The Channel
TGSF
TransGender San Francisco
(formerly ETVC)

December 1998 Volume 17, Issue 10

Halloween with TGSF

The Channel

TGSF, Inc., a 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 1998-99 Officers

(Fiscal Year: May 1 - April 30)

President ..... Leslie Bailey
Vice President ..... Lulu Blau
Secretary ..... Veronica Smith
Treasurer ..... Lisa Ronald
Education ..... Nancy Cupps / Juana Smith
Outreach ..... Sandra Brewer
Social ..... Nicole Cook / Evette RoqueLaurie

Secretary's Report

Membership as of November 8, 1998 255
Total Fiscal Year 1997-98 Membership 327
New Memberships this year 46

Treasurer's Report

Approx. Account Balance as of November, 1998 ..... $12,000.00

(Includes the "Home for TGSF" Fund)

TGSF is a 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.

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Contributing Photographers ..... Telzey Adams, Nicole Cook
..... Veronica & Juana Smith and Jamie Fey Fenton

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

Hotline & Voice Mail
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From The Editor...

Well, by the time you read this I'll have done the dirty deed and married my man. A friend wrote to me recently and called my achievement "awesome," that "...the fact that you were born male and many years later will be a bride shows me just how far you have come..." and I thought to myself 'ya know it's certainly a milestone in my journey, but awesome? I dunno...but if you had told me even ten years ago that I'd be where I am today, happily in love with another man and about to marry him wearing a white lace dress standing on the beach, I'd've said you're crazy! Yes what a long strange trip it's been, and in the overall scheme of things, a journey still with a way to go. A lot of you have expressed your best wishes and for that he and I are both grateful, and we're sorry we couldn't invite you all to the wedding, the budget being what it is (we knew you'd understand).

The Church Of What's-A-Happenin' Now

What's the buzz, tell me whatsahappenin...well for starters, Leslie's column touches on the fact that even if one of us is out and open and honest, we can touch other's lives in a positive and meaningful way; Sara Fox from It's Time, Ohio! is on the warpath following up on the transphobic ad campaign being run by Network Associates (page 5); please read the moving text of Harvey Fierstein's speech at the Memorial March for Matthew Shepard and listen to his words with your heart (page 8); Barbara Anderson checks back in and revisits the passing issue generated by her article printed here last July (page 9); not one, but two reviews of Dr. Toby Meltzer's jam-packed seminar at Kimo's (these girls were paying attention! See page 12); Jane Bolig's excellent series from her talk given at the last California Dreamin' convention continues on page 14, wrapping up the column next month with the final installment. Last but not least, on page 15 Phyllis Frye (Esq) eloquently implores your action and participation in a letter-writing campaign in support of transgender inclusion in the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) that will be presented to the newly-elected Congress in the spring of 1999. Now I know how much anxiety many of you go through when faced with using a 32 cent stamp, but this one's important ladies! Whew! How's that for a year-end issue, eh? <G>

So What's In Store For Us in 1999?

Well the focus obviously must still remain on the budget; there's a controversy brewing in ExCom about how TGSF should be funded

Continued on Page 3

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President's Report

by Leslie Bailey

Images

Here are some images and thoughts from a recent presentation at Solano College. There's this guy in the back of the room with a very puzzled look who simply has to ask "...why on earth would a guy want to dress up like a woman, I don't get it." On the one hand I assure him that men don't have to cross dress in order to get in touch with their feminine side (a statement which is not only true but is also good politic) and then I discuss how the transformation to a woman resonates deep within my soul. We touch on the nature vs. nurture polemic and on the concept of a bi-gendered identity. He's still perplexed and I'm trying to think of an image that he may be able to connect with to some degree. Guys pull on a jersey, grab a beer and some food, park themselves in front of the tube with other guys who have done the same and hoot and holler for three or four hours at other guys who are running around in tights and shoulder pads and in the process feel very manly (I do it also and it's fun). We on the other hand make ourselves over as best we can as a woman, gather to share food, drinks and conversation and feel womanly. I get it but he still looks puzzled. What I don't say because I don't want to push the point too far is that if you love, value and appreciate women and truly believe that the sexes are equal, then the idea that a guy would want to spend time in women's space or to become a woman should be a manageable concept.

The ubiquitous bathroom question follows shortly afterwards. I comment that I only use the women's restroom when there is no other viable alternative and that I am absolutely harmless in that situation. A woman in her forties is not entirely convinced.

We go on to other topics such as children, spouses, single parenting for five years, shopping as Leslie or Teri, divorce, girlfriends, jobs, the closet, quality of people in the TG community, gay and lesbian friends, straight friends, neighbors, need for TG role models, acceptance, visibility, etc. After two hours most of the class appears to be getting the picture that we are actually o.k. and that we are responsible, hardworking, caring, good neighbors and good friends.

Then, with just a few minutes to go, a rather wonderful thing occurs. A few of the students express support and satisfaction that stereotypes have been dispelled and the woman who earlier had expressed reservations about finding herself in a restroom with a TG person raises her hand and with a smile announces that "you can use the lady's room when I'm in it any time you want." And I think to myself that we have actually communicated tonight and that maybe we can indeed join the club.

Christmas

The holidays are fast approaching and I want to wish you all the best. Your love and friendship is a constant source of joy and strength. Your courage and the quality of your lives motivates and inspires me. For that I am very grateful.

Significant Other Support - East Bay

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

From the Editor...

Continued from Page 2

moving forward (a shift from the traditional role of the Social Committee as "breadwinner"), but it's clear that although the checkbook has made a comeback, we cannot rely on donations to fund the many educational and outreach efforts our organization is famous for. But the big buzz for the New Year is Cotillion '99! Ahh the South Seas...I don't know about you, but the picture in my mind of warm tropic breezes, a sunny beach, a crystal blue sea, the crashing surf, Calypso music in the background, a lover rubbing oil into your skin and a Mai Tai IV certainly floats my boat! The Cotillion Planning Committee is already in full gear and volunteers are needed, and rumor has it that we already have a number of contestants for Miss TGSF and that they're looking for more, so if you're of a mind to join the hallowed ranks of the chosen few to represent the organization for an entire year, sign up now!

Do have a Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah and Happy New Year...don't forget to dig out your copy of 1999 by Prince, and party on!

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November 1998

ExCom Meeting Minutes

The monthly meeting of TGSF's Executive Committee was in Albany on November 8, 1998 at 3:00 p.m. In attendance were President Bailey, Vice President Blau, Secretary Smith, Outreach Chair Brewer, Social Co-Chairs Cook and RoqueLaurie, Education Co-Chairs Cupps and Smith. Guests included Debbie and Telzey. Treasurer Ronald was absent. The Meeting was **called to order** at 3:20.

Communications and Announcements: On October 5 Nancy sent flowers to Margo Bell's memorial service. Nicole, Debbie, Nancy, Telzey and a few others attended the Miss SGA contest November 7. Telzey had communicated with the GLBiT Youth Task Force which was asking for a representative. Telzey had communicated with Guy Campos who was concerned that his checks had not been deposited. Yolanda of CUAV wanted phone numbers and e-mail addresses of people to contact in TGSF. The Alternative Family Project will present Professor Gilbert Herdt on November 13.

Old Business: Veronica asked about Kim Stuart's request about monies and copies of her book owed her. There had been a series of e-mails sent back and forth, but Nicole suggested that perhaps it was time someone actually talked to Kim Stuart. Leslie will take care of it.

October's Minutes: Nicole moved for the Minutes to be approved, Sandra seconded the motion and the Minutes were unanimously approved

President: Leslie started the name change process by going to the bank and Treasurer's office to get the forms. TGSF must announce the name change and that it is doing business as TGSF. Also, a fictitious name form must be filed. Juana formally thanked the President for getting started on the name change process and dealing with the tedious bureaucratic procedures. Nancy asked about the estimated cost of the name change. Leslie thought around $100.

Vice President: A Cotillion meeting had been held in Sebastopol. The theme had been cemented and there had been further discussion with Sharon Durand, the director. The next meeting would be at Leslie's on November 14. Lulu talked with Kevin Anderson about programs and posters. Lulu wanted a poster within a week, tickets by the next social, and a photo session of the present court for the promotion. Using the website was discussed. Veronica wondered if GAPA had props or decorations that might be rented or borrowed for the South Pacific theme. Leslie asked about printing at International Minute Press. Lulu floated the balloon about sending out invitations.

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Secretary: Membership had remained flat with 255 and 46 new as compared to last year's November 9 ExCom meeting when membership was 294 of which 55 were new. Veronica asked for someone else to do the newsletter mailing on the 24th. Debbie and Nicole volunteered again to do it.

Treasurer: Leslie again reported for the absent Lisa. Even after paying the $2,000 deposit for the Design Center, TGSF's treasury had around $12,000 in it this year as compared to $650 in it last year at the same time. To emphasize further the improved financial situation from last year, besides only having $650 in its account last year at this time, TGSF had also owed $1,200 for tax services and $1,100 for the 1997 Halloween Party. Whereas the 1998 Halloween Party had netted $500 profit due to the efforts of Nicole and Debbie. So financially, the club was obviously doing much better.

Leslie related that Lisa Ronald had not been able to act as Treasurer for some time. Even though Lisa had not officially resigned, it was obvious that the club needed a replacement. There was a discussion about who could step into that role and what would be that officer's requirements. The general consensus was that the Treasurer, whoever that might be, would not create esoteric software that only she could understand. Juana thought that a simple Excel spreadsheet was probably enough for the club's finances. But others thought that Quicken or QuickBooks would be more appropriate. However, rather than specifying software, Nicole suggested the ExCom should just specify the information that it needed from the Treasurer and leave it to the Treasurer as to how she would provide the information. Leslie led a short discussion about what information the officers would want. It was initially decided that the officers wanted monthly financial statements, cash flow projections and tax preparation documentation. Juana still thought that the financial information should be easily transferable and translatable for whatever software the next Treasurer would use. She would also like it available on-line somehow, so that each officer could download and submit information conveniently. Leslie asked Nicole and Nancy to confer and create a list of informational needs.

Education: Nancy reported that the Dr. Meltzer seminar had been well attended and she received $189 in donations. Combining the expenses and donations from the two last seminars netted a $35 loss. Someone had left as a donation a bag of magazines and a few wigs, with which Nancy was unsure what to do. Someone suggested giving it to TARC. After further investigation, Nancy had decided to postpone indefinitely any seminar involving a stylist who would cut a man's hair so it could be used in both male and female guise. Nancy was then considering laser hair removal for an Educational Seminar topic. However, because of the approaching holidays, she was considering the first Saturday in December for the seminar, which did not leave much time for promotion. Other topics that she had been considering were: Danae

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Meeting Minutes...

Continued from Page 4

Doyle, fashion consultant, for January; a Community Forum in February; Gislaine, movement and deportment instructor, in March; Maureen O'Connor, voice, in April. Nicole suggested coordinating the seminars with the Resource Guide.

Outreach: Sandra turned over a check from Sonoma State University for a presentation Diane Giles and Leslie had done. Sandra had also done a presentation recently. Sandra led a discussion on TGSF's involvement with KQED's pledge nights. Interest had waned since the first pledge night, and Sandra thought that there was not enough interest to warrant TGSF's involvement in two pledge nights per year. The general consensus was that TGSF should participate during the June pledge drive when TGSF would be part of the pre-parade festivities which led up to the Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender Pride Parade.

Social: The Halloween Party was a success with over 100 attendees. November's mid-month would be on Veterans Day and the end-month social would be on the 19th because of Thanksgiving. And its event would be a Cleavage Contest. December's mid-month was to be the 9th. Leslie congratulated the Cooks on a job well done. Juana remarked that a $500 profit was around $1,600 better than last year. On a different subject, Nicole had talked with Janine of Foxy Lady. Janine wanted to host a wine and cheese social at her store. But there was little enthusiasm for this. This led to a discussion about vendors' concerns and somehow got off on a tangential discussion about California Dreamin'.

New Business: There was a suggestion to give the 386 computer that the Smiths had donated last year to Chelsi if she were interested in being Treasurer.

Next ExCom Meetings: Lulu's on December 6 at 3:00; January at the Smith's. At approximately 6:15 p.m., Juana moved to **adjourn the meeting**, Lulu seconded and motion was unanimously passed.

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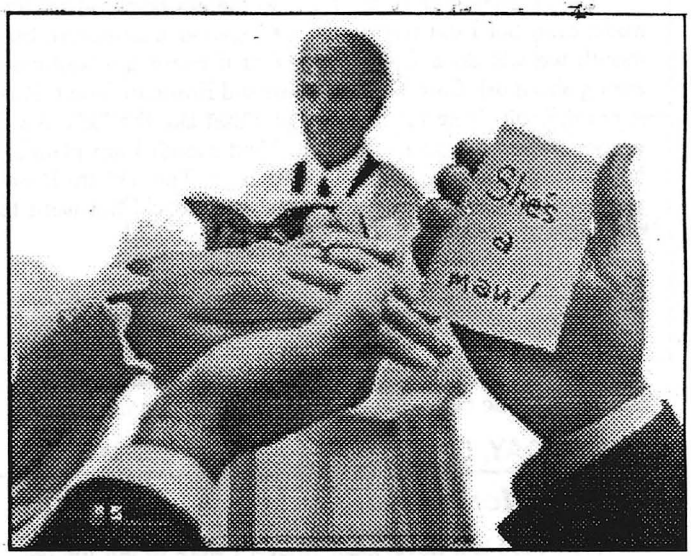
McAfee Associates Spreads Hate Virus

by Sarah Fox, Ph.D.

[QUILL, Columbus, Ohio, Oct. 28, 1998] Most computer users are familiar with McAfee Associates' virus protection software. McAfee has established a long history of leadership in data protection; however, Network Associates Inc., formed from the acquisition of Network General by McAfee Associates, has callously spread one of the most destructive viruses in recent history, called the "Hate Virus."

The Hate Virus differs from most viruses. It does not cause data loss, its host is not a computer, and it is not transmitted either via the Internet or any data storage medium. Rather, it causes loss of human life, its host is the human mind, and it is transmitted via printed material. While it poses no risk to data integrity, its effects on societal integrity are potentially catastrophic.

Network Associates released the Hate Virus on October 12 in a two-page ad conceived by the Think Inc. advertising agency. The ad, cleverly disguised as humor, shows the hand of a man and a woman in wedding attire, with a minister in the background. Another hand is displaying a note to the groom, reading, "She's a man!" Accompanying the photograph are the statements, "It's nice to know about something before it becomes a problem, " "because it's what you don't know that can hurt you," and "It might just save you from an embarrassing situation."



Transgendered people have long been the subject of humor, and there is nothing wrong with that. Along with all the daily torment they must endure, there are indeed priceless moments of humor. However, NAI's advertisement clearly crosses the line from humor to hatred and ignorance by suggesting that transsexuals are out to dupe unsuspecting men, thereby causing them "hurt," "a problem," or "an embarrassing situation." It clearly portrays transsexuals as predators and their partners as victims, and it conveys the message that a marriage between a transsexual woman and a man are somehow improper.

Imagine if the message on the note read, "She's a Jew!" The implication, of course, would be that the groom has been tricked by a clever Jewish woman posing as a Gentile and that the he must be warned, so as to save him from making the embarrassing mistake of marrying this terrible person. The only people who would not call for heads to roll would be the "Aryan" supremacists. How is the ad about transsexuals any different?

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TGSF Events in December

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6TH, 3:00PM

December ExCom Meeting

OK we are back in "The City" this month for the ExCom meeting. As always everyone is encouraged to attend and let us know how you think things should be done, of course we would also like you to help do them. Email or call me (Nicole) and I will arrange for you to get directions. [redacted]@tgforum.com or (707) [redacted] It is actually a lot of fun to do some of the events.

MONDAY DECEMBER 7TH, 8:00PM

Erin Souza at Josies Open Mike

Come see Erin (Former Miss ETVC and ETVC President) perform her now famous comedy material at Josies. The show starts at 8PM and costs $5.00. Josies is at 16th near the south side of Market in SF, a block east of Castro MUNI station, along the F Market line.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9TH, 8:00PM

Mid-Month Social

I am planning another "pushing the envelope" event for the mid-month but I did not get it put together this month. So this month we will do a Cafe Mars night (I heard the waitress was asking about us). Cafe Mars is at 7th and Brannan Street. Parking is not difficult. Now for those of you that like the "low visibility" venues be sure to go this month. Next month I am planning to hold the Mid-month at the Thirsty Bear. The Thirsty Bear has actually requested us to come there, so I would not want to let them down.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11TH, 8:00PM

TGSF Library / Poker Night

Call Nancy Anne at (415) [redacted] for information and directions. Peruse our extensive archives or join in the game!

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17TH, 8:00PM

End of Month Social

Now here is a novel idea, what if I were to put the name of the place where we were actually going to meet in the newsletter. Join us at The Blue Muse on December 17th for a Holiday Season gift swap. You do not have to bring a gift, but if you do I will have a way of mixing them up and handing them out to the people who brought gifts. We are meeting a week early so we do not conflict with anyone's holiday plans. Remember I would rather you come without a gift than not come! The Blue Muse is located at 409 Gough street. Parking is easy, there is a lot right across from Marlena's (the TG friendly bar around the corner from The Blue Muse on Hayes St.).

Attention Pub Crawlers!

Looking for something exciting to do in The City ? Nicole is looking for Social Coordinators. The job entails each coordinator to organize a club excursion once a month. How hard can that be? I will even help you set it up and attend them. The group will be from 4 to 10 members interested in trying new night spots or visiting old favorites. If you want to be a Coordinator or a member of the excursion group email me [redacted]**@tgforum.com** or talk to me at the socials.

Now Available!

1998 Resource Guide

Well you have been hearing about it and now it is available! The 1998 TGSF Resource Guide is 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 1998 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.

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** and explain a little about your situation.

Email Your Officers:

President, Leslie Bailey ..... [redacted]*@slip.net*
Secretary, Veronica Smith ..... [redacted]*@aol.com*
Social Chair, Nicole Cook ..... [redacted]*@tgforum.com*
Editor, Ayme Kantz ..... [redacted]*@aol.com*

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Calendar of Events – December 1998

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. 510-841-6224

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 Just Rewards Nightclub, 2520 Camino Diablo 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, 2637 Pleasant Hill Road (@ Taylor Blvd.) in Pleasant Hill. 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-[redacted]

Silicon Valley Gender Association (SVGA)
A new trangender 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.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 7:00 PM DVG (RCC)	4 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap 8:00 PM RGA	5
6 **3:00 PM TGSF ExCom Meeting**	7 8:00 PM DVG **8:00 PM Erin Souza @ Josie's**	8	9 8:00 PM **TGSF: Mid-Month @ Cafe Mars**	10	11 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap **8:00 PM TGSF: Library / Poker Night**	12 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
13	14	15	16	17 7:00 PM DVG (RCC) **8:00 PM TGSF EOM Social @ Blue Muse**	18 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap 8:00 PM RGA	19
20	21 8:00 PM DVG	22	23	24	25 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap	26 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
27	28	29	30	31		

TGSF Membership Application

Full Year Membership May 1 – April 30

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Member Birth Date _____ / _____ Family Member Birth Date _____ / _____

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DEC	12.5	17
JAN	10	13
FEB	7.5	10
MAR	5	7
APR	2.5	3

Speech for the Matthew Shepard Memorial March and Rally

© 1998 by Harvey Fierstein

(Editor's Note: I picked this up from the TGSF web list and recommend you read Harvey's words regarding the murder of Matthew Shepard, delivered at a Memorial March Oct. 15th in Connecticut.)

When I heard the news... what did I feel? The white blinding, brain shivering, blood rushing, vengeance seeking RAGE tore through my body nearly shredding my heart. What is the correct response to such a heinous crime? Where do we express our outrage? Who can we count on to extract our revenge? How could this happen in our America? Why is that beautiful, brave, caring, bright and loving gay boy dead?

The easiest to answer of those questions are "how" and "why": Because we are represented by politicians who feel free to call our lives a disease, an illness, a maladjustment and even a crime - and they do so with impunity. Because these politicians are not ripped from their elected positions with righteous indignation, but instead their coffers fill with donations and they are re-elected to high office time and again. That's why Matthew Shepard was beaten bloody.

Because we turn for moral leadership to priests and pastors and ministers and rabbis who daily refer to our lives as "abomination". Because these men and women of God are not punished for that assault on our dignity and humanity, but are treated with respect and deference and their defamation's are excused in the name of religious freedom. That's why Matthew Shepard was robbed and crucified on a fence.

Because talk-show hosts get laughs making jokes at our expense. Because comedians build careers aping and demeaning us. Because heterosexual actors win awards portraying us as "almost real people". Because newspapers and magazines lose no readership addressing their audience as if every one of us is straight. That's why Matthew Shepard was set on fire and left to die.

Because WE, in vast numbers, refuse to come out of the closet, thereby sending a clear message that even WE believe there is something to hide; that our lives are shameful; that being Gay or Lesbian is wrong. That is why Matthew Shepard is dead.

So, how should we answer this unspeakable act of hatred? WE must begin by keeping a close watch, a constant visible and vocal presence at the trial of his slayers. We must not have a repeat of the Dan White fiasco. Let there be no "Twinkie Defense" for these cowards. Harvey Milk's assassination taught us a lesson we can NOT and will not forget!

WE must stand up in those cathedrals, synagogues, mosques and churches of hate- Stand up and state that we will not accept the preaching of exclusion. Stand up and walk out leaving them as bankrupt of members as they are of truth. Anything less, any compromise is permission to continue the persecution. Hatred has no compromise. If you need a place to put your faith and charity then seek an institution preaching love and acceptance for YOU.

WE must get out and vote! Let's stop electing representatives from our pocketbooks and wallets. Let's stop making excuses for politicians who are good on some issues but will not stand up for us. Trust me, my friends, any hack can pass laws protecting your bank account. Let's hold them to a higher standard than that. If they want our votes and our donations make them take the heat for openly supporting our right of full lawful citizenship. They are our representatives. Make them live up to that promise or vote them the hell out!

When you are watching television and a comedian defames us - pick up the phone and call the station. They listen. They count every actual caller as the opinion of 10,000 viewers. You have power. Use it. When a movie or TV show portrays our lives, but there isn't an openly gay or lesbian person to be found anywhere near it, - stay home!!! Boycott. Hollywood actually believes they are doing us a favor portraying us as "just like straight folk". Send them the message that heterosexuality is NOT the gold standard of humanity. We are proud to be just as we are and need no whitewashing, thank you.

Most importantly we must come out. There is no other way. WE must come out at our jobs. To our families. To our politicians. To our neighbors. If you allow no one to assume you are heterosexual they will never again freely make that assumption about anyone. That's how we change the world.

Finally always remember that we live in a capitalist system. Every penny you spend is a vote for or against us. When you buy a car from a company that gives money to our enemies you have just voted against passage of the "Hate Crimes Bill". By the same token, when you use an airline that extends domestic partnership you have just brought us one step closer to the realization of equal rights for all.

We must conduct our lives as open and proud members of a huge and powerful community. We must take hold of our own destinies.

My sisters and brothers - We cannot bring Matthew Shepard back to life- but maybe we can make his death the moment history records as the turning point of our struggle for freedom. It's within our power. Let's change the world today.

December's Birthdays...

1203	Elizabeth Walters	1218	Susie Parrish
1203	Sheila Faulkner	1220	Barbara Lokker
1205	Mary Anne Sales	1221	Gloria Peters
1205	Robin Gillette	1222	Cami Lynn
1207	Rachel Andrews	1222	Kathy Moore
1209	Gabrielle Flores	1223	Cynthia Young
1210	Jeri Smith	1223	Dee Foster
1210	Nancy Kramer	1223	Kim Hraca
1211	Billie Cox	1223	Toni Martinez
1212	Vicki Allen	1224	Janis Roemer
1213	Tammi Meehan	1225	Keith Swanson
1214	Sandra Brewer	1227	Jano Bogg
1215	Michelle Augustina	1228	Nancy Ann Martine
1217	Paula Dancer	1228	Rae Anne Cannon
1230	Ellen Pring		

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Revisiting Passing

Barbara F. Anderson, Ph.D., LCSW

This article harks back to one published in *The Channel* in July 1998 it was titled "Past Passing" and engendered (no pun intended) more feedback than any other article I have written. Rather than get into issues of "right" and "wrong," I'd rather describe the responses I received and try and understand what might have motivated such intense feelings.

To refresh you, the article dealt with the issue of a transsexual seeking SRS despite being unable to pass successfully. One reader challenged me on my definition of passing. "It depends where and with whom passing is attempted - I can pass in Kansas City but not in San Francisco. This is the hardest city to pass in. People are looking to spot TSs and make no bones about announcing 'a hit.' I also seem to pass adequately in impersonal situations—making purchases, etc., but not under scrutiny—a job interview."

Sandra Brewer's response in the August issue of *The Channel* that "...surgery can bring only misery when he is unaccepted by a society turned off by the sight of a man in a dress. If such a person was suicidal before surgery, he'll probably be even more so after the surgery."

Another reader wrote that self-confidence is all a person needs to succeed in the world. Several felt that being an "out" transsexual was good enough and made passing irrelevant. One person said she'd *prefer* to pass but she *needs* to live as a woman.

The variety of responses suggest that while transpeople have a lot in common, the need/desire to pass is not one of them. While no one communicated the preference to be "out" even though she can pass, it wouldn't surprise me if she, too is out there.

I think the intensity of feeling around this issue may mirror a human need to assign status to people in a class or group of individuals. I have been struck by the clustering of t-people based on the level of passibility they have achieved. The unpassables are sometimes scorned and frequently excluded from public social events, probably because they are seen as likely to expose their sisters. The almost-passables treat their even less fortunate sisters similarly. With the help of the medico/psychiatric community this elitism has become institutionalized and a rationale formulated to justify the withholding of hormonal therapy and surgery from transsexual men and women.

Consider another paradigm. Might it be reasonable that each transsexual individual, taking into consideration her own attributes, goals, support system, etc., formulate her objectives with regard to passing. As she progresses through transition these may be modified in a more or less ambitious direction so that by the time she has completed a year of cross-living and six months of psychotherapy (as recommended by HBIGDA's Standards of Care) she can make an informed decision about electing SRS. If, in spite of an experienced inability to pass, she still wants to live as a woman, with the benefits of SRS, barring mental illness, I think that is her personal choice.

If ever there was an opportunity to support one another rather than splinter and factionalize, it is around the issue of passing. The flukes of nature ought not determine whether an individual realizes her life's dream.

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Bless you for caring and thank you!

Hate Virus...

Continued from Page 5

Contrary to the message of NAI's ad campaign, transsexuals are worthwhile and loving human beings, just like everybody else. Normal, everyday people knowingly date them, fall in love with them, and, yes, often marry them. Indeed, they are remarkably intelligent and talented people with unusual strength of character — probably the most highly educated group of people that one could identify — a group in which doctoral degrees are almost commonplace. Transsexuals have no more interest in entering into deceptive relationships than anyone else. If anything, they value truth and honesty far more than most people, usually having sacrificed almost everything (e.g. family, friends, money, dignity, social status, career, civil rights, and personal safety) in order to be true to themselves.

Besides being hateful, woefully ignorant, and insulting, NAI's ad campaign hurts real people in real ways. Transsexuals are without question the most relentlessly persecuted people in society. There is nothing they would like more than to be left alone to lead normal lives, but society will not let them. Anything and everything becomes an issue or an obstacle — everything from cashing a check to using the toilet to driving one's car to keeping one's job to obtaining medical care to filing charges against one's attackers to having one's burial wishes observed. Not surprisingly, many transsexuals find life too painful to live, so it is no wonder that such a large percentage of the transsexual population is lost to suicide.

Every time ignorance is propagated by some company such as NAI, transsexuals have to contend with it. They must wince at it when they see it in PC Week. They must reply to the questions and comments of countless acquaintances — over and over and over. They must deal with the prejudice and paranoia of those they wish to date. They must deal with the legal and political ramifications of thousands of cretins contacting their Congresspersons to demand that these abominations of humanity be herded into the sea. Each of these problems is but a single drop of water on the forehead. None by itself is unbearable. However, when the water drops do not stop or even slow down for days, years, even decades, we call that "Chinese water torture." The water drops may be different, but the effect is the same.

The Hate Virus has recently reached epidemic proportions, especially following the grotesque torture and murder of a gentle young soul from Wyoming, but I have faith that this virus can be conquered. This time the solution will not come from McAfee or from a medical research lab. The solution lies within all of us. We must all learn to cast off the shackles of bigotry and to respect our fellow human beings, or else we are doomed to lead miserable lives of hatred and bitterness, those same dark human qualities that lie behind the computer virus that keeps McAfee in business.

Dr. Fox is a transsexual woman, neurobiologist, and Communications Director for the transgender/bisexual/lesbian/gay education and advocacy organization, It's Time, Ohio!.

Send your comments about the Hate Virus to:

Jennifer Keaveney, Senior Public Relations Manager (jkeavney@nai.com) or Srivats Sampath, Vice President of Worldwide Marketing (srivats_sampath@nai.com), Network Associates, Inc., 3965 Freedom Circle, Santa Clara, CA 95054, 408-988-3832 (voice), 408- 970-9727 (FAX)

Paul Simko (paul_simko@zd.com), Mgr. of Marketing, or Eric Lundquist (Eric_Lundquist@zd.com), Editor-in-chief, PC Week, 617-393-3802

Glenn Goldberg (glenn.goldberg@thinkinc.com), Think Inc. Ad Agency.

Sandra Reaches Out

by Sandra Brewer

Following a tradition started by Erin even before she was our president, we have faithfully volunteered to answer phones for KQED pledge drives every June and December. Our level of participation in these events has, however, declined from a record 25 at our first pledge night in 1995 to about half that in recent years. I have communicated our interest in volunteering during programming on transgender issues. KQED has at times aired such programming; I recall at least Kate Bornstein, Metamorphosis, and Tales of the City.

I recently received the KQED December pledge schedule, again without coverage of transgender issues. To slow our burnout rate for this event I suggest we try to do this once a year, probably in June when gay pride month increases our chances for coverage of transgender issues. I'll, of course, watch the schedule on other pledge drives; I think the next one is in March. Meanwhile, if we have a choice, please LET ME KNOW if you prefer volunteering on a weeknight, or would you prefer a weekend (day or night) shift.

Our outreach efforts continue to be most fulfilling. We sometimes get honorariums of $25 to $50 from the requesting institutions for these events. This usually adds about $500 a year to our treasury. A recent panel in Modesto was so appreciated by the students that they took up a collection among themselves to help us finance more panels. This unprecedented move touched our hearts. Every panel is unique, and all are truly rewarding experiences. LET ME KNOW if you want to share in this intriguing effort.

In a recent class I learned that the United States has the highest per capita rape ratio in the world; violence and other forms of harassment caused by men also cause an untold amount of grief in our society. Many of us have been victimized by the male superiority syndrome more times than we care to remember. Growing up as non-aggressive males who do not fit the expected mold is not easy. The ridicule and harassment we suffer from virulent males may be enough to drive us from their ranks, even without our proclivity for the feminine. What is it in our culture that creates this imbalance; and can anything be done to reverse the frightening trend? I have to believe that (all) men are not inherently 'evil'. We need to help men get in touch with their feminine sides, and learn to think for themselves instead of acting only to impress each other. This will make our world a better and safer place to live in, as is already the case in some nations more 'civilized' than our own.

A story syndicated by the AP press on October 29th reports of a feminine boy named Alex who was forced out of a private Georgia high school. With the support of her father and several classmates, Alex dressed and carried herself well in her feminine role. But protests from conservative parents prevailed, and Alex was forced to leave. Alex is reported to be a bright student; she's considering home schooling for the time being.

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Oct/Nov Socials In Review

By Nicole Cook

On October 19th Debbie and I took our monthly trip out to Walnut Creek. The occasion was the DVG Fashion Show. Jo An of the "I Luv It!" consignment Boutique sponsored another fabulous fashion show for our community. I'm sure that all of you girls that have visited her store at 47952 Warm Springs Blvd. in Fremont will agree that going shopping there is as much fun as going out dancing. As in the show Jo An did for TGSF, yours truly was able to obtain a modeling assignment. This time we had 6 models, Nicole (me), Donna, Darlene, Stephanie, Dianne and Mary Beth, so we were able to keep a model out on the floor for the entire show. One thing was different about this show, at Charpes we were changing behind a bar. At JR's there is a room behind the stage with a giant lit mirror. I had a great time and the other girls I talked to did as well. I will get some of the pictures up on our web site. But for those of you that were thinking of buying some of the dresses I was modeling in the show, I thought I would let you know, two of the dresses that I modeled (the short black ones) are now in my closet.

It was a dark and murky night in San Jose on the 24th of October. Many ghouls and goblins were seen in the vicinity of a haunted place referred to only as Carla's. As the night grew darker frightening sounds were heard as over 100 souls converged on this site for an event called the 1998 TGSF Halloween Party. Once inside it was easy to see that the un-dead had been busy covering the walls in their favorite black and decorating the darkness with eerie scenes of tormented beings. Jack o Lanterns and bubbling cauldrons adorned the tables as the patrons of this wicked gathering ate, drank and danced the night away. At the height of the festivities a ritual was held to satisfy the demands of the crowd. During the ritual Lady Godiva returned from the dead and inhabited the body of Miss Didi Mau to win the title for Most Exposure. Joan of Ark appeared in the body of Erin Souza to take the prize for Most Original. A witch took the prize for Scariest manifestation as the Cook, Debbie (pun intended) helplessly served as her body, we suspect the namesake of the venue, Carla, used a magic spell on the crowd to take the prize for Most in Theme, A "Hot TV Dish" all wrapped in foil took the prize for Most Elaborate as Dianna played host to this entity, and Kim won the prize for Sexiest by showing up as an unsuspecting little Bunny. This ghostly party raged on through the night until reaching the bewitching hour (midnight) for the second time in one night, for only a group with the combined magic powers could make the bewitching hour occur twice in a row. Then nearly as fast as they had assembled they all vanished into the night. Until next year, when it is said the event will be even bigger and more frightening.

Continued on Page 11

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Socials In Review...

Continued from Page 10

On Saturday November 7th Debbie and I journeyed East to Sacramento for the Miss SGA Pageant. I took my now familiar duty of selling raffle tickets to the patrons. Debbie served as one of the judges for the contest. More than 40 people attended this event which crowns Miss SGA for the year to come. The Sacramento court was well represented with more than 5 of the court's royalty in attendance. With Joseph's bar back in the control of Joseph, the upstairs venue is once again one of the premier TG venues in the San Francisco bay area. A number of performers entertained the crowd including Krystal and her Peg Bundy, Hot Wet Pussy number and "Lady" who is one of the best singers I have heard at a TG event. At the end of the even Tina Louise was crowned Miss SGA for the next year.

The Mid Month on November 11th gave us the opportunity to attend two events on the same night. One of our sister organizations called Transbay, meets every 2nd Wednesday of the month at Quetzel's. Quetzel's is in the bottom of the building where we park when we go to Kimo's. For those of you who keep track of where good restrooms are located, the women's room in this building is great. Both Quetzel's or the parking attendant can let you in to the locked restroom area. We ate dinner at Quetzel's and socialized for a bit. Transbay have developed a new pin with the Golden Gate bridge imposed on top of the Transgender symbol, you can get one for 5 dollars. At about 8:10 Debbie and I headed for Kimo's. We had the whole top floor of Kimo's. It looked like we had around 27 girls in attendance including a number of new faces. As I sat there talking to the other girls in Kimo's I thought back to the many times before I had ever gone out, trying to determine how I could get up the nerve to go to Kimo's dressed. Now that I go out all the time it is easy. But I would say to those of you who have yet to experience the thrill and satisfaction of going out on the town as your femme self, this is a easy venue. Everyone from the parking attendant to the people on the street here are TG friendly. Debbie and I have walked around the streets here on a number of occasions. However, if you are still unsure and want a scripted first time out, email me[redacted]@tgforum.com and I will set something up for you, everything from where to park (or who to drive in with) to who to walk with to the venue and where us special girls can use the restroom. We are here to help just ask us.

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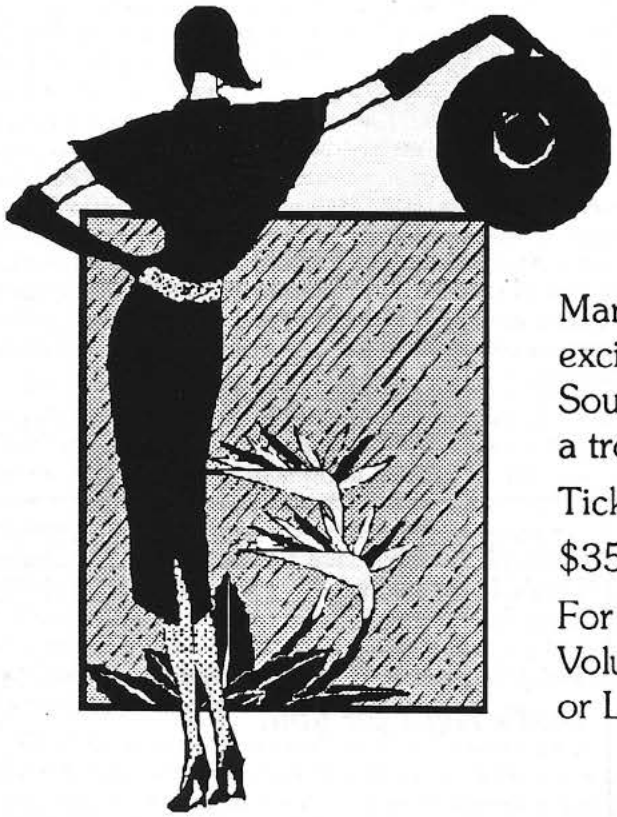

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A Seminar with Dr. Toby Meltzer

by Teri Lee

Male-to-female sexual reassignment surgery (SRS) is performed at relatively lower risk than previously believed, with normal penile inversion and vagino-plasty procedures completed in about three and one-half to four hours, according to Dr. Toby Meltzer, a renown and highly regarded surgeon in SRS.

My S.F. (significant friend), Marga, and I arrived at Kimo's on October 17 to a packed crowd listening to the doctor's feminization procedures and understanding the man himself. Combining the expertise of a urologist and plastic surgeon, Dr. Meltzer explained in an approachable, straight forward manner his procedures in feminizing the human body. Breast augmentation, penile inversion, vagino-plasty, and other surgeries (nasal, trachea, forehead, and voice modification) were described through a series of picture slides and diagrams. Marga and I came late, but not too late to hear the thought-provoking question, "I have a friend who had breast implants and pumps iron. Why do the breast implants move around during heavy workouts?" Dr. Meltzer said that movement is possible. However, if the implants were properly imbedded in the muscles, movement would be minimized. Pictures of his breast implants showed virtually no chest scars.

He then presented the penile inversion techniques, where little is wasted in creating a vagina. Locating a site on the lower torso to place the vagina is not complex, according to Dr. Meltzer. There exists a natural plane even on a male's body for the vagina. With nerve endings intact under this procedure in the constructed vagina, pre and post operative sensation shouldn't change. But, as the doctor admitted, this is still an open question. Vagino-plasty, the construction of the labia, was art by the Doctor's skilled hands. Pictures of pre and post operations were shown to be masterpieces of the feminine form. Complications in SRS were almost nonexistent. As indicated by Dr. Meltzer, of the 600 cases he operated on, only one case involved an infection and no cases of blood transfusions.

Feminization of the face and throat required his careful judgment and skill as a plastic surgeon. He seemed to understand how to bring about feminine features from hard features of a male's face. One of the most fascinating areas was voice modification surgery, a procedure that tightens up the vocal chords so that the pitch is raised to the feminine tonal range. I was reading in Susan Brownmiller's book on Femininity that, typically, large larynx is formed in males during puberty, making the male voice pitch changed to about one octave lower to that of normal female's. High doses of the female hormones after puberty cannot reverse the size of the larynx or change the voice pitch. Through voice modification surgery, it appears that normal female voice can be achieved. However, as Dr. Meltzer cautioned, for that real feminine voice, a speech therapist should be consulted.

He winded up his discussion by answering questions from the audience. I learned that Dr. Meltzer is devoted to his TG patients. He is always looking for better techniques to help his patients. While he attends seminars like this one, he employs two surgeons to stand in for him at his hospital in case of emergencies. He said that he does not leave his patients more than 24 hour at a stretch. What really amazed me about this man is his wealth of experience and expertise expressed in plain matter-of-fact style. Dr. Meltzer appears to provide the best of care to members of our community.

Dr. Toby Meltzer On SRS and other Feminizing Surgical Procedures

Vicki Gray

Indicative of the considerable TS constituency within TGSF, more than 80 people crowded Kimo's upstairs for the October 17 presentation on SRS and other adjunctive feminizing surgeries by Dr. Toby Meltzer, MD, PC.

Meltzer, a bouncy, deceptively young-looking native of New Orleans (and rabid Saints fan), received his medical training at LSU. After teaching there for nine years, work elsewhere on burn-related reconstructive surgery, and some observation of the SRS surgery of the legendary Dr. Bieber in Trinidad, Colorado, he began his own SRS practice seven years ago at the University of Oregon Health Center in Portland, the largest hospital in the state. Two years ago, he signed a long-term contract with Portland's Eastmoreland Hospital, the state's smallest, and now does all his SRS surgeries - typically three a week or about 150 a year - there. With a staff of seven, including two nurses, he has his offices in a beautiful suite (1120) at 1500 SW First Avenue, Portland OR 97201-5835 [The view of Mount Hood is breathtaking!]. He can be reached by phone at (800) 525-0370 or (503) 525-9323.

Don't wait to call! For SRS, Dr. Meltzer is now booked a year in advance. Shannon Hunt, his Patient Care Coordinator, will get you on his schedule and arrange for a preliminary examination. Once you are on his schedule, she can always move you up a few months, should you desire. A $500 deposit will confirm a date.

During his presentation, Dr. Meltzer, who also does an occasional female-to-male SRS, described only the far more typical male-to-female vaginoplasty. He uses the penile inversion technique and has an excellent record of safety and aesthetic satisfaction. Concerning safety, Dr. Meltzer has never had to tranfuse anyone and has experienced only one vaginal-rectal fistula, the most troublesome complication of SRS, in over 700 operations. Aesthetically, he achieves a very natural-looking neo-vagina with a depth of 5"-6" using tissue from the penis and scrotum that has been cleared by electrolysis. If he feels that 5" cannot be achieved with that tissue - usually a judgment he will make while you are on the operating table - he will use distant grafts from the flanks, leaving minimum scarring below the bikini line. If electrolysis has been done, such grafts are necessary in only 5% of his patients. A sensate clitoris is constructed by using 2/3 of the glans, only a tiny piece of which protrudes. As he puts it, "if you were orgasmic pre-op, you will be post-op." A separate labiaplasty, to hood the clitoris and provide more aesthetically pleasing inner lips, can be performed three months later but is not always needed or desired. It requires only a day or two in Portland and is usually done under local anesthetic.

Continued on Page 13

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Other Feminizing Procedures...

Continued from Page 12

As might be expected, there were lots of questions about the SRS operation. How long is the surgery? About 3 1/2 hours under general anesthesia. Time in the hospital? Three days as an inpatient and another seven days either at a motel or in "VIP" status at Eastmoreland at $100 per night. [I highly recommend the "VIP" option. You will stay in the room you had the first three days with all meals, nurses down the hall, and a wonderful support system consisting of daily visits by Dr. Meltzer's own nurse, Sue, and a non-medical angel of mercy, Sheila. You will also have the company of 2-3 sisters a day ahead or a day behind you in the transition. The price beats any motel, especially when you crank in meals which you won't feel like going out for anyway. And you can't beat the built-in support system at any price. Indeed I would spring for an extra $100 and check in the night before. Wake up comes real early on the day of surgery.] Cost? About $12,600 with the VIP arrangement; $11,900 without.

How does Dr. Meltzer's technique differ from that of Dr. Schrang? The only notable difference, according to Meltzer, is that both Drs. Schrang and Bieber use the urethral mucosa for the clitoris. Prostate gland? It's not removed but will shrink with estrogen. All hormones including spirolactone, by the way, have to be stopped three weeks prior to surgery. Age? His oldest patient was 72; the average age being in the mid-forties. Older patients, Meltzer claimed, are no more difficult and indeed bleed less and have more flexible skin and, therefore, fewer grafts. Other complications? Not really. He reported no urethral injuries and no serious post-op infections. Dilation will have to be carried out four times a day for the first month and twice a day for the next six months. After six months there is no loss of depth, width being harder to maintain than depth in any event. Given the four-times-a-day dilation regimen and some post-op weakness, Dr. Meltzer recommended taking off a month after surgery. [If you can find a private place for a mid-day dilation of 10-15 minutes and if your job does not require heavy lifting or similar physical exertion, my own experience suggests that you can be back at your desk within a week or two of getting home.]

During his October 17 talk, Dr. Meltzer also described several adjunctive feminizing surgeries he performs. These include: breast augmentation; rhinoplasty (nose); tracheal shave; voice alteration; forehead contouring; cheek and jaw reduction; and one that struck me as novel, lip line adjustment. Detailed descriptions and prices can be obtained by calling Shannon at (800) 525-0370 or (503) 525-9323.

Breast augmentation is the most popular such procedure and is usually carried out in conjunction with SRS, adding 45 minutes to the total time. Dr. Meltzer inserts saline implants below the muscles using a small incision under the nipple. This, he feels, results in a more natural look with an almost invisible scar. The nipple will not become larger but the aerola will. He will, on request, do a transaxiliar (under the armpit) insertion but feels that the scar will be visible and that the implants tend to drift outward. Dr. Meltzer said he can be much more flexible in scheduling a breast augmentation with or without SRS. A decision to add the procedure to an already scheduled SRS can be made quite late in the game, say up to a few weeks before the SRS.

Concerning the various facial and neck surgeries, Dr. Meltzer said that before the specific procedure(s), he needs photos; x-rays; a skeletal analysis; and, in the case of voice alteration, a pre-op voice analysis. He recommended coming to Portland early for a day or two pre-surgery consultation.

Judging by the time he devoted to describing it, voice adjustment surgery is perhaps the trickiest of the adjunctive surgeries, even though it takes only about 45 minutes. He likened the procedure to loosening or tightening the strings on a guitar. The object is to raise the pitch of one's voice range; it could, however, result in a certain raspiness that could, in turn, affect voice quality. Despite this, he described the procedure done by Dr. Cohen (Meltzer simply closes the incision) as "low risk," adding that nobody had ever asked to take the range achieved back down. Right after surgery, however, the pitch is very high and the voice a bit raspy. Complete voice rest is required for ten days after the surgery.

A tracheal shave or reduction of the Adam's apple, involves cutting away some of the top of the thyroid cartilage. Dr. Meltzer warned that the procedure could result in a - yikes! - lower voice and advised that you be sure that your surgeon is familiar with the surgery.

Finally, Dr. Melzer described a lip line adjustment procedure that sounded relatively simple surgically but that promised a fairly big aesthetic payoff. By adjusting the space between the top lip and the bottom of the nose by up to a centimeter and lengthening the sides of the mouth, more teeth can be shown and the smile enhanced.

These adjunctive procedures can be done separately or in conjunction with SRS. The latter option has the advantage of combining the anesthesia and operating room costs, resulting in a lower overall price. There are, however, potential dangers in trying to do too much at once; one being a prolonged anesthesia; the other fatigue on the part of the surgeon. Noting that he was "not superhuman," Dr. Meltzer said that he will not schedule a combined surgery longer than 6-7 hours. Those who "want it all at once," requiring, say, more than 8 hours in surgery, will, he warned, get mediocre results.

Having just returned from Portland, I can vouch for the fact that Dr. Meltzer's results are far from mediocre. They are amazingly good! Want a more objective opinion? Pictures of his work are evidently available from Ann Lawrence (?) on the Internet.

Speaking of pictures, one drawback to the Kimo's venue for presentations like this is the difficulty in blackening the room which is wall-to-wall windows on two sides. Slides are almost impossible to see.

Visibility issues aside, this, like earlier presentations this year by Drs. Schrang, Ousterhout, and Fraser, fills a crying need on the part of our TS and TG sisters...and brothers...for more factual information about the realities of transitioning to living full time. To Dr. Meltzer and those others: Bravo! Thank you.

Registered Intern No. IMF2594

Phone: (408) 448-9809

Cynthia Young, M.A.

Counseling for Individuals, Couples and Families

1939 The Alameda
San Jose, CA 95126

Supervised by Adrian Medina, M.A.
L.M.F.C.C. License No. MFC 30726

Choices...

by Jane Bolig

Part VI in a continuing series

Transition Planning

...The Long Road Ahead

If transition begins with a thought, the next step is to develop it into a goal, followed by a plan to implement it. The core of the plan is money, because none of the hardware changes you desire is possible without money. The less of it you have, the more important for you to save as much as you are able, and to do it regularly. Do you have charge accounts with big balances? No more excuses of "Oh, I just can't help myself when I see something I want." Yes, you can. Leave your cards at home, and pay off what you owe. Credit cards charge 18% . The bank gives you 2% - 5%. on savings. Pay off credit cards first. When you've done that, then you're ready to open your "What If" savings account and make regular monthly deposits.

Here are a couple of hypothetical examples of savings plans:

Six Year Plan

Let's assume that you have a net income of $25,000 per year. If you put $300 a month into savings, after four years you'll have saved $14,400, plus accumulated interest. For an extra $250 a month, you can provide yourself a working budget for electrolysis, wardrobe building and et ceteras. 4 hours a month of electrolysis @ $45 per hour will cost $180. At the end of four years, you will have had almost 200 hours of treatment and enough money to pay for one or two pre-transition procedures (such as a tracheal shave and face lift). As you require fewer hours of electrolysis, you'll be able to devote more of your working budget to psychotherapy, physician care and hormones. Let's assume that after four years and six months, you actually begin living full time. In another two years, you will have accumulated an additional $7,200, plus accumulated interest, leaving you enough to cover the costs of SRS by an elite surgeon.

Four Year Plan

Let's assume that you begin with $50,000 net income. If you save $1,000 a month, after 2 years you'll have accumulated $24,000, plus accumulated interest. With a monthly working budget of $500, you can buy 8 hours of electrolysis (@ 45 per hour) for $360, with plenty left over. You can take it from there.

If you're in the modest income category, and the more ambitious budget projections make you envious, you might consider going back to school to upgrade your skills, your value to your employer (and thus, job security) and your income.

By the way, the best way to keep your job after your change is to do a good job now. As an employer, I can vouch for the fact that quality employees, who are punctual, dependable and efficient are rare and valued. By building up a record of accomplishment, when the time comes for your change you'll have given yourself an inestimable advantage over the sluggard at the water cooler grousing about "weirdoes."

Make a timetable of things you want to accomplish, and target dates to begin and finish them. Learn the laws of your state and municipality regarding identification change and civil rights.

Begin electrolysis, do it now, even if your beard is light and you don't require beard cover. Do it so you can begin to feel momentum. Do it because it is practical: Should you start living full time before completing electrolysis, you will need up to an extra half-hour preparation time every morning shaving and getting made up. (Dark, heavy beards may require a second shave and remaking up in the afternoon.) Because whiskers need to grow above the skin line before the electrologist can tweeze them, you'll have only one day of the week available for electrolysis: the first one of your weekend, with the second for your face to recover.

What's it worth to spend a couple hundred hours under the electrologist's needle as a man in order to wake up as a woman every morning with a smooth face and an extra half-hour of sleep? Besides, isn't it easier as a man to explain away red, swollen cheeks as allergies than to be a woman with one cheek red and the other blue?

Some other things to do:

- Start seeing a therapist.
- Research gender dysphoria.
- Know your state of health. Get complete physical and dental examinations. You may want to take hormones someday. If you have health problems it's good to know now so you can try to correct them.
- Take good care of yourself. If you're smoking, stop. If you're alcoholic or a drug abuser, get into a 12 step program. If you're obese, lose the weight, but do it by exercising and eating properly, not with crash diets. If and when the time comes that you want hormones, you may be disqualified because of smoking, boozing, drugging and obesity. And for good reason: They all kill, and hormones help them kill you faster.
- Learn which colors, fabrics and styles work best for you; factoring age, build, physical assets and liabilities. Assemble wardrobes, work and casual.
- In the times you're dressed as a woman, get out into the real world as much as possible. Go to movies, plays, museums, lectures, parks. Meet and talk with people. Try to make new friends in the straight world.
- Replace the first name on all your ID with your first initial. As a little extra bonus, get an extra credit card issued in your femme name. Yes, they do it. All you need to do is call and say you want a second card issued in such-and-such name. You don't have to explain. If you use it, use it just once for a token purchase. Remember, no more big charge accounts!
- Rogaine? If I was losing my hair, I think I'd want to reverse the loss as soon as possible.
- Grow out your hair? In a lot of work situations, even professional, it's stylish—if done stylishly—for a man to wear long hair in a pony tail. And how handy, those times you don't have to be a man! How affirming, too.
- Pierce your ears?
- Spend your vacation living as a woman.

The idea behind the list is to create a partial real life test. If, as your eye passes over each item, you say to yourself, "I couldn't do that," perhaps your transsexual tendencies are best expressed in crossdressing fantasy. If, however, the prospect, say, of meeting new people as your femme self challenges you, even though the thought scares you; if this list inspires you to think of additional challenges, perhaps there is more to your femme self than meets the eye. Bon voyage!

If, after a few years of saving money, electrolysis, therapy, etc., you realize that you're really happy right where you are as a crossdresser, isn't it nice to have a pile of money in the bank, no debts and no damn beard to mess with!

Part VII will continue in the January, 99 issue of The Channel

90 Day Window

Provided by Phyllis R. Frye, Esq., (PRFrye@aol.com).

(Editor's Note: I purloined this from AOL's Transgender Community Forum.)

I have concluded that a ninety day "window of opportunity" has presented itself wherein some concentrated actions by lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgenders and supportive straights can get transgenders into the next Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) that will be re-presented to the newly elected Congress sometime in the spring of 1999.

If I may, please allow me to explain the concentrated actions and the reasons why I have reached this conclusion.

The Concentrated Actions

1. A simple one-page letter, two pages max, neatly handwritten or typed, and mailed to the following two people, with copies to whomever else you choose.

The Honorable Edward Kennedy
Senator from Massachusetts
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-4543

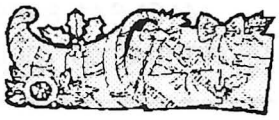
The Honorable Barney Frank
Representative from Massachusetts
4th District United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510
202-225-5931

Plus a courteous, follow-up, phone call made two weeks after the letter is mailed.

What to write and call about?

- Tell them that you are either transgendered or a masculine appearing lesbian or an effeminate appearing gay man or friend or family member of these people.
- Tell them what your bad employment experiences or bad employment fears are.
- Tell them why leaving transgenders out of the past ENDA Bills and the next ENDA Bill will leave transgenders, masculine appearing lesbians and effeminate appearing gay men OUTSIDE of the legal protections sought by ENDA.
- Ask them, beg them, to include "gender identification" or "transgenders" (which along with either "sexual orientation" or "lesbian, gay and bisexual" will FINALLY COVER the masculine appearing lesbians and effeminate appearing gay men) in the ENDA Bill that they will introduce sometime after the end of January 1999.

If you are an MTF, DO NOT, DO NOT, DO NOT send photos of yourself in a mini skirt or nightgown. DO NOT e-mail or fax — these people can be our friends: let us not anger them by flooding their e-mail or fax. DO NOT be rude or ugly. DO NOT go over two pages, try hard to keep it at one page. DO NOT THREATEN THEM!!! DO NOT tell them that you are a citizen and a taxpayer — they assume that. DO NOT say that you hope the letter gets by their staff — that is also rude. DO NOT apologize for taking their time — if you are concise and focused, they will be glad you wrote and called.



DO be concise and focused. That means DO NOT SEND THE FIRST OR SECOND DRAFT — take the time to boil it down to the fourth or fifth draft. DO make sure that it is legible. DO identify yourself by state and congressional district (or town) and send copy to your Senators and Representative if you wish.

2. If you live in Massachusetts, do the above PLUS:

Contact the local and state LGBT organizations and work with them to convince both Senator Kennedy and Representative Frank that they should include "gender identification" or "transgenders" (which along with either "sexual orientation" or "lesbian, gay and bisexual" will FINALLY COVER the masculine appearing lesbians and effeminate appearing gay men) in the ENDA Bill that they will introduce sometime after the end of January 1999.

3. ALL OF THIS MUST BE DONE BEFORE THE END OF JANUARY 1999.

4. Re-read #3.

The Reasons Why I Have Reached This Conclusion:

1. The timing is obvious. Although many incumbents will remain in both Houses of Congress, by law it will be a new Congress and can consider only NEW bills. Bills like the current ENDA that are remaining from the previous 1997-1998 session, must be re-introduced — even if word for word — and given their own numbers and places in the order of the NEW Congress.

2. My experience with the Employment Non-Discrimination Act goes to July 1994. For some of you, this may be review, but for other readers it may be new. So, in short, I will restate the history.

In July 1994, Karen Kerin of Vermont and myself from Texas, both representing the Transgender Law Conference (aka ICTLEP) arrived in Washington DC in an attempt to testify before a Senate hearing on the need of including transgenders into the transgender-

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90 Days and Counting...

Continued from Page 15

less 1993-1994 ENDA Bill. It was then that we learned that "the coalition", headed on this issue primarily by the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) and including many influential organizations, such as Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) and the National Organization for Women (NOW), had knowingly decided to exclude transgenders from the 1993-1994 ENDA Bill. Later that year, Sharon Stuart, Melinda Whiteway, JoAnna McNamera and I (all again representing ICTLEP) learned at the 1994 Lavender Law Conference in Portland Oregon, that "the coalition" had concluded that transgender inclusion in ENDA would cost them about 30 votes. So for about 30 votes (or 30 pieces of silver, whatever) transgenders were betrayed.

The next time we were in DC was the Spring of 1995 when Karen Karin and spouse, myself and spouse, Jane Fee and Riki Wilchins came to Washington DC to lobby those Senators and Representative from our states (Vermont, Texas, Minnesota and New York) on transgender issues and on transgender inclusion in ENDA. Two months later in June 1995, a transgender-less ENDA was introduced to the new 1995-1996 Congress. It was perceived that transgenders had been deliberately deceived by "the coalition", headed on this issue by HRC, and the transgender war with the Human Rights Campaign began.

Following this came the October 1995 event when Riki, Karen and I placed over 100 transgenders and supporters from 35 states into the Halls of Congress for education on transgender issues. Since that time, and without the details being necessary, transgenders have been organized and on "the Hill" numerous times to educate the Members of Congress on transgender issues and on the need for being included in the ENDA Bill. And since that time, many meetings have been held between transgender leaders and the HRC and transgenders have picketed HRC fundraisers. Even so, in the spring of 1997, another transgender-less ENDA was introduced to the new 1997-1998 Congress, just as will in the spring of 1999, another transgender-less ENDA will be introduced to the new 1999-2000 Congress UNLESS SOMETHING CHANGES.

3. So, what do we change? How do we motivate "the coalition" to ask for a transgender-inclusive ENDA in the spring of 1999?

Note that "the coalition" has changed. For one, PFLAG is now transgender inclusive in its by-laws and mission statement. For two, NOW is now transgender inclusive in its activities and voted so in an annual convention two years ago. For still another, other organizations of "the coalition" have heard more about transgender since Karen and I first started poking at the problem in 1994. Also, with the exception of HRC, almost ever national queer rights organization is now LGBT either in name or in by-laws. And although HRC remains transgender-excluding in its by-laws and mission, they are helping transgenders in the area of hate crimes. (For those of you who follow my writings, saying anything positive about HRC is not easy, but I do give credit when it is due.)

4. Examine the initial hypothesis of "the coalition" that transgender inclusion into ENDA will cost them thirty pieces of silver, oops, votes. In the fall of 1996, the US Senate voted on the transgender-less ENDA and it received 49 Yes votes. In February 1997, I lead an ICTLEP sponsored group of twenty transgenders onto "the Hill" and we met with the offices of every Yes voter. In summary what we heard was they had no problem with transgender inclusion. We were told over and over and over again, that if Ted Kennedy and Barney Frank put transgender language in the ENDA Bill, they would vote for it. If Ted Kennedy and Barney Frank omitted transgenders from the ENDA Bill, they would still vote for it. In sum, they did not care either way and would vote for whatever ENDA Bill that was introduced by Kennedy and Frank. A few months later in 1997, the new transgender-less ENDA Bill was introduced to the New 1997-1998 Congress.

5. Concerning Kennedy and Frank, during my time in Boston for the Lavender Law Conference, last 14-17 October 1998, I was struck by two things. One thing concerned Barney Frank. He keynoted the Lavender Law. Before he spoke, the outgoing NLGLA Chair made remarks that were all LGB&T inclusive. Following that another speaker made remarks that were all LGB&T inclusive. Following that, a resolution was read and approved that was very, very (I did the final edit) LGB&T inclusive. Barney Frank was in the room, I saw him there, to hear it all — LGB&T. Then Barney Frank spoke, it was all limited to L&G only except he remembered to add the "B" word twice towards the end and he never said the "T" word, not a single time.

The second thing was the vigil held that same night in front of the State House (state capitol building) in Boston just across the street from the Boston Common. It was held to remember Matthew Sheperd, the gay man assassinated in Wyoming because he

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It Takes A Lot Of Bodies To Make A Halloween Party

by Nicole Cook

A number of people have expressed their appreciation to Debbie & myself for the Halloween party. However, it took contributions from several people to make it happen the way it did. We had a number of helpers that really made the difference in how the party turned out. It all began several months before the party, Darcy sat with us and provided us with invaluable information based on what she had learned the year before. As a result we did not start from scratch, we actually had all the information on two prior Halloween party's to help us with what to look for and what to avoid. Thank You Darcy ! Next came the liquor permit saga, and Leslie came to the rescue by finding us the documents we needed to get through the bureaucratic maze.

As we neared the event several of our volunteers signed on early and we were able to coordinate some of the decoration planning. Shelly, Teri, Tianna, Sandra, Penny and Nancy were all in the early volunteer crew.

On the day of the event there were a number of key volunteers which were essential in setting up the party. First of all there was Carla, who loaned us her kitchen when the hotel oven turned out to be a microwave. The kitchen helpers Melissa, Chelsea and Carla again helped get the food ready. Nancy, Shelly, Teri, Tianna, Sandra, Penny, Ricki, Jamie and One first timer who's name I forgot (sorry) all took part in creating the marvelous decorations in the main hall. Then there was the bar, Shelly and Teri had signed up for bar duty well in advance and their effort was essential to making the party work. The other 2 bartenders were not able to make it to the event, and we would have been in real trouble if it had not been for Roberta and Roxanne who volunteered on the spot to take the other shift. Everyone owes the bar tenders a drink :-) . How do you think all those pumpkins got carved ? Well ask Ashley, Tianna and Sandra, it was their magic that brought us those jack-o-lantern creations. Then their was the door crew, with Leslie and Sandra watching the door while the party raged on in the back. I hope you gals got into the party from time to time.

I think that is about it, If I did leave anyone out let me know and I will get you into another article. I wouldn't want to get on the bad side of any of our volunteers, the Cotillion will be upon us soon and we will be looking for helpers in the kitchen. But as you can see it takes allot of bodies to make a good Halloween party. So I would like to thank all the bodies that helped us.

90 Days and Counting...

Continued from Page 16

was openly LGBT. Representatives from state and city government and from numerous organizations around the city and state were there and spoke from the podium. EVERYONE WAS LGB &T INCLUSIVE.

That night, I concluded that the above strategy, this "90 day window of opportunity" for focusing a laser beam of lobbying action onto both Kennedy and Frank and ONLY on Kennedy and Frank was the needed NEXT action.

6. The three obstacles for transgender inclusion in the next ENDA before the new Congress in 1999-2000 are: A) Kennedy in the Senate, B) Frank in the House, and C) "the coalition" led on this issue by HRC. As I noted above, we have bullied HRC for four years (and I plan to continue until transgenders are in their mission) and "the coalition" has changed a lot.

We must convince in a polite and constructive, yet firm manner, Senator Kennedy and Representative Frank to become transgender inclusive in the next ENDA Bill to be introduced sometime after January 1999 to the new 1999-2000 Congress. That gives us 90 days. So send the letters, make the follow-up phone calls. DO IT CORRECTLY AND NICELY.

Send copies to your local PFLAG and enlist their letter writing action. Send copies to your local NOW and enlist their letter writing action. And please, please, the folks in Massachusetts who are LGB&T friendly, you will have the greatest impact of all.

Thanks for listing to me...let us get to work. Ninety days and counting.

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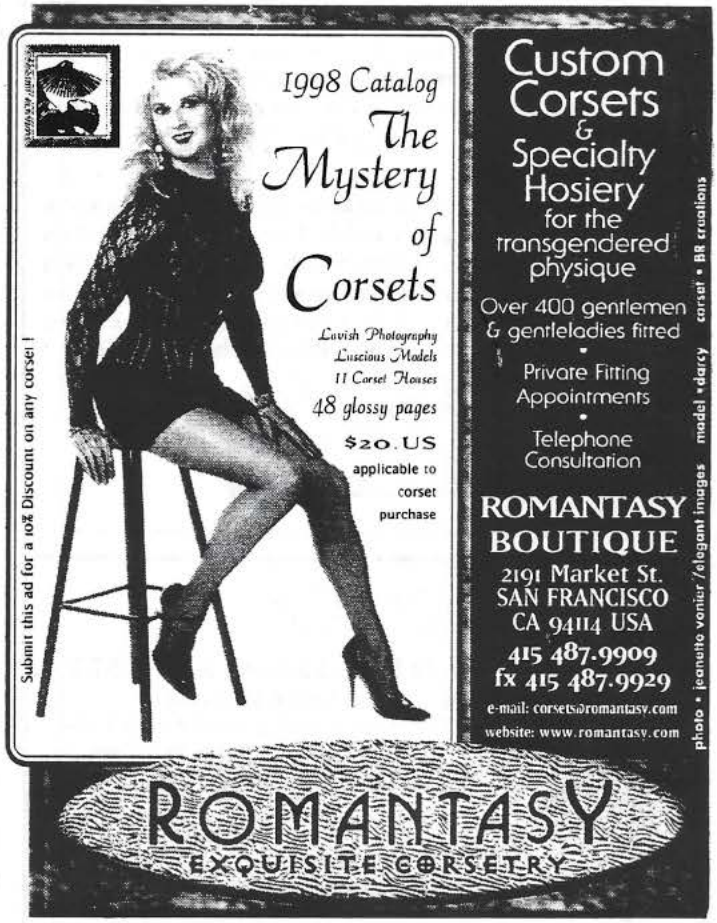
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