trans Documentaries Online (with thanks to GAIN)

New on the Net this month is Channel-T.org, a non-profit grassroots series of transsexual documentaries intended for free distribution over the Internet via Quick-Time 4 streaming video. Host Cynthia Webster describes the documentaries on her new service as "selected specifically for folks like us, all with dignity and a sense of humor!"

Webster said, "It's our intention that Channel-T will develop into a conceptual lighthouse, or Rock of Gibraltar, of positive transgender media. We're not trying to duplicate the outstanding offerings of the many text-based Web sites involved in transgendered issues. Instead, this is the beginning of a new video network of multi-media programming from within the 'T' community itself." Those interested in contributing video materials should e-mail Webster.

### Thai Trans Volleyball Team on Film

An unexpected hit in Thailand is the feature film Satee Lex (The Iron Ladies), which tells the story of the real-life volleyball team of five "katoeys" and a lesbian who became national champions in 1996. "Katoeys," often viewed as a third sex, include transsexuals, transvestites and effeminate gay men; only one of the actors in the film is actually katoey in real life. The film deals with the players' lives both on and off the court, and those portrayed in the film are happy with it.

Two weeks into its run, according to Time, the film was en route to becoming Thailand's #2 all-time grosser and was being considered for international distribution. One critic commented that, "The characters are developed, they're hilarious and they really touch your heart," although Variety's Bangkok correspondent panned it for camp stereotypes. One katoey fan of the film is the famed transsexual former kick-boxer Parinya Kiattbusaba, who told *Agence France Press* that, "I think the movie will show people that gay people can persevere and it shows that what men and women do, we can do as well."

The current real-life team members are trying to raise money to participate in the 2002 Gay Games in Sydney. They were first organized in 1994 by Lampang schoolteacher Pornthip Kauensuwong, who told Reuters that, "I saw they had talent for the game and wanted the public to accept them as they are. I'm very proud this movie has done so well, because I think it means society has finally done so."

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